

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1833

To encourage initiatives for financial products and services that are appropriate and accessible for millions of American small businesses that do not have access to the financial mainstream.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 30, 2017

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York (for herself, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. NORTON, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. EVANS, and Ms. ADAMS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To encourage initiatives for financial products and services that are appropriate and accessible for millions of American small businesses that do not have access to the financial mainstream.

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 “Investing in America’s
5 Small Businesses Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Small businesses in underserved areas have
2 for generations been unable to access affordable
3 credit.

4 (2) A 2013 report commissioned by the U.S.
5 Small Business Administration shows the major con-
6 straint limiting the growth, expansion, and wealth
7 creation of small firms—especially women- and mi-
8 nority-owned businesses—is inadequate capital.

9 (3) Small businesses revitalize communities by
10 creating jobs, and also contribute to the local tax
11 base, which helps finance investments in schools,
12 hospitals, infrastructure, and public safety.

13 (4) A 2015 report from the Carsey School of
14 Public Policy at the University of New Hampshire
15 found that 79 percent of CDFI loan volume went to
16 borrowers from underserved populations.

17 (5) During the financial crisis, CDFI loan
18 funds expanded their activity to meet increased de-
19 mand from borrowers that could not access tradi-
20 tional lending. From 2006 to 2009, the median fund
21 deployment ratio grew 3.1 percent annually.

22 (6) After Superstorm Sandy, CDFIs launched
23 disaster recovery loan programs and reached out to
24 affected businesses and organizations to provide

1 credit to help grocery stores and social service orga-
2 nizations re-open to help communities in need.

3 (7) A 2014 report by the Dardin School of
4 Business at the University of Virginia found that de-
5 spite serving predominately low-income markets,
6 CDFI banks and credit unions had virtually the
7 same level of performance as mainstream financial
8 institutions.

9 **SEC. 3. GRANTS TO ESTABLISH LOAN-LOSS RESERVE**
10 **FUNDS FOR SMALL BUSINESS LENDING.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Community Development
12 Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994 (12
13 U.S.C. 4701 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
14 the following:

15 **“SEC. 123. GRANTS TO ESTABLISH LOAN-LOSS RESERVE**
16 **FUNDS FOR SMALL BUSINESS LENDING.**

17 “(a) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

18 “(1) to make financial assistance available from
19 the Fund in order to help community development
20 financial institutions defray the costs of operating
21 small business loan programs, by providing the
22 amounts necessary for such institutions to establish
23 their own loan loss reserve funds to mitigate some
24 of the losses on such small business loan programs;

1 “(2) to encourage community development fi-
2 nancial institutions to establish and maintain small
3 business loan programs that would help provide bor-
4 rowers access to mainstream financial institutions
5 and combat high cost small business lending; and

6 “(3) to encourage community development fi-
7 nancial institutions to expand the development serv-
8 ices they offer and to serve new investment areas
9 and new targeted populations.

10 “(b) GRANTS.—

11 “(1) LOAN-LOSS RESERVE FUND GRANTS.—

12 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Fund shall make
13 grants to community development financial in-
14 stitutions to enable such institutions to estab-
15 lish a loan-loss reserve fund in order to defray
16 the costs of a small business loan program es-
17 tablished or maintained by such institution.

18 “(B) APPLICATION.—A community devel-
19 opment financial institution that wishes to re-
20 ceive a grant under this paragraph shall submit
21 an application to the Administrator in such
22 form and manner and containing such informa-
23 tion as the Administrator may require.

24 “(C) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—A com-
25 munity development financial institution shall

1 provide non-Federal matching funds in an
2 amount equal to 50 percent of the amount of
3 any grant received under this paragraph.

4 “(D) USE OF FUNDS.—Any grant amounts
5 received by a community development financial
6 institution under this paragraph—

7 “(i) may not be used by such institu-
8 tion to provide direct loans to small busi-
9 nesses;

10 “(ii) may be used by such institution
11 to help recapture a portion or all of a de-
12 faulted loan made under the small business
13 loan program of such institution on or
14 after the date of the enactment of this sec-
15 tion; and

16 “(iii) may be used to designate and
17 utilize a fiscal agent for services normally
18 provided by such an agent.

19 “(2) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Fund shall make
21 technical assistance grants to community devel-
22 opment financial institutions to create, support,
23 or maintain a small business loan program. Any
24 grant amounts received under this paragraph
25 may be used for—

1 “(i) technology, staff support, staff
2 capacity building, and other costs associ-
3 ated with establishing, supporting, or
4 maintaining a small business loan pro-
5 gram; and

6 “(ii) establishing, supporting, or
7 maintaining technical assistance programs
8 for borrowers.

9 “(B) APPLICATION.—A community devel-
10 opment financial institution that wishes to re-
11 ceive a grant under this paragraph shall submit
12 an application to the Administrator in such
13 form and manner and containing such informa-
14 tion as the Administrator may require.

15 “(c) REPORTS.—For each fiscal year for which
16 grants are made under this section, the Administrator
17 shall submit a report to the Committee on Financial Serv-
18 ices of the House of Representatives and the Committee
19 on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate
20 containing a description of the activities funded and
21 amounts distributed under this section for such fiscal year,
22 as well as measurable results of such actions.

23 “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be
2 appropriated to the Fund \$25,000,000 for each of
3 fiscal years 2018 to 2023 to carry out this section.

4 “(2) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—There are au-
5 thorized to be appropriated to the Fund \$2,000,000
6 for each of fiscal years 2018 to 2023 for the admin-
7 istrative costs of carrying out this section.

8 “(e) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

9 “(1) SMALL BUSINESS.—The term ‘small busi-
10 ness’ has the meaning given the term ‘small business
11 concern’ under section 3(a) of the Small Business
12 Act (15 U.S.C. 632(a)).

13 “(2) SMALL BUSINESS LOAN PROGRAM.—The
14 term ‘small business loan program’ means a loan
15 program wherein a community development financial
16 institution offers loans to small businesses that—

17 “(A) are made in amounts not exceeding
18 \$50,000;

19 “(B) have no pre-payment penalty; and

20 “(C) meet any other affordability require-
21 ments as may be established by the Adminis-
22 trator.”.

23 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of con-
24 tents for the Riegle Community Development and Regu-

- 1 latory Improvement Act of 1994 is amended by inserting
- 2 after the item relating to section 121 the following:

“Sec. 122. Grants to establish loan-loss reserve funds.

“Sec. 123. Grants to establish loan-loss reserve funds for small business lending.”.

