

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7087

To amend the Small Business Act to establish a mentorship program designed to help minority and women-owned small businesses build their capacities and access to contracting opportunities in the construction industry.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 25, 2008

Ms. CLARKE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Small Business

A BILL

To amend the Small Business Act to establish a mentorship program designed to help minority and women-owned small businesses build their capacities and access to contracting opportunities in the construction industry.

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. MENTORSHIP PROGRAM FOR MINORITY AND**
2 **WOMEN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES WITH**
3 **RESPECT TO CONTRACTING OPPORTUNITIES**
4 **IN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY.**

5 The Small Business Act is amended by redesignating
6 section 44 as section 45 and by inserting after section 43
7 the following new section:

8 **“SEC. 44. MENTORSHIP PROGRAM FOR MINORITY AND**
9 **WOMEN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES WITH**
10 **RESPECT TO CONTRACTING OPPORTUNITIES**
11 **IN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY.**

12 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall estab-
13 lish a program for the purpose of assisting eligible small
14 business concerns build their capacities and access to con-
15 tracting opportunities in the construction industry.

16 “(b) GRANTS TO STATE AND LOCAL GOVERN-
17 MENTS.—The Administrator may make grants to State
18 and local government entities to assist such entities—

19 “(1) to establish or expand mentorship pro-
20 grams designed to carry out the purposes of this sec-
21 tion,

22 “(2) to identify problems and solutions regard-
23 ing eligible small business concerns in the construc-
24 tion industry, and

25 “(3) to establish performance goals with respect
26 to the mentoring program.

1 “(c) OTHER ASSISTANCE.—The Administrator shall
2 provide support and resources to entities receiving assist-
3 ance under this section, including training and marketing
4 materials and assistance in joint marketing and outreach
5 campaigns.

6 “(d) FREE COURSES.—At a minimum, mentoring
7 programs receiving assistance under this section shall pro-
8 vide free courses to learn about managing the full project
9 life-cycle, bidding opportunities on the Federal, State, and
10 local levels, and guidance in bidding on construction
11 projects and meeting the requirements of awarded con-
12 tracts.

13 “(e) ELIGIBLE SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS.—For
14 purposes of this section, the term ‘eligible small business
15 concern’ means—

16 “(1) any small business concern owned and con-
17 trolled by women (as defined in section 8(m)), and

18 “(2) any small business concern owned and con-
19 trolled by socially and economically disadvantaged
20 individuals (as defined in section 8(a)(4)).

21 “(f) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Entities receiving assist-
22 ance under this section shall report annually to the Ad-
23 ministrator on their activities under this section.”.

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