

Union Calendar No. 189

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4387

[Report No. 116-238]

To establish Growth Accelerator Fund Competition within the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 18, 2019

Mr. ESPAILLAT (for himself and Mr. BALDERSON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Small Business

OCTOBER 17, 2019

Additional sponsors: Mr. HAGEDORN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. EVANS

OCTOBER 17, 2019

Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

A BILL

To establish Growth Accelerator Fund Competition within 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. GROWTH ACCELERATOR FUND COMPETITION.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is established a program
5 within the Small Business Administration to be known as
6 the “Growth Accelerator Fund Competition” under which
7 the Administrator of the Small Business Administration
8 shall award prizes on a competitive basis to covered enti-
9 ties that—

10 (1) assist small business concerns with access-
11 ing capital and finding mentors and networking op-
12 portunities; and

13 (2) advise small business concerns, including
14 advising on market analysis, company strategy, rev-
15 enue growth, and securing funding.

16 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—Except as otherwise provided
17 in this section, the Administrator shall carry out the pro-
18 gram established under this section in accordance with the
19 requirements of section 24 of the Stevenson-Wydler Tech-
20 nology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719).

21 (c) APPLICATION.—A prize only may be awarded to
22 a covered entity that submits to the Administrator an ap-
23 plication at such time, in such manner, and containing
24 such information as the Administrator may require.

1 (d) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to apply for a prize
2 under this section, a covered entity—

3 (1) may not have an outstanding, unresolved fi-
4 nancial obligation to the Federal Government; and

5 (2) may not be currently suspended or debarred
6 as specified under subpart 9.4 of title 48, Code of
7 Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation).

8 (e) SELECTION OF COVERED ENTITIES.—From ap-
9 plications submitted under subsection (c), the Adminis-
10 trator shall select covered entities that will provide to
11 small business concerns—

12 (1) regular networking opportunities, including
13 introductions to customers, partners, suppliers, advi-
14 sory boards, and other persons;

15 (2) mentorship opportunities, including advice
16 on strategy, technology, finances, and commer-
17 cialization assistance;

18 (3) shared working environments focused on
19 building a strong community amongst other similar
20 small business concerns;

21 (4) resources and co-working arrangements;

22 (5) opportunities to pitch ideas to investors and
23 other capital formation opportunities;

24 (6) small amounts of angel money, seed capital,
25 or structured loans; and

1 (7) where appropriate, assistance in securing
2 funding under the SBIR program or the STTR pro-
3 gram established under section 9 of the Small Busi-
4 ness Act (15 U.S.C. 638).

5 (f) PRIORITY.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, in ap-
7 proving applications under this section, shall give
8 priority to applications that include methods to pro-
9 vide assistance and advice to small business concerns
10 located in underserved communities, including—

11 (A) small business concerns owned and
12 controlled by women;

13 (B) small business concerns owned and
14 controlled by veterans; and

15 (C) small business concerns owned and
16 controlled by socially and economically dis-
17 advantaged individuals (as defined in section
18 8(d)(3)(C) of the Small Business Act (15
19 U.S.C. 637(d)(3)(C))).

20 (2) ALLOCATION.—Of prizes awarded to cov-
21 ered entities under this section in a fiscal year, the
22 Administrator shall ensure that—

23 (A) not less than 20 percent of such cov-
24 ered entities will assist and advise small busi-

1 ness concerns owned and controlled by women;
2 and

3 (B) not less than 20 percent of such cov-
4 ered entities will assist and advise small busi-
5 ness concerns owned and controlled by socially
6 and economically disadvantaged individuals.

7 (g) SELECTION OF SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS.—
8 A covered entity that receives a prize under the Growth
9 Accelerator Fund Competition shall use a selective process
10 to identify small business concerns to provide assistance
11 and advice described under subsection (a).

12 (h) DEVELOPMENT OF METRICS.—The Adminis-
13 trator shall develop metrics to evaluate the effectiveness
14 and the benefit to the people of the United States of the
15 Growth Accelerator Fund Competition that—

16 (1) are science-based and statistically driven;
17 (2) reflect the mission of the Small Business
18 Administration; and
19 (3) include factors relating to the economic im-
20 pact of the Growth Accelerator Fund Competition.

21 (i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

22 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
23 trator” means the Administrator of the Small Busi-
24 ness Administration.

1 (2) COVERED ENTITY.—The term “covered en-
2 tity” means a private entity that is incorporated in
3 and maintains a primary place of business in the
4 United States.

5 (3) SMALL BUSINESS ACT DEFINITIONS.—The
6 terms “small business concern”, “small business
7 concern owned and controlled by women”, “small
8 business concern owned and controlled by veterans”
9 have the meanings given such terms, respectively, in
10 section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.
11 632).

12 (j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
13 are authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator
14 \$2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2020, 2021, 2022, and
15 2023 to carry out the Growth Accelerator Fund Competi-
16 tion.

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