

## Union Calendar No.

116<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 4405

[Report No. 116-]

To amend the Small Business Act to improve the women's business center program, and for other purposes.

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### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 19, 2019

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas (for herself and Mr. HAGEDORN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Small Business

SEPTEMBER --, 2019

Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union,  
and ordered to be printed

# **A BILL**

To amend the Small Business Act to improve the women's  
business center program, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Women’s Business  
5 Centers Improvements Act of 2019”.

6 **SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO WOMEN’S BUSINESS CENTER**  
7 **PROGRAM.**

8 Section 29 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656)  
9 is amended to read as follows:

10 **“SEC. 29. WOMEN’S BUSINESS CENTER PROGRAM.**

11 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

12 “(1) ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR.—The term  
13 ‘Assistant Administrator’ means the Assistant Ad-  
14 ministrator of the Office of Women’s Business Own-  
15 ership established under subsection (k).

16 “(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-  
17 tity’ means—

18 “(A) an organization described in section  
19 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986  
20 and exempt from taxation under section 501(a)  
21 of such Code;

22 “(B) a State, regional, or local economic  
23 development organization, so long as the orga-  
24 nization certifies that grant funds received

1 under this section will not be commingled with  
2 other funds;

3 “(C) an institution of higher education (as  
4 defined in section 101 of the Higher Education  
5 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)), unless such in-  
6 stitution is currently receiving a grant under  
7 section 21;

8 “(D) a development, credit, or finance cor-  
9 poration chartered by a State, so long as the  
10 corporation certifies that grant funds received  
11 under this section will not be commingled with  
12 other funds; or

13 “(E) any combination of entities listed in  
14 subparagraphs (A) through (D).

15 “(3) SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN OWNED AND  
16 CONTROLLED BY WOMEN.—The term ‘small business  
17 concern owned and controlled by women’ has the  
18 meaning given under section 3(n).

19 “(4) WOMEN’S BUSINESS CENTER.—The term  
20 ‘women’s business center’ means the location at  
21 which counseling and training on the management,  
22 operations (including manufacturing, services, and  
23 retail), access to capital, international trade, Govern-  
24 ment procurement opportunities, and any other mat-  
25 ter that is needed to start, maintain, or expand a

1 small business concern owned and controlled by  
2 women.

3 “(5) WOMEN’S BUSINESS CENTER ASSOCIA-  
4 TION.—The term ‘Women’s Business Center Asso-  
5 ciation’ means a membership organization formed by  
6 women’s business centers to pursue matters of com-  
7 mon concern.

8 “(b) AUTHORITY.—

9 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a  
10 Women’s Business Center Program under which the  
11 Administrator may provide a grant to any eligible  
12 entity to operate one or more women’s business cen-  
13 ters for the benefit of small business concerns owned  
14 and controlled by women.

15 “(2) USE OF FUNDS.—The women’s business  
16 centers shall be designed to provide counseling and  
17 training that meets the needs of the small business  
18 concerns owned and controlled by women, especially  
19 socially or economically disadvantaged women, and  
20 shall provide—

21 “(A) financial assistance, including train-  
22 ing and counseling in how to apply for and se-  
23 cure business credit and investment capital,  
24 preparing and presenting financial statements,

1 and managing cash flow and other financial op-  
2 erations of a small business concern;

3 “(B) management assistance, including  
4 training and counseling in how to plan, orga-  
5 nize, staff, direct, and control each major activ-  
6 ity and function of a small business concern;  
7 and

8 “(C) marketing assistance, including train-  
9 ing and counseling in identifying and seg-  
10 menting domestic and international market op-  
11 portunities, preparing and executing marketing  
12 plans, developing pricing strategies, locating  
13 contract opportunities, negotiating contracts,  
14 and utilizing varying public relations and adver-  
15 tising techniques.

16 “(3) TYPES OF GRANTS.—

17 “(A) INITIAL GRANT.—The amount of an  
18 initial grant, which shall be for a 5-year term,  
19 provided under this subsection to an eligible en-  
20 tity shall be not more than \$300,000 annually  
21 (as such amount is annually adjusted by the  
22 Administrator to reflect the change in infla-  
23 tion).

24 “(B) CONTINUATION GRANTS.—The Ad-  
25 ministrator may award a continuation grant,

1           which shall be for a 5-year term, of not more  
2           than \$300,000 annually (as such amount is an-  
3           nually adjusted by the Administrator to reflect  
4           the change in inflation) to an eligible entity  
5           that received an initial grant under subpara-  
6           graph (A). There shall be no limitation on the  
7           number of continuation grants an eligible entity  
8           may receive under this section.

