

**Congress of the United States**  
**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**Committee on Small Business**  
2361 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-6515

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Members of the Committee on Small Business

**FROM:** Committee Majority Staff

**DATE:** March 13, 2026

**RE:** Full Committee Hearing Titled: “Connecting SBA to Main Street: Examining the SBA Office of Field Operations”

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On **Wednesday, March 18, 2026, at 10:00 AM ET**, the Committee on Small Business will hold a hearing titled “**Connecting SBA to Main Street: Examining the SBA Office of Field Operations.**” The meeting will convene in Room 2360 of the Rayburn House Office Building. The purpose of the hearing is to review the mission of the Office of Field Operations and its outreach to small businesses in the past year.

**I. Witness**

- **Ms. Lisa Shimkat**, Associate Administrator of Field Operations, U.S. Small Business Administration

**II. Background**

The Small Business Administration’s (SBA) Office of Field Operations (OFO) is responsible for delivering SBA products and services directly to small businesses across the country.<sup>1</sup> The SBA maintains 68 district offices that serve as the primary point of contact for small businesses and SBA’s resource partners.<sup>2</sup> The SBA’s ten regional offices oversee district operations within their geographic regions and ensure that agency priorities and objectives are executed consistently nationwide.<sup>3</sup>

Led by Associate Administrator Lisa Shimkat, OFO represents the SBA’s field offices at SBA headquarters in Washington, D.C. The office provides policy guidance and operational oversight

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<sup>1</sup> *Office of Field Operations*, U.S. SMALL BUS. ADMIN., <https://www.sba.gov/about-sba/sba-locations/headquarters-offices/office-field-operations> (last visited Mar. 3, 2026).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

to regional administrators and district directors to ensure consistent implementation of agency goals and objectives. OFO establishes and monitors district performance goals, coordinates communication between field offices and headquarters, elevates and resolves operational issues, and organizes field office reviews to promote accountability and effectiveness.

On March 21, 2025, the SBA announced plans to decentralize its workforce by relocating headquarters staff to the field offices across the country.<sup>4</sup> This strengthened OFO's services and improved access for entrepreneurs in rural communities. As a result, the SBA hosted 30,806 field events and connected with nearly 490,000 entrepreneurs across the country.<sup>5</sup> Through the work of SBA field offices and the broader counseling network, the SBA and its partners supported more than 2 million jobs nationwide.<sup>6</sup> As part of the SBA's Made in America Initiative, OFO hosted 683 Made in America events with more than 11,000 attendees across all 50 states.<sup>7</sup>

In addition to daily outreach, OFO plays a critical role in the SBA's disaster response efforts. OFO district and regional offices serve as the "boots on the ground" representatives following disasters to help guide the SBA's response. In 2025, SBA deployed 381 field staff to operate out of 117 disaster centers, and OFO conducted 31,048 direct contacts with disaster survivors.<sup>8</sup>

### **III. Conclusion**

The SBA's field operations are vital to the success of the SBA's mission. OFO is the face of the SBA in most situations requiring in-person contact with an entrepreneur. Their work strips away the faceless bureaucracy that stands between entrepreneurs and the programs, resources, and opportunities available to them.

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<sup>4</sup> Press Release, U.S. Small Bus. Admin., Small Business Administration Announces Agency-Wide Reorganization (Mar. 21, 2025).

<sup>5</sup> U.S. SMALL BUS. ADMIN., 2025 ANNUAL REPORT, 35 (Jan. 20, 2026).

<sup>6</sup> U.S. SMALL BUS. ADMIN., 2025 ANNUAL REPORT, 35 (Jan. 20, 2026).

<sup>7</sup> U.S. SMALL BUS. ADMIN., 2025 ANNUAL REPORT, 27 (Jan. 20, 2026).

<sup>8</sup> U.S. SMALL BUS. ADMIN., 2025 ANNUAL REPORT, 38 (Jan. 20, 2026).