

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 4752

To require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to establish an Innovation Voucher Grant Program.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 28, 2021

Mr. CROW (for himself and Mr. BURCHETT) introduced the following bill;  
which was referred to the Committee on Small Business

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## A BILL

To require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to establish an Innovation Voucher Grant Program.

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 “Small Business Inno-  
5 vation Voucher Act of 2021”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-  
9 trator” means the Administrator of the Small Busi-  
10 ness Administration.

1           (2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-  
2           ty” means—

3                   (A) an institution of higher education, as  
4                   defined in section 101 of the Higher Education  
5                   Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001); or

6                   (B) a nonprofit research lab, institution, or  
7                   other similar organization in the United States  
8                   associated with educational or research activi-  
9                   ties.

10           (3) PROGRAM.—The term “Program” means  
11           the Innovation Voucher Grant Program established  
12           under section 3.

13           (4) SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN; SMALL BUSI-  
14           NESS CONCERN OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY VET-  
15           ERANS; SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN OWNED AND  
16           CONTROLLED BY WOMEN.—The terms “small busi-  
17           ness concern”, “small business concern owned and  
18           controlled by veterans”, and “small business concern  
19           owned and controlled by women” have the meanings  
20           given those terms in section 3 of the Small Business  
21           Act (15 U.S.C. 632).

22           (5) SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN OWNED AND  
23           CONTROLLED BY SOCIALLY AND ECONOMICALLY DIS-  
24           ADVANTAGED INDIVIDUALS.—The term “small busi-  
25           ness concern owned and controlled by socially and

1 economically disadvantaged individuals” has the  
2 meaning given the term in section 8(d)(3)(C) of the  
3 Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(d)(3)(C)).

4 **SEC. 3. INNOVATION VOUCHER GRANT PROGRAM.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after  
6 the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall  
7 establish a program to be known as the “Innovation  
8 Voucher Grant Program” under which the Administrator  
9 shall, on a competitive basis and in accordance with sub-  
10 section (f), award to small business concerns grants for  
11 the Federal share of the cost of purchasing from eligible  
12 entities technical assistance and services necessary to  
13 carry out projects to advance research, development, or  
14 commercialization of new or innovative products and serv-  
15 ices.

16 (b) APPLICATION.—A small business concern desiring  
17 a grant under the Program shall submit to the Adminis-  
18 trator an application with the eligible entity from which  
19 the small business concern will purchase technical assist-  
20 ance and services using funds awarded under the grant.

21 (c) EVALUATION.—In evaluating an application for  
22 a grant under the Program, the Administrator shall take  
23 into consideration—

1           (1) the likelihood that funds awarded under the  
2           grant will be used to create or advance a novel prod-  
3           uct or service;

4           (2) the feasibility of creating or advancing a  
5           novel product or service proposed to be created or  
6           advanced using funds awarded under the grant; and

7           (3) whether creating or advancing a product or  
8           service proposed to be created or advanced using  
9           funds awarded under the grant could be accom-  
10          plished without a grant awarded under the Program.

11          (d) PRIORITY.—In making grants under the Pro-  
12          gram, the Administrator shall give priority to an applica-  
13          tion submitted by—

14               (1) a small business concern owned and con-  
15               trolled by socially and economically disadvantaged  
16               individuals;

17               (2) a small business concern owned and con-  
18               trolled by women;

19               (3) a small business concern owned and con-  
20               trolled by veterans;

21               (4) a small business concern that is located in  
22               a rural area; or

23               (5) a small business concern located in a region  
24               or State that has historically been underserved by  
25               Federal research and development funds.

1 (e) AMOUNT.—A grant made under the Program  
2 shall be made in an amount of not less than \$25,000 and  
3 not more than \$100,000.

4 (f) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost  
5 of purchasing technical assistance and services described  
6 in subsection (a) using funds awarded under a grant made  
7 under the Program shall be not more than 75 percent.

8 (g) REPORTS.—

9 (1) REPORTS FROM GRANT RECIPIENTS.—Not  
10 later than 180 days after the date on which a  
11 project carried out under a grant awarded under the  
12 Program is completed, the recipient of the grant  
13 shall submit to the Administrator a report on the  
14 project, including—

15 (A) whether and how the project met the  
16 original expectations for the project;

17 (B) how the results of the project were in-  
18 corporated in the business of the grant recipi-  
19 ent; and

20 (C) whether and how the project improved  
21 innovation practices of the grant recipient.

22 (2) REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR.—Not  
23 later than 3 years after the date on which the Ad-  
24 ministrator establishes the Program, and every 2  
25 years thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to

1 the Committee on Small Business and Entrepre-  
2 neurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small  
3 Business of the House of Representatives a report  
4 on grants awarded under the Program, including—

5 (A) a description of the grants awarded;

6 (B) the estimated number of products or  
7 services created or advanced under grants  
8 awarded under the Program that could have  
9 been created or advanced without grants award-  
10 ed under the Program; and

11 (C) a description of the impact of the Pro-  
12 gram on knowledge transfer and commercializa-  
13 tion.

14 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

15 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Admin-  
16 istrator to carry out the Program \$10,000,000 for each  
17 of fiscal years 2022 through 2026, to remain available  
18 until expended.

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