9           “(c) APPLICATION.—

10           “(1) INITIAL GRANTS AND CONTINUATION  
11           GRANTS.—To receive an initial grant or continuation  
12           grant under this section, an eligible entity shall sub-  
13           mit an application to the Administrator in such  
14           form, in such manner, and containing such informa-  
15           tion as the Administrator may require, including—

16           “(A) a certification that the eligible enti-  
17           ty—

18           “(i) has designated an executive direc-  
19           tor or program manager, who may be com-  
20           pensated using grant funds awarded under  
21           this section or other sources, to manage  
22           the women’s business center for which a  
23           grant under subsection (b) is sought; and

1                   “(ii) meets accounting and reporting  
2 requirements established by the Director of  
3 the Office of Management and Budget;

4                   “(B) information demonstrating the expe-  
5 rience and effectiveness of the eligible entity  
6 in—

7                   “(i) providing counseling and training  
8 described under subsection (b)(2);

9                   “(ii) providing training and services to  
10 a representative number of women who are  
11 socially or economically disadvantaged; and

12                   “(iii) working with resource partners  
13 of the Administration and other entities;  
14 and

15                   “(C) a 5-year plan that—

16                   “(i) includes information relating to  
17 the assistance to be provided by the wom-  
18 en’s business center in the area in which  
19 the women’s business center is located;

20                   “(ii) describes the ability of the eligi-  
21 ble entity to meet the needs of the market  
22 to be served by the women’s business cen-  
23 ter, including the ability to obtain the  
24 matching funds required under subsection  
25 (e); and

1 “(iii) describes the ability of the eligi-  
2 ble entity to provide counseling and train-  
3 ing described under subsection (b)(2), in-  
4 cluding to a representative number of  
5 women who are socially or economically  
6 disadvantaged.

7 “(2) RECORD RETENTION.—

8 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator  
9 shall maintain a copy of each application sub-  
10 mitted under this subsection for not less than  
11 5 years.

12 “(B) PAPERWORK REDUCTION.—The Ad-  
13 ministrator shall take steps to reduce, to the  
14 maximum extent practicable, the paperwork  
15 burden associated with carrying out subpara-  
16 graph (A).

17 “(d) SELECTION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In selecting recipients of  
19 initial grants, the Administrator shall consider—

20 “(A) the experience of the applicant in pro-  
21 viding entrepreneurial training;

22 “(B) the amount of time needed for the  
23 applicant to commence operation of a women’s  
24 business center;

1           “(C) in consultation with a Women’s Busi-  
2           ness Center Association, the capacity of the ap-  
3           plicant to meet the accreditation standards es-  
4           tablished under subsection (k)(4) in a timely  
5           manner;

6           “(D) the ability of the applicant to sustain  
7           operations, including the applicant’s ability to  
8           obtain sufficient non-Federal funds, for a 5-  
9           year period;

10           “(E) the proposed location of a women’s  
11           business center to be operated by the applicant  
12           and the location’s proximity to Veteran Busi-  
13           ness Outreach Centers and to recipients of  
14           grants under section 8(b)(1) or 21;

15           “(F) the population density of the area to  
16           be served by the women’s business center oper-  
17           ated by the applicant; and

18           “(G) the advice and counsel of a Women’s  
19           Business Center Association to determine areas  
20           with unmet needs and the likelihood that the  
21           recipient will become accredited.

22           “(2) SELECTION CRITERIA.—

23           “(A) RULEMAKING.—The Administrator  
24           shall issue regulations to specify the criteria for

1 review and selection of applicants under this  
2 subsection.

3 “(B) MODIFICATIONS PROHIBITED AFTER  
4 ANNOUNCEMENT.—With respect to a public an-  
5 nouncement of any opportunity to be awarded  
6 a grant under this section made by the Admin-  
7 istrator pursuant to subsection (l)(1), the Ad-  
8 ministrator may not modify regulations issued  
9 pursuant to subparagraph (A) with respect to  
10 such opportunity unless required to do so by an  
11 Act of Congress or an order of a Federal court.

12 “(C) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing  
13 in this paragraph may be construed as prohib-  
14 iting the Administrator from modifying the reg-  
15 ulations issued pursuant to subparagraph (A)  
16 (after providing an opportunity for notice and  
17 comment) as such regulations apply to an op-  
18 portunity to be awarded a grant under this sec-  
19 tion that the Administrator has not yet publicly  
20 announced pursuant to subsection (l)(1).

