

- (ii) supporting minority business enterprises in increasing the size of the workforces of those enterprises, including, with respect to a minority business enterprise that does not have employees, aiding the minority business enterprise in becoming an enterprise that has employees; and
- (iii) advocating for minority business enterprises; and

(2) the budget and corresponding budget narrative that the eligible entity will use in carrying out subsection (a) during the term of the applicable MBDA Business Center agreement.

**(f) Notification**

If the Under Secretary grants an application of an eligible entity submitted under subsection (e), the Under Secretary shall notify the eligible entity that the application has been granted not later than 150 days after the last day on which an application may be submitted under that subsection.

**(g) Program examination; accreditation; extensions**

**(1) Examination**

Not later than 180 days after November 15, 2021, and biennially thereafter, the Under Secretary shall conduct a programmatic financial examination of each Center.

**(2) Accreditation**

The Under Secretary may provide financial support, by contract or otherwise, to an association, not less than 51 percent of the members of which are Centers, to—

- (A) pursue matters of common concern with respect to Centers; and
- (B) develop an accreditation program with respect to Centers.

**(3) Extensions**

**(A) In general**

The Under Secretary may extend the term under subsection (b) of an MBDA Business Center agreement to which a Center is a party, if the Center consents to the extension.

**(B) Financial assistance**

If the Under Secretary extends the term of an MBDA Business Center agreement under paragraph (1), the Under Secretary shall, in the same manner and amount in which financial assistance was provided during the initial term of the agreement, provide financial assistance under the agreement during the extended term of the agreement.

**(h) MBDA involvement**

The Under Secretary may take actions to ensure that the Agency is substantially involved in the activities of Centers in carrying out subsection (a), including by—

- (1) providing to each Center training relating to the MBDA Business Center Program;
- (2) requiring that the operator and staff of each Center—
  - (A) attend—
    - (i) a conference with the Agency to establish the services and programs that the Center will provide in carrying out the re-

quirements before the date on which the Center begins providing those services and programs; and

- (ii) training provided under paragraph (1);

(B) receive necessary guidance relating to carrying out the requirements under subsection (a); and

(C) work in coordination and collaboration with the Under Secretary to carry out the MBDA Business Center Program and other programs of the Agency;

(3) facilitating connections between Centers and—

(A) Federal agencies other than the Agency, as appropriate; and

(B) other institutions or entities that use Federal resources, such as—

- (i) small business development centers, as that term is defined in section 632(t) of this title;
- (ii) women's business centers described in section 656 of this title;
- (iii) eligible entities, as that term is defined in section 2411<sup>2</sup> of title 10, that provide services under the program carried out under chapter 142<sup>2</sup> of that title; and
- (iv) entities participating in the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program established under section 278k of this title;

(4) monitoring projects carried out by each Center; and

(5) establishing and enforcing administrative and reporting requirements for each Center to carry out subsection (a).

**(i) Regulations**

The Under Secretary shall issue and publish regulations that establish minimum standards regarding verification of minority business enterprise status for clients of entities operating under the MBDA Business Center Program.

(Pub. L. 117-58, div. K, title I, §100114, Nov. 15, 2021, 135 Stat. 1452.)

**Editorial Notes**

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section \_\_\_\_101(1), referred to in subsec. (a)(1)(A)(ii), probably means par. (1) of section 100101 of Pub. L. 117-58, which is classified to section 9511 of this title.

Section 2411 of title 10, referred to in subsec. (h)(3)(B)(iii), was renumbered section 4951 of Title 10, Armed Forces, by Pub. L. 116-283, div. A, title XVIII, §1872(a)(1)(B), (2), Jan. 1, 2021, 134 Stat. 4287, as amended by Pub. L. 117-81, div. A, title XVII, §1701(m)(1)(A), (3), Dec. 27, 2021, 135 Stat. 2144, 2145.

Chapter 142 of that title, referred to in subsec. (h)(3)(B)(iii), was repealed by Pub. L. 116-283, div. A, title XVIII, §1872(b)(1), Jan. 1, 2021, 134 Stat. 4289, effective Jan. 1, 2022, in conjunction with the transfer and reorganization of acquisition provisions in Title 10, Armed Forces, by Pub. L. 116-283, div. A, title XVIII, Jan. 1, 2022, 134 Stat. 4149.

