



Minorities for Medical Marijuana (M4MM) 2023 Public Policy Focus for Federal Hemp Specific Legislation - Industrial Hemp Processor Entrepreneurial Education and Business Incubators Program Act

Increasing the number of Licensed Hemp Processors through the 2023 Farm Bill

- a. Industrial Hemp Processor Entrepreneurial licensing incubator programs with Minority Serving Colleges and Universities – establish statutory language to provide for training for social equity, racial minority, socio-economic disadvantaged licensees on the operational functions of running a successful Industrial Hemp licensed business and existing for social equity, racial minority, socio-economic disadvantaged Commercial Industrial Hemp licensees who need additional business, operational and financial management training to increase their business management capacity. Establish Hemp Processor Licensee Business Training partnerships with Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), Hispanic-serving institutions (HSIs), Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institutions (AANAPISIs), and other Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs) as primary qualifying educational institutions.
- b. Currently, there are only 20 operating Hemp Processors in America, which doesn't the support the development of Industrial Hemp products for domestic usage and exporting opportunities. Providing investment and regulatory support to increase the number of Hemp licensed Processors for the Industrial Hemp Sector and creating new Hemp exporting opportunities
- c. M4MM proposes the following amendment to the 2023 Farm Bill to create an Hemp Processor Licensee educational training and incubation program

Subtitle D—Additional Amendments To The Consolidated Farm And Rural Development Act

Create and insert new Sec. 6428. into Subtitle D—Additional Amendments To The Consolidated Farm And Rural Development Act to create a new Industrial Hemp Processor Entrepreneurial Education and Business Incubators Program Act.

_____ – Industrial Hemp Processor Entrepreneurial Business Training and Incubators Program Act

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Industrial Hemp Processor Entrepreneurial Education and Business Incubators Program Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.



Congress finds that—

- (1) As of June 2023, there are only 20 licensed and operational Industrial Hemp Processors in the United States
- (2) The global industrial hemp market size was estimated at USD 4.74 billion in 2022 and is expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 17.1% from 2023 to 2030.
- (3) As of the April 19, 2023, National Hemp Report (by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board) in 2022, the value of hemp production in the open and under protection for the United States totaled \$238 million, down 71 percent from 2021.
- (4) entrepreneurs face challenges when transforming ideas into profitable business enterprises;
- (5) racial minority, socio-economic disadvantaged entrepreneurs face additional barriers and challenges in transitioning from concept to profitable business enterprises
- (6) entrepreneurs that want to provide products and services in Domestic and Global Industrial Hemp market face an additional set of challenges that requires business incubation programming and additional knowledge on entering Global markets;
- (7) a business incubator is an organization that assists entrepreneurs in navigating obstacles that prevent innovative ideas from becoming viable businesses by providing services that include—
 - (A) workspace and facilities resources;
 - (B) access to capital, business education, and counseling;
 - (C) networking opportunities;
 - (D) mentorship opportunities; and
 - (E) an environment intended to help establish and expand business operations;
- (8) the business educational curriculum will be robust and inclusive in content to provide students and entities with operational, fiscal, sales/marketing, regulatory compliance, tax management, domestic and international expansion and contraction concepts and practical application instructional opportunities
- (9) the business educational curriculum and incubation model is suited to accelerating entrepreneurship in Hemp Industrial Processor licensing which will increase America's production capacity and revenue capture capacity while increasing environmentally friendly and sustainable industrial products and biofuels alternatives
- (10) business incubator models promote collaboration to address shared challenges and provides individually tailored services for the purpose of overcoming obstacles unique to each participating business; and
- (11) business incubators will stimulate economic development by providing racial minority and socio-economically disadvantaged entrepreneurs with the tools necessary to grow businesses that offer products to both the Domestic and International Industrial markets.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.



