

higher education to serve as university centers.

**(2) Geographic coverage**

The Secretary shall ensure that the network of university centers established under this subsection provides services in each State.

**(3) Duties**

To the maximum extent practicable, a university center established under this subsection shall—

(A) collaborate with other university centers;

(B) collaborate with economic development districts and other relevant Federal economic development technical assistance and service providers to provide expertise and technical assistance to develop, implement, and support comprehensive economic development strategies and other economic development planning at the local, regional, and State levels, with a focus on innovation, entrepreneurship, workforce development, and regional economic development;

(C) provide technical assistance, business development, and technology transfer services to businesses in the area served by the university center;

(D) establish partnerships with 1 or more commercialization intermediaries that are public or nonprofit technology transfer organizations eligible to receive a grant under section 1862s-9 of this title;

(E) promote local and regional capacity building; and

(F) provide to communities and regions assistance relating to data collection and analysis and other research relating to economic conditions and vulnerabilities that can inform economic development and adjustment strategies.

**(4) Consideration**

In making grants under this subsection, the Secretary shall consider—

(A) the significant role of regional public universities in supporting economic development in distressed communities through the planning and the implementation of economic development projects and initiatives; and

(B) the location of the university center in or near a distressed community.

(Pub. L. 89-136, title II, §207, as added Pub. L. 105-393, title I, §102(a), Nov. 13, 1998, 112 Stat. 3604; amended Pub. L. 108-373, title II, §205, Oct. 27, 2004, 118 Stat. 1761; Pub. L. 118-272, div. B, title II, §§2211(b), 2217, Jan. 4, 2025, 138 Stat. 3178, 3181.)

**Editorial Notes**

AMENDMENTS

2025—Subsec. (a)(2)(A). Pub. L. 118-272, §2217(1), inserted “, project predevelopment,” after “planning”.

Subsec. (a)(3). Pub. L. 118-272, §2211(b), substituted “section 3122(4)(A)(vi) of this title” for “section 3122(6)(A)(vi) of this title”.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 118-272, §2217(2), added subsec. (c).

2004—Subsec. (a)(2)(G) to (I). Pub. L. 108-373, §205(a), added subpars. (G) and (H) and redesignated former subpar. (G) as (I).

Subsec. (a)(3). Pub. L. 108-373, §205(b), added par. (3) and struck out heading and text of former par. (3). Text read as follows: “In the case of a project assisted under this section, the Secretary may reduce or waive the non-Federal share, without regard to section 3144 or 3145 of this title, if the Secretary finds that the project is not feasible without, and merits, such a reduction or waiver.”

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Feb. 11, 1999, see section 105 of Pub. L. 105-393, set out as a note under section 3121 of this title.

**§ 3148. Investment priorities**

**(a) In general**

Subject to subsection (b), for a project to be eligible for assistance under this subchapter, the project shall be consistent with 1 or more of the following investment priorities:

**(1) Critical infrastructure**

Economic development planning or implementation projects that support development of public facilities, including basic public infrastructure, transportation infrastructure, or telecommunications infrastructure.

**(2) Workforce**

Economic development planning or implementation projects that—

(A) support job skills training to meet the hiring needs of the area in which the project is to be carried out and that result in well-paying jobs; or

(B) otherwise promote labor force participation.

**(3) Innovation and entrepreneurship**

Economic development planning or implementation projects that—

(A) support the development of innovation and entrepreneurship-related infrastructure;

(B) promote business development and lending; or

(C) foster the commercialization of new technologies that are creating technology-driven businesses and high-skilled, well-paying jobs of the future.

**(4) Economic recovery resilience**

Economic development planning or implementation projects that enhance the ability of an area to withstand and recover from adverse short-term or long-term changes in economic conditions, including effects from industry contractions or economic impacts from natural disasters.

**(5) Manufacturing**

Economic development planning or implementation projects that encourage job creation, business expansion, technology and capital upgrades, and productivity growth in manufacturing, including efforts that contribute to the competitiveness and growth of domestic suppliers or the domestic production of innovative, high-value products and production technologies.

