

Calendar No. 345

118TH CONGRESS }
2d Session }

SENATE

{ REPORT NO.
118-233 }

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2024

SEPTEMBER 25, 2024.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. CARPER, from the Committee on Environment and Public
Works, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany S. 3891]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Environment and Public Works, to which was referred the bill (S. 3891) to amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to update and expand Federal economic development investment in the economic recovery, resiliency, and competitiveness of communities, regions, and States across the United States, and for other purposes, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and recommends that the bill (as amended) do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE LEGISLATION

The objectives of the S. 3891 are to reauthorize and modernize existing programs of the Economic Development Administration (EDA) through fiscal years (FY) 2025 through 2029. This legislation also reauthorizes certain Regional Commissions through FY2025 through 2029 and establishes two new Regional Commissions, which are authorized for the 5-fiscal year period.

GENERAL STATEMENT AND BACKGROUND

The Economic Development Reauthorization Act of 2024 (S. 3891) primarily addresses national and regional economic development programs within the Committee's jurisdiction. The need for this legislation is driven by the changes in industries, technology, and trade patterns since the last time that the PWEDA was reauthorized by Congress in 2004. By making these changes, Congress

ensures that EDA and the Regional Commissions will be better able to support economic development and job creation in distressed communities throughout the Nation.

The programs and authorities of the EDA were originally established by Congress in the PWEDA to promote job creation and retention as well as facilitate the deployment of local public and private investment in distressed communities throughout the United States in order to foster local economic growth and prosperity. Working in partnership with state and local governments, regional economic development organizations, public and private nonprofit organizations, universities, and Indian tribes, EDA provides grants and other forms of assistance in order to achieve these goals. Congress also established multiple Regional Commissions to enable multijurisdictional, coordinated economic development investments in geographic regions of the country where pervasive types of economic distress and historic underinvestment were present. Regional Commissions are structured as federal-state partnerships, which encourages substantial state and sub-state input on program investment priorities for the applicable distressed areas. Regional Commissions are led by a federal co-chair appointed by the President, with the advice and consent of the Senate, and a panel of the member state governors, of which one is appointed the state co-chair.

The bill is organized into two titles:

Title I of S. 3891 makes several changes to update EDA's programs and authorities. Specifically, the bill: modernizes economic distress criteria; addresses specific economic development needs for rural communities and communities impacted by changes to industries such as coal mining, nuclear power, steel manufacturing; establishes investment priorities to guide the agency's funding decisions; promotes greater collaboration between EDA and the Regional Commissions; clarifies EDA's role in disaster assistance; establishes a new Office of Tribal Economic Development; and codifies EDA's role in supporting workforce training and development opportunities.

Title II of S. 3891 reauthorizes the following Regional Commissions: the Delta Regional Authority; the Denali Commission; and the Northern Great Plains Regional Authority as well as the Regional Commissions codified under Subtitle V of Title 40, United States Code the Great Lakes Authority; the Northern Border Regional Commission; the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission; the Southwest Border Regional Commission. Title II also establishes two new Regional Commissions under that subtitle: the Mid-Atlantic Regional Commission; and the Southern New England Regional Commission. In addition, this title makes various changes to align certain authorized authorities and programs of the Regional Commissions.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

TITLE I—PUBLIC WORKS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Section 101. Findings and declarations

This section amends section 2(a) of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (PWEDA) (42 U.S.C. 3121(a)) to update the findings and declarations.

Section 102. Definitions

This section amends section 3 of PWEDA (42 U.S.C. 3122) to provide standard definitions for terms “blue economy”, “capacity building”, “outdoor recreation”, “project predevelopment”, and “travel and tourism”. It also updates the definition of “Regional Commissions.”

Section 103. Increased coordination

This section amends section 103 of PWEDA (42 U.S.C. 3133) to enhance coordination between the Economic Development Administration (EDA) and the regional commissions. It also establishes reporting requirements and annual meeting requirements.

Section 104. Grants for public works and economic development

This section amends section 201 of PWEDA (42 U.S.C. 3141) to clarify eligibility for grants under that section. This section also allows the Secretary of Commerce (Secretary) to consider certain matters when awarding grants of under Section 201.

Section 105. Grants for planning and grants for administrative expenses

This section amends section 203 of PWEDA (42 U.S.C. 3143) to clarify the types of administrative expenses are eligible for grants, including capacity building and project predevelopment activities.

Section 106. Cost sharing

This section amends section 204 of PWEDA (42 U.S.C. 3144) to revise cost sharing requirements.

Section 107. Regulations on relative needs and allocations

This section amends section 206 of PWEDA (42 U.S.C. 3146) to require the Secretary to consider the per capita income levels, the labor force participation rate, and the extent of underemployment in eligible areas when considering the relative need of eligible areas.

Section 108. Research and technical assistance; university centers

This section amends section 207 of PWEDA (42 U.S.C. 3147) to modernize the university center program.

Section 109. Investment priorities

This section amends title II of PWEDA to establish the investment priorities that EDA must use when awarding grants.

Section 110. Grants for economic adjustment

This section amends section 209 of PWEDA (42 U.S.C. 3149) to clarify the eligibilities under that Section, including codifying existing programs for certain communities.

Section 111. Renewable energy program

This section amends section 218 of PWEDA (42 U.S.C. 3154d) to replace the Brightfields Demonstration Program with a program that provides grants for projects to site renewable energy technology on brownfield sites.

Section 112. Workforce training grants

This section authorizes the Secretary to make grants to support the development and expansion of certain workforce training programs.

Section 113. Congressional notification requirements

This section requires the Secretary to provide Congressional notification of grants in excess of \$100,000 no less than three days before an eligible recipient is notified of their selection for the award.

Section 114. Specific flexibilities related to deployment of high-speed broadband

This section modernizes EDA authorities to award grants to public-private partnerships or consortia for high-speed broadband projects.

Section 115. Critical supply chain site development grant program

This section authorizes the Secretary to establish a grant program to support site development or expansion projects for manufacturing industries.

Section 116. Updated distress criteria and grant rates

This section amends section 301 of PWEDA (42 U.S.C. 3161) to direct the Secretary to consider additional factors when determining economic distress.

Section 117. Comprehensive economic development strategies

This section amends section 302 of PWEDA (42 U.S.C. 3161) to update the requirements for certain awards made under section 207 and section 209(c)(2) of PWEDA.

Section 118. Office of Tribal Economic Development

This section establishes the Office of Tribal Economic Development.

Section 119. Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience

This section establishes the Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience.

Section 120. Establishment of Technical Assistance Liaisons

This section allows EDA to designate a regional staff member to act as a Technical Assistance Liaison for a regional office.

Section 121. Annual report to Congress

This section amends section 603(b) of PWEDA (42 U.S.C. 3213(b)) to update the annual reporting requirements.

Section 122. Modernization of environmental reviews

This section directs the Secretary to submit to Congress a report on the efforts of the Secretary to facilitate efficient, timely, and predictable environmental reviews of projects. It also directs the Secretary to promulgate a rulemaking within two years of completing the report to implement, to the maximum extent practicable, measures considered in the report to streamline environmental reviews.

Section 123. Report on economic development programs

This section requires the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to submit a report to Congress that evaluates economic development programs administered by the EDA and the regional commissions.

Section 124. GAO report on Economic Development Administration regulations and policies

This section requires the GAO to submit a report to Congress that evaluates economic development regulations and policies administered by the EDA that may have hindered the ability of communities to apply for and administer EDA grants.

Section 125. GAO study on rural communities

This section directs the GAO to submit a report to Congress on the impacts of EDA funding in distressed communities located in least five geographically diverse rural areas.

Section 126. General authorization of appropriations

This section authorizes funding for EDA's programs for fiscal years 2025 through 2029, subject to the availability of appropriations.

Section 127. Technical correction

This section amends the table of contents of PWEDA to reflect the revisions made by the bill.

TITLE II—REGIONAL ECONOMIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

Section 201. Regional commissions authorizations

This section amends Section 15751 of title 40, U.S.C., to reauthorize certain regional commissions for fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

Section 202. Regional commission modifications

This section amends sections of subtitle V of title 40, U.S.C., to update administrative requirements for certain regional commissions.

Section 203. Transfer of funds among federal agencies

This section allows certain regional commissions to transfer funds to and accept transfers of funds from other Federal agencies where funds are appropriated for similar purposes.

Section 204. Economic and infrastructure development grants

This section amends section 15501 of Title 40, U.S.C., to revise the eligibilities for economic and infrastructure development grants for certain regional commissions.

Section 205. Financial assistance

This section allows certain regional commissions funding to count as non-federal match for a project under another federal grants program under certain circumstances.

Section 206. Northern Border Regional Commission area

This section adds Lincoln, Merrimack, and Wyoming Counties to the area covered by the Northern Border Regional Commission.

Section 207. Southwest Border Regional Commission area

This section adds Bernalillo, Cibola, Curry, De Baca, Guadalupe, Roosevelt, Socorro, Torrance, and Valencia Counties to the area covered by the Southwest Border Regional Commission.

Section 208. Great Lakes Authority area

This section attributes counties to the area covered by the Great Lakes Authority.

Section 209. Additional regional commission programs

This section codifies the existing State Capacity Building Grant Program and allows for limited demonstration health projects to be carried out by certain regional commissions.

Section 210. Tribal and colonia participation in southwest border region

This section authorizes the Southwest Border Regional Commission to reduce the non-federal cost share for a colonia or Indian tribe.

Section 211. Establishment of Mid-Atlantic Regional Commission

This section establishes the Mid-Atlantic Regional Commission.

Section 212. Establishment of Southern New England Regional Commission

This section establishes the Southern New England Regional Commission.

Section 213. Denali Commission reauthorization

This section reauthorizes the Denali Commission from fiscal years 2025 through 2029 and makes changes to improve the function of the Commission.

Section 214. Denali Housing Fund

This section authorizes the establishment of a Denali Housing Fund.

Section 215. Delta Regional Authority reauthorization

This section reauthorizes the Delta Regional Authority from fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

Section 216. Northern Great Plains Regional Authority reauthorization

This section reauthorizes the Northern Great Plains Regional Authority from fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

The most recent EDA reauthorization law, the Economic Development Administration Reauthorization Act of 2004 (PL 108–373), expired on September 30, 2008. Senator Carper, Chair of the Com-

mittee, introduced S. 3891 on March 7, 2024. Senator Capito, Ranking Member of the Committee and Senators Kelly and Cramer joined as original cosponsors. The bill was referred to the Committee.

On March 12, 2024, the Committee conducted a business meeting, under the chairmanship of Senator Carper, to consider S. 3891. The bill, as amended, was favorably reported out of Committee by voice vote.

HEARINGS

The Committee has held the following hearings to conduct oversight on the Economic Development Administration and inform the development of the Economic Development Reauthorization Act of 2024.

The Committee held a hearing entitled “Examining Programs at the Economic Development Administration” on November 3, 2021.

The Committee held a hearing entitled “Reauthorization of the Economic Development Administration: State and Local Perspectives” on June 21, 2023.

COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION AND VOTES

The Committee on Environment and Public Works, under the chairmanship of Senator Carper, conducted a business meeting on March 12, 2024, to consider S. 3891. During the business meeting, the Committee, with a quorum present, approved by unanimous consent a Carper-Capito substitute amendment to serve as the base text. The Committee also approved the following amendments by voice vote: Cardin #1 as modified—An amendment to provide for increased eligibility of certain administrative expenses; and Merkley #2 as modified—An amendment to include in a Government Accountability Office (GAO) report recommendation for improving grant administration and for timely grant disbursement.

The Committee on Environment and Public Works ordered S. 3891, as amended, to be reported favorably to the Senate by a voice vote with a quorum present.

REGULATORY IMPACT STATEMENT

In compliance with section 11(b) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee provides the following evaluation of the regulatory impact of the legislation, as reported:

S. 3891 does not create any new regulatory programs. The legislation will have no regulatory impact and will result in no additional reporting requirements. The legislation will have no effect on the number or types of individuals and businesses regulated, the economic impact of such regulation, the personal privacy of affected individuals, or the paperwork required from such individuals and businesses.

MANDATES ASSESSMENT

In compliance with the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (Public Law 104–4), the Committee on Environment and Public Works notes that the Congressional Budget Office found that S. 2395 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as

defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

COST OF LEGISLATION

Section 403 of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act requires that a statement of the cost of the reported bill, prepared by the Congressional Budget Office, be included in the report. That statement follows:

At a Glance			
S. 3891, Economic Development Reauthorization Act of 2024			
As reported by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works on March 12, 2024			
By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2024	2024-2029	2024-2034
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	31	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	31	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	0	2,351	4,980
Increases <i>net direct spending</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2035?	No	Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply? Yes	
Increases <i>on-budget deficits</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2035?	No	Mandate Effects	
		Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No

The bill would

- Authorize appropriations for the Economic Development Administration over the 2025–2029 period
 - Authorize appropriations for two new regional commissions and seven existing commissions
 - Require reporting by the Government Accountability Office
- Estimated budgetary effects would mainly stem from
- Spending of amounts authorized to be appropriated
 - Accelerating the spending of currently unobligated balances, primarily by increasing the federal share of the costs for certain projects

Bill summary: S. 3891 would reauthorize programs administered by the Economic Development Administration (EDA), within the Department of Commerce, that primarily provide grants to state and local governments for public works and infrastructure projects, economic adjustment assistance, workforce training, and other activities. The bill also would create two new regional commissions and reauthorize seven existing commissions (regional commissions administer federal economic development grants to state and local governments, often in coordination with EDA). The bill would authorize a total of \$5.0 billion in appropriations for EDA and those commissions over the 2025–2029 period.

S. 3891 also would make various changes to EDA's programs; in particular, it would allow the federal government to increase the share of costs it pays for EDA-funded projects.

Finally, the bill would require the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to report to the Congress on the efficacy of programs administered by EDA and the regional commissions.

Estimated Federal cost: The estimated budgetary effect of S. 3891 is shown in Table 1. The costs of the legislation fall within budget function 450 (community and regional development).

