

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4614

To establish a program so that business concerns owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals may achieve proficiency to compete, on an equal basis, for contracts and subcontracts in Department of Transportation projects, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 13, 2023

Mr. GOMEZ (for himself, Mr. AGUILAR, Ms. TITUS, and Ms. BARRAGÁN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To establish a program so that business concerns owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals may achieve proficiency to compete, on an equal basis, for contracts and subcontracts in Department of Transportation projects, 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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Accelerating Small
5 Business Growth Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ACCELERATING BUSINESS GROWTH PROGRAM.**

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Transpor-
3 tation shall establish a competitive grant program to pro-
4 vide financial assistance to eligible entities to establish and
5 carry out innovative programs so that business concerns
6 owned and controlled by socially and economically dis-
7 advantaged individuals may achieve proficiency to com-
8 pete, on an equal basis, for contracts and subcontracts in
9 projects carried out with financial assistance from the Sec-
10 retary.

11 (b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity eligible to re-
12 ceive financial assistance under this section is—

- 13 (1) a State or territory of the United States;
14 (2) a political subdivision of a State or local
15 government;
16 (3) a Tribal government;
17 (4) a special purpose district or public authority
18 with a transit or aviation function;
19 (5) a port authority;
20 (6) a metropolitan planning organization; or
21 (7) a group of entities described in paragraphs
22 (1) through (6).

23 (c) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to participate in
24 the program under this section, an eligible entity shall
25 submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in

1 such manner, and containing such information as the Sec-
2 retary may require.

3 (d) PARTNERSHIPS.—In carrying out activities with
4 a grant under this section, an eligible entity may partner
5 with—

6 (1) 1 or more nonprofit organizations; or

7 (2) 1 or more institutions of higher education.

8 (e) REQUIRED REPORT.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after
10 an eligible entity is awarded a grant under this sec-
11 tion, the eligible entity shall submit to the Secretary
12 a report that includes—

13 (A) a description of the activities carried
14 out with the grant; and

15 (B) an evaluation of the effectiveness of
16 those activities in meeting the objectives de-
17 scribed in subsection (b).

18 (2) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—Each report sub-
19 mitted under paragraph (1) shall be made available
20 on a public internet website managed by the Sec-
21 retary.

22 (f) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 3 years
23 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall
24 submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infra-
25 structure of the House of Representatives and the Com-

1 mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the
2 Senate a report that evaluates the program under this sec-
3 tion.

4 (g) DEFINITION OF SOCIALLY AND ECONOMICALLY
5 DISADVANTAGED INDIVIDUALS.—The term “socially and
6 economically disadvantaged individuals” has the meaning
7 given the term in section 11101(e)(2) of the Infrastruc-
8 ture Investment and Jobs Act (23 U.S.C. 101 note; Public
9 Law 117–58).

10 (h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
11 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
12 \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2026.

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