

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4006

To reauthorize programs of the Economic Development Administration, and
for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 20, 2024

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mr. KELLY) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and
Public Works

A BILL

To reauthorize programs of the Economic Development
Administration, 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 “Increasing our Na-
5 tion’s Value through Economic Support and Tourism in
6 Our Communities Act” or the “INVEST in Our Commu-
7 nities Act”.

8 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

9 Section 3 of the Public Works and Economic Devel-
10 opment Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3122) is amended—

1 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (8) through
2 (12) as paragraphs (10), (11), (12), (14), and (15),
3 respectively;

4 (2) by inserting after paragraph (7) the fol-
5 lowing:

6 “(8) OUTDOOR RECREATION.—The term ‘out-
7 door recreation’ means all recreational activities, and
8 the economic drivers of those activities, that occur in
9 nature-based environments outdoors.

10 “(9) PROJECT PREDEVELOPMENT.—The term
11 ‘project predevelopment’ means a measure required
12 to be completed before the initiation of a project, in-
13 cluding—

14 “(A) planning and community asset map-
15 ping;

16 “(B) training;

17 “(C) technical assistance and organiza-
18 tional development;

19 “(D) feasibility and market studies;

20 “(E) demonstration projects; and

21 “(F) other predevelopment activities deter-
22 mined by the Secretary to be appropriate.”; and

23 (3) by inserting after paragraph (12) (as so re-
24 designated) the following:

1 “(13) TRAVEL AND TOURISM.—The term ‘trav-
 2 el and tourism’ means any economic activity that
 3 primarily serves to encourage recreational or busi-
 4 ness travel within the United States or from
 5 abroad.”.

6 **SEC. 3. INCREASE IN FEDERAL SHARE.**

7 Section 204 of the Public Works and Economic De-
 8 velopment Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3144) is amended—

9 (1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “50” and
 10 inserting “60”; and

11 (2) in subsection (c)—

12 (A) by striking paragraph (2) and insert-
 13 ing the following:

14 “(2) CERTAIN STATES, POLITICAL SUBDIVI-
 15 SIONS, AND NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS.—In the
 16 case of a grant to a State, or a political subdivision
 17 of a State, that the Secretary determines has ex-
 18 hausted the effective taxing and borrowing capacity
 19 of the State or political subdivision or can otherwise
 20 document that no local matching funds are reason-
 21 ably obtainable, or in the case of a grant to a non-
 22 profit organization that the Secretary determines
 23 has exhausted the effective borrowing capacity of the
 24 nonprofit organization, the Secretary may increase
 25 the Federal share above the percentage specified in

1 subsection (a) up to 100 percent of the cost of the
2 project.”; and

3 (B) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(4) SMALL COMMUNITIES.—In the case of a
5 grant to a political subdivision of a State (as de-
6 scribed in section 3(4)(A)(iv)) that has a population
7 of fewer than 10,000 residents, the Secretary may
8 increase the Federal share above the percentage
9 specified in subsection (a) up to 100 percent of the
10 total cost of the project.

11 “(5) COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY DISAS-
12 TERS.—In the case of a grant under section
13 209(c)(2), the Federal share of the cost of a project
14 carried out with the grant shall be 100 percent.”.

15 **SEC. 4. GRANTS FOR PLANNING AND GRANTS FOR ADMIN-**
16 **ISTRATIVE EXPENSES.**

17 Section 203 of the Public Works and Economic De-
18 velopment Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3143) is amended by
19 adding at the end the following:

20 “(e) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Administrative
21 expenses described in subsection (a) shall include—

22 “(1) expenses related to carrying out the plan-
23 ning process described in subsection (b);

24 “(2) expenses related to project
25 predevelopment; and

1 “(3) expenses related to hiring professional
2 staff to assist communities in—

3 “(A) project predevelopment and the im-
4 plementation of projects and priorities included
5 in—

6 “(i) a comprehensive economic devel-
7 opment strategy; or

8 “(ii) an economic development plan-
9 ning grant;

10 “(B) identifying and using other Federal,
11 State, and Tribal economic development pro-
12 grams;

13 “(C) leveraging private and philanthropic
14 investment;

15 “(D) preparing disaster coordination and
16 preparation plans; and

17 “(E) carrying out economic development
18 activities in accordance with professional eco-
19 nomic development best practices.”.