TABLE 1.—ESTIMATED BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF S. 3891

	By fiscal year, millions of dollars—														
	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2024–2029	2024–2034		
INCREASES OR DECREASES (–) IN DIRECT SPENDING															
Estimated Budget Authority	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Estimated Outlays	0	5	6	7	12	1	–10	–9	–7	–4	–1	31	0		
INCREASES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION															
Estimated Authorization	0	906	956	005	050	1,100	0	0	0	0	0	5,017	5,017		
Estimated Outlays	0	66	235	472	713	865	882	770	540	304	133	2,351	4,980		

Basis of estimate: For this estimate, CBO assumes that S. 3891 will be enacted near the end of fiscal year 2024 and that the specified amounts will be appropriated in each year beginning in 2025.

Spending subject to appropriation: In total, S. 3891 would authorize the appropriation of \$5.0 billion over the 2025–2029 period to support programs at EDA and nine regional commissions, among other activities (see Table 2). CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$2.4 billion over the 2025–2029 period and an additional \$2.6 billion after 2029.

TABLE 2.—ESTIMATED INCREASES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION UNDER S. 3891

	By fiscal year, millions of dollars—						
	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2024– 2029
Economic Development Administration:							
Public Works and Economic Development Grants:							
Authorization	0	195	220	245	270	295	1,225
Estimated Outlays	0	7	31	75	132	184	429
Economic Adjustment Assistance:							
Authorization	0	180	190	200	205	215	990
Estimated Outlays	0	16	47	88	131	166	448
Planning and Administrative Activities:							
Authorization	0	95	105	115	125	135	575
Estimated Outlays	0	19	52	91	114	116	392
Workforce Training, Research, and Technical Assistance:							
Authorization	0	75	80	85	90	95	425
Estimated Outlays	0	16	47	72	85	81	301
Subtotal, Economic Development Administration:							
Authorization	0	545	595	645	690	740	3,215
Estimated Outlays	0	58	177	326	462	547	1,570
Regional Commissions:							
Authorization	0	360	360	360	360	360	1,800
Estimated Outlays	0	7	57	146	251	318	779
Reports:							
Estimated Authorization	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
Estimated Outlays	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
Total Changes:							
Estimated Authorization	0	906	956	1,005	1,050	1,100	5,017
Estimated Outlays	0	66	235	472	713	865	2,351

Economic Development Administration. S. 3891 would authorize the appropriation of \$3.2 billion for EDA's programs over the 2025–2029 period, increasing from \$545 million in 2025 to \$740 million in 2029. (The Congress provided \$468 million to the agency in fiscal year 2024.) The amounts for each activity are detailed below:

- \$1.2 billion for public works and economic development grants, including \$100 million for developing critical supply chains and \$25 million for developing brownfield sites with renewable energy projects;
- \$990 million for economic adjustment assistance, including \$375 million for communities affected by declines in coal production and \$190 million for communities affected by the closure of nuclear energy facilities;
- \$575 million for planning and administrative activities, including \$25 million for liaisons to provide technical assistance;
- \$250 million for workforce training programs; and
- \$175 million for training, research, and technical assistance.

Assuming appropriation of the specified amounts and based on historical spending patterns for the affected programs, CBO estimates that implementing those provisions would cost \$1.6 billion over the 2025–2029 period and an additional \$1.6 billion after 2029.

Regional Commissions. S. 3891 would authorize the appropriation of \$40 million annually over the 2025–2029 period for each of nine regional commissions, totaling \$1.8 billion over that period.

Based on the commissions' historical spending patterns, CBO estimates that their operations would cost \$779 million over the 2025–2029 period, and \$1.0 billion after 2029.

Reports. S. 3891 would require GAO to produce three reports assessing EDA's administration of its activities and programs, within two years of enactment.

Using information from GAO about the cost of similar reports, CBO estimates implementing that requirement would cost \$2 million over the 2025–2029 period. Any related spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

Direct spending: CBO expects that several provisions in S. 3891 would accelerate the spending of currently unobligated funds that were appropriated in prior years to EDA and the regional commissions, primarily by allowing federal funds to cover a higher percentage of costs for projects. Under current law, EDA and the regional commissions typically provide 50 percent to 80 percent of total project funding and can increase that share in certain circumstances; state and local governments cover the remainder of each project's cost.

The bill would allow EDA to:

- Increase the maximum federal share of costs from 80 percent to 90 percent;
- Use funds provided by regional commissions to satisfy the nonfederal share of grants for planning and administration, among other activities;
- Cover 100 percent of project costs if a state or local government can demonstrate that it cannot reasonably obtain matching funds using its own resources; and

- Cover 100 percent of the costs of grants provided to communities with fewer than 10,000 residents if those communities have a low per capita income or a high unemployment rate.

Using information from EDA, CBO expects that those and other changes in the bill would result in some funds being obligated and spent faster than under current law because the federal share of costs and the size of some projects would increase and because more projects could qualify for assistance.

On that basis, CBO estimates that S. 3891 would increase direct spending over the 2025–2029 period by about \$30 million. After 2029, that increase would be offset by reductions in spending of an equal amount. As a result, CBO estimates that S. 3891 would have no effect on net direct spending over the 2024–2034 period.

Pay-As-You-Go considerations: The Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 establishes budget-reporting and enforcement procedures for legislation affecting direct spending or revenues. The net changes in outlays that are subject to those pay-as-you-go procedures are shown in Table 3.

TABLE 3.—CBO’S ESTIMATE OF THE STATUTORY PAY-AS-YOU-GO EFFECTS OF S. 3891, THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2024, AS REPORTED BY THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS ON MARCH 12, 2024

	By fiscal year, millions of dollars—													
	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2024–2029	2024–2034	
	NET INCREASE OR DECREASE (–) IN THE DEFICIT													
Pay-As-You-Go Effect	0	5	6	7	12	1	–10	–9	–7	–4	–1	31	0	

Increase in long-term net direct spending and deficits: CBO estimates that enacting S. 3891 would not increase net direct spending or deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2035.

Mandates: The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

Estimate prepared by: Federal Costs: Jon Sperl, Margot Berman. Mandates: Erich Dvorak.

Estimate reviewed by: Justin Humphrey, Chief, Finance, Housing, and Education Cost Estimates Unit; Kathleen FitzGerald, Chief, Public and Private Mandates Unit; H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.

Estimate approved by: Phillip L. Swagel, Director, Congressional Budget Office.

COMMITTEE PERSPECTIVE

In the two decades since the last reauthorization of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (PWEDA), many local and regional economies have experienced significant change. Given the evolving and diverse nature of economic development, the Committee supports the continuation of flexible grant programs that allow EDA to respond to local and regional economic development needs.

Section 104 of the bill clarifies eligibilities under the EDA’s Public Works program. While the Committee has maintained flexibility

under this section, it is the committee's view that the increased funding authorization for this program under section 126 should provide EDA with the ability to fund a greater range of projects based on local needs and priorities, including projects for economic development related to the blue economy, outdoor recreation, and travel and tourism.

Section 105 of the bill clarifies the types of administrative expenses for which an eligible recipient may use grants under section 203 of PWEDA. It is the Committee's view that administrative expenses also include "capacity building," which is a newly defined term in the Section 102 of the bill. The Committee notes that "capacity building" includes grants for "community outreach and engagement activities."

Section 106 of the bill revises cost sharing requirements and allows funding contributed by a regional commission to be used as the non-federal cost share of a project. Within this section a specific flexibility is added that allows the Secretary to waive the local match requirement for a project where an applicant "can otherwise document that no local matching funds are reasonably obtainable." It is the Committee's view that this flexibility should only be used in extreme cases where a distressed community is demonstrably unable to obtain a local non-Federal match for an otherwise eligible project. It is also the Committee's view that such communities should not be required to exhaust their taxing and borrowing authority as the only option for obtaining a 100 percent federal share, and this section provides the agency with greater flexibility to ensure those communities are able to get economic development assistance through the EDA's programs.

Section 114 of the bill modernizes EDA's authorities to award grants to public-private partnerships or consortia for high-speed broadband projects. The Committee encourages the Secretary to consider utilizing existing, relevant maps when awarding funds for a broadband project under this section, as appropriate.

Section 208 of the bill attributes counties to the area covered by the Great Lakes Authority. The Committee does not intend for the language in this bill to impact commitments or programs already in place under The Great Lakes Compact. Any future administration of the Great Lakes Authority should take a symbiotic approach to working with established programs under that arrangement.

ADDITIONAL MAJORITY PERSPECTIVE

Section 112 of the bill authorizes the Secretary to make grants to support the development and expansion of certain workforce training programs. It is the Majority view that Industry-Recognized Apprenticeship Programs (IRAPs) are an excellent set of programs for EDA to leverage in building the skilled workforce through this program.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with paragraph 12 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new material is printed in *italic*, existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with section 12 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, changes in existing law made by the bill as reported are shown as follows: Existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in [black brackets], new matter is printed in *italic*, existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman:

* * * * *

PUBLIC WORKS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1965

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Economic Development Reauthorization Act of 2024”.

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

- [Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- [Sec. 2. Findings and declarations.
- [Sec. 3. Definitions.

TITLE I—ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIPS COOPERATION AND COORDINATION

- Sec. 101. Establishment of economic development partnerships.
- Sec. 102. Cooperation of Federal agencies.
- Sec. 103. Coordination.

[TITLE II—GRANTS FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- [Sec. 201. Grants for public works and economic development.
- [Sec. 202. Base closings and realignments.
- [Sec. 203. Grants for planning and grants for administrative expenses.
- [Sec. 204. Cost sharing.
- [Sec. 205. Supplementary grants.
- [Sec. 206. Regulations on relative needs and allocations.
- [Sec. 207. Grants for training, research, and technical assistance.
- [[Sec. 208. Repealed]
- [Sec. 209. Grants for economic adjustment.
- [Sec. 210. Changed project circumstances.
- [Sec. 211. Use of funds in projects constructed under projected cost.
- [Sec. 212. Reports by recipients.
- [Sec. 213. Prohibition on use of funds for attorney’s and consultant’s fees.
- [Sec. 214. Special impact areas.
- [Sec. 215. Performance awards.
- [Sec. 216. Planning performance awards.
- [Sec. 217. Direct expenditure or redistribution by recipient.
- [Sec. 218. Brightfields demonstration program.

[TITLE III—ELIGIBILITY; COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

- [Sec. 301. Eligibility of areas.
- Sec. 302. Comprehensive economic development strategies.

[TITLE IV—ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS

- [Sec. 401. Designation of economic development districts.
- [Sec. 402. Termination or modification of economic development districts.
- [Sec. 403. Repealed]
- [Sec. 404. Provision of comprehensive economic development strategies to Regional Commissions.
- [Sec. 405. Assistance to parts of economic development districts not in eligible areas.

[TITLE V—ADMINISTRATION

- [Sec. 501. Assistant Secretary for Economic Development.
- [Sec. 502. Economic development information clearinghouse.

- [Sec. 503. Consultation with other persons and agencies.
- [Sec. 504. Administration, operation, and maintenance.
- [[Sec. 505. Repealed]
- [Sec. 506. Performance evaluations of grant recipients.
- [Sec. 507. Notification of reorganization.

[TITLE VI—MISCELLANEOUS

- [Sec. 601. Powers of Secretary.
- [Sec. 602. Maintenance of standards.
- [Sec. 603. Annual report to Congress.
- [Sec. 604. Delegation of functions and transfer of funds among Federal agencies.
- [Sec. 605. Penalties.
- [Sec. 606. Employment of expeditors and administrative employees.
- [Sec. 607. Maintenance and public inspection of list of approved applications for financial assistance.
- Sec. 608. Records and audits.
- [Sec. 609. Relationship to assistance under other law.
- [Sec. 610. Acceptance of certifications by applicants.
- [Sec. 611. Brownfields redevelopment report.
- [Sec. 612. Savings clause.

[TITLE VII—FUNDING

- [Sec. 701. General authorization of appropriations.
- [Sec. 702. Authorization of appropriations for defense conversion activities.
- [Sec. 703. Authorization of appropriations for disaster economic recovery activities.
- [Sec. 704. Funding for grants for planning and grants for administrative expenses.]

* * * * *

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

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.*
- Sec. 2. Findings and declarations.*
- Sec. 3. Definitions.*

TITLE I—ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIPS COOPERATION AND COORDINATION

- Sec. 101. Establishment of economic development partnerships.*
- Sec. 102. Cooperation of Federal agencies.*
- Sec. 103. Coordination.*

TITLE II—GRANTS FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Sec. 201. Grants for public works and economic development.*
- Sec. 202. Base closings and realignments.*
- Sec. 203. Grants for planning and grants for administrative expenses.*
- Sec. 204. Cost sharing.*
- Sec. 205. Supplementary grants.*
- Sec. 206. Regulations on relative needs and allocations.*
- Sec. 207. Research and technical assistance; university centers.*
- Sec. 208. Investment priorities.*
- Sec. 209. Grants for economic adjustment.*
- Sec. 210. Changed project circumstances.*
- Sec. 211. Use of funds in projects constructed under projected cost.*
- Sec. 212. Reports by recipients.*
- Sec. 213. Prohibition on use of funds for attorney's and consultant's fees.*
- Sec. 214. Special impact areas.*
- Sec. 215. Performance awards.*
- Sec. 216. Planning performance awards.*
- Sec. 217. Direct expenditure or redistribution by recipient.*
- Sec. 218. Renewable energy program.*
- Sec. 219. Workforce training grants.*
- Sec. 220. Congressional notification requirements.*
- Sec. 221. High-Speed Broadband Deployment Initiative.*
- Sec. 222. Critical supply chain site development grant program.*

TITLE III—ELIGIBILITY; COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

- Sec. 301. Eligibility of areas.*
Sec. 302. Comprehensive economic development strategies.

TITLE IV—ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS

- Sec. 401. Designation of economic development districts.*
Sec. 402. Termination or modification of economic development districts.
Sec. 404. Provision of comprehensive economic development strategies to Regional Commissions.
Sec. 405. Assistance to parts of economic development districts not in eligible areas.

TITLE V—ADMINISTRATION

- Sec. 501. Assistant Secretary for Economic Development.*
Sec. 502. Economic development information clearinghouse.
Sec. 503. Consultation with other persons and agencies.
Sec. 504. Administration, operation, and maintenance.
Sec. 506. Performance evaluations of grant recipients.
Sec. 507. Notification of reorganization.
Sec. 508. Office of Tribal Economic Development.
Sec. 509. Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience.
Sec. 510. Technical Assistance Liaisons.