21 “(e) MATCHING REQUIREMENTS.—

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (5),  
23 upon approval of an application submitted under  
24 subsection (c), the eligible entity shall agree to ob-  
25 tain contributions from non-Federal sources—

1           “(A) in the first and second year of the  
2 term of an initial grant, if applicable, 1 non-  
3 Federal dollar for each 2 Federal dollars; and

4           “(B) in each subsequent year of the term  
5 of an initial grant, if applicable, or for the term  
6 of a continuation grant, 1 non-Federal dollar  
7 for each Federal dollar.

8           “(2) FORM OF MATCHING FUNDS.—Not more  
9 than one-half of non-Federal matching funds de-  
10 scribed under paragraph (1) may be in the form of  
11 in-kind contributions that are budget line items only,  
12 including office equipment and office space.

13           “(3) SOLICITATION.—Notwithstanding any  
14 other provision of law, an eligible entity may—

15           “(A) solicit cash and in-kind contributions  
16 from private individuals and entities to be used  
17 to operate a women’s business center; and

18           “(B) use amounts made available by the  
19 Administrator under this section for the cost of  
20 such solicitation and management of the con-  
21 tributions received.

22           “(4) DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS.—The Admin-  
23 istrator may disburse an amount not greater than  
24 25 percent of the total amount of a grant awarded  
25 to an eligible entity before such eligible entity ob-

1 tains the non-Federal matching funds described  
2 under paragraph (1).

3 “(5) FAILURE TO OBTAIN MATCHING FUNDS.—

4 If an eligible entity fails to obtain the required  
5 matching funds described under paragraph (1), the  
6 eligible entity may not be eligible to receive advance  
7 disbursements pursuant to paragraph (4) during the  
8 remainder of the term, if applicable, of an initial  
9 grant awarded under this section. Before approving  
10 such eligible entity for a continuation grant under  
11 this section, the Administrator shall make a written  
12 determination, including the reasons for such deter-  
13 mination, of whether the Administrator believes that  
14 the eligible entity will be able to obtain the requisite  
15 funding under paragraph (1) for such continuation  
16 grant.

17 “(6) WAIVER OF NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—

18 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Upon request by an  
19 eligible entity, and in accordance with this para-  
20 graph, the Administrator may waive, in whole  
21 or in part, the requirement to obtain non-Fed-  
22 eral matching funds for a grant awarded under  
23 this section for the eligible entity for a one-year  
24 term of the grant. The Administrator may not

1 issue such a waiver for more than a total of 2  
2 consecutive one-year terms.

3 “(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In determining  
4 whether to issue a waiver under this paragraph,  
5 the Administrator shall consider—

6 “(i) the economic conditions affecting  
7 the eligible entity;

8 “(ii) the demonstrated ability of the  
9 eligible entity to raise non-Federal funds;  
10 and

11 “(iii) the performance of the eligible  
12 entity under the initial grant.

13 “(C) LIMITATION.—The Administrator  
14 may not issue a waiver under this paragraph if  
15 the Administrator determines that granting the  
16 waiver would undermine the credibility of the  
17 Women’s Business Center Program.

18 “(7) EXCESS NON-FEDERAL DOLLARS.—The  
19 amount of non-Federal dollars obtained by an eligi-  
20 ble entity that is above the amount that is required  
21 to be obtained by the eligible entity under this sub-  
22 section shall not be subject to the requirements of  
23 part 200 of title 2, Code of Federal Regulations, or  
24 any successor thereto, if such amount of non-Fed-  
25 eral dollars—

1           “(A) is not used as matching funds for  
2           purposes of implementing the Women’s Busi-  
3           ness Center Program; and

4           “(B) was not obtained using funds from  
5           the Women’s Business Center Program.

6           “(8) CARRYOVER.—Excess non-Federal dollars  
7           described in paragraph (7) may be used to satisfy  
8           the matching funds requirement under paragraph  
9           (1) for the subsequent one-year grant term, if appli-  
10          cable, except that such amounts shall be subject to  
11          the requirements of part 200 of title 2, Code of Fed-  
12          eral Regulations, or any successor thereto.

13          “(f) OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—

14                 “(1) SEPARATION OF FUNDS.—An eligible enti-  
15                 ty shall—

16                         “(A) operate a women’s business center  
17                         under this section separately from other  
18                         projects, if any, of the eligible entity; and

19                         “(B) separately maintain and account for  
20                         any grants received under this section.

