

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: July 17, 2026

RE: Full Committee Hearing Titled: “Oversight of SBA’s Office of Entrepreneurial Development”

On **Wednesday, July 22, 2026, at 10:00 AM ET**, the Committee on Small Business will hold a hearing titled “**Oversight of SBA’s Office of Entrepreneurial Development**.” The meeting will convene in Room 2360 of the Rayburn House Office Building. The purpose of this hearing is to conduct oversight of the U.S. Small Business Administration’s (SBA) Office of Entrepreneurial Development (OED) and its efforts to help small businesses start, grow, and compete. The hearing will also provide Members an opportunity to review reforms and operational changes implemented under the Trump Administration and assess their impact on the delivery of entrepreneurial assistance.

I. Witness

- **Paul Fitzpatrick**, Associate Administrator, Office of Entrepreneurial Development, U.S. Small Business Administration

II. Background

The OED serves as the SBA’s primary technical assistance office. OED’s mission is to help entrepreneurs start, grow, and compete by providing counseling, training, technical assistance, and access to business resources through a nationwide network of SBA resource partners.¹ OED administers its programs primarily through cooperative agreements and grants with nonprofit organizations, institutions of higher education, state agencies, and other eligible entities. Rather than delivering services directly, OED leverages these partnerships to provide localized business counseling, technical assistance, training, export assistance, and access to capital for entrepreneurs

¹ *Off. of Entrepreneurial Dev.*, U.S. SMALL BUS. ADMIN., <https://www.sba.gov/about-sba/sba-locations/headquarters-offices/office-entrepreneurial-development> (last visited Jul. 16, 2026).

across the country. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2026, Congress appropriated approximately \$330 million for these entrepreneurial development programs.²

OED's network reaches small businesses in every state and territory through resource partners including Small Business Development Centers, Women's Business Centers, and the Service Corps of Retired Executives, coordinated through SBA's 68 district offices and 10 regional offices.³ This structure allows OED to extend the reach of federal investment by leveraging local expertise and non-federal matching funds. According to SBA's FY 2025 Annual Report, OED resource partners served more than 82,000 rural entrepreneurs during 2025.⁴ Collectively, OED's resource partner network supported hundreds of thousands of entrepreneurs and helped sustain or create more than 2 million jobs.⁵

The Small Business Committee (Committee) also expects to examine SBA's modernization of the grant-payment system supporting these programs. Strengthening payment verification and reducing improper payments has been a longstanding challenge at SBA and a top priority identified by the SBA's Inspector General.⁶ SBA's transition of resource-partner reimbursements to an upgraded payment platform reflects that broader effort to improve financial controls and safeguard taxpayer dollars. While the transition has delayed some reimbursements, the hearing will provide an opportunity to review how the new system strengthens accountability going forward.

This Committee has supported several pieces of bipartisan legislation supporting the office and mission of OED. These bills advance artificial intelligence adoption for small businesses, codify and enhance oversight of the Office of Native American Affairs and the Rural Affairs office, provide small businesses with information on hiring graduates of career and technical education programs, and to generally enhance oversight into OED programs.

III. Conclusion

OED plays a central role in SBA's efforts to expand access to entrepreneurial resources and technical assistance for America's small businesses. This hearing provides an opportunity for the Committee to examine OED's management of its entrepreneurial development programs, evaluate its oversight of SBA resource partners, and assess the effectiveness of reforms implemented under the Trump Administration.

² CORINNE BLACKFORD, *ET AL.*, CONG. RESEARCH SERV., R43846, SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (SBA): OVERVIEW AND RECENT TRENDS, Summary (Mar. 12, 2026).

³ CORINNE BLACKFORD, *ET AL.*, CONG. RESEARCH SERV., RL33243, SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION: A PRIMER ON PROGRAMS AND FUNDING, 11 (Mar. 13, 2026)

⁴ U.S. SMALL BUS. ADMIN., 2025 ANNUAL REPORT, 35 (Jan. 20, 2026).

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ U.S. SMALL BUS. ADMIN., OFF. OF INSPECTOR GEN., TOP MANAGEMENT AND PERFORMANCE CHALLENGES FACING THE SBA IN FISCAL YEAR 2026, 1 (Dec. 2025).