20 **SEC. 5. TOURISM, OUTDOOR RECREATION, AND SUPPORT.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 201 of the Public Works
22 and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3141)
23 is amended—

24 (1) by redesignating subsection (c) as sub-
25 section (d); and

1 (2) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-
2 lowing:

3 “(c) **ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS.**—In providing
4 grants under subsection (a) and subject to the criteria in
5 subsection (b), the Secretary may also consider the extent
6 to which a project would—

7 “(1) benefit highly rural communities without
8 adequate tax revenues to invest in long-term or cost-
9 ly infrastructure;

10 “(2) increase access to high-speed broadband;

11 “(3) support outdoor recreation to spur eco-
12 nomic development, with a focus on rural commu-
13 nities;

14 “(4) promote job creation or retention relative
15 to the population of the impacted region with out-
16 sized significance; or

17 “(5) promote travel and tourism.”.

18 (b) **ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT.**—Section 209(c)(5) of
19 the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965
20 (42 U.S.C. 3149(c)(5)) is amended by inserting “, travel
21 and tourism, or natural resource-based” after “manufac-
22 turing”.

23 **SEC. 6. TOURISM MARKETING.**

24 Section 2(b) of the Public Works and Economic De-
25 velopment Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3121(b)) is amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (3), by striking “and” at the
2 end;

3 (2) in paragraph (4), by striking the period at
4 the end and inserting “; and”; and

5 (3) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(5) tourism marketing is an economic develop-
7 ment tool used by communities for economic devel-
8 opment and should be considered an eligible use of
9 economic development funding awarded by the Fed-
10 eral Government through the Economic Development
11 Administration.”.

12 **SEC. 7. ECONOMIC DISTRESS FORMULA.**

13 Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment
14 of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce shall review the
15 economic distress formula under section 301 of the Public
16 Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42
17 U.S.C. 3161) and submit to Congress a report that in-
18 cludes—

19 (1) recommendations for modifications to the
20 formula to ensure that all areas, including distressed
21 areas, are eligible to receive a higher percentage of
22 Federal funding than those areas currently are eligi-
23 ble to receive;

1 (2) a recommendation on whether to reduce the
2 non-Federal share for projects carried out with
3 grants under that Act (42 U.S.C. 3121 et seq.); and

4 (3) an analysis of the financial limitations of el-
5 igible recipients located within counties with a ma-
6 jority of acreage under Federal management in ac-
7 cessing Economic Development Administration fund-
8 ing opportunities.

9 **SEC. 8. OFFICE OF TRIBAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title V of the Public Works and
11 Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3191 et
12 seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

13 **“SEC. 508. OFFICE OF TRIBAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.**

14 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within
15 the Economic Development Administration an Office of
16 Tribal Economic Development (referred to in this section
17 as the ‘Office’).

18 “(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the Office shall
19 be—

20 “(1) to coordinate all Tribal economic develop-
21 ment activities carried out by the Secretary;

22 “(2) to help Tribal communities access eco-
23 nomic development assistance programs, including
24 the assistance provided under this Act;

1 “(3) to coordinate Tribal economic development
2 strategies and efforts with other Federal agencies;
3 and

4 “(4) to be a participant in any negotiated
5 rulemakings or consultations relating to, or having
6 an impact on, projects, programs, or funding that
7 benefit Tribal communities.

8 “(c) TRIBAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRAT-
9 EGY.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
11 the date of enactment of the INVEST in Our Com-
12 munities Act, the Office shall initiate a Tribal con-
13 sultation process to develop, and not less frequently
14 than every 3 years thereafter, update, a strategic
15 plan for Tribal economic development for the Eco-
16 nomic Development Administration.

17 “(2) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later
18 than 1 year after the date of enactment of the IN-
19 VEST in Our Communities Act and not less fre-
20 quently than every 3 years thereafter, the Office
21 shall submit to Congress the strategic plan for Trib-
22 al economic development developed under paragraph
23 (1).

24 “(d) OUTREACH.—The Secretary shall establish a
25 publicly facing website to help provide a comprehensive,

1 single source of information for Indian tribes, Tribal lead-
 2 ers, Tribal businesses, and citizens in Tribal communities
 3 to better understand and access programs that support
 4 economic development in Tribal communities, including
 5 the economic development programs administered by Fed-
 6 eral agencies or departments other than the Department.