TITLE VI—MISCELLANEOUS

- Sec. 601. Powers of Secretary.*
Sec. 602. Maintenance of standards.
Sec. 603. Annual report to Congress.
Sec. 604. Delegation of functions and transfer of funds among Federal agencies.
Sec. 605. Penalties.
Sec. 606. Employment of expeditors and administrative employees.
Sec. 607. Maintenance and public inspection of list of approved applications for financial assistance.
Sec. 608. Records and audits.
Sec. 609. Relationship to assistance under other law.
Sec. 610. Acceptance of certifications by applicants.
Sec. 611. Brownfields redevelopment reports.
Sec. 612. Savings clause.

TITLE VII—FUNDING

- Sec. 701. General authorization of appropriations.*
Sec. 702. Authorization of appropriations for defense conversation activities.
Sec. 703. Authorization of appropriations for disaster economic recovery activities.

[SEC. 2. [42 U.S.C. 3121] FINDINGS AND DECLARATIONS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

【(1) there continue to be areas of the United States experiencing chronic high unemployment, underemployment, outmigration, and low per capita incomes, as well as areas facing sudden and severe economic dislocations because of structural economic changes, changing trade patterns, certain Federal actions (including environmental requirements that result in the removal of economic activities from a locality), and natural disasters;

【(2) economic growth in the States, cities, and rural areas of the United States is produced by expanding economic opportunities, expanding free enterprise through trade, developing and strengthening public infrastructure, and creating a climate for job creation and business development;

【(3) the goal of Federal economic development programs is to raise the standard of living for all citizens and increase the wealth and overall rate of growth of the economy by encouraging communities to develop a more competitive and diversified economic base by—

[(A) creating an environment that promotes economic activity by improving and expanding public infrastructure;

[(B) promoting job creation through increased innovation, productivity, and entrepreneurship; and

[(C) empowering local and regional communities experiencing chronic high unemployment and low per capita income to develop private sector business and attract increased private sector capital investment;

[(4) while economic development is an inherently local process, the Federal Government should work in partnership with public and private State, regional, tribal, and local organizations to maximize the impact of existing resources and enable regions, communities, and citizens to participate more fully in the American dream and national prosperity;

[(5) in order to avoid duplication of effort and achieve meaningful, long-lasting results, Federal, State, tribal, and local economic development activities should have a clear focus, improved coordination, a comprehensive approach, and simplified and consistent requirements; and

[(6) Federal economic development efforts will be more effective if the efforts are coordinated with, and build upon, the trade, workforce investment, transportation, and technology programs of the United States.

[(b) DECLARATIONS.—In order to promote a strong and growing economy throughout the United States, Congress declares that—

[(1) assistance under this Act should be made available to both rural- and urban-distressed communities;

[(2) local communities should work in partnership with neighboring communities, the States, Indian tribes, and the Federal Government to increase the capacity of the local communities to develop and implement comprehensive economic development strategies to alleviate economic distress and enhance competitiveness in the global economy;

[(3) whether suffering from long-term distress or a sudden dislocation, distressed communities should be encouraged to support entrepreneurship to take advantage of the development opportunities afforded by technological innovation and expanding newly opened global markets; and

[(4) assistance under this Act should be made available to promote the productive reuse of abandoned industrial facilities and the redevelopment of brownfields.]

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND DECLARATIONS.

(a) *Findings.*—Congress finds that—

(1) *there continue to be areas of the United States—*

(A) *experiencing chronic high unemployment, underemployment, outmigration, and low per capita incomes; and*

(B) *facing sudden and severe economic dislocations because of structural economic changes, changing trade patterns, certain Federal actions (including environmental requirements that result in the removal of economic activities from a locality), impacts from natural disasters, and transitioning industries, including energy generation, steel production, and mining;*

(2) *economic growth in the States, cities, and rural areas of the United States is produced by expanding economic opportunities, expanding free enterprise through trade, promoting resilience in public infrastructure, creating conditions for job creation, job retention, and business development, and by capturing the opportunities to lead the industries of the future, including advanced technologies, clean energy production, and advanced manufacturing technologies;*

(3) *the goal of Federal economic development programs is to raise the standard of living for all citizens and increase the wealth and overall rate of growth of the economy by encouraging communities to develop a more competitive and diversified economic base by—*

(A) *creating an environment that promotes economic activity by improving and expanding modern public infrastructure;*

(B) *promoting job creation, retention, and workforce readiness through increased innovation, productivity, and entrepreneurship; and*

(C) *empowering local and regional communities experiencing chronic high unemployment, underemployment, low labor force participation, and low per capita income to develop private sector business and attract increased private sector capital investment;*

(4) *while economic development is an inherently local process, the Federal Government should work in partnership with public and private State, regional, Tribal, and local organizations to maximize the impact of existing resources and enable regions, communities, and citizens to participate more fully in the American dream and national prosperity;*

(5) *in order to avoid duplication of effort and achieve meaningful, long-lasting results, Federal, State, Tribal, and local economic development activities should have a clear focus, improved coordination, a comprehensive approach, and simplified and consistent requirements;*

(6) *Federal economic development efforts will be more effective if the efforts are coordinated with, and build on, the trade, workforce investment, scientific research, environmental protection, transportation, and technology programs of the United States, including through the consolidation and alignment of plans and strategies to promote effective economic development;*

(7) *rural communities face unique challenges in addressing infrastructure needs, sometimes lacking the necessary tax base for required upgrades, and often encounter limited financing options and capacity, which can impede new development and long-term economic growth; and*

(8) *assisting communities and regions in becoming more resilient to the effects of extreme weather threats and events will promote economic development and job creation.*

(b) *Declarations.—In order to promote a strong, growing, resilient, competitive, and secure economy throughout the United States, the opportunity to pursue, and be employed in, high-quality jobs with family-sustaining wages, and to live in communities that enable business creation and wealth, Congress declares that—*

(1) assistance under this Act should be made available to both rural- and urban-distressed communities;

(2) local communities should work in partnership with neighboring communities, States, Indian tribes, and the Federal Government to increase the capacity of the local communities to develop and implement comprehensive economic development strategies to alleviate economic distress and enhance competitiveness in the global economy;

(3) whether suffering from long-term distress or a sudden dislocation, distressed communities should be encouraged to support entrepreneurship to take advantage of the development opportunities afforded by technological innovation and expanding newly opened global markets; and

(4) assistance under this Act should be made available to modernize and promote recycling, promote the productive reuse of abandoned industrial facilities and the redevelopment of brownfields, and invest in public assets that support travel and tourism and outdoor recreation.

SEC. 3. [42 U.S.C. 3122] DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) *Blue economy*.—The term ‘blue economy’ means the sustainable use of marine, lake, or other aquatic resources in support of economic development objectives.

(2) *Capacity building*.—The term ‘capacity building’ includes all activities associated with early stage community-based project formation and conceptualization, prior to project predevelopment activity, including grants to local community organizations for planning participation, community outreach and engagement activities, research, and mentorship support to move projects from formation and conceptualization to project predevelopment.

[(1)] (3) *COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY*.—The term “comprehensive economic development strategy” means a comprehensive economic development strategy approved by the Secretary under section 302.

[(2)] (4) *DEPARTMENT*.—The term “Department” means the Department of Commerce.

[(3)] (5) *ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT*.—

(A) *IN GENERAL*.—The term “economic development district” means any area in the United States that—

(i) is composed of areas described in section 301(a) and, [to the extent appropriate] *to the extent determined appropriate by the Secretary*, neighboring counties or communities; and

(ii) has been designated by the Secretary as an economic development district under section 401.

(B) *INCLUSION*.—The term “economic development district” includes any economic development district designated by the Secretary under section 403 (as in effect on the day before the effective date of the Economic Development Administration Reform Act of 1998).

[(4)] (6) *ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT*.—

(A) *IN GENERAL*.—The term “eligible recipient” means—

(i) an economic development district;

(ii) an Indian tribe;

- (iii) a State;
- (iv) a city or other political subdivision of a State, including a special purpose unit of a State or local government engaged in economic or infrastructure development activities, or a consortium of political subdivisions;
- (v) an institution of higher education or a consortium of institutions of higher education; **[or]**
- (vi) a public or private nonprofit organization or association acting in cooperation with officials of a political subdivision of a State**[.];**
- (vii) an economic development organization; or*
- (viii) a public-private partnership for public infrastructure.*

(B) TRAINING, RESEARCH, AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS.—In the case of grants under section 207, the term “eligible recipient” also includes private individuals and for-profit organizations.

[(5)] (7) FEDERAL AGENCY.—The term “Federal agency” means a department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States.

[(6)] (8) GRANT.—The term “grant” includes a cooperative agreement (within the meaning of chapter 63 of title 31, United States Code).

[(7)] (9) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian tribe” means any Indian tribe, band, nation, pueblo, or other organized group or community, including any Alaska Native village or Regional Corporation (as defined in or established under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.)), that is recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians.

(10) *Outdoor recreation.*—The term ‘outdoor recreation’ means all recreational activities, and the economic drivers of those activities, that occur in nature-based environments outdoors.

(11) *Project predevelopment.*—The term ‘project predevelopment’ means a measure required to be completed before the initiation of a project, including—

- (A) planning and community asset mapping;
- (B) training;
- (C) technical assistance and organizational development;
- (D) feasibility and market studies;
- (E) demonstration projects; and
- (F) other predevelopment activities determined by the Secretary to be appropriate.

[(8)] **[(12)]** REGIONAL COMMISSIONS.—The term “Regional Commissions” means—

- [(A)]** the Appalachian Regional Commission established under chapter 143 of title 40, United States Code;
- [(B)]** the Delta Regional Authority established under subtitle F of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2009aa et seq.);
- [(C)]** the Denali Commission established under the Denali Commission Act of 1998 (42 U.S.C. 3121 note; 112 Stat. 2681–637 et seq.); and

[(D) the Northern Great Plains Regional Authority established under subtitle G of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2009bb et seq.).]
 (12) *Regional commission.*—The term ‘Regional Commission’ means any of the following:

(A) *The Appalachian Regional Commission established by section 14301(a) of title 40, United States Code.*

(B) *The Delta Regional Authority established by section 382B(a)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2009aa–1(a)(1)).*

(C) *The Denali Commission established by section 303(a) of the Denali Commission Act of 1998 (42 U.S.C. 3121 note; Public Law 105–277).*

(D) *The Great Lakes Authority established by section 15301(a)(4) of title 40, United States Code.*

(E) *The Mid-Atlantic Regional Commission established by section 15301(a)(5) of title 40, United States Code.*

(F) *The Northern Border Regional Commission established by section 15301(a)(3) of title 40, United States Code.*

(G) *The Northern Great Plains Regional Authority established by section 383B(a)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2009bb–1(a)(1)).*

(H) *The Southeast Crescent Regional Commission established by section 15301(a)(1) of title 40, United States Code.*

(I) *The Southern New England Regional Commission established by section 15301(a)(6) of title 40, United States Code.*

(J) *The Southwest Border Regional Commission established by section 15301(a)(2) of title 40, United States Code.*

[(9)] (13) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Commerce.

[(10)] (14) STATE.—The term “State” means a State, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau.

(15) *Travel and tourism.*—The term ‘travel and tourism’ means any economic activity that primarily serves to encourage recreational or business travel in or to the United States.

[(11)] (16) UNITED STATES.—The term “United States” means all of the States.

[(12)] (17) UNIVERSITY CENTER.—The term “university center” means an institution of higher education or a consortium of institutions of higher education [(established as a University Center for Economic Development under section 207(a)(2)(D))] established under section 207(c)(1).

* * * * *

SEC. 103. [42 U.S.C. 3133] COORDINATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall coordinate activities relating to the preparation and implementation of comprehensive economic development strategies under this Act with Federal agencies carrying out other Federal programs, States, economic development

districts, Indian tribes, and other appropriate planning and development organizations.

[(b) MEETINGS.—To carry out subsection (a), or for any other purpose relating to economic development activities, the Secretary may convene meetings with Federal agencies, State and local governments, economic development districts, Indian tribes, and other appropriate planning and development organizations.]

(b) *Meetings.*—

(1) *In general.*—To carry out subsection (a), or for any other purpose relating to economic development activities, the Secretary may convene meetings with Federal agencies, State and local governments, economic development districts, Indian tribes, and other appropriate planning and development organizations.

(2) *T34Regional commissions.*—

(A) *In general.*—In addition to meetings described in paragraph (1), not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Economic Development Reauthorization Act of 2024, and not less frequently than every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary shall convene a meeting with the Regional Commissions in furtherance of subsection (a).

(B) *Attendees.*—The attendees for a meeting convened under this paragraph shall consist of—

(i) the Secretary, acting through the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development, serving as Chair;

(ii) the Federal Cochairpersons of the Regional Commissions, or their designees; and

(iii) the State Cochairpersons of the Regional Commissions, or their designees.

(C) *Purpose.*—The purposes of a meeting convened under this paragraph shall include—

(i) to enhance coordination between the Economic Development Administration and the Regional Commissions in carrying out economic development programs;

(ii) to reduce duplication of efforts by the Economic Development Administration and the Regional Commissions in carrying out economic development programs;

(iii) to develop best practices and strategies for fostering regional economic development; and

(iv) any other purposes as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

(D) *Report.*—Where applicable and pursuant to subparagraph (C), not later than 1 year after a meeting under this paragraph, the Secretary shall prepare and make publicly available a report detailing, at a minimum—

(i) the planned actions by the Economic Development Administration and the Regional Commissions to enhance coordination or reduce duplication of efforts and a timeline for implementing those actions; and

(ii) any best practices and strategies developed.

* * * * *

SEC. 201. [42 U.S.C. 3141] GRANTS FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—On the application of an eligible recipient, the Secretary may make grants for—

(1) acquisition or development of land and improvements for use for a public works, public service, or development facility *or for the improvement of waste management and recycling systems*; and

(2) acquisition, design and engineering, construction, rehabilitation, alteration, expansion, *increasing the resilience* or improvement of such a facility, including related machinery and equipment.

(b) CRITERIA FOR GRANT.—The Secretary may make a grant under this section only if the Secretary determines that—

(1) the project for which the grant is applied for will, directly or indirectly—

(A) improve the opportunities, in the area where the project is or will be located, for the **successful establishment or expansion** *successful establishment, expansion, or retention* of industrial or commercial plants or facilities;

(B) assist in the creation of additional long-term employment opportunities in the area; or

(C) primarily benefit the long-term unemployed *and underemployed* and members of low-income families;

(2) the project for which the grant is applied for will fulfill a pressing need of the area, or a part of the area, in which the project is or will be located; and

(3) the area for which the project is to be carried out has a comprehensive economic development strategy and the project is consistent with the strategy.

