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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R.

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. CROW introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

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:

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

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

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

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

13 (3) PROGRAM.—The term “Program” means
14 the Innovation Voucher Grant Program established
15 under section 3.

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

1 (5) SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN OWNED AND
2 CONTROLLED BY SOCIALLY AND ECONOMICALLY DIS-
3 ADVANTAGED INDIVIDUALS.—The term “small busi-
4 ness concern owned and controlled by socially and
5 economically disadvantaged individuals” has the
6 meaning given the term in section 8(d)(3)(C) of the
7 Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(d)(3)(C)).

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

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

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

1 (c) EVALUATION.—In evaluating an application for
2 a grant under the Program, the Administrator shall take
3 into consideration—

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

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

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

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

17 (1) a small business concern owned and con-
18 trolled by socially and economically disadvantaged
19 individuals;

20 (2) a small business concern owned and con-
21 trolled by women;

22 (3) a small business concern owned and con-
23 trolled by veterans;

24 (4) a small business concern that is located in
25 a rural area; or

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

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

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

11 (g) REPORTS.—

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

18 (A) whether and how the project met the
19 original expectations for the project;

20 (B) how the results of the project were in-
21 corporated in the business of the grant recipi-
22 ent; and

23 (C) whether and how the project improved
24 innovation practices of the grant recipient.

1 (2) REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR.—Not
2 later than 3 years after the date on which the Ad-
3 ministrator establishes the Program, and every 2
4 years thereafter, the Administrator shall submit to
5 the Committee on Small Business and Entrepre-
6 neurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small
7 Business of the House of Representatives a report
8 on grants awarded under the Program, including—

9 (A) a description of the grants awarded;

10 (B) the estimated number of products or
11 services created or advanced under grants
12 awarded under the Program that could have
13 been created or advanced without grants award-
14 ed under the Program; and

15 (C) a description of the impact of the Pro-
16 gram on knowledge transfer and commercializa-
17 tion.

18 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

19 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Admin-
20 istrator to carry out the Program \$10,000,000 for each
21 of fiscal years 2022 through 2026, to remain available
22 until expended.