7 “(e) DEDICATED STAFF.—The Secretary shall en-
 8 sure that the Office has sufficient staff to carry out all
 9 outreach activities under this section.”.

10 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
 11 contained in section 1(b) of the Public Works and Eco-
 12 nomic Development Act of 1965 (79 Stat. 552; 112 Stat.
 13 3597) is amended by inserting after the item relating to
 14 section 507 the following:

“Sec. 508. Office of Tribal Economic Development.”.

15 **SEC. 9. ESTABLISHMENT OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE LIAI-**
 16 **SONS.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title V of the Public Works and
 18 Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3191 et
 19 seq.) (as amended by section 8(a)) is amended by adding
 20 at the end the following:

21 **“SEC. 509. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE LIAISONS.**

22 “(a) IN GENERAL.—A Regional Director of a re-
 23 gional office of the Economic Development Administration
 24 may designate a staff member to act as a ‘Technical As-

1 sistance Liaison' for any State served by the regional of-
2 fice.

3 “(b) ROLE.—A Technical Assistance Liaison shall—

4 “(1) work in coordination with an Economic
5 Development Representative to provide technical as-
6 sistance, in addition to technical assistance under
7 section 207, to eligible recipients that are
8 underresourced communities, as determined by the
9 Technical Assistance Liaison, that submit applica-
10 tions for assistance under title II; and

11 “(2) at the request of an eligible recipient that
12 submitted an application for assistance under title
13 II, provide technical feedback on unsuccessful grant
14 applications.

15 “(c) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may
16 enter into a contract or cooperative agreement with an eli-
17 gible recipient for the purpose of providing technical as-
18 sistance to eligible recipients that are underresourced com-
19 munities that have submitted or may submit an applica-
20 tion for assistance under this Act.”.

21 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
22 contained in section 1(b) of the Public Works and Eco-
23 nomic Development Act of 1965 (79 Stat. 552; 112 Stat.
24 3597) (as amended by section 8(b)) is amended by insert-
25 ing after the item relating to section 508 the following:

“Sec. 509. Technical assistance liaisons.”.

1 **SEC. 10. FLEXIBLE HIRING AND DISASTER AUTHORITIES.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title V of the Public Works and
 3 Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3191 et
 4 seq.) (as amended by section 9(a)) is amended by adding
 5 at the end the following:

6 **“SEC. 510. FLEXIBLE HIRING AND DISASTER AUTHORITIES.**

7 “(a) APPOINTMENT AND COMPENSATION AUTHORI-
 8 TIES.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may appoint
 10 and fix the compensation of such temporary per-
 11 sonnel as may be necessary to carry out this Act and
 12 to implement post-disaster economic recovery re-
 13 sponsibilities, without regard to the provisions of
 14 subchapter I of chapter 33 of title 5, United States
 15 Code, governing appointments in competitive service
 16 and compensation of personnel.

17 “(2) APPOINTMENT TO POSITION WITHIN
 18 EDA.—Notwithstanding chapter 33 of title 5, United
 19 States Code, or any other provision of law relating
 20 to the examination, certification, and appointment of
 21 individuals in the competitive service, the Secretary
 22 may convert a temporary employee appointed under
 23 paragraph (1) to a permanent appointment in the
 24 competitive service in the Economic Development
 25 Administration under merit promotion procedures
 26 if—

1 “(A) the employee has served continuously
2 in that appointment for not less than 2 years;
3 and

4 “(B) the performance of the employee has
5 been at an acceptable level of performance
6 throughout the period or periods referred to in
7 subparagraph (A).

8 “(b) DISASTER TEAM.—

9 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—As soon as practicable
10 after the date of enactment of the INVEST in Our
11 Communities Act, the Secretary shall establish a dis-
12 aster team for the deployment of individuals to carry
13 out post-disaster economic recovery efforts after a
14 major disaster or emergency has been declared
15 under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and
16 Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.)
17 and an agency has been activated by the Federal
18 Emergency Management Agency.

19 “(2) MEMBERSHIP.—

20 “(A) DESIGNATION OF STAFF.—As soon
21 as practicable after the date of enactment of
22 the INVEST in Our Communities Act, the Sec-
23 retary shall designate to serve on the disaster
24 team, in conjunction with staff of the Depart-
25 ment—

1 “(i) employees of the Department who
2 are not employees of the agency; and

3 “(ii) in consultation with the heads of
4 other Federal agencies, employees of those
5 agencies, as appropriate.

