

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2397

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 19, 2007

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and
Entrepreneurship

AN ACT

To reauthorize the women's entrepreneurial development programs of the Small Business Administration, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

2 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
3 “SBA Women’s Business Programs Act of 2007”.

4 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
5 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—NATIONAL WOMEN’S BUSINESS COUNCIL

Sec. 101. Annual studies on problems hindering the success of women entrepreneurs.

Sec. 102. Additional progress reports.

TITLE II—WOMEN’S BUSINESS CENTERS

Sec. 201. Revised funding formula.

Sec. 202. Matchmaking formula change.

Sec. 203. Termination of funding.

Sec. 204. Women’s business center awards to be made public.

6 **TITLE I—NATIONAL WOMEN’S**
7 **BUSINESS COUNCIL**

8 **SEC. 101. ANNUAL STUDIES ON PROBLEMS HINDERING THE**
9 **SUCCESS OF WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS.**

10 Section 409 of the Women’s Business Ownership Act
11 of 1988 (15 U.S.C. 7109) is amended—

12 (1) by redesignating subsection (b) as sub-
13 section (c); and

14 (2) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-
15 lowing:

16 “(b) PROBLEMS HINDERING THE SUCCESS OF
17 WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS.—The Council shall conduct at
18 least one study per year that evaluates the problems hin-
19 dering the success of women entrepreneurs. The Council

1 shall select the topic for the study in consultation with
2 the Committee on Small Business of the House of Rep-
3 resentatives and the Committee on Small Business and
4 Entrepreneurship of the Senate.”.

5 **SEC. 102. ADDITIONAL PROGRESS REPORTS.**

6 Section 406(d)(4) of the Women’s Business Owner-
7 ship Act of 1988 (15 U.S.C. 7106(d)(4)) is amended by
8 inserting before the semicolon at the end the following:
9 “, and on a biannual basis (notwithstanding paragraph
10 (6)) submit to the President and to the Committee on
11 Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and
12 the Committee on Small Business of the House of Rep-
13 resentatives a report containing a description of, and the
14 status of, such initiatives, policies, programs, and plans”.

15 **TITLE II—WOMEN’S BUSINESS**
16 **CENTERS**

17 **SEC. 201. REVISED FUNDING FORMULA.**

18 Section 29(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.
19 656(b)) is amended to read as follows:

20 “(b) **AUTHORITY.**—

21 “(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator may
22 provide financial assistance to private nonprofit or-
23 ganizations to conduct projects for the benefit of
24 small business concerns owned and controlled by
25 women. The projects shall provide—

1 “(A) financial assistance, including train-
2 ing and counseling in how to apply for and se-
3 cure business credit and investment capital,
4 preparing and presenting financial statements,
5 and managing cash flow and other financial op-
6 erations of a business concern;

7 “(B) management assistance, including
8 training and counseling in how to plan, orga-
9 nize, staff, direct, and control each major activ-
10 ity and function of a small business concern;
11 and

12 “(C) marketing assistance, including train-
13 ing and counseling in identifying and seg-
14 menting domestic and international market op-
15 portunities, preparing and executing marketing
16 plans, developing pricing strategies, locating
17 contract opportunities, negotiating contracts,
18 and utilizing varying public relations and adver-
19 tising techniques.

20 “(2) TIERS.—The Administrator shall provide
21 assistance under paragraph (1) in three tiers of as-
22 sistance as follows:

23 “(A) The first tier shall be to conduct a 5-
24 year project in a situation where a project has
25 not previously been conducted. Such a project

1 shall be in a total amount of not more than
2 \$150,000 per year.

3 “(B) The second tier shall be to conduct a
4 3-year project in a situation where a first-tier
5 project is being completed. Such a project shall
6 be in a total amount of not more than
7 \$100,000 per year.

8 “(C) The third tier shall be to conduct a
9 3-year project in a situation where a second-tier
10 project is being completed. Such a project shall
11 be in a total amount of not more than
12 \$100,000 per year. Third-tier grants are renew-
13 able subject to established eligibility criteria as
14 well as criteria in subsection (b)(4).

15 “(3) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—Of the amounts
16 made available for assistance under this subsection,
17 the Administrator shall allocate—

18 “(A) at least 40 percent for first-tier
19 projects under paragraph (2)(A);

20 “(B) 20 percent for second-tier projects
21 under paragraph (2)(B); and

22 “(C) the remainder for third-tier projects
23 under paragraph (2)(C).

24 “(4) BENCHMARKS FOR THIRD-TIER
25 PROJECTS.—In awarding third-tier projects under

1 paragraph (2)(C), the Administrator shall use
2 benchmarks based on socio-economic factors in the
3 community and on the performance of the applicant.

4 The benchmarks shall include—

5 “(A) the total number of women served by
6 the project;

7 “(B) the proportion of low income women
8 and socio-economic distribution of clients served
9 by the project;

10 “(C) the proportion of individuals in the
11 community that are socially or economically dis-
12 advantaged (based on median income);

13 “(D) the future fundraising and service co-
14 ordination plans;

15 “(E) the diversity of services provided; and

16 “(F) regional distribution within the 10
17 districts of the Administration.”.

18 **SEC. 202. MATCHMAKING FORMULA CHANGE.**

19 Section 29(c)(1) of the Small Business Act (15
20 U.S.C. 656(c)(1)) is amended—

21 (1) by striking subparagraphs (A) and (B); and

22 (2) by adding at the end the following:

23 “(A) For the first and second years of the
24 project, 1 non-Federal dollar for each 2 Federal
25 dollars.

1 “(B) Each year after the second year of
2 the project—

3 “(i) 1 non-Federal dollar for each
4 Federal dollar; or

5 “(ii) if the center is in a community
6 at least 50 percent of the population of
7 which is below the median income, 1 non-
8 Federal dollar for each 2 Federal dollars.”.

9 **SEC. 203. TERMINATION OF FUNDING.**

10 Section 29(c) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.
11 656(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

12 “(5) TERMINATION.—An organization that has
13 conducted a project under this subsection—

14 “(A) is not eligible to conduct another such
15 project; and

16 “(B) may continue thereafter to use the
17 women’s business center logo only with the con-
18 sent of the Administrator.”.

19 **SEC. 204. WOMEN’S BUSINESS CENTER AWARDS TO BE**
20 **MADE PUBLIC.**

21 Section 29(g)(2)(B)(ii)(V) of the Small Business Act
22 (15 U.S.C. 656(g)(2)(B)(ii)(V)) is amended by inserting
23 before the semicolon at the end the following: “, and make

- 1 available to the public the award made to each applicant
- 2 so selected”.

Passed the House of Representatives June 18, 2007.

Attest: LORRAINE C. MILLER,
Clerk.