In this Act:

- (1) **BUSINESS INCUBATOR.**—The term “business incubator” means an organization that—
 - (A) provides physical workspace and facilities resources to startups and established businesses; and
 - (B) is designed to accelerate the growth and success of businesses through a variety of business support resources and services, including:
 - (i) access to capital and investor relations training,
 - (ii) Curriculum based business instruction and real time education instruction;
 - (iii) strategic counseling;
 - (iv) networking opportunities;
 - (v) mentorship opportunities; and
 - (vi) other services intended to aid in developing a business.
- (2) **ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED WOMAN OWNED SMALL BUSINESS (EDWOSB)** means a business enterprise given the term in **Title 13 Part 127 Subpart B § 127.200 (a)**:
 - (A) Meet all the requirements of the WOSB Federal Contract program
 - (B) Be owned and controlled by one or more women, each with a personal net worth less than \$850,000
 - (C) Be owned and controlled by one or more women, each with \$450,000 or less in adjusted gross income averaged over the previous three years
 - (D) Be owned and controlled by one or more women, each \$6.5 million or less in personal assets
- (3) **EDUCATIONAL CURRICULUM.** —The term “educational curriculum” means material content that is inclusive of operational, fiscal, sales/marketing, regulatory compliance, tax management, domestic and international expansion and contraction concepts and practical application instructional opportunities
- (4) **ELIGIBLE APPLICANT.**—The term “eligible applicant” means an applicant eligible to apply for a grant under section 4(b).
- (5) **HISTORICALLY UNDERUTILIZED BUSINESS ZONE SMALL BUSINESSES (HUBZone)** - The term “**Historically Underutilized Business Zone Small Businesses**” means a business enterprise given the term in 15 U.S.C.631, Part 19 - Small Business Programs, subpart **19.1303**
 - (A) Be a small business according to SBA size standards
 - (B) Be at least 51% owned and controlled by U.S. citizens, a Community Development Corporation, an agricultural cooperative, an Alaska Native corporation, a Native Hawaiian organization, or an Indian tribe
 - (C) Have its principal office located in a HUBZone*
 - (D) Have at least 35% of its employees living in a HUBZone
- (6) **INDIAN TRIBE.**—The term “Indian tribe” has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act ([25 U.S.C. 5304](#)).



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- (7) **INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.**—The term “institution of higher education” has the meaning given the term in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 ([20 U.S.C. 1001](#)).
- (8) **MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE.**—The term “minority business enterprise” means a business enterprise (without regard to whether the business enterprise is a for-profit or not-for-profit enterprise)—
- (A) that is not less than 51 percent-owned by 1 or more socially and economically disadvantaged individuals; and
 - (B) the management and daily business operations of which are controlled by 1 or more socially and economically disadvantaged individuals
- (9) **MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTION (defined, for purposes of this subsection, as an institution and program described in section 326(e)(1) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1063b(e)(1)) and institution described in section 371(a) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1067q(a)))**
- (10) **NATIVE AMERICAN; NATIVE.**—The terms “Native American” and “Native” have the meaning given the term “Indian” in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act ([25 U.S.C. 5304](#)).
- (11) **PRIVATE SECTOR ENTITY.**— The term “private sector entity”
- (A) (A) means an entity that is not a public sector entity; and
 - (B) (B) does not include—
 - (i) the Federal Government;
 - (ii) any Federal agency; or
 - (iii) any instrumentality of the Federal Government.
- (12) **PROGRAM.**—The term “program” means the program established under section 4(a).
- (13) **SOCIALLY AND ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED INDIVIDUAL.**—
- (A) (A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term “socially and economically disadvantaged individual” means an individual who has been subjected to racial or ethnic prejudice, or to cultural bias, because of the identity of the individual as a member of a group, without regard to any individual quality of the individual that is unrelated to that identity given the term socially and economically disadvantaged individual in 88 FR 26204.
 - (B) (B) **PRESUMPTION.**—In carrying out this Act, the Assistant Secretary shall presume that the term “socially and economically disadvantaged individual” includes any individual who is—
 - (i) Black or African American;
 - (ii) Hispanic or Latino;
 - (iii) American Indian or Alaska Native;
 - (iv) Asian;
 - (v) Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander; or