6 “(B) CAPABILITIES.—In designating indi-
7 viduals under subparagraph (A), the Secretary
8 shall ensure that the disaster team includes a
9 sufficient number of—

10 “(i) individuals who are capable of de-
11 ploying rapidly and efficiently to respond
12 to major disasters and emergencies; and

13 “(ii) in conjunction with permanent
14 agency staff, highly trained individuals em-
15 ployed full-time to lead and manage the
16 disaster team.

17 “(3) TRAINING.—The Secretary shall ensure
18 that appropriate and ongoing training is provided to
19 members of the disaster team designed under para-
20 graph (2) to ensure that the members are ade-
21 quately trained with respect to the programs and
22 policies of the agency relating to post-disaster eco-
23 nomic recovery efforts.

24 “(4) EXPENSES.—In carrying out this sub-
25 section, the Secretary may—

1 “(A) use, with or without reimbursement,
2 any service, equipment, personnel, or facility of
3 any Federal agency with the explicit support of
4 that agency, to the extent such use does not im-
5 pair or conflict with the authority of the Presi-
6 dent or the Administrator of the Federal Emer-
7 gency Management Agency under the Robert T.
8 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assist-
9 ance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) to direct
10 Federal agencies in any major disaster or emer-
11 gency declared under that Act; and

12 “(B) provide members of the disaster team
13 with travel expenses, including per diem in lieu
14 of subsistence, at rates authorized for employ-
15 ees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter
16 57 of title 5, United States Code, relating to
17 service as a member of the disaster team.”.

18 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
19 contained in section 1(b) of the Public Works and Eco-
20 nomic Development Act of 1965 (79 Stat. 552; 112 Stat.
21 3597) (as amended by section 9(b)) is amended by insert-
22 ing after the item relating to section 509 the following:

 “Sec. 510. Flexible hiring and disaster authorities.”.

23 **SEC. 11. INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT.**

24 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) COVERED AGENCY.—The term “covered
2 agency” means—

3 (A) the Economic Development Adminis-
4 tration; and

5 (B) the Department of Agriculture, with
6 respect to the rural development mission area.

7 (2) COVERED PROGRAM.—The term “covered
8 program” means a program administered by a cov-
9 ered agency that provides funding and technical as-
10 sistance for rural economic development.

11 (b) INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT.—Not later than 180
12 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the heads
13 of the covered agencies shall enter into an interagency
14 agreement requiring coordination between the covered
15 agencies with respect to covered programs.

16 (c) REQUIREMENTS.—The interagency agreement en-
17 tered into under subsection (b) shall require that the cov-
18 ered agencies—

19 (1) share information about existing or planned
20 projects that have received or will receive funds for
21 new rural economic development under a covered
22 program;

23 (2) coordinate at all levels to support commu-
24 nities in broadening awareness of, and access to,
25 covered programs and obtaining additional Federal

1 funding opportunities to help address the needs of
2 local or regional economies;

3 (3) align the collaborative efforts of the covered
4 agencies based on current priorities and determine
5 the extent to which any additional agencies should
6 be included in the interagency agreement entered
7 into under subsection (b);

8 (4) on request from another Federal agency
9 with authority to award or authorize funds for rural
10 economic development, provide to that agency any
11 information the covered agencies possess relating
12 to—

13 (A) each entity that has received or will re-
14 ceive funds under the covered program; and

15 (B) the geographic scope of rural economic
16 development in the area in which the project is
17 carried out;

18 (5) monitor progress toward achieving outcomes
19 of the covered agencies relating to rural economic
20 development;

21 (6) coordinate with the Council on Rural Com-
22 munity Innovation and Economic Development es-
23 tablished by section 6306(b)(1) of the Agriculture
24 Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 2204b–3(b)(1))
25 and the Rural Broadband Integration Working

1 Group established by section 6214(a)(1) of that Act
2 (Public Law 115–334; 132 Stat. 4746) to assist
3 communities in addressing and resolving Federal
4 barriers to administering, fulfilling, or expanding
5 economic development goals associated with invest-
6 ments from the covered agencies;

