

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6457

To require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to establish a grant program to create or expand programs at minority-serving institutions relating to minority entrepreneurship and business ownership, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 17, 2023

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia (for herself, Mr. EVANS, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mrs. TORRES of California) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Small Business

A BILL

To require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to establish a grant program to create or expand programs at minority-serving institutions relating to minority entrepreneurship and business ownership, 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 “Minority Entrepre-
5 neurship Grant Program Act of 2023”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

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

4 (2) BOARD.—The term “Board” means the Mi-
5 nority Entrepreneurship Advisory Board established
6 under section 4(a).

7 (3) HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGE OR UNI-
8 VERSITY.—The term “historically Black college or
9 university” means a part B institution, as that term
10 is defined in section 322 of the Higher Education
11 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061).

12 (4) MINORITY.—The term “minority” means an
13 individual who is—

14 (A) Black or African American;

15 (B) Hispanic or Latino;

16 (C) Native or Indigenous American;

17 (D) Asian;

18 (E) Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Is-
19 lander;

20 (F) Native Alaskan; or

21 (G) a member of a group that the Minority
22 Business Development Agency of the Depart-
23 ment of Commerce determines under part 1400
24 of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations, as in

1 effect on November 23, 1984, is a socially dis-
2 advantaged group eligible to receive assistance.

3 (5) MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTION.—The
4 term “minority-serving institution” means any of
5 the following types of institutions:

6 (A) A historically Black college or univer-
7 sity.

8 (B) A Hispanic-serving institution, as that
9 term is defined in section 502(a) of the Higher
10 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1101a(a)).

11 (C) A Tribal College or University, as that
12 term is defined in section 316(b) of the Higher
13 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059c(b)).

14 (D) An Alaska Native-serving institution,
15 as that term is defined in section 317(b) of the
16 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
17 1059d(b)).

18 (E) A Native Hawaiian-serving institution,
19 as that term is defined in section 317(b) of the
20 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
21 1059d(b)).

22 (F) A Predominantly Black Institution, as
23 that term is defined in section 318(b) of the
24 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
25 1059e(b)).

1 (G) A Native American-serving, nontribal
2 institution, as that term is defined in section
3 319(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965
4 (20 U.S.C. 1059f(b)).

5 (H) An Asian-American and Native Amer-
6 ican Pacific Islander-serving institution, as that
7 term is defined in section 320(b) of the Higher
8 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059g(b)).

9 (6) PROGRAM.—The term “Program” means
10 the grant program established under section 3(a).

11 (7) SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN.—The term
12 “small business concern” has the meaning given the
13 term in section 3(a) of the Small Business Act (15
14 U.S.C. 632(a)).

15 (8) STUDENT ENTREPRENEUR.—The term
16 “student entrepreneur” means a minority student
17 who seeks to establish or develop a small business
18 concern.

19 (9) UNDER SECRETARY.—The term “Under
20 Secretary” means Under Secretary of Commerce for
21 Minority Business Development of the Minority
22 Business Development Agency (established under
23 section 100002 of the Minority Business Develop-
24 ment Act of 2021 (15 U.S.C. 9501)).

1 **SEC. 3. GRANT PROGRAM.**

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after
3 the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in
4 consultation with the Under Secretary, shall establish a
5 grant program within the Small Business Administration,
6 the purpose of which shall be to create or expand pro-
7 grams at minority-serving institutions that foster, pro-
8 mote, and increase programs, initiatives, or opportunities
9 for minority entrepreneurship and business ownership
10 among student entrepreneurs enrolled at such a minority-
11 serving institution.

12 (b) APPLICATION PROCESS.—A minority-serving in-
13 stitution seeking a grant under the Program shall submit
14 to the Administrator an application that contains a de-
15 scription of—

16 (1) the need for and proposed use of grant
17 funds to promote minority entrepreneurship and
18 business ownership among student entrepreneurs en-
19 rolled at the minority-serving institution;

20 (2) how the programs, initiatives, or opportuni-
21 ties created or expanded with the grant funds will
22 provide support to student entrepreneurs enrolled at
23 the minority-serving institution who—

24 (A) seek support for an established small
25 business concern; or

1 (B) need assistance in establishing a small
2 business concern; and

3 (3) how the minority-serving institution will cre-
4 ate or expand programs, initiatives, or opportunities
5 that—

6 (A) increase minority entrepreneurship and
7 business ownership among student entre-
8 preneurs enrolled at the minority-serving insti-
9 tution; and

10 (B) expand business resources to student
11 entrepreneurs enrolled at the minority-serving
12 institution.

13 (c) SELECTION.—In selecting grantees under this
14 section, the Administrator shall evaluate applications from
15 among the same type of minority-serving institution, as
16 listed in subparagraphs (A) through (H) of section 2(5).

17 (d) AMOUNT OF GRANT.—A grant made to a minor-
18 ity-serving institution under the Program shall be not less
19 than \$250,000.