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- (vi) a member of a group that the Agency determines under part 1400 of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on November 23, 1984, is a socially disadvantaged group eligible to receive assistance.
- (14) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture.
- (15) **SERVICE-DISABLED VETERAN-OWNED SMALL BUSINESSES -** The term “**Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Businesses**” means a business enterprise given the term in 87 FR 73400
- (A) To apply for certification with SBA as a VOSB or SDVOSB, a firm must meet the following requirements:
 - (B) Be considered a small business, as defined by the size standard corresponding to any NAICS code listed in the business’s SAM profile.
 - (C) Have no less than 51% of the business owned and controlled by one or more veterans.
 - (D) For certification as a SDVOSB, have no less than 51% of the business owned and controlled by one or more veterans rated as service-disabled by the VA.
 - (E) For those veterans who are permanently and totally disabled and unable to manage the daily business operations of their business, their business may still qualify if their spouse or appointed, permanent caregiver is assisting in that management.
- (16) **SMALL DISADVANTAGED BUSINESSES -** The term “**Small Disadvantaged Businesses**” means a business enterprise given the term in, [85 FR 27292](#),
- (A) The firm must be 51% or more owned and controlled by one or more disadvantaged persons.
 - (B) The disadvantaged person or persons must be socially disadvantaged and economically disadvantaged.
 - (C) The firm must be small, according to SBA’s size standards.
- (17) **TRIBAL COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.**—The term “tribal college or university” has the meaning given the term “Tribal College or University” in section 316(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 ([20 U.S.C. 1059c\(b\)](#)).
- (18) **WOMAN OWNED SMALL BUSINESS (WOSB)** means a business enterprise given the term in **Title 13 Part 127 Subpart B § 127.200 (b)**
- (A) Be a small business according to [SBA size standards](#)
 - (B) Be at least 51% owned and controlled by women who are U.S. citizens
 - (C) Have women manage day-to-day operations who also make long-term decisions



SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall establish a program in the **USDA Assistance and Support for Underserved Farmers, Ranchers, and Foresters** "(d) Research, education, and extension under which the Secretary shall provide financial assistance in the form of competitive grants to eligible applicants for the establishment and operation of business educational programs and incubators that will provide services to persons seeking to establish an Industrial Hemp Processor license, by providing business incubation, entrepreneurial training, operational curriculum content and other business services to the following pre-licensee categories:

- (1) Private Entities,
- (2) Minority Business Enterprises,
- (3) Socially And Economically Disadvantaged Individuals and/or businesses
- (4) Women Owned Small Businesses,
- (5) Economically Disadvantaged Women-Owned Small Businesses
- (6) Small Disadvantaged Businesses,
- (7) Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned businesses,
- (8) **Historically Underutilized Business Zone Small Businesses**
- (9) Businesses or individuals located in Rural Communities as defined by Census designation for Rural areas.

(b) **ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—To be eligible to receive a grant under the program, an applicant shall—

(A) be—

- (i) a Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs);
- (ii) Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs);
- (iii) Hispanic-serving institutions (HSIs);
- (iv) Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institutions (AANAPISIs);
- (v) other Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs) as primary qualifying educational institutions; or
- (vi) an institution of higher education

(B) be able to provide the physical workspace, equipment, and connectivity necessary for individuals and entities described in subsection (a), seeking to establish an Industrial Hemp Licensed Business pursuant to 7 U.S.C 1639q(a)(2)(b), to collaborate and develop a sustainable business model on a local, regional, national, and international level; and

(C) in the case of an entity described in clauses (i) through (vi) of subparagraph (A), have been operational for not less than 1 year before receiving a grant under the program.