**(b) Conditions**

If the Secretary plans to use an investment priority that is not described in subsection (a),

the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a written notification that explains the basis for using that investment priority.

**(c) Savings clause**

Nothing in this section waives any other requirement of this chapter.

(Pub. L. 89-136, title II, §208, as added Pub. L. 118-272, div. B, title II, §2218, Jan. 4, 2025, 138 Stat. 3182.)

**Editorial Notes**

**PRIOR PROVISIONS**

A prior section 3148, Pub. L. 89-136, title II, §208, as added Pub. L. 105-393, title I, §102(a), Nov. 13, 1998, 112 Stat. 3605, related to prevention of unfair competition, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 108-373, title II, §206(a), Oct. 27, 2004, 118 Stat. 1761.

**§ 3149. Grants for economic adjustment**

**(a) In general**

On the application of an eligible recipient, the Secretary may make grants for development of public facilities, public services, business development (including funding of a revolving loan fund), planning, technical assistance, training, and any other assistance to alleviate long-term economic deterioration and sudden and severe economic dislocation and further the economic adjustment objectives of this subchapter.

**(b) Criteria for assistance**

The Secretary may provide assistance under this section only if the Secretary determines that—

(1) the project will help the area to meet a special need arising from—

(A) actual or threatened severe unemployment; or

(B) economic adjustment problems resulting from severe changes in economic conditions; and

(2) the area for which a project is to be carried out has a comprehensive economic development strategy and the project is consistent with the strategy, except that this paragraph shall not apply to planning projects.

**(c) Particular community assistance**

Assistance under this section may include assistance provided for activities identified by communities, the economies of which are injured by—

(1) military base closures or realignments, defense contractor reductions in force, or Department of Energy defense-related funding reductions, for help in diversifying their economies through projects to be carried out on Federal Government installations or elsewhere in the communities;

(2) disasters or emergencies, in areas with respect to which a major disaster or emergency has been declared under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.), for post-disaster economic recovery;

(3) international trade, for help in economic restructuring of the communities;

(4) fishery failures, in areas with respect to which a determination that there is a commercial fishery failure has been made under section 1861a(a) of title 16;

(5) the loss of manufacturing, travel and tourism, natural resource-based, blue economy, or agricultural jobs, for reinvesting in and diversifying the economies of the communities;

(6) economic dislocation in the steel industry due to the closure of a steel plant, primary steel economy contraction events (including temporary layoffs and shifts to part-time work), or job losses in the steel industry or associated with the departure or contraction of the steel industry, for help in economic restructuring of the communities; or

(7) limited water for industrial consumption in areas impacted by decreased water supplies due to drought or extreme heat.

**(d) Assistance to coal communities**

**(1) Definitions**

In this subsection:

**(A) Coal economy**

The term “coal economy” means the complete supply chain of coal-reliant industries, including—

(i) coal mining;

(ii) coal-fired power plants;

(iii) transportation or logistics; and

(iv) manufacturing.

**(B) Contraction event**

The term “contraction event” means the closure of a facility or a reduction in activity relating to a coal-reliant industry, including an industry described in any of clauses (i) through (iv) of subparagraph (A).

**(2) Authorization**

On the application of an eligible recipient, the Secretary may make grants for projects in areas adversely impacted by a contraction event in the coal economy.

**(3) Eligibility**

**(A) In general**

In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary shall determine the eligibility of an area based on whether the eligible recipient can reasonably demonstrate that the area—

(i) has been adversely impacted by a contraction event in the coal economy within the previous 25 years; or

(ii) will be adversely impacted by a contraction event in the coal economy.

**(B) Prohibition**

No regulation or other policy of the Secretary may limit the eligibility of an eligible recipient for a grant under this subsection based on the date of a contraction event except as provided in subparagraph (A)(i).

**(C) Demonstrating adverse impact**

For the purposes of this paragraph, an eligible recipient may demonstrate an adverse impact by demonstrating—

(i) a loss in employment;

(ii) a reduction in tax revenue; or