7 (7) establish, maintain, and update not less fre-
8 quently than once every 2 years, an effective re-
9 source guide to boosting economic development in
10 rural communities, which shall include information
11 on, and Internet links to, the key priorities and re-
12 sources of the covered agencies and outline programs
13 and services that can be used to advance community
14 and economic development in rural communities
15 through 4 key focus areas, including—

16 (A) planning and technical assistance;

17 (B) infrastructure and broadband expan-
18 sion;

19 (C) entrepreneurship and business assist-
20 ance; and

21 (D) workforce development and livability;

22 and

23 (8) expand, in writing, the joint efforts of the
24 covered agencies with respect to rural economic de-

1 velopment with the Department of Housing and
2 Urban Development, as appropriate.

3 (d) PERIODIC UPDATES.—The covered agencies shall
4 periodically update the interagency agreement entered into
5 under subsection (b).

6 (e) PUBLIC COMMENT; ASSESSMENT AND REPORT.—

7 (1) PUBLIC COMMENT.—Not later than 1 year
8 after the date on which the covered agencies enter
9 into the interagency agreement under subsection (b),
10 the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of Ag-
11 riculture shall jointly seek public comment on—

12 (A) the effectiveness of the interagency
13 agreement in facilitating efficient use of funds
14 for rural economic development;

15 (B) the availability of Tribal, State, and
16 local data relating to rural economic develop-
17 ment and the inclusion of those data in inter-
18 agency coordination; and

19 (C) modifications to the interagency agree-
20 ment that would improve the efficacy of inter-
21 agency coordination.

22 (2) ASSESSMENT; REPORT.—Not later than 18
23 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the
24 Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of Agri-
25 culture shall jointly—

1 (A) review and assess the comments re-
 2 ceived under paragraph (1); and

3 (B) submit to the Committees on Environ-
 4 ment and Public Works and Agriculture, Nutri-
 5 tion, and Forestry of the Senate and the Com-
 6 mittees on Transportation and Infrastructure
 7 and Agriculture of the House of Representa-
 8 tives a report detailing any findings and rec-
 9 ommendations from the assessment under sub-
 10 paragraph (A).

11 **SEC. 12. HOSPITALITY AND OUTDOOR-RECREATION SUP-**
 12 **PORTING TOURISM (HOST) GRANTS.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title II of the Public Works and
 14 Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3141 et
 15 seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

16 **“SEC. 219. HOSPITALITY AND OUTDOOR-RECREATION SUP-**
 17 **PORTING TOURISM (HOST) GRANTS.**

18 “(a) DEFINITION OF TOURISM, HOSPITALITY, OR
 19 SPECIAL EVENT ACTIVITY.—In this section, the term
 20 ‘tourism, hospitality, or special event activity’ means any
 21 economic activity that primarily serves to encourage rec-
 22 reational or business travel within the United States or
 23 from abroad, including tourist attractions, business and
 24 recreational conventions, large entertainment events and

1 venues, and promotion or organization of any such activ-
2 ity.

3 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall estab-
4 lish a program to provide grants to eligible recipients to
5 support outdoor recreation, travel, and tourism, hospi-
6 tality, or special event activities to spur economic develop-
7 ment.

8 “(c) GOALS.—A project carried out with a grant
9 under this section shall be carried out for the goal of—

10 “(1) in the case of an infrastructure project—

11 “(A) leading to long-term increases in
12 tourist activity in a region, including in commu-
13 nities adjacent to National Park System units,
14 National Forest System land, State parks, na-
15 tional marine sanctuaries, National Heritage
16 Areas, Tribal parks, or other natural destina-
17 tions;

18 “(B) using nature-based infrastructure
19 projects and other projects intended to enhance
20 public access to outdoor recreation opportuni-
21 ties; and

22 “(C) enhancing the visitor experience or
23 economic value of the local tourism, hospitality,
24 or special event industries; or

1 “(2) in the case of other projects as determined
2 appropriate by the Secretary, supporting the outdoor
3 recreation, travel, tourism, hospitality, or special
4 event industries, in a manner consistent with the
5 National Travel and Tourism Strategy or as rec-
6 ommended by the United States Travel and Tourism
7 Advisory Board, if any.