**§ 9525. Minimizing disruptions to existing MBDA Business Center program**

The Under Secretary shall ensure that each Federal assistance award made under the Busi-

<sup>2</sup> See References in Text note below.

ness Centers program of the Agency, as is in effect on the day before November 15, 2021, is carried out in a manner that, to the greatest extent practicable, prevents disruption of any activity carried out under that award.

(Pub. L. 117-58, div. K, title I, §100115, Nov. 15, 2021, 135 Stat. 1455.)

#### § 9526. Publicity

In carrying out the MBDA Business Center Program, the Under Secretary shall widely publicize the MBDA Business Center Program, including—

- (1) on the website of the Agency;
- (2) via social media outlets; and
- (3) by sharing information relating to the MBDA Business Center Program with community-based organizations, including interpretation groups where necessary, to communicate in the most common languages spoken by the groups served by those organizations.

(Pub. L. 117-58, div. K, title I, §100116, Nov. 15, 2021, 135 Stat. 1455.)

### SUBCHAPTER II—NEW INITIATIVES TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC RESILIENCY FOR MINORITY BUSINESSES

#### § 9541. Annual diverse business forum on capital formation

##### (a) Responsibility of Agency

Not later than 18 months after November 15, 2021, and annually thereafter, the Under Secretary shall conduct a Government-business forum to review the current status of problems and programs relating to capital formation by minority business enterprises.

##### (b) Participation in forum planning

The Under Secretary shall invite the heads of other Federal agencies, such as the Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, organizations representing State securities commissioners, representatives of leading minority chambers of commerce, not less than 1 certified owner of a minority business enterprise, business organizations, and professional organizations concerned with capital formation to participate in the planning of each forum conducted under subsection (a).

##### (c) Preparation of statements and reports

###### (1) Requests

The Under Secretary may request that any head of a Federal agency, department, or organization, including those described in subsection (b), or any other group or individual, prepare a statement or report to be delivered at any forum conducted under subsection (a).

###### (2) Cooperation

Any head of a Federal agency, department, or organization who receives a request under paragraph (1) shall, to the greatest extent practicable, cooperate with the Under Secretary to fulfill that request.

##### (d) Transmittal of proceedings and findings

The Under Secretary shall—

(1) prepare a summary of the proceedings of each forum conducted under subsection (a), which shall include the findings and recommendations of the forum; and

(2) transmit the summary described in paragraph (1) with respect to each forum conducted under subsection (a) to—

- (A) the participants in the forum;
- (B) Congress; and
- (C) the public, through a publicly available website.

##### (e) Review of findings and recommendations; public statements

###### (1) In general

A Federal agency to which a finding or recommendation described in subsection (d)(1) relates shall—

- (A) review that finding or recommendation; and
- (B) promptly after the finding or recommendation is transmitted under subsection (d)(2)(C), issue a public statement—
  - (i) assessing the finding or recommendation; and
  - (ii) disclosing the action, if any, the Federal agency intends to take with respect to the finding or recommendation.

###### (2) Joint statement permitted

If a finding or recommendation described in subsection (d)(1) relates to more than 1 Federal agency, the applicable Federal agencies may, for the purposes of the public statement required under paragraph (1)(B), issue a joint statement.

(Pub. L. 117-58, div. K, title II, §100201, Nov. 15, 2021, 135 Stat. 1455.)

#### § 9542. Agency study on alternative financing solutions

##### (a) Purpose

The purpose of this section is to provide information relating to alternative financing solutions to minority business enterprises, as those business enterprises are more likely to struggle in accessing, particularly at affordable rates, traditional sources of capital.

##### (b) Study and report

Not later than 1 year after November 15, 2021, the Under Secretary shall—

- (1) conduct a study on opportunities for providing alternative financing solutions to minority business enterprises; and
- (2) submit to Congress, and publish on the website of the Agency, a report describing the findings of the study carried out under paragraph (1).

(Pub. L. 117-58, div. K, title II, §100202, Nov. 15, 2021, 135 Stat. 1456.)

#### § 9543. Educational development relating to management and entrepreneurship

##### (a) Duties

The Under Secretary shall, whenever the Under Secretary determines such action is necessary or appropriate—

- (1) promote the education and training of socially or economically disadvantaged individ-