(2) JOINT PROJECT.—

IN GENERAL.—Two or more entities may submit a joint application for a project that combines the resources and expertise of those entities at a physical location dedicated to assisting pre-licensee applicant businesses and entrepreneurs categories under the program.

(A) CONTENTS.—A joint application submitted under subparagraph (A) shall—

- (i) contain a certification that each participant of the joint project is one of the eligible entities described in paragraph (1)(A); and
- (ii) demonstrate that together the participants meet the requirements of subparagraphs (B) and (C) of paragraph (1).

(c) APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS.—

(1) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.—Each eligible educational training and incubation applicant desiring a grant under the program shall submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, including—

(A) a certification that the applicant—

- (i) is an eligible applicant;
- (ii) will designate an executive director or program manager, if such director or manager has not been designated, to manage the business incubator; and
- (iii) agrees—
 - (I) to a site evaluation by the Secretary as part of the final selection process;
 - (II) to an annual programmatic and financial examination for the duration of the grant; and
 - (III) to the maximum extent practicable, to remedy any problems identified pursuant to the site evaluation under subclause (IV) or an examination under subclause (II);

(B) a description of the 1 or more pre-licensee applicant businesses and entrepreneur categories to be served by the business educational training and business incubator programming;

(C) a 3-year plan that describes—

- (i) the number of pre-licensee applicant businesses and entrepreneur categories to be participating in the business educational training program;
- (ii) the number of pre-licensee applicant businesses and entrepreneur categories to be participating in the business incubator program;
- (iii) a detailed breakdown of the business or industry expected to graduate from each phase of programming;



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- (iv) a detailed projection of the number of business graduates who will obtain full Hemp Processor licensing, open a Hemp Processor Business, will be operational one year after opening and will be producing exportable Industrial Non-Consumable Hemp products
 - (v) a detailed breakdown of the external and wraparound support services to be offered to pre-licensee applicant businesses and entrepreneur categories participating in the business educational training program and the business incubator program;
 - (vi) a detailed breakdown of the external and wraparound support services to be offered to graduate and/or operating businesses and entrepreneur categories after completion of the business educational training program and the business incubator program; and
 - (vii) a detailed breakdown of the services, if any, to be offered to both pre-licensee applicant businesses and entrepreneur categories and graduate and/or operating businesses and entrepreneur categories not participating in the business incubator;
- (D) information demonstrating the effectiveness and experience of the eligible applicant in—
- (i) conducting financial, management, and marketing assistance programs designed to educate or improve the business skills of current or prospective businesses;
 - (ii) working in and providing services to all or a combination of socially and economically disadvantaged communities, minority communities, women communities, veteran communities, and rural communities;
 - (iii) providing assistance to entities conducting business in socially and economically disadvantaged and/or rural communities;
 - (iv) providing technical assistance under Federal business and entrepreneurial development programs for which socially and economically disadvantaged communities, minority communities, women communities, veteran communities and rural communities are eligible; and
 - (v) managing finances and staff effectively; and
- (E) a site description of the location at which the eligible applicant will provide physical workspace, including a description of the technologies, equipment, and other resources that will be available to pre-licensee applicant businesses and entrepreneur categories participating in the business educational training program and the business incubator program.
- (2) EVALUATION CONSIDERATIONS.—
- (A) IN GENERAL.—In evaluating each application, the Secretary shall consider—
- (i) the ability of the eligible applicant—
 - (I) to operate a business incubator that effectively imparts entrepreneurship and business skills to Native businesses and Native entrepreneurs, as demonstrated by the experience and qualifications of the eligible applicant;