(c) *Additional Considerations.*—In awarding grants under subsection (a) and subject to the criteria in subsection (b), the Secretary may also consider the extent to which a project would—

(1) *lead to economic diversification in the area, or a part of the area, in which the project is or will be located;*

(2) *address and mitigate impacts from extreme weather events, including development of resilient infrastructure, products, and processes;*

(3) *benefit highly rural communities without adequate tax revenues to invest in long-term or costly infrastructure;*

(4) *increase access to high-speed broadband;*

(5) *support outdoor recreation to spur economic development, with a focus on rural communities;*

(6) *promote job creation or retention relative to the population of the impacted region with outsized significance;*

(7) *promote travel and tourism; or*

(8) *promote blue economy activities.*

[(c)] (d) MAXIMUM ASSISTANCE FOR EACH STATE.—Not more than 15 percent of the amounts made available to carry out this section may be expended in any 1 State.

* * * * *

SEC. 203. [42 U.S.C. 3143] GRANTS FOR PLANNING AND GRANTS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—On the application of an eligible recipient, the Secretary may make grants to pay the costs of economic develop-

ment planning and the administrative expenses of organizations that carry out the planning.

(b) **PLANNING PROCESS.**—Planning assisted under this title shall be a continuous process involving public officials and private citizens in—

- (1) analyzing local economies;
- (2) defining economic development goals;
- (3) determining project opportunities; and
- (4) formulating and implementing an economic development program that includes systematic efforts to reduce unemployment and increase incomes.

(c) **USE OF PLANNING ASSISTANCE.**—Planning assistance under this title shall be used in conjunction with any other available Federal planning assistance to ensure adequate and effective planning and economical use of funds.

(d) *Administrative Expenses.*—*Administrative expenses that may be paid with a grant under this section include—*

(1) expenses related to carrying out the planning process described in subsection (b);

(2) expenses related to project predevelopment;

(3) expenses related to updating economic development plans to align with other applicable State, regional, or local planning efforts; and

(4) expenses related to hiring professional staff to assist communities in—

(A) project predevelopment and implementing projects and priorities included in—

(i) a comprehensive economic development strategy;

or

(ii) an economic development planning grant;

(B) identifying and using other Federal, State, and Tribal economic development programs;

(C) leveraging private and philanthropic investment;

(D) preparing disaster coordination and preparation plans; and

(E) carrying out economic development and predevelopment activities in accordance with professional economic development best practices.

[(d)] (e) STATE PLANS.—

(1) **DEVELOPMENT.**—Any State plan developed with assistance under this section shall be developed, to the maximum extent practicable, cooperatively by the State, political subdivisions of the State, and the economic development districts located wholly or partially in the State.

(2) **COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY.**—As a condition of receipt of assistance for a State plan under this subsection, the State shall have or develop a comprehensive economic development strategy.

(3) **COORDINATION.**—Before providing assistance for a State plan under this section, the Secretary shall consider the extent to which the State will consider local and economic development district plans.

(4) **COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING PROCESS.**—Any overall State economic development planning assisted under this section

shall be a part of a comprehensive planning process that shall consider the provision of public works to—

- (A) promote economic development and opportunity;
- (B) foster effective transportation access;
- (C) enhance and protect the environment;
- (D) assist in carrying out the workforce investment strategy of a State;
- (E) promote the use of technology in economic development, including access to high-speed telecommunications~~];~~ and *(including broadband*
- (F) address and mitigate impacts of extreme weather;*
- and*
- ~~[(F)]~~ *(G) balance resources through the sound management of physical development.*

(5) REPORT TO SECRETARY.—Each State that receives assistance for the development of a plan under this subsection shall submit to the Secretary an annual report on the planning process assisted under this subsection.

* * * * *

SEC. 204. [42 U.S.C. 3144] COST SHARING.

(a) FEDERAL SHARE.—Except as provided in subsection (c), the Federal share of the cost of any project carried out under this title shall not exceed—

- (1) ~~[50]~~ 60 percent; plus
- (2) an additional percent that—
 - (A) shall not exceed 30 percent; and
 - (B) is based on the relative needs of the area in which the project will be located, as determined in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Secretary.

(b) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—~~[In determining]~~

(1) In general.—In determining the amount of the non-Federal share of the cost of a project, the Secretary may provide credit toward the non-Federal share for all contributions both in cash and in-kind, fairly evaluated, including contributions of space, equipment, assumptions of debt, and services.

(2) Regional commission funds.—*Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any funds contributed by a Regional Commission for a project under this title may be considered to be part of the non-Federal share of the costs of the project.*

(c) INCREASE IN FEDERAL SHARE.—

(1) INDIAN TRIBES.—In the case of a grant to an Indian tribe for a project under this title, the Secretary may increase the Federal share above the percentage specified in subsection (a) up to 100 percent of the cost of the project.

(2) CERTAIN STATES, POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS, AND NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.—In the case of a grant to a State, or a political subdivision of a State, that the Secretary determines has exhausted the effective taxing and borrowing capacity of the State or political subdivision *or can otherwise document that no local matching funds are reasonably obtainable*, or in the case of a grant to a nonprofit organization that the Secretary determines has exhausted the effective borrowing capacity of the nonprofit organization, the Secretary may increase the Federal

share above the percentage specified in subsection (a) up to 100 percent of the cost of the project.

(3) TRAINING, RESEARCH, AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—In the case of a grant provided under **[section 207]** *section 203 or 207*, the Secretary may increase the Federal share above the percentage specified in subsection (a) up to 100 percent of the cost of the **[project]** if the Secretary determines that the project funded by the grant merits, and is not feasible without, such an increase. **] project**

(4) *Disaster assistance.*—*In the case of a grant provided under section 209 for a project for economic recovery in response to a major disaster or emergency declared under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.), the Secretary may increase the Federal share under paragraph (1) up to 100 percent of the total cost of the project.*

(5) *Small communities.*—*In the case of a grant to a political subdivision of a State (as described in section 3(6)(A)(iv)) that has a population of fewer than 10,000 residents and meets 1 or more of the eligibility criteria described in section 301(a), the Secretary may increase the Federal share under paragraph (1) up to 100 percent of the total cost of the project.*

* * * * *

SEC. 206. [42 U.S.C. 3146] REGULATIONS ON RELATIVE NEEDS AND ALLOCATIONS.

In promulgating rules, regulations, and procedures for assistance under this title, the Secretary shall ensure that—

(1) the relative needs of eligible areas are given adequate consideration by the Secretary, as determined based on, among other relevant factors—

(A) the severity of the rates of unemployment in the eligible areas and the duration of the unemployment;

[(B) the income levels and the extent of underemployment in eligible areas; and]

(B) the per capita income levels, the labor force participation rate, and the extent of underemployment in eligible areas; and

(C) the outmigration of population from eligible areas and the extent to which the outmigration is causing economic injury in the eligible areas;

(2) allocations of assistance under this title are prioritized to ensure that the level of economic distress of an area, rather than a preference for a geographic area or a specific type of economic distress, is the primary factor in allocating the assistance;

(3)(A) rural and urban economically distressed areas are not harmed by the establishment or implementation by the Secretary of a private sector leveraging goal for a project under this title;

(B) any private sector leveraging goal established by the Secretary does not prohibit or discourage grant applicants under this title from public works in, or economic development of, rural or urban economically distressed areas; and

- (C) the relevant Committees of Congress are notified prior to making any changes to any private sector leveraging goal; and
- (4) grants made under this title promote job creation *and retention* and will have a high probability of meeting or exceeding applicable performance requirements established in connection with the grants.

SEC. 207. [42 U.S.C. 3147] GRANTS FOR TRAINING, RESEARCH, AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) GRANTS.—On the application of an eligible recipient, the Secretary may make grants for training, research, and technical assistance, including grants for program evaluation and economic impact analyses, that would be useful in alleviating or preventing conditions of excessive unemployment or underemployment.

(2) TYPES OF ASSISTANCE.—Grants under paragraph (1) may be used for—

- (A) project planning , *project predevelopment*, and feasibility studies;
- (B) demonstrations of innovative activities or strategic economic development investments;
- (C) management and operational assistance;
- (D) establishment of university centers;
- (E) establishment of business outreach centers;
- (F) studies evaluating the needs of, and development potential for, economic growth of areas that the Secretary determines have substantial need for the assistance;
- (G) studies that evaluate the effectiveness of coordinating projects funded under this Act with projects funded under other Acts;
- (H) assessment, marketing, and establishment of business clusters; and
- (I) other activities determined by the Secretary to be appropriate.

(3) COOPERATION REQUIREMENT.—In the case of a project assisted under this section that is national or regional in scope, the Secretary may waive the provision in section [3(4)(A)(vi)] *section 3(6)(A)(vi)* requiring a nonprofit organization or association to act in cooperation with officials of a political subdivision of a State. equirements established in connection with the grants.

(b) METHODS OF PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE.—In providing research and technical assistance under this section, the Secretary, in addition to making grants under subsection (a), may—

(1)

(a) * * *

* * * * *

(c) *University Centers.*—

(1) *Establishment.*—In accordance with subsection (a)(2)(D), the Secretary may make grants to institutions of higher education to serve as university centers.

(2) *Geographic coverage.*—The Secretary shall ensure that the network of university centers established under this subsection provides services in each State.

(3) *Duties.*—To the maximum extent practicable, a university center established under this subsection shall—

(A) collaborate with other university centers;

(B) collaborate with economic development districts and other relevant Federal economic development technical assistance and service providers to provide expertise and technical assistance to develop, implement, and support comprehensive economic development strategies and other economic development planning at the local, regional, and State levels, with a focus on innovation, entrepreneurship, workforce development, and regional economic development;

(C) provide technical assistance, business development, and technology transfer services to businesses in the area served by the university center;

(D) establish partnerships with 1 or more commercialization intermediaries that are public or nonprofit technology transfer organizations eligible to receive a grant under section 602 of the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act (42 U.S.C. 1862s–9);

(E) promote local and regional capacity building; and

(F) provide to communities and regions assistance relating to data collection and analysis and other research relating to economic conditions and vulnerabilities that can inform economic development and adjustment strategies.

(4) *Consideration.*—In making grants under this subsection, the Secretary shall consider the significant role of regional public universities in supporting economic development in distressed communities through the planning and the implementation of economic development projects and initiatives.

* * * * *

SEC. 208. INVESTMENT PRIORITIES.

(a) *In General.*—Subject to subsection (b), for a project to be eligible for assistance under this title, the project shall be consistent with 1 or more of the following investment priorities:

(1) *Critical infrastructure.*—Economic development planning or implementation projects that support development of public facilities, including basic public infrastructure, transportation infrastructure, or telecommunications infrastructure.

(2) *Workforce.*—Economic development planning or implementation projects that—

(A) support job skills training to meet the hiring needs of the area in which the project is to be carried out and that result in well-paying jobs; or

(B) otherwise promote labor force participation.

(3) *Innovation and entrepreneurship.*—Economic development planning or implementation projects that—

(A) support the development of innovation and entrepreneurship-related infrastructure;

(B) promote business development and lending; or

(C) foster the commercialization of new technologies that are creating technology-driven businesses and high-skilled, well-paying jobs of the future.

(4) *Economic recovery resilience.*—Economic development planning or implementation projects that enhance the ability of an area to withstand and recover from adverse short-term or long-term changes in economic conditions, including effects from industry contractions or impacts from natural disasters.

(5) *Manufacturing.*—Economic development planning or implementation projects that encourage job creation, business expansion, technology and capital upgrades, and productivity growth in manufacturing, including efforts that contribute to the competitiveness and growth of domestic suppliers or the domestic production of innovative, high-value products and production technologies.

(b) *Conditions.*—If the Secretary plans to use an investment priority that is not described in subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a written notification that explains the basis for using that investment priority.

(c) *Savings Clause.*—Nothing in this section waives any other requirement of this Act.

* * * * *

SEC. 209. [42 U.S.C. 3149] GRANTS FOR ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—On the application of an eligible recipient, the Secretary may make grants for development of public facilities, public services, business development (including funding of a revolving loan fund), planning, technical assistance, training, and any other assistance to alleviate long-term economic deterioration and sudden and severe economic dislocation and further the economic adjustment objectives of this title.

(b) **CRITERIA FOR ASSISTANCE.**—The Secretary may provide assistance under this section only if the Secretary determines that—

(1)(a) * * *

* * * * *

(c) **PARTICULAR COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE.**—Assistance under this section may include assistance provided for activities identified by communities, the economies of which are injured by—

(1) military base closures or realignments, defense contractor reductions in force, or Department of Energy defense-related funding reductions, for help in diversifying their economies through projects to be carried out on Federal Government installations or elsewhere in the communities;

(2) disasters or emergencies, in areas with respect to which a major disaster or emergency has been declared under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.), for post-disaster economic recovery;

(3) international trade, for help in economic restructuring of the communities;

(4) fishery failures, in areas with respect to which a determination that there is a commercial fishery failure has been made under section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1861a(a)); **[or]**

(5) the loss of manufacturing , travel and tourism, natural resource-based, blue economy, or agricultural jobs, for rein-

vesting in and diversifying the economies of the communities[.]; or

(6) *economic dislocation in the steel industry due to the closure of a steel plant, primary steel economy contraction events (including temporary layoffs and shifts to part-time work), or job losses in the steel industry or associated with the departure or contraction of the steel industry, for help in economic restructuring of the communities.*

(d) *T35 Assistance to Coal Communities.—*

(1) *Definitions.—In this subsection:*

(A) *Coal economy.—The term ‘coal economy’ means the complete supply chain of coal-reliant industries, including—*

- (i) coal mining;*
- (ii) coal-fired power plants;*
- (iii) transportation or logistics; and*
- (iv) manufacturing.*

(B) *Contraction event.—The term ‘contraction event’ means the closure of a facility or a reduction in activity relating to a coal-reliant industry, including an industry described in any of clauses (i) through (iv) of subparagraph (A).*

(2) *Authorization.—On the application of an eligible recipient, the Secretary may make grants for projects in areas adversely impacted by a contraction event in the coal economy.*

(3) *Eligibility.—*

(A) *In general.—In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary shall determine the eligibility of an area based on whether the eligible recipient can reasonably demonstrate that the area—*

- (i) has been adversely impacted by a contraction event in the coal economy within the previous 25 years;*
- or*
- (ii) will be adversely impacted by a contraction event in the coal economy.*

(B) *Prohibition.—No regulation or other policy of the Secretary may limit the eligibility of an eligible recipient for a grant under this subsection based on the date of a contraction event except as provided in subparagraph (A)(i).*

(C) *Demonstrating adverse impact.—For the purposes of this paragraph, an eligible recipient may demonstrate an adverse impact by demonstrating—*

- (i) a loss in employment;*
- (ii) a reduction in tax revenue; or*
- (iii) any other factor, as determined to be appropriate by the Secretary.*

(e) *Assistance to Nuclear Host Communities.—*

(1) *Definitions.—In this subsection:*

(A) *Commission.—The term ‘Commission’ means the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.*

(B) *Community advisory board.—The term ‘community advisory board’ means a community committee or other advisory organization that aims to foster communication and information exchange between a licensee planning for and*

involved in decommissioning activities and members of the community that decommissioning activities may affect.

