

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6349

To establish grant programs for small business development centers, women’s business centers, and chapters of the Service Corps of Retired Executives in response to COVID–19, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 23, 2020

Mr. GOLDEN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Small Business

A BILL

To establish grant programs for small business development centers, women’s business centers, and chapters of the Service Corps of Retired Executives in response to COVID–19, 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 “Continuity of Business
5 Operations Support Act of 2020”.

6 **SEC. 2. SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER GRANTS.**

7 (a) SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER
8 GRANTS.—The Administrator of the Small Business Ad-

1 ministration shall provide grants to small business devel-
2 opment centers for the purposes described in subsection
3 (b).

4 (b) USE OF FUNDS.—Grant funds under this section
5 shall be used to educate, train, and advise owners and em-
6 ployees of small business concerns on the following mat-
7 ters:

8 (1) The hazards of and prevention of the trans-
9 mission and communication of COVID–19 and simi-
10 lar communicable diseases.

11 (2) The potential effects to the supply chains,
12 distribution, and sale of products of the concern,
13 and the mitigation of such effects, during a period
14 of a public health emergency declared because of
15 COVID–19 or a similar communicable disease.

16 (3) The management and practice of telework
17 or remote customer service by electronic or other
18 means to reduce possible transmission of COVID–19
19 and other communicable diseases.

20 (4) The risks and mitigation of cyber threats in
21 remote customer service or telework practices.

22 (5) The mitigation of the effects of reduced
23 travel or outside activities during a period of a pub-
24 lic health emergency declared because of COVID–19
25 or a similar communicable disease.

1 (6) Business continuity plans during a period of
2 a public health emergency declared because of
3 COVID–19 or a similar communicable disease.

4 (7) Any other relevant business practices nec-
5 essary to mitigate any economic effects experienced
6 during a period of a public health emergency de-
7 clared because of COVID–19 or a similar commu-
8 nicable disease.

9 (c) FORMULA.—The Administrator and the associa-
10 tion authorized under section 21(a)(3)(A) of the Small
11 Business Act (15 U.S.C. 648(a)(3)(A)) shall jointly estab-
12 lish a formula under which grants under this section shall
13 be awarded.

14 (d) METRICS AND GOALS.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator and the
16 association described in subsection (c) shall jointly
17 establish goals and metrics for the use of funds
18 made available under this section. Such goals and
19 metrics shall—

20 (A) consider the extent of the cir-
21 cumstances relating to the spread of COVID–
22 19 or a similar communicable disease that af-
23 fect small business concerns served by each
24 grant recipient, particularly rural areas or eco-
25 nomically distressed areas;

1 (B) ensure grant recipients comply with
2 the requirements of subsection (b) while also
3 ensuring that grant recipients may have flexi-
4 bility in responding to unique situations; and

5 (C) encourage grant recipients to develop
6 and provide services to small business concerns
7 that are located in areas substantially affected
8 by COVID–19.

9 (2) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Administrator
10 shall make publicly available the methodology by
11 which the Administrator and the association jointly
12 developed the metrics and goals described in para-
13 graph (1).

14 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
15 authorized to be appropriated \$75,000,000, to remain
16 available until expended, to the Administrator to carry out
17 this section.

18 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTER**
19 **AND SERVICE CORPS OF RETIRED EXECU-**
20 **TIVES GRANTS.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Small
22 Business Administration shall provide grants to women's
23 business centers and to chapters of the Service Corps of
24 Retired Executives for the purposes described in sub-
25 section (b).

1 (b) USE OF FUNDS.—Grant funds under this section
2 shall be used to educate, train, and advise owners and em-
3 ployees of small business concerns on the following mat-
4 ters:

5 (1) The hazards of and prevention of the trans-
6 mission and communication of COVID–19 and simi-
7 lar communicable diseases.

8 (2) The potential effects to the supply chains,
9 distribution, and sale of products of the concern,
10 and the mitigation of such effects, during a period
11 of a public health emergency declared because of
12 COVID–19 or a similar communicable disease.

13 (3) The management and practice of telework
14 or remote customer service by electronic or other
15 means to reduce possible transmission of COVID–19
16 and other communicable diseases.

17 (4) The risks and mitigation of cyber threats in
18 remote customer service or telework practices.

19 (5) The mitigation of the effects of reduced
20 travel or outside activities during a period of a pub-
21 lic health emergency declared because of COVID–19
22 or a similar communicable disease.

23 (6) Business continuity plans during a period of
24 a public health emergency declared because of
25 COVID–19 or a similar communicable disease.

1 (7) Any other relevant business practices nec-
2 essary to mitigate any economic effects experienced
3 during a period of a public health emergency de-
4 clared because of COVID–19 or a similar commu-
5 nicable disease.

6 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
7 authorized to be appropriated \$25,000,000, to remain
8 available until expended, to the Administrator to carry out
9 this section.

10 **SEC. 4. REPORT.**

11 Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment
12 of this Act, and annually thereafter until the amounts au-
13 thorized in section 2(c) and section 1(e) have been ex-
14 pended, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee
15 on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate
16 and the Committee on Small Business of the House of
17 Representatives a report that—

18 (1) describes, with respect to the initial year
19 covered by the report, the programs and services de-
20 veloped and provided by the Administrator, small
21 business development centers, women’s business cen-
22 ters, and chapters of the Service Corps of Retired
23 Executives in response to a public health emergency
24 declared because of COVID–19; and

1 (2) describes, with respect to the subsequent
2 years covered by the report—

3 (A) the efforts of the Administrator, small
4 business development centers, women’s business
5 centers, and chapters of the Service Corps of
6 Retired Executives to develop services to assist
7 small business concerns affected by COVID–19;

8 (B) the challenges faced by owners of
9 small business concerns in accessing services
10 provided by the Administrator, small business
11 development centers, women’s business centers,
12 and chapters of the Service Corps of Retired
13 Executives in response to a public health emer-
14 gency declared because of COVID–19;

15 (C) the number of unique small business
16 concerns that were served by the Administrator,
17 small business development centers, women’s
18 business centers, and chapters of the Service
19 Corps of Retired Executives under the pro-
20 grams established by this Act; and

21 (D) other relevant performance data with
22 respect to small business concerns affected by
23 COVID–19, including the number of employees
24 affected, the effect on sales of the concern, any
25 disruptions of supply chains, and the efforts

1 made by the Administrator, small business de-
2 velopment centers, women’s business centers,
3 and chapters of the Service Corps of Retired
4 Executives (as applicable) to mitigate these ef-
5 fects.

6 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

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

11 (2) **SERVICE CORPS OF RETIRED EXECU-**
12 **TIVES.**—The term “Service Corps of Retired Execu-
13 tives” means the Service Corps of Retired Execu-
14 tives established under section 8(b)(1)(B) of the
15 Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(b)(1)(B)).

16 (3) **SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN.**—The term
17 “small business concern” has the meaning given
18 under section 3 of the Small Business Act (15
19 U.S.C. 632).

20 (4) **SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CEN-**
21 **TER.**—The term “small business development cen-
22 ter” has the meaning given in section 3 of the Small
23 Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632).

24 (5) **WOMEN’S BUSINESS CENTER.**—The term
25 “women’s business center” means a women’s busi-

1 ness center as described under section 29 of the
2 Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656).

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