21          “(2) EXAMINATION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—

22                         “(A) REQUIRED SITE VISIT.—Before re-  
23                         ceiving an initial grant under this section, each  
24                         applicant shall have a site visit by an employee  
25                         of the Administration, in order to ensure that

1 the applicant has sufficient resources to provide  
2 the services for which the grant is being pro-  
3 vided.

4 “(B) ANNUAL REVIEW.—An employee of  
5 the Administration shall—

6 “(i) conduct an annual programmatic  
7 and financial examination of each eligible  
8 entity, as described in subsection (g); and

9 “(ii) provide the results of such exam-  
10 ination to the eligible entity.

11 “(3) REMEDIATION OF PROBLEMS.—

12 “(A) PLAN OF ACTION.—If an examination  
13 of an eligible entity conducted under paragraph  
14 (2)(B) identifies any problems, the eligible enti-  
15 ty shall, within 45 calendar days of receiving a  
16 copy of the results of such examination, provide  
17 the Assistant Administrator with a plan of ac-  
18 tion, including specific milestones, for cor-  
19 recting such problems.

20 “(B) PLAN OF ACTION REVIEW BY THE AS-  
21 SISTANT ADMINISTRATOR.—The Assistant Ad-  
22 ministrator shall review each plan of action sub-  
23 mitted under subparagraph (A) within 30 cal-  
24 endar days of receiving such plan. If the Assist-  
25 ant Administrator determines that such plan—

1           “(i) will bring the eligible entity into  
2           compliance with all the terms of the grant  
3           agreement, the Assistant Administrator  
4           shall approve such plan; or

5           “(ii) is inadequate to remedy the  
6           problems identified in the annual examina-  
7           tion to which the plan of action relates, the  
8           Assistant Administrator shall set forth  
9           such reasons in writing and provide such  
10          determination to the eligible entity within  
11          15 calendar days of such determination.

12          “(C) AMENDMENT TO PLAN OF ACTION.—  
13          An eligible entity receiving a determination  
14          under subparagraph (B)(ii) shall have 30 cal-  
15          endar days from the receipt of the determina-  
16          tion to amend the plan of action to satisfy the  
17          problems identified by the Assistant Adminis-  
18          trator and resubmit such plan to the Assistant  
19          Administrator.

20          “(D) AMENDED PLAN REVIEW BY THE AS-  
21          SISTANT ADMINISTRATOR.—Within 15 calendar  
22          days of the receipt of an amended plan of ac-  
23          tion under subparagraph (C), the Assistant Ad-  
24          ministrator shall either approve or reject such

1 plan and provide such approval or rejection in  
2 writing to the eligible entity.

3 “(E) APPEAL OF ASSISTANT ADMINIS-  
4 TRATOR DETERMINATION.—

5 “(i) IN GENERAL.—If the Assistant  
6 Administrator rejects an amended plan  
7 under subparagraph (D), the eligible entity  
8 shall have the opportunity to appeal such  
9 decision to the Administrator, who may  
10 delegate such appeal to an appropriate of-  
11 ficer of the Administration.

12 “(ii) OPPORTUNITY FOR EXPLA-  
13 NATION.—Any appeal described under  
14 clause (i) shall provide an opportunity for  
15 the eligible entity to provide, in writing, an  
16 explanation of why the eligible entity’s  
17 amended plan remedies the problems iden-  
18 tified in the annual examination conducted  
19 under paragraph (2)(B).

20 “(iii) NOTICE OF DETERMINATION.—  
21 The Administrator shall provide to the eli-  
22 gible entity a determination of the appeal,  
23 in writing, not later than 15 calendar days  
24 after the eligible entity files an appeal  
25 under this subparagraph.

1                   “(iv) EFFECT OF FAILURE TO ACT.—

2                   If the Administrator fails to act on an ap-  
3                   peal made under this subparagraph within  
4                   the 15-day period specified under clause  
5                   (iii), the eligible entity’s amended plan of  
6                   action submitted under subparagraph (C)  
7                   shall be deemed to be approved.

8                   “(4) TERMINATION OF GRANT.—

9                   “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator  
10                  shall terminate a grant to an eligible entity  
11                  under this section if the eligible entity fails to  
12                  comply with—

13                  “(i) a plan of action approved by the  
14                  Assistant Administrator under paragraph  
15                  (3)(B)(i); or

16                  “(ii) an amended plan of action ap-  
17                  proved by the Assistant Administrator  
18                  under paragraph (3)(D) or approved on  
19                  appeal under paragraph (3)(E).

