

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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

A BILL

To require the Administrator of the Small Business Adminis-
tration to establish an Innovation Voucher Grant Pro-
gram.

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 2025”.

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, including a federally funded research and
13 development center.

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

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

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

22 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after
23 the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall
24 establish a program to be known as the “Innovation
25 Voucher Grant Program” under which the Administrator

1 shall, on a competitive basis and in accordance with sub-
2 section (f), award grants to small business concerns for
3 the Federal share of the cost of purchasing from eligible
4 entities technical assistance and services necessary to
5 carry out projects to advance research, development, or
6 commercialization of new or innovative products and serv-
7 ices.

8 (b) PURPOSES OF PROGRAM.—The purposes of the
9 Program are—

10 (1) to foster collaboration between small busi-
11 ness concerns and research institutions or other
12 similar organizations;

13 (2) to facilitate access by small business con-
14 cerns to capital-intensive infrastructure and ad-
15 vanced research capabilities;

16 (3) to enable small business concerns to access
17 technical expertise and capabilities that will lead to
18 the development of innovative products;

19 (4) to promote business dynamism and competi-
20 tion;

21 (5) to stimulate United States leadership in ad-
22 vanced research, innovation, and technology;

23 (6) to accelerate the development of an ad-
24 vanced workforce; and

25 (7) to preserve and create new jobs.

1 (c) APPLICATION.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—A small business concern de-
3 siring a grant under the Program shall submit to
4 the Administrator an application with the eligible
5 entity from which the small business concern will
6 purchase technical assistance and services using
7 funds awarded under the grant.

8 (2) SELECTION.—Not later than 180 days after
9 the deadline established by the Administrator to sub-
10 mit applications under paragraph (1), the Adminis-
11 trator shall select the recipients of the grants under
12 the Program.

13 (d) EVALUATION.—In evaluating an application for
14 a grant under the Program, the Administrator shall take
15 into consideration—

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

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

22 (3) whether creating or advancing a product or
23 service proposed to be created or advanced using
24 funds awarded under the grant could be accom-
25 plished without a grant awarded under the Program.

1 (e) AMOUNT.—A grant made under the Program
2 shall be made in an amount of not less than \$15,000 and
3 not more than \$75,000, which shall remain available to
4 the grantee until expended.

5 (f) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost
6 of purchasing technical assistance and services described
7 in subsection (a) using funds awarded under a grant made
8 under the Program shall be—

9 (1) not more than 75 percent, if the amount of
10 the grant is less than \$50,000; and

11 (2) not more than 50 percent, if the amount of
12 the grant is not less than \$50,000.

13 (g) REPORTS.—

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

20 (A) whether and how the project met the
21 original expectations for the project;

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

1 (C) whether and how the project improved
2 innovation practices of the grant recipient.

3 (2) REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR.—Not
4 later than 2 years after the date on which the Ad-
5 ministrator establishes the Program, and every 2
6 years thereafter until the date on which the amounts
7 appropriated for the Program are expended, the Ad-
8 ministrator shall submit to the Committee on Small
9 Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and
10 the Committee on Small Business of the House of
11 Representatives a report on grants awarded under
12 the Program, including—

13 (A) a description of the grants awarded;

14 (B) the estimated number of products or
15 services created or advanced under grants
16 awarded under the Program that could have
17 been created or advanced without grants award-
18 ed under the Program; and

19 (C) a description of the impact of the Pro-
20 gram on knowledge transfer and commercializa-
21 tion.

22 (3) FINAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR.—
23 Not later than 180 days after the date on which
24 amounts appropriated for the Program are ex-
25 pended, the Administrator shall submit to the com-

1 mittees described in paragraph (2) a final report
2 containing the information described in subpara-
3 graphs (A), (B), and (C) of that paragraph.

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

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appro-
6 priated to the Administrator to carry out the Program
7 \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030,
8 to remain available until expended.

9 (b) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Not more than 5 per-
10 cent of amounts appropriated under subsection (a) may
11 be used for administrative costs.