

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3413

To authorize the National Telecommunications and Information Administration of the Department of Commerce to make grants for the establishment of information technology centers in rural areas.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 30, 2009

Mrs. CAPITO (for herself and Mr. SPACE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To authorize the National Telecommunications and Information Administration of the Department of Commerce to make grants for the establishment of information technology centers in rural areas.

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 “Rural Information
5 Technology Investment Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. GRANTS FOR RURAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**
2 **CENTERS.**

3 Part C of the National Telecommunications and In-
4 formation Administration Organization Act is amended by
5 inserting after section 158 (47 U.S.C. 942) the following
6 new section:

7 **“SEC. 159. GRANTS FOR RURAL INFORMATION TECH-**
8 **NOLOGY CENTERS.**

9 “(a) **AUTHORIZATION.**—The NTIA shall make grants
10 to eligible entities, and determine (subject to subsection
11 (e)) the amount of such grants, for the establishment of
12 information technology centers in rural areas.

13 “(b) **ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.**—Eligible entities may
14 be—

15 “(1) any small business or not-for-profit organi-
16 zation or business operating in a rural area, as de-
17 termined by the NTIA; and

18 “(2) any State, local, or tribal government serv-
19 ing such an area.

20 “(c) **APPLICATION.**—

21 “(1) **IN GENERAL.**—To receive a grant under
22 this Act, an eligible entity shall submit an applica-
23 tion to the NTIA in such time and manner, and hav-
24 ing such content, as the NTIA may by rule require.

25 “(2) **MATCHING REQUIRED.**—An eligible entity
26 shall include in the application an assurance that the

1 entity will provide, from State, local, or tribal gov-
2 ernment sources, an amount equal to not less than
3 15 percent of the grant amount in order to carry out
4 the establishment of the information technology cen-
5 ter under the grant.

6 “(d) PRIORITY.—In making grants under this Act,
7 the NTIA shall—

8 “(1) give priority to eligible entities that—

9 “(A) promote information technology re-
10 search and development at any institution of
11 higher education (as such term is defined in
12 section 102 of the Higher Education Act of
13 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002)) serving a rural area;

14 “(B) are located in a county with an un-
15 employment rate, as determined on the basis
16 the most recent data available from the Bureau
17 of Labor Statistics, of at least 1.1 times the na-
18 tional unemployment rate for the period to
19 which such data relate;

20 “(C) are certified by the Small Business
21 Administration as qualified HUBZone small
22 businesses; or

23 “(D) work in conjunction with a local
24 Workforce Investment Board (established pur-

1 suant to section 117 of the Workforce Invest-
2 ment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 2832)); and

3 “(2) take into consideration—

4 “(A) the comprehensive nationwide inven-
5 tory map of existing broadband service capa-
6 bility and availability in the United States de-
7 veloped and maintained pursuant to section
8 6001(l) of division B of the American Recovery
9 and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (PL 111–5; 123
10 Stat. 516) or any other applicable data admin-
11 istered by a State, local, or tribal agency; and

12 “(B) the availability of service capabilities
13 in the area for which the eligible entity is apply-
14 ing for with reference to such map, and the
15 speed of Internet service, and other relevant
16 factors.

17 “(e) DETERMINATION OF AMOUNTS.—In deter-
18 mining the amount of each grant awarded for a fiscal year
19 under this section, the NTIA shall specify a minimum
20 amount and such amount may be renewed for up to one
21 year upon a finding by the NTIA that the grant recipient
22 has satisfied subsection (f).

23 “(f) AUDITS.—Each grant recipient under this sec-
24 tion shall undergo an audit administered by the NTIA.

1 The NTIA shall report findings of the audits to Congress
2 on an annual basis.

3 “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
4 is authorized to be appropriated \$10,000,000 for each of
5 fiscal years 2010 through 2012 to carry out this section.

6 “(h) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section—

7 “(1) the term ‘information technology’ means
8 the use of hardware, software, services, and sup-
9 porting infrastructure to manage and deliver infor-
10 mation using voice, data, and video by means of a
11 computer or data network or networks;

12 “(2) the term ‘information technology center’
13 means a for-profit or not-for-profit business venture
14 that offers information technology services including
15 application maintenance and support, application de-
16 velopment, help desk services, personal computer
17 maintenance and support, network management,
18 data center management, database management,
19 server management, or web hosting, and is designed
20 to expand high tech job opportunities in rural areas;
21 and

22 “(3) the term ‘rural area’ means the terms
23 ‘rural’ and ‘rural area’ mean any area other than—

24 “(A) a city or town that has a population
25 of greater than 50,000 inhabitants; and

1 “(B) the urbanized area contiguous and
2 adjacent to such a city or town.”.

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