20                  “(B) APPEAL OF TERMINATION.—An eligi-  
21                  ble entity shall have the opportunity to chal-  
22                  lenge the termination of a grant under subpara-  
23                  graph (A) on the record and after an oppor-  
24                  tunity for a hearing.

1           “(C) FINAL AGENCY ACTION.—A deter-  
2           mination made pursuant to subparagraph (B)  
3           shall be considered final agency action for the  
4           purposes of chapter 7 of title 5, United States  
5           Code.

6           “(5) CONSULTATION WITH MAJORITY WOMEN’S  
7           BUSINESS CENTER ASSOCIATION.—If a majority of  
8           women’s business centers that are operating pursu-  
9           ant to agreements with the Administration are mem-  
10          bers of an individual Women’s Business Center As-  
11          sociation, the Administrator shall—

12                   “(A) recognize the existence and activities  
13                   of such Association; and

14                   “(B) consult with the Association on, and  
15                   negotiate with the Association in the develop-  
16                   ment of documents with respect to—

17                           “(i) announcing the annual scope of  
18                           activities pursuant to this section;

19                           “(ii) requesting proposals to deliver  
20                           assistance as provided in this section; and

21                           “(iii) governing the general operations  
22                           and administration of women’s business  
23                           centers, specifically including the develop-  
24                           ment of regulations and a uniform nego-  
25                           tiated cooperative agreement for use on an

1           annual basis when entering into individual  
2           negotiated agreements with women’s busi-  
3           ness centers.

4           “(g) PROGRAM EXAMINATION.—

5           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administration shall—

6           “(A) develop and implement an annual  
7           programmatic and financial examination of  
8           each eligible entity receiving a grant under this  
9           section, under which each such eligible entity  
10          shall provide to the Administration—

11                  “(i) an itemized cost breakdown of ac-  
12                  tual expenditures for costs incurred during  
13                  the preceding year; and

14                  “(ii) documentation regarding the  
15                  amount of matching assistance from non-  
16                  Federal sources obtained and expended by  
17                  the eligible entity during the preceding  
18                  year in order to meet the requirements of  
19                  subsection (e) and, with respect to any in-  
20                  kind contributions described in subsection  
21                  (e)(2) that were used to satisfy the re-  
22                  quirements of subsection (e), verification of  
23                  the existence and valuation of those con-  
24                  tributions; and

1           “(B) analyze the results of each such ex-  
2           amination and, based on that analysis, make a  
3           determination regarding the programmatic and  
4           financial viability of each women’s business cen-  
5           ter operated by the eligible entity.

6           “(2) CONDITIONS FOR CONTINUED FUNDING.—

7           In determining whether to award a continuation  
8           grant to an eligible entity, the Administrator—

9           “(A) shall consider the results of the most  
10          recent examination of the eligible entity under  
11          paragraph (1);

12          “(B) shall determine if—

13                 “(i) the eligible entity has failed to  
14                 provide, or provided inadequate, informa-  
15                 tion under paragraph (1)(A); or

16                 “(ii) the eligible entity has failed to  
17                 provide any information required to be pro-  
18                 vided by the women’s business center for  
19                 purposes of the management report under  
20                 subsection (m)(1), or the information pro-  
21                 vided by the center is inadequate; and

22          “(C) shall consider the accreditation status  
23          as described in subsection (k)(4).

24          “(h) NOTICE AND COMMENT REQUIRED.—The Ad-  
25          ministrators may only make a change to the standards by

1 which an eligible entity obtains or maintains grants under  
2 this section, the standards for accreditation, or any other  
3 requirement for the operation of a women's business cen-  
4 ter if the Administrator first provides notice and the op-  
5 portunity for public comment, as set forth in section  
6 553(b) of title 5, United States Code, without regard to  
7 any exceptions provided for under such section.

8 “(i) CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—

9 “(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—An eligible entity that  
10 receives a grant under this section may enter into a  
11 contract with a Federal department or agency to  
12 provide specific assistance to small business concerns  
13 owned and controlled by women and other under-  
14 served small business concerns, if performance of  
15 such a contract does not hinder the ability of the eli-  
16 gible entity to carry out the terms of a grant re-  
17 ceived under this section.

