

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3965

To require the establishment and use of short form applications for rural communities applying for economic development grant programs, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 3, 2026

Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. KELLY, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Mr. BENNET, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. DAINES, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. HAWLEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MORAN, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. SCHATZ, and Ms. SMITH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works

A BILL

To require the establishment and use of short form applications for rural communities applying for economic development grant programs, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “EDA Short Form Ap-
5 plication Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. SHORT FORM APPLICATIONS FOR RURAL COMMU-**
2 **NITIES IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PRO-**
3 **GRAMS.**

4 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

5 (1) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The term “Assist-
6 ant Secretary” means the Assistant Secretary of
7 Commerce for Economic Development.

8 (2) RURAL COMMUNITY.—The term “rural
9 community” means an incorporated municipality,
10 Tribal area, or territory—

11 (A) with a population of not more than
12 10,000 individuals, as determined by the Bu-
13 reau of the Census in the most recent decennial
14 census; or

15 (B) that, as determined by the Assistant
16 Secretary, is not located in a metropolitan sta-
17 tistical area, as designated by the Director of
18 the Office of Management and Budget.

19 (b) SHORT FORM APPLICATIONS.—Notwithstanding
20 any other provision of law, the Assistant Secretary shall
21 establish a short form application for rural communities
22 that may be used by applicants in rural communities for
23 any grant program administered by the Economic Devel-
24 opment Administration.

25 (c) RURAL STAKEHOLDER INPUT.—In establishing a
26 short form application under subsection (b), the Assistant

1 Secretary shall solicit input from a representative group
2 of stakeholders in rural communities on ways to improve
3 the application process for grants from the Economic De-
4 velopment Administration, including—

5 (1) the length of the applications;

6 (2) the information and documentation required
7 or requested to be submitted as part of the applica-
8 tions;

9 (3) the possibility of standardizing base mate-
10 rials, such as budget templates, forms, and required
11 attachments, across grant programs administered by
12 the Economic Development Administration;

13 (4) the possibility of reducing repetitive sections
14 of the applications that ask for information already
15 provided to the Federal Government, such as infor-
16 mation provided through SAM.gov, the Bureau of
17 the Census, or a comprehensive economic develop-
18 ment strategy (as defined in section 3 of the Public
19 Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42
20 U.S.C. 3122));

21 (5) the degree of applicability to rural commu-
22 nities of questions in the applications and informa-
23 tion and documentation described in paragraph (2);
24 and

1 (6) any other considerations the Assistant Sec-
2 retary determines to be necessary for the establish-
3 ment of the short form application.

4 (d) TRANSPARENCY.—In carrying out this section,
5 the Assistant Secretary shall make publicly available—

6 (1) sample successful applications, with per-
7 sonal and sensitive information redacted;

8 (2) criteria decision guides that explain how ap-
9 plications are reviewed and rated; and

10 (3) standardized guidance for rural commu-
11 nities to use in applying for grants from the Eco-
12 nomic Development Administration.

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