8 “(d) ELIGIBLE USES.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A grant under this section
10 may be used—

11 “(A) for short-term and long-term eco-
12 nomic development planning and coordination
13 of local or regional outdoor recreation, travel,
14 tourism, hospitality, and special event indus-
15 tries;

16 “(B) to carry out technical assistance
17 projects to assist local or regional economies
18 in—

19 “(i) the recovery from, and response
20 to, damage to the outdoor recreation, trav-
21 el, tourism, hospitality, and special event
22 industries as a result of a natural disaster
23 or public health emergency; and

1 “(ii) future development of the out-
2 door recreation, travel, tourism, hospi-
3 tality, or special event industries;

4 “(C) to pay costs associated with obtaining
5 State, Tribal, county, city, community, or re-
6 gional tourism, hospitality, or special event ac-
7 tivity marketing and promotion campaigns, in-
8 cluding through nonprofit or quasigovernmental
9 Destination Marketing Organizations (DMOs);

10 “(D) to carry out construction activities
11 that support local or regional outdoor recre-
12 ation, travel, tourism, hospitality, or special
13 events, including activities involving—

14 “(i) construction of new, or improve-
15 ments to existing, outdoor recreation and
16 trail infrastructure, including public access
17 and safety enhancements to that infra-
18 structure;

19 “(ii) nature-based infrastructure
20 projects to improve access to outdoor
21 recreation;

22 “(iii) improvement of cultural, arts,
23 convention, special event, outdoor recre-
24 ation, and tourism facilities, such as visitor

1 or tourist information centers, including
2 through—

3 “(I) general accessibility up-
4 grades, such as increasing disability
5 access;

6 “(II) improving ventilation, heat-
7 ing, and cooling systems;

8 “(III) increasing energy effi-
9 ciency; and

10 “(IV) incorporating additional re-
11 newable energy generation associated
12 with that infrastructure, including
13 zero-emission vehicle fleets and charg-
14 ing infrastructure;

15 “(iv) construction of workforce train-
16 ing facilities in order to carry out capacity
17 building programs;

18 “(v) water or wastewater and
19 stormwater improvements;

20 “(vi) pier construction and improve-
21 ments; and

22 “(vii) accessibility enhancements;

23 “(E) to pay costs associated with upgrades
24 and retrofits, including filtration and sanitation
25 and physical modifications to existing local or

1 regional outdoor recreation, travel, tourism,
2 hospitality, or special event infrastructure, such
3 as convention centers, large event spaces, camp-
4 sites, or associated community attractions, with
5 precautions to provide for safe worker, traveler,
6 or event environments to increase travel and
7 tourism activities or to make the infrastructure
8 more functional as a result of a natural disaster
9 or a public health emergency;

10 “(F) to establish programs to provide as-
11 sistance to businesses in local or regional out-
12 door recreation, travel, tourism, hospitality, or
13 special events industries—

14 “(i) for development;

15 “(ii) to recover from the impacts of a
16 major disaster or emergency declared
17 under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Re-
18 lief and Emergency Assistance Act (42
19 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) or a public health
20 emergency declared under section 319 of
21 the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.
22 247d); or

23 “(iii) for expansion of programs;

24 “(G) to carry out workforce training, re-
25 cruitment, and research programs that support

1 the outdoor recreation, travel, tourism, hospi-
2 tality, or special event industries to improve the
3 skills of, and job opportunities for, workers in
4 those industries, including through a program
5 registered under the Act of August 16, 1937
6 (commonly known as the ‘National Apprentice-
7 ship Act’; 29 U.S.C. 50 et seq.), and other work
8 and learn models;

9 “(H) to pay costs associated with pro-
10 viding information to visitors about the health
11 and safety protections, guidance, or require-
12 ments of Federal, State, Tribal, or local govern-
13 ments and businesses in the wake of a natural
14 disaster or a public health emergency; and

15 “(I) as applicable, and a result of a nat-
16 ural disaster or a public health emergency to
17 pay the costs of salaries and expenses associ-
18 ated with the operations of the eligible recipi-
19 ent, other than salaries and expenses of the ex-
20 ecutives of the eligible recipient, if the appli-
21 cant—

22 “(i) demonstrates the capacity to
23 maintain the positions for which the funds
24 are used; or

1 “(ii) demonstrates that the positions
2 for which the funds are used are tem-
3 porary or seasonal.