18 “(2) ADMINISTRATOR.—The authority of the  
19 Administrator to enter into contracts shall be in ef-  
20 fect for each fiscal year only to the extent and in the  
21 amounts as are provided in advance in appropria-  
22 tions Acts. After the Administrator has entered into  
23 a contract, either as a grant or a cooperative agree-  
24 ment, with any applicant under this section, the Ad-  
25 ministrator shall not suspend, terminate, or fail to

1       renew or extend any such contract unless the Ad-  
2       ministrator provides the applicant with written noti-  
3       fication setting forth the reasons therefore and af-  
4       fords the applicant an opportunity for a hearing, ap-  
5       peal, or other administrative proceeding under chap-  
6       ter 5 of title 5, United States Code.

7       “(j) PRIVACY REQUIREMENTS.—

8               “(1) IN GENERAL.—A women’s business center  
9       may not disclose the name, address, or telephone  
10      number of any individual or small business concern  
11      receiving assistance under this section without the  
12      consent of such individual or small business concern,  
13      unless—

14               “(A) the Administrator orders such disclo-  
15      sure after the Administrator is ordered to make  
16      such a disclosure by a court in any civil or  
17      criminal enforcement action initiated by a Fed-  
18      eral or State agency; or

19               “(B) the Administrator considers such a  
20      disclosure to be necessary for the purpose of  
21      conducting a financial audit of a women’s busi-  
22      ness center, except that such a disclosure shall  
23      be limited to the information necessary for such  
24      audit.

1           “(2) ADMINISTRATION USE OF INFORMATION.—

2           This subsection shall not—

3                   “(A) restrict Administration access to  
4                   women’s business center data; or

5                   “(B) prevent the Administration from  
6                   using information about individuals who use  
7                   women’s business centers to conduct surveys of  
8                   such individuals.

9           “(3) REGULATIONS.—The Administrator shall  
10           issue regulations to establish standards for disclo-  
11           sures for purposes of a financial audit described  
12           under paragraph (1)(B).

13           “(k) OFFICE OF WOMEN’S BUSINESS OWNERSHIP.—

14                   “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established  
15                   within the Administration an Office of Women’s  
16                   Business Ownership, which shall be responsible for  
17                   the administration of the Administration’s programs  
18                   for the development of women’s business enterprises  
19                   (as defined in section 408 of the Women’s Business  
20                   Ownership Act of 1988). The Office of Women’s  
21                   Business Ownership shall be administered by an As-  
22                   sistant Administrator, who shall be appointed by the  
23                   Administrator.

24           “(2) ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE OF-  
25           FICE OF WOMEN’S BUSINESS OWNERSHIP.—

1           “(A) QUALIFICATION.—The position of As-  
2           sistant Administrator shall be a Senior Execu-  
3           tive Service position under section 3132(a)(2)  
4           of title 5, United States Code. The Assistant  
5           Administrator shall serve as a noncareer ap-  
6           pointee (as defined in section 3132(a)(7) of  
7           that title).

8           “(B) DUTIES.—The Assistant Adminis-  
9           trator shall administer the programs and serv-  
10          ices of the Office of Women’s Business Owner-  
11          ship and perform the following functions:

12                   “(i) Recommend the annual adminis-  
13                   trative and program budgets of the Office  
14                   and eligible entities receiving a grant  
15                   under the Women’s Business Center Pro-  
16                   gram.

17                   “(ii) Review the annual budgets sub-  
18                   mitted by each eligible entity receiving a  
19                   grant under the Women’s Business Center  
20                   Program.

21                   “(iii) Collaborate with other Federal  
22                   departments and agencies, State and local  
23                   governments, not-for-profit organizations,  
24                   and for-profit organizations to maximize  
25                   utilization of taxpayer dollars and reduce

1 (or eliminate) any duplication among the  
2 programs overseen by the Office of Wom-  
3 en’s Business Ownership and those of  
4 other entities that provide similar services  
5 to women entrepreneurs.

6 “(iv) Maintain a clearinghouse to pro-  
7 vide for the dissemination and exchange of  
8 information between women’s business cen-  
9 ters.

10 “(v) Serve as the vice chairperson of  
11 the Interagency Committee on Women’s  
12 Business Enterprise and as the liaison for  
13 the National Women’s Business Council.

14 “(3) MISSION.—The mission of the Office of  
15 Women’s Business Ownership shall be to assist  
16 women entrepreneurs to start, grow, and compete in  
17 global markets by providing quality support with ac-  
18 cess to capital, access to markets, job creation,  
19 growth, and counseling by—

20 “(A) fostering participation of women en-  
21 trepreneurs in the economy by overseeing a net-  
22 work of women’s business centers throughout  
23 States and territories;

24 “(B) creating public-private partnerships  
25 to support women entrepreneurs and conduct

1 outreach and education to small business con-  
2 cerns owned and controlled by women; and

3 “(C) working with other programs of the  
4 Administrator to—

5 “(i) ensure women are well-rep-  
6 resented in those programs and being  
7 served by those programs; and

8 “(ii) identify gaps where participation  
9 by women in those programs could be in-  
10 creased.