(C) Decommission.—The term ‘decommission’ has the meaning given the term in section 50.2 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

(D) Licensee.—The term ‘licensee’ has the meaning given the term in section 50.2 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

(E) Nuclear host community.—The term ‘nuclear host community’ means an eligible recipient that has been impacted, or reasonably demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Secretary that it will be impacted, by a nuclear power plant licensed by the Commission that—

(i) is not co-located with an operating nuclear power plant;

(ii) is at a site with spent nuclear fuel; and

(iii) as of the date of enactment of the Economic Development Reauthorization Act of 2024—

(I) has ceased operations; or

(II) has provided a written notification to the Commission that it will cease operations.

(2) Authorization.—On the application of an eligible recipient, the Secretary may make grants—

(A) to assist with economic development in nuclear host communities; and

(B) to fund community advisory boards in nuclear host communities.

(3) Requirement.—In carrying out this subsection, to the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall implement the recommendations described in the report submitted to Congress under section 108 of the Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act (Public Law 115–439; 132 Stat. 5577) entitled ‘Best Practices for Establishment and Operation of Local Community Advisory Boards Associated with Decommissioning Activities at Nuclear Power Plants’.

(4) Distribution of funds.—The Secretary shall establish a methodology to ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, geographic diversity among grant recipients under this subsection.

[(d)] (f) SPECIAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO REVOLVING LOAN FUND GRANTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall promulgate regulations to maintain the proper operation and financial integrity of revolving loan funds established by recipients with assistance under this section.

(2) EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary may—

(A) at the request of a grantee, amend and consolidate grant agreements governing revolving loan funds to provide flexibility with respect to lending areas and borrower criteria;

(B) assign or transfer assets of a revolving loan fund to third party for the purpose of liquidation, and the third party may retain assets of the fund to defray costs related to liquidation; and

(C) take such actions as are appropriate to enable revolving loan fund operators to sell or securitize loans (ex-

cept that the actions may not include issuance of a Federal guaranty by the Secretary).

(3) TREATMENT OF ACTIONS.—An action taken by the Secretary under this subsection with respect to a revolving loan fund shall not constitute a new obligation if all grant funds associated with the original grant award have been disbursed to the recipient.

(4) PRESERVATION OF SECURITIES LAWS.—

(A) NOT TREATED AS EXEMPTED SECURITIES.—No securities issued pursuant to paragraph (2)(C) shall be treated as exempted securities for purposes of the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77a et seq.) or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78a et seq.), unless exempted by rule or regulation of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

(B) PRESERVATION.—Except as provided in subparagraph (A), no provision of this subsection or any regulation promulgated by the Secretary under this subsection supersedes or otherwise affects the application of the securities laws (as the term is defined in section 3(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78c(a))) or the rules, regulations, or orders of the Securities and Exchange Commission or a self-regulatory organization under that Commission.

[(e)] (g) DISASTER MITIGATION.—In providing assistance pursuant to subsection (c)(2), if appropriate and as applicable, the Secretary may encourage hazard mitigation in assistance provided pursuant to such subsection.

* * * * *

SEC. 218. [42 U.S.C. 3154d] [BRIGHTFIELDS DEMONSTRATION] renewable energy PROGRAM.

[(a) DEFINITION OF BRIGHTFIELD SITE.—In this section, the term “brightfield site” means a brownfield site that is redeveloped through the incorporation of 1 or more solar energy technologies.]

(a) *Definition of Renewable Energy Site.—In this section, the term ‘renewable energy site’ means a brownfield site that is redeveloped through the incorporation of 1 or more renewable energy technologies, including solar, wind, geothermal, ocean, and emerging, but proven, renewable energy technologies.*

(b) [Demonstration Program] ESTABLISHMENT—On the application of an eligible recipient, the Secretary may make a grant for a project for the development of a [brightfield] renewable energy site if the Secretary determines that the project will—

(1) use 1 or more [solar energy technologies] renewable energy technologies described in subsection (a), to develop abandoned or contaminated sites for commercial use; and

(2) improve the commercial and economic opportunities in the area in which the project is located.

* * * * *

[(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2004 through 2008, to remain available until expended.]

SEC. 219. WORKFORCE TRAINING GRANTS.

(a) *In General.*—On the application of an eligible recipient, the Secretary may make grants to support the development and expansion of innovative workforce training programs through sectoral partnerships leading to quality jobs and the acquisition of equipment or construction of facilities to support workforce development activities.

(b) *Eligible Uses.*—Funds from a grant under this section may be used for—

(1) acquisition or development of land and improvements to house workforce training activities;

(2) acquisition, design and engineering, construction, rehabilitation, alteration, expansion, or improvement of such a facility, including related equipment and machinery;

(3) acquisition of machinery or equipment to support workforce training activities;

(4) planning, technical assistance, and training;

(5) sector partnerships development, program design, and program implementation; and

(6) in the case of an eligible recipient that is a State, subject to subsection (c), a State program to award career scholarships to train individuals for employment in critical industries with high demand and vacancies necessary for further economic development of the applicable State that—

(A) requires significant post-secondary training; but

(B) does not require a post-secondary degree.

(c) CAREER SCHOLARSHIPS STATE GRANT PROGRAM.—

(1) *In general.*—The Secretary may award grants to States for the purpose described in subsection (b)(6).

(2) *Application.*—To be eligible to receive a grant under this subsection, the Chief Executive of a State shall submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, which shall include, at a minimum, the following:

(A) A method for identifying critical industry sectors driving in-State economic growth that face staffing challenges for in-demand jobs and careers.

(B) A governance structure for the implementation of the program established by the State, including defined roles for the consortia of agencies of such State, at a minimum, to include the State departments of economic development, labor, and education, or the State departments or agencies with jurisdiction over those matters.

(C) A strategy for recruiting participants from at least 1 community that meets 1 or more of the criteria described in section 301(a).

(D) A plan for how the State will develop a tracking system for eligible programs, participant enrollment, participant outcomes, and an application portal for individual participants.

(3) *Selection.*—The Secretary shall award not more than 1 grant under this subsection to any State.

(4) *Eligible uses.*—A grant under this subsection may be used for—

(A) necessary costs to carry out the matters described in this subsection, including tuition and stipends for individuals that receive a career scholarship grant, subject to the requirements described in paragraph (6); and

(B) program implementation, planning, technical assistance, or training.

(5) *Federal share.*—Notwithstanding section 204, the Federal share of the cost of any award carried out with a grant made under this subsection shall not exceed 70 percent.

(6) *Participant amounts.*—A State shall ensure that grant funds provided under this subsection to each individual that receives a career scholarship grant under the program established by the applicable State is the lesser of the following amounts:

(A) In a case in which the individual is also eligible for a Federal Pell Grant under section 401 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a) for enrollment at the applicable training program for any award year of the training program, \$11,000 minus the amount of the awarded Federal Pell Grant.

(B) For an individual not described in paragraph (1), the lesser of—

(i) \$11,000; and

(ii) the total cost of the training program in which the individual is enrolled, including tuition, fees, career navigation services, textbook costs, expenses related to assessments and exams for certification or licensure, equipment costs, and wage stipends (in the case of a training program that is an earn-and-learn program).

(d) *Coordination.*—The Secretary shall coordinate the development of new workforce development models with the Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Education.

SEC. 220. CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.

(a) *In General.*—In the case of a project described in subsection (b), the Secretary shall provide to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives notice, in accordance with subsection (c), of the award of a grant for the project not less than 3 business days before notifying an eligible recipient of their selection for that award.

(b) *Projects Described.*—A project referred to in subsection (a) is a project that the Secretary has selected to receive a grant administered by the Economic Development Administration in an amount not less than \$100,000.

(c) *Requirements.*—A notification under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) the name of the project;

(2) the name of the applicant;

(3) the region in which the project is to be carried out;

(4) the State in which the project is to be carried out;

(5) the amount of the grant awarded;

(6) a description of the project; and

(7) any additional information, as determined to be appropriate by the Secretary.

(d) *Public Availability.*—The Secretary shall make a notification under subsection (a) publicly available not later than 60 days after the date on which the Secretary provides the notice.

SEC. 221. HIGH-SPEED BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT INITIATIVE.

(a) *Definitions.*—In this section:

(1) *Broadband project.*—The term ‘broadband project’ means, for the purposes of providing, extending, expanding, or improving high-speed broadband service to further the goals of this Act—

(A) planning, technical assistance, or training;

(B) the acquisition or development of land; or

(C) the acquisition, design and engineering, construction, rehabilitation, alteration, expansion, or improvement of facilities, including related machinery, equipment, contractual rights, and intangible property.

(2) *Eligible recipient.*—The term ‘eligible recipient’ includes—

(A) a public-private partnership; and

(B) a consortium formed for the purpose of providing, extending, expanding, or improving high-speed broadband service between 1 or more eligible recipients and 1 or more for-profit organizations.

(3) *High-speed broadband.*—The term ‘high-speed broadband’ means the provision of 2-way data transmission with sufficient downstream and upstream speeds to end users to permit effective participation in the economy and to support economic growth, as determined by the Secretary.

(b) *Broadband Projects.*—

(1) *In general.*—On the application of an eligible recipient, the Secretary may make grants under this title for broadband projects, which shall be subject to the provisions of this section.

(2) *Considerations.*—In reviewing applications submitted under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall take into consideration geographic diversity of grants provided, including consideration of underserved markets, in addition to data requested in paragraph (3).

(3) *Data requested.*—In reviewing an application submitted under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall request from the Federal Communications Commission, the Administrator of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Appalachian Regional Commission data on—

(A) the level and extent of broadband service that exists in the area proposed to be served; and

(B) the level and extent of broadband service that will be deployed in the area proposed to be served pursuant to another Federal program.

(4) *Interest in real or personal property.*—For any broadband project carried out by an eligible recipient that is a public-private partnership or consortium, the Secretary shall require that title to any real or personal property acquired or improved with grant funds, or if the recipient will not acquire title, another possessory interest acceptable to the Secretary, be vested in a public partner or eligible nonprofit organization or association for the useful life of the project, after which title may be transferred to any member of the public-private partnership or con-

sortium in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Secretary.

(5) *Procurement.*—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person or entity shall be disqualified from competing to provide goods or services related to a broadband project on the basis that the person or entity participated in the development of the broadband project or in the drafting of specifications, requirements, statements of work, or similar documents related to the goods or services to be provided.

(6) *Broadband project property.*—

(A) *In general.*—The Secretary may permit a recipient of a grant for a broadband project to grant an option to acquire real or personal property (including contractual rights and intangible property) related to that project to a third party on such terms as the Secretary determines to be appropriate, subject to the condition that the option may only be exercised after the Secretary releases the Federal interest in the property.

(B) *Treatment.*—The grant or exercise of an option described in subparagraph (A) shall not constitute a redistribution of grant funds under section 217.

(c) *Non-Federal Share.*—In determining the amount of the non-Federal share of the cost of a broadband project, the Secretary may provide credit toward the non-Federal share for the present value of allowable contributions over the useful life of the broadband project, subject to the condition that the Secretary may require such assurances of the value of the rights and of the commitment of the rights as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

SEC. 222. CRITICAL SUPPLY CHAIN SITE DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) *In General.*—On the application of an eligible recipient, the Secretary may make grants under the ‘Critical Supply Chain Site Development grant program’ (referred to in this section as the ‘grant program’) to carry out site development or expansion projects for the purpose of making the site ready for manufacturing projects.

(b) *Considerations.*—In providing a grant to an eligible recipient under the grant program, the Secretary may consider whether—

(1) the proposed improvements to the site will improve economic conditions for rural areas, Tribal communities, or areas that meet 1 or more of the criteria described in section 301(a);

(2) the project is consistent with regional economic development plans, which may include a comprehensive economic development strategy;

(3) the eligible recipient has initiatives to prioritize job training and workforce development; and

(4) the project supports industries determined by the Secretary to be of strategic importance to the national or economic security of the United States.

(c) *Priority.*—In awarding grants to eligible recipients under the grant program, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible recipients that propose to carry out a project that—

(1) has State, local, private, or nonprofit funds being contributed to assist with site development efforts; and

(2) if the site development or expansion project is carried out, will result in a demonstrated interest in the site by commercial entities or other entities.

(d) *Use of Funds.*—A grant provided under the grant program may be used for the following activities relating to the development or expansion of a site:

- (1) *Investments in site utility readiness, including—*
 - (A) *construction of on-site utility infrastructure;*
 - (B) *construction of last-mile infrastructure, including road infrastructure, water infrastructure, power infrastructure, broadband infrastructure, and other physical last-mile infrastructure;*
 - (C) *site grading; and*
 - (D) *other activities to extend public utilities or services to a site, as determined appropriate by the Secretary.*
- (2) *Investments in site readiness, including—*
 - (A) *land assembly;*
 - (B) *environmental reviews;*
 - (C) *zoning;*
 - (D) *design;*
 - (E) *engineering; and*
 - (F) *permitting.*
- (3) *Investments in workforce development and sustainability programs, including job training and retraining programs.*
- (4) *Investments to ensure that disadvantaged communities have access to on-site jobs.*

(e) *Prohibition.*—In awarding grants under the grant program, the Secretary shall not require an eligible recipient to demonstrate that a private company or investment has selected the site for development or expansion.