20 (e) USE OF GRANT FUNDS.—A minority-serving in-
21 stitution that receives a grant under the Program shall
22 use grant amounts to support the creation or expansion
23 of programs, initiatives, or opportunities that offer busi-
24 ness development resources that support student entre-

1 preneurs enrolled at the minority-serving institution, such
2 as—

3 (1) free legal, accounting, human resources, in-
4 formation technology, marketing, training, coun-
5 seling, networking, and technical assistance; and

6 (2) access to capital resources, such as the
7 costs associated with forming a new small business
8 concern.

9 (f) SUBMISSION REQUIREMENT.—A minority-serving
10 institution to which a grant is made under the Program
11 shall, not later than 6 months and not later than 12
12 months after receipt of such grant, submit to the Adminis-
13 trator a report that contains, for the period covered by
14 the report, the number of—

15 (1) student entrepreneurs enrolled at the mi-
16 nority-serving institution assisted with the grant
17 funds;

18 (2) small business concerns created through the
19 expenditure of the grant funds, including, with re-
20 spect to each such concern—

21 (A) the name of the concern;

22 (B) a description of the business of the
23 concern; and

24 (C) the amount of grant funds expended in
25 creating the concern;

1 (3) student entrepreneurs enrolled at the mi-
2 nority-serving institution referred to other resources
3 of the Small Business Administration; and

4 (4) student entrepreneurs enrolled at the mi-
5 nority-serving institution participating in programs,
6 initiatives, or opportunities created or expanded
7 through the expenditure of the grant funds,
8 disaggregated (to the extent possible) by sex, race,
9 and ethnicity of the student entrepreneur.

10 (g) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 18
11 months after the date on which the first grant is made
12 under the Program, and annually thereafter until Sep-
13 tember 30, 2028, the Administrator shall submit to Con-
14 gress a report that contains information regarding the mi-
15 nority-serving institutions to which grants were made
16 under the Program for the period covered by the report,
17 which shall include—

18 (1) the name of each such minority-serving in-
19 stitution and the amount of each such grant;

20 (2) the number of student entrepreneurs as-
21 sisted with Program grant funds—

22 (A) at each minority-serving institution to
23 which a grant was made under the Program;
24 and

25 (B) in total under the Program;

1 (3) the number of small business concerns cre-
2 ated through the expenditure of Program grant
3 funds—

4 (A) with respect to each minority-serving
5 institution to which a grant was made under
6 the Program; and

7 (B) in total under the Program;

8 (4) the number of student entrepreneurs re-
9 ferred to resources of the Small Business Adminis-
10 tration—

11 (A) at each minority-serving institution to
12 which a grant was made under the Program;
13 and

14 (B) in total under the Program;

15 (5) the number of student entrepreneurs par-
16 ticipating in programs, initiatives, or opportunities
17 created or expanded through the expenditure of Pro-
18 gram grant funds, disaggregated by sex, race, and
19 ethnicity (to the extent possible)—

20 (A) at each minority-serving institution to
21 which a grant was made under the Program;
22 and

23 (B) in total under the Program; and

24 (6) a statement regarding whether any amounts
25 made available to carry out this section remain un-

1 expended, as of the date on which the report is sub-
2 mitted.

3 (h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
4 are authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator
5 \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2028
6 to carry out this section.

7 **SEC. 4. MINORITY ENTREPRENEURSHIP ADVISORY BOARD.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
9 date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall es-
10 tablish a Minority Entrepreneurship Advisory Board to
11 develop recommendations regarding how minority-serving
12 institutions can better serve minority businesses and en-
13 trepreneurs.

14 (b) MEMBERSHIP OF BOARD.—The members of the
15 Board—

16 (1) shall be appointed by the Administrator;

17 (2) shall include one representative from each
18 of—

19 (A) the United Negro College Fund;

20 (B) the Thurgood Marshall College Fund;

21 (C) the National Association for Equal Op-
22 portunity in Higher Education;

23 (D) the American Indian Higher Edu-
24 cation Consortium;

1 (E) the Asian and Pacific Islander Amer-
2 ican Scholarship Fund;

3 (F) the National Congress of American In-
4 dians; and

5 (G) the Hispanic Association of Colleges
6 and Universities; and

7 (3) shall include additional individuals, as de-
8 termined by the Administrator, with—

9 (A) outstanding qualifications relating to
10 minority-serving institutions or minority busi-
11 nesses and entrepreneurs;

12 (B) knowledge regarding the needs of
13 small business concerns that are owned by mi-
14 norities; and

15 (C) experience—

16 (i) working with startups; or

17 (ii) in providing consultation to small
18 business concerns.

19 (c) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 18
20 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
21 Administrator shall submit to Congress the recommenda-
22 tions developed by the Board.

23 (d) TERMINATION.—The Board shall terminate not
24 later than 6 months after the report required under sub-
25 section (c) has been submitted.

1 (e) INAPPLICABILITY OF FACA.—The Federal Advi-
2 sory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply with
3 respect to the Board or the activities of the Board.

○