- (II) to commence providing services within a minimum period of time, to be determined by the Secretary; and
 - (III) to provide quality incubation services to a significant number of Native businesses and Native entrepreneurs;
 - (ii) the experience of the eligible applicant in providing services in Native American communities, including in the 1 or more reservation communities described in the application; and
 - (iii) the proposed location of the business educational training program and the business incubator program.
- (B) PRIORITY.—
- (i) IN GENERAL.—In evaluating the proposed location of the business educational training program and the business incubator program under subparagraph (A)(iii), the Secretary shall—
 - (I) consider the program goal of achieving broad geographic distribution of business educational training program and the business incubator program; and
 - (II) except as provided in clause (ii), give priority to eligible applicants that will provide business educational training program and the business incubator program services on or near the reservation of the 1 or more communities that were described in the application.
 - (ii) EXCEPTION.—The Secretary may give priority to an eligible applicant that is not located on or near the reservation of the 1 or more communities that were described in the application if the Secretary determines that—
 - (I) the location of the business incubator will not prevent the eligible applicant from providing quality business educational training program and the business incubator program services to Native businesses and Native entrepreneurs from the 1 or more reservation communities to be served; and
 - (II) siting the business educational training program and the business incubator program in the identified location will serve the interests of the 1 or more reservation communities to be served.
- (3) SITE EVALUATION.—
- (A) IN GENERAL.—Before making a grant to an eligible applicant, the Secretary shall conduct a site visit, evaluate a video submission, or evaluate a written site proposal (if the applicant is not yet in possession of the site) of the proposed site to ensure the proposed site will permit the eligible applicant to meet the requirements of the program.
 - (B) WRITTEN SITE PROPOSAL.—A written site proposal shall meet the requirements described in paragraph (1)(E) and contain—



- (i) sufficient detail for the Secretary to ensure in the absence of a site visit or video submission that the proposed site will permit the eligible applicant to meet the requirements of the program; and
- (ii) a timeline describing when the eligible applicant will be—
 - (I) in possession of the proposed site; and
 - (II) operating the business incubator at the proposed site. □

(C) FOLLOWUP.—Not later than 1 year after awarding a grant to an eligible applicant that submits an application with a written site proposal, the Secretary shall conduct a site visit or evaluate a video submission of the site to ensure the site is consistent with the written site proposal.

(d) ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) DURATION.—Each grant awarded under the program shall be for a term of 3 years.

(2) PAYMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall disburse grant funds awarded to an eligible applicant in bi-annual installments.

(B) MORE FREQUENT DISBURSEMENTS.—On request by the applicant, the Secretary may make disbursements of grant funds more frequently than bi-annually, on the condition that disbursements shall be made not more frequently than quarterly.

(3) NON-FEDERAL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR INITIAL ASSISTANCE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), an eligible applicant that receives a grant under the program shall provide non-Federal contributions in an amount equal to not less than 25 percent of the grant amount disbursed each year.

(B) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive, in whole or in part, the requirements of subparagraph (A) with respect to an eligible applicant if, after considering the ability of the eligible applicant to provide non-Federal contributions, the Secretary determines that—

- (i) the proposed business incubator will provide quality business incubation services; and
- (ii) the 1 or more reservation communities to be served are unlikely to receive similar services because of remoteness or other reasons that inhibit the provision of business and entrepreneurial development services.

(4) RENEWALS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may renew a grant award under the program for a term not to exceed 3 years.

(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In determining whether to renew a grant award, the Secretary shall consider with respect to the eligible applicant—

- (i) the results of the annual evaluations of the eligible applicant under subsection (f)(1);