* * * * *

SEC. 301. [42 U.S.C. 3161] ELIGIBILITY OF AREAS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—For a project to be eligible for assistance under section 201 or 209, the project shall be located in an area that, on the date of submission of the application, meets 1 or more of the following criteria:

(1) **LOW PER CAPITA INCOME.**—The area has a per capita income of 80 percent or less of the national average.

(2) **UNEMPLOYMENT RATE ABOVE NATIONAL AVERAGE.**—The area has an unemployment rate that is, for the most recent 24-month period for which data are available, at least 1 percent greater than the national average unemployment rate.

[(3) **UNEMPLOYMENT OR ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT PROBLEMS.**—The area is an area that the Secretary determines has experienced or is about to experience a special need arising from actual or threatened severe unemployment or economic adjustment problems resulting from severe short-term or long-term changes in economic conditions.]

(3) **Unemployment, underemployment, or economic adjustment problems.**—The area is an area that the Secretary determines has experienced or is about to experience a special need arising from actual or threatened severe unemployment, underemployment, or economic adjustment problems resulting from severe short-term or long-term changes in economic conditions.

(4) **Low median household income.**—The area has a median household income of 80 percent or less of the national average.

(5) **Workforce participation.**—The area has—

(A) a labor force participation rate of 90 percent or less of the national average; or

(B) a prime-age employment gap of 5 percent or more.

(6) *Expected economic dislocation and distress from energy industry transitions.*—The area is an area that is expected to experience actual or threatened severe unemployment or economic adjustment problems resulting from severe short-term or long-term changes in economic conditions from energy industries that are experiencing accelerated contraction.

SEC. 302. [42 U.S.C. 3162] COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may provide assistance under section 201 or 209 (except for planning assistance under section 209) to an eligible recipient for a project only if the eligible recipient submits to the Secretary, as part of an application for the assistance—

(1) an identification of the economic development problems to be addressed using the assistance;

(2) an identification of the past, present, and projected future economic development investments in the area receiving the assistance and public and private participants and sources of funding for the investments; and

(3)(A) a comprehensive economic development strategy for addressing the economic problems identified under paragraph (1) in a manner that promotes economic development and opportunity, fosters effective transportation access, maximizes effective development and use of the workforce consistent with any applicable State or local workforce investment strategy, promotes the use of technology in economic development (including access to high-speed telecommunications), enhances and protects the environment, *including to mitigate and adapt to extreme weather*, and balances resources through sound management of development; and

(c) APPROVAL OF OTHER PLAN.—

(1)(a) * * *

* * * * *

(d) EXCEPTION.—This section shall not apply to grants awarded under section 207 or grants awarded under section 209(c)(2) that are regional in scope.

* * * * *

SEC. 508. OFFICE OF TRIBAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

(a) *Establishment.*—There is established within the Economic Development Administration an Office of Tribal Economic Development (referred to in this section as the ‘Office’).

(b) *Purposes.*—The purposes of the Office shall be—

(1) to coordinate all Tribal economic development activities carried out by the Secretary;

(2) to help Tribal communities access economic development assistance programs, including the assistance provided under this Act;

(3) to coordinate Tribal economic development strategies and efforts with other Federal agencies; and

(4) to be a participant in any negotiated rulemakings or consultations relating to, or having an impact on, projects, programs, or funding that benefit Tribal communities.

(c) *Tribal Economic Development Strategy.*—

(1) *In general.*—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Economic Development Reauthorization Act of 2024, the Office shall initiate a Tribal consultation process to develop, and not less frequently than every 3 years thereafter, update, a strategic plan for Tribal economic development for the Economic Development Administration.

(2) *Submission to congress.*—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Economic Development Reauthorization Act of 2024 and not less frequently than every 3 years thereafter, the Office shall submit to Congress the strategic plan for Tribal economic development developed under paragraph (1).

(d) *Outreach.*—The Secretary shall establish a publicly facing website to help provide a comprehensive, single source of information for Indian tribes, Tribal leaders, Tribal businesses, and citizens in Tribal communities to better understand and access programs that support economic development in Tribal communities, including the economic development programs administered by Federal agencies or departments other than the Department.

(e) *Dedicated Staff.*—The Secretary shall ensure that the Office has sufficient staff to carry out all outreach activities under this section.

SEC. 509. OFFICE OF DISASTER RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE.

(a) *Establishment.*—The Secretary shall establish an Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience—

(1) to direct and implement the post-disaster economic recovery responsibilities of the Economic Development Administration pursuant to subsections (c)(2) and (e) of section 209 and section 703;

(2) to direct and implement economic recovery and enhanced resilience support function activities as directed under the National Disaster Recovery Framework; and

(3) support long-term economic recovery in communities in which a major disaster or emergency has been declared under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.), or otherwise impacted by an event of national significance, as determined by the Secretary, through—

(A) convening and deploying an economic development assessment team;

(B) hosting or attending convenings related to identification of additional Federal, State, local, and philanthropic entities and resources;

(C) exploring potential flexibilities related to existing awards;

(D) provision of technical assistance through staff or contractual resources; and

(E) other activities determined by the Secretary to be appropriate.

(b) *Appointment and Compensation Authorities.*—

(1) *Appointment.*—The Secretary is authorized to appoint such temporary personnel as may be necessary to carry out the responsibilities of the Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience, without regard to the provisions of subchapter I of chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service and compensation of personnel.

(2) *Conversion of employees.*—Notwithstanding chapter 33 of title 5, United States Code, or any other provision of law relating to the examination, certification, and appointment of individuals in the competitive service, the Secretary is authorized to convert a temporary employee appointed under this subsection to a permanent appointment in the competitive service in the Economic Development Administration under merit promotion procedures if—

(A) the employee has served continuously for at least 2 years under 1 or more appointments under this subsection; and

(B) the employee's performance has been at an acceptable level of performance throughout the period or periods referred to in subparagraph (A).

(3) *Compensation.*—An individual converted under this subsection shall become a career-conditional employee, unless the employee has already completed the service requirements for career tenure.

(c) *Disaster Team.*—

(1) *Establishment.*—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall establish a disaster team (referred to in this section as the 'disaster team') for the deployment of individuals to carry out responsibilities of the Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience after a major disaster or emergency has been declared under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) and the Department has been activated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

(2) *Membership.*—

(A) *Designation of staff.*—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall designate to serve on the disaster team—

(i) employees of the Office of Disaster Recovery and Resilience;

(ii) employees of the Department who are not employees of the Economic Development Administration; and

(iii) in consultation with the heads of other Federal agencies, employees of those agencies, as appropriate.

(B) *Capabilities.*—In designating individuals under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall ensure that the disaster team includes a sufficient quantity of—

(i) individuals who are capable of deploying rapidly and efficiently to respond to major disasters and emergencies; and

(ii) highly trained full-time employees who will lead and manage the disaster team.

(3) *Training.*—The Secretary shall ensure that appropriate and ongoing training is provided to members of the disaster team to ensure that the members are adequately trained regard-

ing the programs and policies of the Economic Development Administration relating to post-disaster economic recovery efforts.

(4) *Expenses.*—In carrying out this section, the Secretary may—

(A) *use, with or without reimbursement, any service, equipment, personnel, or facility of any Federal agency with the explicit support of that agency, to the extent such use does not impair or conflict with the authority of the President or the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) to direct Federal agencies in any major disaster or emergency declared under that Act; and*

(B) *provide members of the disaster team with travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for an employee of an agency under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from the home or regular place of business of the member in the performance of services for, or relating to, the disaster team.*

SEC. 510. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE LIAISONS.

(a) *In General.*—A Regional Director of a regional office of the Economic Development Administration may designate a staff member to act as a ‘Technical Assistance Liaison’ for any State served by the regional office.

(b) *Role.*—A Technical Assistance Liaison shall—

(1) *work in coordination with an Economic Development Representative to provide technical assistance, in addition to technical assistance under section 207, to eligible recipients that are underresourced communities, as determined by the Technical Assistance Liaison, that submit applications for assistance under title II; and*

(2) *at the request of an eligible recipient that submitted an application for assistance under title II, provide technical feedback on unsuccessful grant applications.*

(c) *Technical Assistance.*—The Secretary may enter into a contract or cooperative agreement with an eligible recipient for the purpose of providing technical assistance to eligible recipients that are underresourced communities that have submitted or may submit an application for assistance under this Act.

* * * * *

SEC. 603. [42 U.S.C. 3213] ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than July 1, 2000, and July 1 of each year thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a comprehensive and detailed annual report on the activities of the Secretary under this Act during the most recently completed fiscal year.

(b) *INCLUSIONS.*—Each report required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) *include a list of all grant recipients by State, including the projected private sector dollar to Federal dollar investment ratio for each grant recipient;*

(2) *include a discussion of any private sector leveraging goal with respect to grants awarded to—*

- (A) rural *areas* and urban economically distressed areas;
and
- (B) highly distressed areas; **[and]**
- (3) after the completion of a project, include the realized private sector dollar to Federal dollar investment ratio for the project**[.]** *and*
- (4)(A) *include a list of all of the grants provided by the Economic Development Administration for projects located in, or that primarily benefit, rural areas;*
- (B) *an explanation of the process used to determine how each project referred to in subparagraph (A) would benefit a rural area; and*
- (C) *a certification that each project referred to in subparagraph (A)—*
 - (i) *is located in a rural area; or*
 - (ii) *will primarily benefit a rural area.*

* * * * *

SEC. 701. [42 U.S.C. 3231] GENERAL AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

[(a) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.—There are authorized to be appropriated for economic development assistance programs to carry out this Act, to remain available until expended—

- [(1) \$400,000,000 for fiscal year 2004;**
- [(2) \$425,000,000 for fiscal year 2005;**
- [(3) \$450,000,000 for fiscal year 2006;**
- [(4) \$475,000,000 for fiscal year 2007; and**
- [(5) \$500,000,000 for fiscal year 2008.**

(a) GRANTS FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 201, to remain available until expended—

- (1) \$170,000,000 for fiscal year 2025;**
- (2) \$195,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;**
- (3) \$220,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;**
- (4) \$245,000,000 for fiscal year 2028; and**
- (5) \$270,000,000 for fiscal year 2029.**

(b) GRANTS FOR PLANNING AND GRANTS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 203, to remain available until expended—

- (1) \$90,000,000 for fiscal year 2025;**
- (2) \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;**
- (3) \$110,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;**
- (4) \$120,000,000 for fiscal year 2028; and**
- (5) \$130,000,000 for fiscal year 2029.**

(c) GRANTS FOR TRAINING, RESEARCH, AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 207, to remain available until expended—

- (1) \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2025;**
- (2) \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;**
- (3) \$35,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;**
- (4) \$40,000,000 for fiscal year 2028; and**
- (5) \$45,000,000 for fiscal year 2029.**

(d) GRANTS FOR ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 209 (other than subsections (d) and (e)), to remain available until expended—

- (1) \$65,000,000 for fiscal year 2025;
- (2) \$75,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;
- (3) \$85,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;
- (4) \$95,000,000 for fiscal year 2028; and
- (5) \$105,000,000 for fiscal year 2029.

(e) Assistance to Coal Communities.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 209(d) \$75,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029, to remain available until expended.

(f) Assistance to Nuclear Host Communities.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 209(e), to remain available until expended—

- (1) to carry out paragraph (2)(A), \$35,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029; and
- (2) to carry out paragraph (2)(B), \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2027.

(g) Renewable Energy Program.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 218 \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029, to remain available until expended.

(h) Workforce Training Grants.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 219 \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029, to remain available until expended, of which \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029 shall be used to carry out subsection (c) of that section.

(i) Critical Supply Chain Site Development Grant Program.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 222 \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029, to remain available until expended.

(j) Technical Assistance Liaisons.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 510 \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029, to remain available until expended.

[(b)] (k) SALARIES AND EXPENSES.—

* * * * *

[SEC. 703. [42 U.S.C. 3233] AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR DISASTER ECONOMIC RECOVERY ACTIVITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In addition]

SEC. 703. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR DISASTER ECONOMIC RECOVERY ACTIVITIES.

In addition to amounts made available under section 701, there are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out section 209(c)(2), to remain available until expended.

[(b) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost of activities funded with amounts made available under subsection (a) shall be up to 100 percent.]

[SEC. 704. [42 U.S.C. 3234] FUNDING FOR GRANTS FOR PLANNING AND GRANTS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.

Of the amounts made available under section 701 for each fiscal year, not less than \$27,000,000 shall be made available for grants provided under section 203.]

* * * * *

SUBTITLE V—REGIONAL ECONOMIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

CHAPTER 157—ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

* * * * *

TITLE 40—PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PROPERTY, AND WORKS

SUBTITLE V—REGIONAL ECONOMIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

CHAPTER 153—REGIONAL COMMISSIONS

Sec.
15301. Establishment, membership, and employees.
15302. Decisions.
15303. Functions.
15304. Administrative powers and expenses.
15305. Meetings.
15306. Personal financial interests.
15307. Tribal participation.
[15308. Annual report.]
15308. Transfer of funds among Federal agencies.
15309. Annual reports.

§ 15301. Establishment, membership, and employees

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There are established the following regional Commissions:

- (1) The Southeast Crescent Regional Commission.
- (2) The Southwest Border Regional Commission.
- (3) The Northern Border Regional Commission.
- (4) The Great Lakes Authority.
- (5) *The Mid-Atlantic Regional Commission.*
- (6) *The Southern New England Regional Commission.*

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) FEDERAL AND STATE MEMBERS.—Each Commission shall be composed of the following members:

(A) A Federal Cochairperson, to be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

(B) The Governor of each participating State in the region of the Commission.

(2) ALTERNATE MEMBERS.—

(A) ALTERNATE FEDERAL COCHAIRPERSON.—The President shall appoint an alternate Federal Cochairperson for each Commission. The alternate Federal Cochairperson, when not actively serving as an alternate for the Federal Cochairperson, shall perform such functions and duties as are delegated by the Federal Cochairperson.

(B) STATE ALTERNATES.—The State member of a participating State may have a single alternate, who shall be appointed by the Governor of the State from among the members of the Governor's cabinet or personal staff.

(C) VOTING.—[An alternate member]

(i) *In general.*—An alternate member shall vote in the case of the absence, death, disability, removal, or resignation of the Federal or State member for which the alternate member is an alternate.

(ii) *State alternates.*—If the alternate State member is unable to vote in accordance with clause (i), the alternate State member may delegate voting authority to a designee, subject to the condition that the executive director shall be notified, in writing, of the designation not less than 1 week before the applicable vote is to take place.