11 “(4) ACCREDITATION PROGRAM.—

12 “(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than  
13 270 days after the date of enactment of this  
14 paragraph, the Administrator shall publish  
15 standards for a program to accredit eligible en-  
16 tities that receive a grant under this section.

17 “(B) PUBLIC COMMENT; TRANSITION.—  
18 Before publishing the standards under subpara-  
19 graph (A), the Administrator—

20 “(i) shall provide a period of not less  
21 than 60 days for public comment on such  
22 standards; and

23 “(ii) may not terminate a grant under  
24 this section absent evidence of fraud or  
25 other criminal misconduct by the recipient.

1           “(C) CONTRACTING AUTHORITY.—The Ad-  
2           ministrator may provide financial support, by  
3           contract or otherwise, to a Women’s Business  
4           Center Association to provide assistance in es-  
5           tablishing the standards required under sub-  
6           paragraph (A) or for carrying out an accredita-  
7           tion program pursuant to such standards.

8           “(5) CONTINUATION GRANT CONSIDER-  
9           ATIONS.—

10           “(A) IN GENERAL.—In determining wheth-  
11           er to award a continuation grant under this sec-  
12           tion, the Administrator shall consider the re-  
13           sults of the annual programmatic and financial  
14           examination conducted under subsection (g)  
15           and the accreditation program.

16           “(B) ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENT.—  
17           After the end of the 2-year period beginning on  
18           the date of enactment of this subsection, the  
19           Administration may not award a continuation  
20           grant under this section unless the applicable  
21           eligible entity has been approved under the ac-  
22           creditation program conducted pursuant to this  
23           subsection, except that the Assistant Adminis-  
24           trator for the Office of Women’s Business Own-  
25           ership may waive such accreditation require-

1           ment, in the discretion of the Assistant Admin-  
2           istrator, upon a showing that the eligible entity  
3           is making a good faith effort to obtain accredi-  
4           tation.

5           “(6) ANNUAL CONFERENCE.—Each women’s  
6           business center shall participate in annual profes-  
7           sional development at an annual conference facili-  
8           tated by a Women’s Business Center Association.

9           “(1) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE  
10          WOMEN’S BUSINESS CENTER PROGRAM.—The Adminis-  
11          trator shall provide the following:

12           “(1) A public announcement of any opportunity  
13           to be awarded grants under this section, to include  
14           the selection criteria under subsection (d) and any  
15           applicable regulations.

16           “(2) To any applicant for a grant under this  
17           section that failed to obtain such a grant, an oppor-  
18           tunity to debrief with the Administrator to review  
19           the reasons for the applicant’s failure.

20           “(3) To an eligible entity that receives an initial  
21           grant under this section, if a site visit or review of  
22           the eligible entity is carried out by an officer or em-  
23           ployee of the Administration (other than the Inspec-  
24           tor General), a copy of the site visit report or eval-

1 uation, as applicable, within 30 calendar days of the  
2 completion of such visit or evaluation.

3 “(m) ANNUAL MANAGEMENT REPORT.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall  
5 prepare and submit to the Committee on Small  
6 Business of the House of Representatives and the  
7 Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship  
8 of the Senate an annual report on the effectiveness  
9 of women’s business centers operated through a  
10 grant awarded under this section.

11 “(2) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted under  
12 paragraph (1) shall include—

13 “(A) information concerning, with respect  
14 to each women’s business center established  
15 pursuant to a grant awarded under this section,  
16 the most recent analysis of the annual pro-  
17 grammatic and financial examination of the ap-  
18 plicable eligible entity, as required under sub-  
19 section (g)(1)(B), and the subsequent deter-  
20 mination made by the Administration under  
21 that subsection;

22 “(B) the number of persons advised and  
23 trained through the Women’s Business Center  
24 Program;

1           “(C) the total number of hours of advising  
2           and training through the Program;

3           “(D) the demographics of Program partici-  
4           pants to include gender, race, and age of each  
5           such participant;

6           “(E) the number of Program participants  
7           who are veterans;

8           “(F) the number of new businesses started  
9           by participants in the Program;