- (ii) the performance of the business incubator of the eligible applicant, as compared to the performance of other business incubators receiving assistance under the program;
 - (iii) whether the eligible applicant continues to be eligible for the program; and
 - (iv) the evaluation considerations for initial awards under subsection (c)(2).
- (C) **NON-FEDERAL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR RENEWALS.**—An eligible applicant that receives a grant renewal under subparagraph (A) shall provide non-Federal contributions in an amount equal to not less than 33 percent of the total amount of the grant.
- (5) **NO DUPLICATIVE GRANTS.**—An eligible applicant shall not be awarded a grant under the program that is duplicative of existing Federal funding from another source.
- (e) **PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.**—
 - (1) **USE OF FUNDS.**—An eligible applicant receiving a grant under the program may use grant amounts—
 - (A) to provide physical workspace and facilities for pre-licensee applicant businesses and entrepreneur categories participating in the business educational training program and the business incubator program;
 - (B) to establish partnerships with other institutions and entities to provide comprehensive business educational and incubation services to pre-licensee applicant businesses and entrepreneur categories participating in the business educational training program and the business incubator program; and
 - (C) for any other uses typically associated with business educational training programs and the business incubator program that the Secretary determines to be appropriate and consistent with the purposes of the program.
 - (2) **MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS.**—Each eligible applicant receiving a grant under the program shall—
 - (A) offer culturally tailored educational and incubation services to pre-licensee applicant businesses and entrepreneur categories;
 - (B) use a competitive process for selecting pre-licensee applicant businesses and entrepreneur categories to participate in the business educational training program and the business incubator program;
 - (C) provide physical workspace that permits pre-licensee applicant businesses and entrepreneur categories to conduct business and collaborate with other pre-licensee applicant businesses and entrepreneur categories;
 - (D) provide entrepreneurship and business skills training and education to pre-licensee applicant businesses and entrepreneur categories including—
 - (i) financial education, including training and counseling in—
 - (I) Human Capital management
 - (II) applying for and securing business credit and investment capital;
 - (III) Capital material financing



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- (IV) Understanding revenue generation as a financing tool
 - (V) preparing and presenting financial statements;
 - (VI) Debt equity – calculating your business value and selling debt equity stakes for specific and targeted operational, market position and capital investment needs;
 - (VII) Estimated profit analysis (EPA) modeling, pricing modeling, operational funding via revenue generation (direct and indirect) and reserves development (saving portion of revenue for rainy-day fund) and;
 - (VIII) managing cash flow and other financial operations of a business;
 - (ii) management education, including training and counseling in planning, organization, staffing, directing, and controlling each major activity or function of a business or startup, including but not limited to:
 - (I) Business organizational structure;
 - (II) Articles of Incorporation, Operating Agreements and Shareholder/Members Board makeup between owners, investors and key management;
 - (III) Continuous quality and operational improvement;
 - (IV) Knowledge transfer documentation;
 - (V) Decision making/approval hierarchy;
 - (VI) Purchasing/Procurement structure;
 - (VII) Personnel recruitment, hiring, retention and workforce development
 - (iii) marketing education, including training and counseling in—
 - (I) identifying and segmenting domestic and international market opportunities;
 - (II) preparing and executing marketing plans;
 - (III) locating contract opportunities;
 - (IV) Contract/Customer management
 - (V) negotiating contracts; and
 - (VI) using varying public relations and advertising techniques;
 - (E) provide direct mentorship or assistance finding mentors in the industry in which the pre-licensee applicant businesses and entrepreneur categories operates or intends to operate; and
 - (F) provide access to networks of potential investors, professionals in the same or similar fields, and other business owners with similar businesses.
 - (3) TECHNOLOGY.—Each eligible applicant shall leverage technology to the maximum extent practicable to provide pre-licensee applicant businesses and entrepreneur categories with access to the connectivity tools needed to compete and thrive in 21st-century markets.
- (f) OVERSIGHT.—