4 “(2) EXAMPLES.—Examples of activities that
5 comply with the eligible uses described in subpara-
6 graphs (A) through (I) of paragraph (1) include ac-
7 tivities that involve—

8 “(A) media and marketing;

9 “(B) installing or constructing visitor ki-
10 osks;

11 “(C) installing interpretive signage;

12 “(D) building improvements; and

13 “(E) support or technical assistance for
14 small businesses, including activities that bring
15 public awareness to those small businesses.

16 “(3) PROHIBITION.—Amounts provided under
17 this section may not be used—

18 “(A) for recruitment efforts to bring in or
19 host particular events, such as sporting com-
20 petitions or other activities; or

21 “(B) to invest in facilities, events, or oper-
22 ations that are not open or broadly available to
23 the general public.

24 “(e) COORDINATION WITH BIA.—In carrying out
25 this section, the Secretary shall coordinate with, as appro-

1 p r i a t e , t h e T r i b a l T o u r i s m G r a n t P r o g r a m o f t h e O f f i c e
2 o f I n d i a n E c o n o m i c D e v e l o p m e n t o f t h e B u r e a u o f I n d i a n
3 A f f a i r s t o s u p p o r t T r i b a l c o m m u n i t i e s w h e n f u n d i n g p r o -
4 v i d e d u n d e r t h a t g r a n t p r o g r a m i s h e l p f u l i n d e v e l o p i n g
5 o r e x p a n d i n g t h e o u t d o o r r e c r e a t i o n , t r a v e l , t o u r i s m , h o s -
6 p i t a l i t y , a n d s p e c i a l e v e n t e c o n o m i e s o f t h o s e T r i b a l c o m -
7 m u n i t i e s .

8 “(f) PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall give priority to
9 eligible recipients that seek to carry out an activity that—

10 “(1) is based on long-term, regionally oriented,
11 coordinated, and collaborative economic development
12 or redevelopment strategies that foster economic
13 growth and resilience;

14 “(2) will promote workforce development; or

15 “(3) will involve a minority-owned, rural, Native
16 American, or otherwise underserved small business
17 concern.

18 “(g) CONSIDERATION RELATING TO INDIAN TRIBES,
19 TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN ORGA-
20 NIZATIONS.—In providing a grant under this section to
21 an eligible recipient that is an Indian tribe, a tribal organi-
22 zation (as defined in section 3 of the NATIVE Act (25
23 U.S.C. 4352)), or a Native Hawaiian organization (as de-
24 fined in that section), the Secretary—

1 “(1) may consider whether the Indian tribe,
2 tribal organization (as so defined), or Native Hawai-
3 ian organization (as so defined), as applicable, has
4 matching funds from other sources to carry out an
5 activity; and

6 “(2) shall not require the Indian tribe, tribal
7 organization (as so defined), or Native Hawaiian or-
8 ganization (as so defined), as applicable, to provide
9 matching funds from other sources to receive a
10 grant under this section.

11 “(h) REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In providing grants under
13 this section, the Secretary shall distribute the funds
14 to eligible recipients in each region served by the
15 Economic Development Administration in accord-
16 ance with the distribution parameters described in
17 paragraph (2)(A).

18 “(2) DISTRIBUTION OF AWARDS.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The distribution pa-
20 rameters referred to in paragraph (1) shall in-
21 clude consideration of each of the following:

22 “(i) Using the most recent data from
23 the Quarterly Census of Employment and
24 Wages and the Current Employment Sta-
25 tistics, employment in the leisure and hos-

1 pitality sectors (other than food service
2 businesses) as a percentage of total em-
3 ployment in States in the region, using a
4 5-year average.

5 “(ii) Using the most recent data from
6 the Arts and Cultural Production and Out-
7 door Recreation Satellite Account, employ-
8 ment in arts and cultural production and
9 outdoor recreation as a percentage of total
10 employment in States in the region, using
11 a 5-year average.

12 “(iii) The number of international and
13 domestic visitors in States in the region,
14 using data from the Department or an-
15 other source as the Secretary determines
16 to be appropriate.

17 “(iv) The impacts of natural or eco-
18 nomic disasters, or public health emer-
19 gencies, on the outdoor recreation, travel,
20 tourism, hospitality, or special event indus-
21 tries in States in the region.