* * * * *

(f) **SUCCESSION.**—Subject to the time limitations under section 3346 of title 5, the Federal Cochairperson may designate [a Federal employee] an employee of the Commission to perform the functions and duties of the office of the Federal Cochairperson temporarily in an acting capacity if both the Federal Cochairperson and the alternate Federal Cochairperson die, resign, or otherwise are unable to perform the functions and duties of their offices.

§ 15302. Decisions

(a) **REQUIREMENTS FOR APPROVAL.**—Except as provided in section 15304(c)(3), decisions by the Commission shall require the affirmative vote of the Federal Cochairperson and a majority of the State members or alternate State members, including designees (exclusive of members representing States delinquent under section 15304(c)(3)(C)).

* * * * *

[(c) **QUORUMS.**—A Commission shall determine what constitutes a quorum for Commission meetings; except that—

[(1) any quorum shall include the Federal Cochairperson or the alternate Federal Cochairperson; and

[(2) a State alternate member shall not be counted toward the establishment of a quorum.]]

(c) **QUORUMS.**—

(1) *In general.*—Subject to paragraph (2), a Commission shall determine what constitutes a quorum for meetings of the Commission.

(2) *Requirements.*—Any quorum for meetings of a Commission shall include—

(A) the Federal Cochairperson or the alternate Federal Cochairperson; and

(B) a majority of State members or alternate State members, including designees (exclusive of members representing States delinquent under section 15304(c)(3)(C)).

* * * * *

§ 15304. Administrative powers and expenses

(a) **POWERS.**—In carrying out its duties under this subtitle, a Commission may—

(1) hold such hearings, sit and act at such times and places, take such testimony, receive such evidence, and print or otherwise reproduce and distribute a description of the proceedings

and reports on actions by the Commission as the Commission considers appropriate;

(2) authorize, through the Federal or State Cochairperson or any other member of the Commission designated by the Commission, the administration of oaths if the Commission determines that testimony should be taken or evidence received under oath;

(3) request from any Federal, State, or local agency such information as may be available to or procurable by the agency that may be of use to the Commission in carrying out the duties of the Commission;

(4) adopt, amend, and repeal bylaws and rules governing the conduct of business and the performance of duties by the Commission;

(5) request the head of any Federal agency, State agency, or local government to detail to the Commission such personnel as the Commission requires to carry out its duties, each such detail to be without loss of seniority, pay, or other employee status, *which may be done without a requirement for the Commission to reimburse the agency or local government*;

(7) accept, use, and dispose of gifts or donations or services or real, personal, tangible, or intangible property;

(8) *collect fees for services provided and retain and expend such fees*;

* * * * *

[(8)] (9) enter into and perform such contracts, cooperative agreements, or other transactions as are necessary to carry out Commission duties, including any contracts or cooperative agreements *leases (including the lease of office space for any term, with a department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States, a State (including a political subdivision, agency, or instrumentality of the State), or a person, firm, association, or corporation; and*

[(9)] (10) [maintain a government relations office in the District of Columbia and] establish and maintain a central office at such location in its region as the Commission may select.

* * * * *

§ 15305. Meetings

(a) INITIAL MEETING.—Each Commission shall hold an initial meeting not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section.

(b) ANNUAL MEETING.—Each Commission shall conduct at least 1 meeting each year [with the Federal Cochairperson and at least a majority of the State members present.] *with—*

(1) *the Federal Cochairperson; and*

(2) *at least a majority of the State members or alternate State members (including designees) present in-person or via electronic means.*

(c) ADDITIONAL MEETINGS.—Each Commission shall conduct additional meetings at such times as it determines and may conduct such meetings by electronic means.

* * * * *

§ 15307. Tribal participation

Governments of Indian tribes in the region of the Southwest Border Regional Commission shall be allowed to participate in matters before that Commission in the same manner and to the same extent as State agencies and instrumentalities in the region.

§ 15308. Transfer of funds among Federal agencies

(a) *In General.*—Subject to subsection (c), for purposes of this subtitle, each Commission may transfer funds to and accept transfers of funds from other Federal agencies.

(b) *Transfer of Funds to Other Federal Agencies.*—Funds made available to a Commission may be transferred to other Federal agencies if the funds are used consistently with the purposes for which the funds were specifically authorized and appropriated.

(c) *Transfer of Funds From Other Federal Agencies.*—Funds may be transferred to any Commission under this section if—

(1) the statutory authority for the funds provided by the Federal agency does not expressly prohibit use of funds for authorities being carried out by a Commission; and

(2) the Federal agency that provides the funds determines that the activities for which the funds are to be used are otherwise eligible for funding under such a statutory authority.

§ [15308] 15309. Annual report

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than [90] 180 days after the last day of each fiscal year, each Commission shall submit to the President and Congress a report on the activities carried out by the Commission under this subtitle in the fiscal year.

* * * * *

TITLE 40—PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PROPERTY, AND WORKS

SUBTITLE V—REGIONAL ECONOMIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

CHAPTER 155—FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Sec.

15501. Economic and infrastructure development grants.

15502. Comprehensive economic and infrastructure development plans.

15503. Approval of applications for assistance.

15504. Program development criteria.

15505. Local development districts and organizations.

15506. Supplements to Federal grant programs.

15507. Payment of non-Federal share for certain Federal grant programs.

15508. Waiver of matching requirement for Indian tribes and colonias in Southwest Border Regional Commission programs.

§ 15501. Economic and infrastructure development grants

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—A Commission may make grants to States and local governments, Indian tribes, and public and nonprofit organizations for projects, approved in accordance with section 15503—

(1) to develop the transportation infrastructure of its region;

(2) to develop the basic public infrastructure of its region;

(3) to develop the telecommunications infrastructure of its region;

(4) *in coordination with relevant Federal agencies, to design, build, implement, or update infrastructure to support resilience to extreme weather events;*

(5) *to promote the production of housing to meet economic development and workforce needs;*

[(4)] (6) to assist its region in obtaining job skills training, skills development and employment-related education, entrepreneurship, technology, and business development;

[(5)] (7) to provide assistance to severely economically distressed and underdeveloped areas of its region that lack financial resources for improving basic health care and other public services;

[(6)] (8) to promote resource conservation, tourism, recreation, and preservation of open space in a manner consistent with economic development goals;

[(7)] (9) to promote the development of renewable and alternative energy sources;

[(8)] (10) to grow the capacity for successful community economic development in its region; and

[(9)] (11) to otherwise achieve the purposes of this subtitle.

(b) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—A Commission shall allocate at least 40 percent of any grant amounts provided by the Commission in a fiscal year for projects described in paragraph (1), (2), (3), or [(7)] (9) of subsection (a).

* * * * *

§ 15506. Supplements to Federal grant programs

(a) FINDING.—(a) * * *

* * * * *

§ 15507. *Payment of non-Federal share for certain Federal grant programs*

Amounts made available to carry out this subtitle shall be available for the payment of the non-Federal share for any project carried out under another Federal grant program—

(1) for which a Commission is not the sole or primary funding source; and

(2) that is consistent with the authorities of the applicable Commission.

§ 15508. *Waiver of matching requirement for Indian tribes and colonias in Southwest Border Regional Commission programs*

(a) *Definition of Colonia.—*

(1) In general.—In this section, the term ‘colonia’ means a community—

(A) that is located—

(i) in the State of Arizona, California, New Mexico, or Texas;

(ii) not more than 150 miles from the border between the United States and Mexico; and

- (iii) outside a standard metropolitan statistical area that has a population exceeding 1,000,000;
- (B) that—
- (i) lacks a potable water supply;
- (ii) lacks an adequate sewage system; or
- (iii) lacks decent, safe, and sanitary housing; and
- (C) that has been treated or designated as a colonia by a Federal or State program.

(b) Waiver.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in the case of assistance provided to a colonia or an Indian tribe under this subtitle by the Southwest Border Regional Commission, the Federal share of the cost of the project carried out with that assistance may be up to 100 percent, as determined by the selection official, the State Cochairperson (or an alternate), and the Federal Cochairperson (or an alternate).

* * * * *

TITLE 40—PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PROPERTY, AND WORKS

SUBTITLE V—REGIONAL ECONOMIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

CHAPTER 157—ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

SUBCHAPTER SUBCHAPTER I—GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec.

15701. Consent of States.
15702. Distressed counties and areas.
15703. Counties eligible for assistance in more than one region.
15704. Inspector General; records.
15705. Biannual meetings of representatives of all Commissions.

SUBCHAPTER SUBCHAPTER II—DESIGNATION OF REGIONS

15731. Southeast Crescent Regional Commission.
15732. Southwest Border Regional Commission.
15733. Northern Border Regional Commission.
15734. Great Lakes Authority.
15735. *Mid-Atlantic Regional Commission.*
15736. *Southern New England Regional Commission.*

§ 15701. Consent of States

This subtitle does not require a State to engage in or accept a program under this subtitle without its consent.

* * * * *

§ 15702. Distressed counties and areas

(a) DESIGNATIONS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this section, and annually thereafter, each Commission shall make the following designations:

(1) * * *

* * * * *

(c) ATTAINMENT COUNTIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), funds may not be provided under this subtitle for a project located

in a county designated as an attainment county under subsection (a).

(2) EXCEPTIONS.—

(A) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES OF LOCAL DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS.—The funding prohibition under paragraph (1) shall not apply to grants to fund the administrative expenses of local development districts under section 15505.

(B) MULTICOUNTY AND OTHER PROJECTS.—A Commission may waive the application of the funding prohibition under paragraph (1) with respect to—

(i) a multicounty project that includes participation by an attainment county; and

(ii) any other type of project, if a Commission determines that the project could bring significant benefits to areas of the region outside an attainment county.

(3) APPLICATION.—*Paragraph (2) shall not apply* **to** a county **to**—

(A) a county described in paragraph (2) or (3) of section 15735 **or**

(B) the Southern New England Regional Commission.

[(3)] (4) ISOLATED AREAS OF DISTRESS.—For a designation of an isolated area of distress to be effective, the designation shall be supported—

(A) by the most recent Federal data available; or

(B) if no recent Federal data are available, by the most recent data available through the government of the State in which the isolated area of distress is located.

* * * * *

§ 15732. Southwest Border Regional Commission

The region of the Southwest Border Regional Commission shall consist of the following political subdivisions:

(1) ARIZONA.—The counties of Cochise, Gila, Graham, Greenlee, La Paz, Maricopa, Pima, Pinal, Santa Cruz, and Yuma in the State of Arizona.

(2) CALIFORNIA.—The counties of Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, and Ventura in the State of California.

(3) NEW MEXICO.—The counties of Bernalillo, Catron, Chaves, Cibola, Curry, De Baca, Dona Ana, Eddy, Grant, Guadalupe, Hidalgo, Lincoln, Luna, Otero, Roosevelt, Sierra, **and Socorro** Socorro, Torrance, and Valencia in the State of New Mexico.

(4) TEXAS.—The counties of Atascosa, Bandera, Bee, Bexar, Brewster, Brooks, Cameron, Coke, Concho, Crane, Crockett, Culberson, Dimmit, Duval, Ector, Edwards, El Paso, Frio, Gillespie, Glasscock, Guadalupe, Hidalgo, Hudspeth, Irion, Jeff Davis, Jim Hogg, Jim Wells, Karnes, Kendall, Kenedy, Kerr, Kimble, Kinney, Kleberg, La Salle, Live Oak, Loving, Mason, Maverick, McMullen, Medina, Menard, Midland, Nueces, Pecos, Presidio, Reagan, Real, Reeves, San Patricio, Shleicher, Sutton, Starr, Sterling, Terrell, **Tom Green ton,** Tom Green, Upton Uvalde, Val Verde, Ward, Webb, Willacy, Wilson, Winkler, Zapata, and Zavala in the State of Texas.

§ 15733. Northern Border Regional Commission

The region of the Northern Border Regional Commission shall include the following counties:

(1) MAINE.—The counties of Androscoggin, Aroostook, Franklin, Hancock, Kennebec, Knox, *Lincoln*, Oxford, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Somerset, Waldo, and Washington in the State of Maine.

(2) NEW HAMPSHIRE.—The counties of Belknap, Carroll, Cheshire, Coos, Grafton, *Merrimack*, and Sullivan in the State of New Hampshire.

(3) NEW YORK.—The counties of Cayuga, Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Genesee, Greene, Hamilton, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Livingston, Madison, Montgomery, Niagara, Oneida, Orleans, Oswego, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Seneca, St. Lawrence, Sullivan, Washington, Warren, Wayne, *Wyoming*, and Yates in the State of New York.

§ 15734. Great Lakes Authority

The region of the Great Lakes Authority shall consist of *the counties which contain, in part or in whole, the areas in the watershed of the Great Lakes and the Great Lakes System (as such terms are defined in section 118(a)(3) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1268(a)(3)))*, in each of the following States:

§ 15735. Mid-Atlantic Regional Commission.

The region of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Commission shall include the following counties:

(1) *Delaware.—Each county in the State of Delaware.*

(2) *Maryland.—Each county in the State of Maryland that is not already served by the Appalachian Regional Commission.*

(3) *Pennsylvania.—Each county in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that is not already served by the Appalachian Regional Commission.*

§ 15736. Southern New England Regional Commission

The region of the Southern New England Regional Commission shall include the following counties:

(1) *Rhode island.—Each county in the State of Rhode Island.*

(2) *Connecticut.—The counties of Hartford, Middlesex, New Haven, New London, Tolland, and Windham in the State of Connecticut.*

(3) *Massachusetts.—Each county in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.*

* * * * *

§ 15751. Authorization of appropriations

[(a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to each Commission to carry out this subtitle \$33,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023.]

(a) *In General.*—There is authorized to be appropriated to each Commission to carry out this subtitle \$40,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

* * * * *

CHAPTER 159—ADDITIONAL REGIONAL COMMISSION PROGRAMS

Sec.