- (1) ANNUAL EVALUATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the Secretary awards a grant to an eligible applicant under the program, and annually thereafter for the duration of the grant, the Secretary shall conduct an evaluation of, and prepare a report on, the eligible applicant, which shall—
 - (A) describe the performance of the eligible applicant; and
 - (B) be used in determining the ongoing eligibility of the eligible applicant
- (1) ANNUAL REPORT.—
 - (C) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the Secretary awards a grant to an eligible applicant under the program, and annually thereafter for the duration of the grant, each eligible applicant receiving an award under the program shall submit to the Secretary a report describing the services the eligible applicant provided under the program during the preceding year.
 - (D) REPORT CONTENT.—The report described in subparagraph (A) shall include—
 - (i) a detailed breakdown of the pre-licensee applicant businesses and entrepreneur categories receiving services from the business educational training program and the business incubator program, including, for the year covered by the report—
 - (I) the number of pre-licensee applicant businesses and entrepreneur categories participating in or receiving services from the business educational training program and the business incubator program and the types of services provided to those pre-licensee applicant businesses and entrepreneur categories;
 - (II) the number of pre-licensee applicant businesses and entrepreneur categories converted to businesses established and jobs created or maintained; and
 - (III) the performance of pre-licensee applicant businesses and entrepreneur categories while participating in the business educational training program and the business incubator program and after graduation or departure from the business educational training program and the business incubator program; and
 - (ii) any other information the Secretary may require to evaluate the performance of the business educational training program and the business incubator program to ensure appropriate implementation of the program.
 - (E) LIMITATIONS.—To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall not require an eligible applicant to report under subparagraph (A) information provided to the Secretary by the eligible applicant under other programs.
 - (F) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall coordinate with the heads of other Federal agencies to ensure that, to the maximum extent practicable, the report content and form under subparagraphs (A) and (B) are consistent with other reporting requirements for Federal programs that provide business and entrepreneurial assistance.



(2) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

- (G) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date on which the Secretary first awards funding under the program, and biennially thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee of the Senate and the Agriculture Committee of the House of Representatives a report on the performance and effectiveness of the program.
- (H) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted under subparagraph (A) shall—
- (i) account for each program year; and
 - (ii) include with respect to each business educational training program and the business incubator program receiving grant funds under the program—
 - (I) the number of pre-licensee applicant businesses and entrepreneur categories that received business incubation or other services;
 - (II) the number of businesses established with the assistance of the business educational training program and the business incubator program;
 - (III) the number of jobs established or maintained by pre-licensee applicant businesses and entrepreneur categories receiving business incubation services, including a description of where the jobs are located with respect to socially and economically disadvantaged communities, minority communities, women communities, veteran communities, and rural communities;
 - (IV) to the maximum extent practicable, the amount of capital investment and loan financing accessed by pre-licensee applicant businesses and entrepreneur categories receiving business incubation services; and
 - (V) an evaluation of the overall performance of the business educational training program and the business incubator program.

SEC. 5. REGULATIONS.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall promulgate regulations to implement the program.

SEC. 6. SCHOOLS TO BUSINESS INCUBATOR PIPELINE.

The Secretary shall facilitate the establishment of relationships between eligible applicants receiving funds through the program and educational institutions serving socially and economically disadvantaged communities, minority communities, women communities, veteran communities, and rural communities, including Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), Hispanic-serving institutions (HSIs), Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institutions (AANAPISIs), and other Minority-Serving Institutions (MSIs) as primary qualifying educational institutions.

SEC. 7. AGENCY PARTNERSHIPS.



The Secretary shall coordinate with the Secretary of Interior, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, that business educational training program and the business incubator program receiving grant funds under the program have the information and materials needed to provide pre-licensee applicant businesses and entrepreneur categories with the information and assistance necessary to apply for business and entrepreneurial development programs administered by the Department of Interior, the Department of Commerce, the Department of the Treasury, and the Small Business Administration.

SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATIONS OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the program \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028, appropriated from SEC. §2279. [Pub. L. 117–2, title I, §1006, Mar. 11, 2021, 135 Stat. 13](#) , as amended by [Pub. L. 117–169, title II, §22007, Aug. 16, 2022, 136 Stat. 2021](#)

Subparagraph "(a) Technical and other assistance. equal to \$7,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028
subparagraph "(d) Research, education, and extension equal to \$12,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028