22 “(v) Any other data that the Sec-
23 retary determines reliably measures the
24 impact of outdoor recreation, travel, tour-

1 ism, hospitality, or special events to the
2 economy of a State.

3 “(B) OUT OF DATE, DISCONTINUED, OR
4 INACCURATE DATA SOURCES.—If the Secretary
5 determines that a data source described in
6 clause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (A) is out of
7 date, discontinued, or otherwise inaccurate, the
8 Secretary may substitute other data sources to
9 obtain the employment statistics described in
10 those clauses, subject to the condition that the
11 Secretary provides to Congress a report describ-
12 ing the new data source used by the Secretary.

13 “(i) OUTDOOR RECREATION SET-ASIDE.—Of the
14 amounts made available for each fiscal year to carry out
15 this section, the Secretary shall ensure that not less than
16 40 percent is used to provide assistance to eligible recipi-
17 ents for activities that benefit the local outdoor recreation
18 sector.

19 “(j) RURAL SET-ASIDE.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Of the amounts made
21 available for each fiscal year to carry out this sec-
22 tion, the Secretary shall ensure that not less than 20
23 percent is used to provide assistance to eligible re-
24 cipients located in, or that serve, a rural area (as de-
25 fined in section 343(a) of the Consolidated Farm

1 and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a))),
2 with a particular focus on rural areas that are lo-
3 cated in distressed or underserved communities.

4 “(2) WAIVER.—If there are not sufficient quali-
5 fied eligible recipients located in, or that serve, a
6 rural area (as so defined), to carry out paragraph
7 (1), the Secretary may waive the requirement under
8 that paragraph.

9 “(k) NATIVE AMERICAN SET-ASIDE.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Of the amounts made
11 available for each fiscal year to carry out this sec-
12 tion, the Secretary shall ensure that not less than 5
13 percent is used to provide assistance to eligible re-
14 cipients that are Indian tribes, tribal organizations
15 (as defined in section 3 of the NATIVE Act (25
16 U.S.C. 4352)), and Native Hawaiian organizations
17 (as defined in that section).

18 “(2) WAIVER.—If there are not sufficient quali-
19 fied eligible recipients that are Indian tribes, tribal
20 organizations (as so defined), or Native Hawaiian
21 organizations (as so defined) to carry out paragraph
22 (1), the Secretary may waive the requirement under
23 that paragraph.”.

24 (b) FEDERAL SHARE.—Section 204(c) of the Public
25 Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42

1 U.S.C. 3144(c)) (as amended by section 3(2)(B)) is
2 amended—

3 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “In the case”
4 and inserting “Except as provided in paragraph (6),
5 in the case”; and

6 (2) by adding at the end the following:

7 “(6) HOST GRANT TO INDIAN TRIBES, TRIBAL
8 ORGANIZATIONS, OR NATIVE HAWAIIAN ORGANIZA-
9 TIONS.—In the case of a grant to an Indian tribe,
10 a tribal organization (as defined in section 3 of the
11 NATIVE Act (25 U.S.C. 4352)), or a Native Ha-
12 waiian organization (as defined in that section) for
13 a project under section 219, the Federal share of the
14 cost of the project shall be 100 percent.”.

15 (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
16 contained in section 1(b) of the Public Works and Eco-
17 nomic Development Act of 1965 (79 Stat. 552; 112 Stat.
18 3597; 118 Stat. 1767) is amended by inserting after the
19 item relating to section 218 the following:

“Sec. 219. Hospitality and Outdoor-Recreation Supporting Tourism (HOST)
grants.”.

20 **SEC. 13. FUNDING FOR HOST GRANTS.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title VII of the Public Works and
22 Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3231 et
23 seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

1 **“SEC. 705. FUNDING FOR HOST GRANTS.**

2 “Of the amounts made available to carry out this Act
3 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029, \$100,000,000
4 shall be used to carry out section 219, of which 3 percent
5 shall be used for the administrative costs of carrying out
6 that section, including for maintaining the distribution pa-
7 rameters described in subsection (h)(2) of that section.”.

8 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
9 contained in section 1(b) of the Public Works and Eco-
10 nomic Development Act of 1965 (79 Stat. 552; 112 Stat.
11 3597; 118 Stat. 1772) is amended by inserting after the
12 item relating to section 704 the following:

“Sec. 705. Funding for HOST grants.”.

○