15901. *State capacity building grant program.*

15902. *Demonstration health projects.*

§ 15901. *State capacity building grant program*

(a) *Definitions.—In this section:*

(1) *Commission state.—The term ‘Commission State’ means a State that contains 1 or more eligible counties.*

(2) *Eligible county.—The term ‘eligible county’ means a county described in subchapter II of chapter 157.*

(3) *Program.—The term ‘program’ means a State capacity building grant program established by a Commission under subsection (b).*

(b) *Establishment.—Each Commission shall establish a State capacity building grant program to provide grants to Commission States in the area served by the Commission for the purposes described in subsection (c).*

(c) *Purposes.—The purposes of a program are to support the efforts of the Commission—*

(1) *to better support business retention and expansion in eligible counties;*

(2) *to create programs to encourage job creation and workforce development in eligible counties, including projects and activities, in coordination with other relevant Federal agencies, to strengthen the water sector workforce and facilitate the sharing of best practices;*

(3) *to partner with universities in distressed counties (as designated under section 15702(a)(1))—*

(A) *to strengthen the capacity to train new professionals in fields for which there is a shortage of workers;*

(B) *to increase local capacity for project management, project execution, and financial management; and*

(C) *to leverage funding sources;*

(4) *to prepare economic and infrastructure plans for eligible counties;*

(5) *to expand access to high-speed broadband in eligible counties;*

(6) *to provide technical assistance that results in Commission investments in transportation, water, wastewater, and other critical infrastructure;*

(7) *to promote workforce development to support resilient infrastructure projects;*

(8) *to develop initiatives to increase the effectiveness of local development districts in eligible counties;*

(9) *to implement new or innovative economic development practices that will better position eligible counties to compete in the global economy; and*

(10) *to identify and address important regional impediments to prosperity and to leverage unique regional advantages to create economic opportunities for the region served by the Commission.*

(d) *Use of Funds.—*

(1) *In general.*—Funds from a grant under a program may be used to support a project, program, or related expense of the Commission State in an eligible county.

(2) *Limitation.*—Funds from a grant under a program shall not be used for—

(A) the purchase of furniture, fixtures, or equipment;

(B) the compensation of—

(i) any State member of the Commission (as described in section 15301(b)(1)(B)); or

(ii) any State alternate member of the Commission (as described in section 15301(b)(2)(B)); or

(C) the cost of supplanting existing State programs.

(e) *Annual Work Plan.*—

(1) *In general.*—For each fiscal year, before providing a grant under a program, each Commission State shall provide to the Commission an annual work plan that includes the proposed use of the grant.

(2) *Approval.*—No grant under a program shall be provided to a Commission State unless the Commission has approved the annual work plan of the State.

(f) *Amount of Grant.*—

(1) *In general.*—The amount of a grant provided to a Commission State under a program for a fiscal year shall be based on the proportion that—

(A) the amount paid by the Commission State (including any amounts paid on behalf of the Commission State by a nonprofit organization) for administrative expenses for the applicable fiscal year (as determined under section 15304(c)); bears to

(B) the amount paid by all Commission States served by the Commission (including any amounts paid on behalf of a Commission State by a nonprofit organization) for administrative expenses for that fiscal year (as determined under that section).

(2) *Requirement.*—To be eligible to receive a grant under a program for a fiscal year, a Commission State (or a nonprofit organization on behalf of the Commission State) shall pay the amount of administrative expenses of the Commission State for the applicable fiscal year (as determined under section 15304(c)).

(3) *Approval.*—For each fiscal year, a grant provided under a program shall be approved and made available as part of the approval of the annual budget of the Commission.

(g) *Grant Availability.*—Funds from a grant under a program shall be available only during the fiscal year for which the grant is provided.

(h) *Report.*—Each fiscal year, each Commission State shall submit to the relevant Commission and make publicly available a report that describes the use of the grant funds and the impact of the program in the Commission State.

(i) *Continuation of Program Authority for Northern Border Regional Commission.*—With respect to the Northern Border Regional Commission, the program shall be a continuation of the program under section 6304(c) of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018

(40 U.S.C. 15501 note; Public Law 115-334) (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this section).

§ 15902. Demonstration health projects

(a) *Purpose.*—To demonstrate the value of adequate health facilities and services to the economic development of the region, a Commission may make grants for the planning, construction, equipment, and operation of demonstration health, nutrition, and child care projects (referred to in this section as a ‘demonstration health project’), including hospitals, regional health diagnostic and treatment centers, and other facilities and services necessary for the purposes of this section.

(b) *Eligible Entities.*—An entity eligible to receive a grant under this section is—

- (1) an entity described in section 15501(a);
- (2) an institution of higher education (as defined in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)));
- (3) a hospital (as defined in section 1861 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x)); or
- (4) a critical access hospital (as defined in that section).

(c) *Planning Grants.*—

(1) *In general.*—A Commission may make grants for planning expenses necessary for the development and operation of demonstration health projects for the region served by the Commission.

(2) *Maximum commission contribution.*—The maximum Commission contribution for a demonstration health project that receives a grant under paragraph (1) shall be made in accordance with section 15501(d).

(3) *Sources of assistance.*—A grant under paragraph (1) may be provided entirely from amounts made available to carry out this section or in combination with amounts provided under other Federal grant programs.

(4) *Federal share for grants under other federal grant programs.*—Notwithstanding any provision of law limiting the Federal share in other Federal grant programs, amounts made available to carry out this subsection may be used to increase the Federal share of another Federal grant up to the maximum contribution described in paragraph (2).

(d) *Construction and Equipment Grants.*—

(1) *In general.*—A grant under this section for construction or equipment of a demonstration health project may be used for—

- (A) costs of construction;
- (B) the acquisition of privately owned facilities—
 - (i) not operated for profit; or
 - (ii) previously operated for profit if the Commission finds that health services would not otherwise be provided in the area served by the facility if the acquisition is not made; and
- (C) the acquisition of initial equipment.

(2) *STANDARDS FOR MAKING GRANTS.*—A grant under paragraph (1)—

- (A) shall be approved in accordance with section 15503; and

(B) shall not be incompatible with the applicable provisions of title VI of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 291 et seq.), the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 15001 et seq.), and other laws authorizing grants for the construction of health-related facilities, without regard to any provisions in those laws relating to appropriation authorization ceilings or to allotments among the States.

(3) *Maximum commission contribution.*—The maximum Commission contribution for a demonstration health project that receives a grant under paragraph (1) shall be made in accordance with section 15501(d).

(4) *Sources of assistance.*—A grant under paragraph (1) may be provided entirely from amounts made available to carry out this section or in combination with amounts provided under other Federal grant programs.

(5) *Contribution to increased federal share for other federal grants.*—Notwithstanding any provision of law limiting the Federal share in another Federal grant program for the construction or equipment of a demonstration health project, amounts made available to carry out this subsection may be used to increase Federal grants for component facilities of a demonstration health project to a maximum of 90 percent of the cost of the facilities.

(e) **OPERATION GRANTS.**—

(1) *In general.*—A grant under this section for the operation of a demonstration health project may be used for—

(A) the costs of operation of the facility; and

(B) initial operating costs, including the costs of attracting, training, and retaining qualified personnel.

(2) *Standards for making grants.*—A grant for the operation of a demonstration health project shall not be made unless the facility funded by the grant is—

(A) publicly owned;

(B) owned by a public or private nonprofit organization;

(C) a private hospital described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of that Code; or

(D) a private hospital that provides a certain amount of uncompensated care, as determined by the Commission, and applies for the grant in partnership with a State, local government, or Indian Tribe.

(3) *Maximum commission contribution.*—The maximum Commission contribution for a demonstration health project that receives a grant under paragraph (1) shall be made in accordance with section 15501(d).

(4) **Sources of assistance.**—A grant under paragraph (1) may be provided entirely from amounts made available to carry out this section or in combination with amounts provided under other Federal grant programs for the operation of health-related facilities or the provision of health and child development services, including parts A and B of title IV and title XX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq., 621 et seq., 1397 et seq.).

(5) *Federal share.*—Notwithstanding any provision of law limiting the Federal share in the other Federal programs described in paragraph (4), amounts made available to carry out this subsection may be used to increase the Federal share of a grant under those programs up to the maximum contribution described in paragraph (3).

(f) *Priority Health Programs.*—If a Commission elects to make grants under this section, the Commission shall establish specific regional health priorities for such grants that address—

- (1) addiction treatment and access to resources helping individuals in recovery;
- (2) workforce shortages in the healthcare industry; or
- (3) access to services for screening and diagnosing chronic health issues.

* * * * *

SEC. 301. [42 U.S.C. 3121 note] SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Denali Commission Act of 1998”..

* * * * *

SEC. 305. [42 U.S.C. 3121 note] POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.

(a) **INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.**—(a) * * *

* * * * *

(d) The Commission, acting through the Federal Cochairperson, is authorized to enter into contracts and cooperative agreements, award grants, *enter into leases (including the lease of office space for any term)*, and make payments necessary to carry out the purposes of the Commission. With respect to funds appropriated to the Commission for fiscal year 1999, the Commission, acting through the Federal Cochairperson, is authorized to enter into contracts and cooperative agreements, award grants, and make payments to implement an interim work plan for fiscal year 1999 approved by the Commission.

* * * * *

(e) *Use of Funds Toward Non-Federal Share of Certain Projects.*—Notwithstanding any other provision of law regarding payment of a non-Federal share in connection with a grant-in-aid program, the Commission may use amounts made available to the Commission for the payment of such a non-Federal share for programs undertaken to carry out the purposes of the Commission.

* * * * *

SEC. 307.

[42 U.S.C. 3121 note] SPECIAL FUNCTIONS.

[(a) **RURAL UTILITIES.**—In carrying out its functions under this title, the Commission shall as appropriate, provide assistance, seek to avoid duplicating services and assistance, and complement the water and sewer wastewater programs under section 306D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926d) and section 303 of the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996 (33 U.S.C. 1263a).]

[(b)] (a) **BULK FUELS.**—Funds transferred to the Commission pursuant to section 329 of the Department of Transportation and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1999 (section 101(g) of divi-

sion A of this Act) shall be available without further appropriation and until expended. The Commission, in consultation with the Commandant of the Coast Guard, shall develop a plan to provide for the repair or replacement of bulk fuel storage tanks in Alaska that are not in compliance with applicable—

(1) Federal law, including the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (104 Stat. 484); or

(2) State law.

[(c)] (b) DEMONSTRATION HEALTH PROJECTS.—In order to demonstrate the value of adequate health facilities and services to the economic development of the region, the Secretary of Health and Human Services is authorized to make interagency transfers to the Denali Commission to plan, construct, and equip demonstration health, nutrition, and child care projects, including hospitals, health care clinics, and mental health facilities (including drug and alcohol treatment centers) in accordance with the Work Plan referred to under section 304 of Title III-Denali Commission of Division C-Other Matters of Public Law 105–277. No grant for construction or equipment of a demonstration project shall exceed 50 percentum of such costs, unless the project is located in a severely economically distressed community, as identified in the Work Plan referred to under section 304 of Title III-Denali Commission of Division C-Other Matters of Public Law 105–277, in which case no grant shall exceed 80 percentum of such costs. To carry out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary.

[(d)] (c) SOLID WASTE.—The Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to make direct lump sum payments, *including interagency transfers*, which shall remain available until expended to the Denali Commission to address deficiencies in solid waste disposal sites which threaten to contaminate rural drinking water supplies.

[(e)] (d) DOCKS, WATERFRONT TRANSPORTATION DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS.—The Secretary of Transportation is authorized to make direct lump sum payments to the Commission to construct docks, waterfront development projects, and related transportation infrastructure, provided the local community provides a ten percent non-Federal match in the form of any necessary land or planning and design funds. To carry out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary.

* * * * *

SEC. 309. [42 U.S.C. 3121 note] DENALI ACCESS SYSTEM PROGRAM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DENALI ACCESS SYSTEM PROGRAM.—
* * *

* * * * *

(c) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of *Transportation* shall allocate funding authorized and made available for the Denali access system program to the Commission to carry out this section.

* * * * *

SEC. 312. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Commission to carry out the duties of the Commission consistent with the purposes of this title and pursuant to the work plan approved under section 304, ~~[\$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2017 through 2021]~~ *.\$35,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029*

(b) AVAILABILITY.—

* * * * *

TITLE III—AGRICULTURAL CREDIT**AGRICULTURAL ACT OF 1961 & CONSOLIDATED FARM AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT ACT**

* * * * *

SEC. 382A. [7 U.S.C. 2009aa] DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) AUTHORITY.—* * *

* * * * *

SEC. 382B. [7 U.S.C. 2009aa-1] DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—* * *

* * * * *

(e) ADMINISTRATION.—In carrying out subsection (d), the Authority may—

(1)

(9) enter into and perform such contracts, leases, cooperative agreements, or other transactions as are necessary to carry out Authority duties, including any contracts, leases, or cooperative agreements with—

(A) any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States;

(B) any State (including a political subdivision, agency, or instrumentality of the State); or

(C) any person, firm, association, or corporation; **[and]**

(10) establish and maintain a central office and field offices at such locations as the Authority may select~~...~~; *and*

(11) *collect fees for the Delta Doctors program of the Authority and retain and expend those fees.*

* * * * *

SEC. 382C. [7 U.S.C. 2009aa-2] ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Authority may approve grants to States, *Indian Tribes* and public and nonprofit entities for projects, approved in accordance with section 382I—

(1) to develop the transportation infrastructure of the region for the purpose of facilitating economic development in the region (except that grants for this purpose may only be made to a State, *Tribal*, or local government);

* * * * *

(h) COMPENSATION.—

(1) FEDERAL COCHAIRPERSON.—* * *

* * * * *

(5) ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL.—

(A) COMPENSATION.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Authority may appoint and fix the compensation of an executive director and such other personnel as are necessary to enable the Authority to carry out the duties of the Authority.

(ii) EXCEPTION.—Compensation under clause (i) shall not exceed the maximum rate for the Senior Executive Service under section 5382 of title 5, United States Code, including any applicable locality-based comparability payment that may be authorized under section 5304(h)(2)(C) of that title.

(B) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—The executive director shall be responsible for—

(i) the carrying out of the administrative duties of the Authority;

(ii) direction of the Authority staff; **[and]**

(iii) assuming the duties of the Federal cochairperson and the alternate Federal cochairperson for purposes of continuation of normal operations in the event that both positions are vacant; and

[(iii)] *(iv) such other duties as the Authority may assign.*

* * * * *

SEC. 382M. [7 U.S.C. 2009aa–12] AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Authority to carry out this subtitle **[\$30,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023]** *\$40,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029*, to remain available until expended.

* * * * *

SEC. 383N. [7 U.S.C. 2009bb–12] AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Authority to carry out this subtitle **[\$30,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2018]** *\$40,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029*, to remain available until expended.

* * * * *