10          “(G) to the extent practicable, the number  
11          of jobs supported, created or retained with as-  
12          sistance from women’s business centers;

13          “(H) the amount of capital secured by par-  
14          ticipants in the Program, including through  
15          loans and equity investment;

16          “(I) the number of participants in the Pro-  
17          gram receiving financial assistance, including  
18          the type and dollar amount, under the loan pro-  
19          grams of the Administration;

20          “(J) an estimate of gross receipts, includ-  
21          ing to the extent practicable a description of  
22          any change in revenue of small business con-  
23          cerns assisted through the Program;

1           “(K) to the maximum extent practicable,  
2           increases or decreases in revenues for the as-  
3           sisted small business concerns;

4           “(L) the number of referrals made to other  
5           resources and programs of the Administration;

6           “(M) the results of satisfaction surveys of  
7           participants, including a summary of any com-  
8           ments received from such participants; and

9           “(N) any recommendations by the Admin-  
10          istrator to improve the delivery of services by  
11          women’s business centers.

12         “(n) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

13                 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be  
14                 appropriated to the Administration to carry out this  
15                 section, to remain available until expended,  
16                 \$31,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2020 through  
17                 2023.

18                 “(2) USE OF AMOUNTS.—

19                         “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in  
20                         subparagraph (B), amounts made available  
21                         under this subsection for fiscal year 2020, and  
22                         each fiscal year thereafter, may only be used for  
23                         grant awards and may not be used for costs in-  
24                         curred by the Administration in connection with

1 the management and administration of the pro-  
2 gram under this section.

3 “(B) EXCEPTIONS.—Of the amount made  
4 available under this subsection for a fiscal year,  
5 the following amounts shall be available for  
6 costs incurred by the Administration in connec-  
7 tion with the management and administration  
8 of the program under this section:

9 “(i) For the first fiscal year beginning  
10 after the date of the enactment of this sub-  
11 paragraph, 2.65 percent.

12 “(ii) For the second fiscal year begin-  
13 ning after the date of the enactment of  
14 this subparagraph and each fiscal year  
15 thereafter through fiscal year 2023, 2.5  
16 percent.

17 “(3) EXPEDITED ACQUISITION.—Notwith-  
18 standing any other provision of law, the Adminis-  
19 trator may use such expedited acquisition methods  
20 as the Administrator determines to be appropriate to  
21 carry out this section, except that the Administrator  
22 shall ensure that all small business sources are pro-  
23 vided a reasonable opportunity to submit proposals.

24 “(4) ACCREDITATION AND ANNUAL CON-  
25 FERENCE.—Not less than \$500,000 of the amounts

1       appropriated pursuant to paragraph (1) for a fiscal  
2       year shall be available for purposes of carrying out  
3       subsection (k), of which no less than \$50,000 shall  
4       be available to support an annual conference de-  
5       scribed under subsection (k)(6).”.

6       **SEC. 3. EFFECT ON EXISTING GRANTS.**

7       (a) **TERMS AND CONDITIONS.**—A nonprofit organiza-  
8       tion receiving a grant under section 29(m) of the Small  
9       Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656(m)), as in effect on the day  
10      before the date of enactment of this Act, shall continue  
11      to receive the grant under the terms and conditions in ef-  
12      fect for the grant on the day before the date of enactment  
13      of this Act, except that the nonprofit organization may  
14      not apply for a continuation of the grant under section  
15      29(m)(5) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.  
16      656(m)(5)), as in effect on the day before the date of en-  
17      actment of this Act.

18      (b) **LENGTH OF CONTINUATION GRANT.**—The Ad-  
19      ministrators of the Small Business Administration may  
20      award a grant under section 29 of the Small Business Act,  
21      as amended by this Act, to a nonprofit organization receiv-  
22      ing a grant under section 29(m) of the Small Business  
23      Act (15 U.S.C. 656(m)), as in effect on the day before  
24      the date of enactment of this Act, for the period—

- 1           (1) beginning on the day after the last day of  
2           the grant agreement under such section 29(m); and  
3           (2) ending at the end of the third fiscal year be-  
4           ginning after the date of enactment of this Act.

5 **SEC. 4. REGULATIONS.**

6           Not later than 270 days after the date of the enact-  
7           ment of this Act, the Administrator of Small Business Ad-  
8           ministration shall issue such rules as are necessary to  
9           carry out section 29 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.  
10          656), as amended by this Act, and ensure that a period  
11          of public comment for such rules is not less than 60 days.