

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2397

---

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 19, 2007

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and  
Entrepreneurship

---

## AN ACT

To reauthorize the women's entrepreneurial development programs of the Small Business 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

2 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the  
3 “SBA Women’s Business Programs Act of 2007”.

4 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for  
5 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—NATIONAL WOMEN’S BUSINESS COUNCIL

Sec. 101. Annual studies on problems hindering the success of women entrepreneurs.

Sec. 102. Additional progress reports.

TITLE II—WOMEN’S BUSINESS CENTERS

Sec. 201. Revised funding formula.

Sec. 202. Matchmaking formula change.

Sec. 203. Termination of funding.

Sec. 204. Women’s business center awards to be made public.

6 **TITLE I—NATIONAL WOMEN’S**  
7 **BUSINESS COUNCIL**

8 **SEC. 101. ANNUAL STUDIES ON PROBLEMS HINDERING THE**  
9 **SUCCESS OF WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS.**

10 Section 409 of the Women’s Business Ownership Act  
11 of 1988 (15 U.S.C. 7109) is amended—

12 (1) by redesignating subsection (b) as sub-  
13 section (c); and

14 (2) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-  
15 lowing:

16 “(b) PROBLEMS HINDERING THE SUCCESS OF  
17 WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS.—The Council shall conduct at  
18 least one study per year that evaluates the problems hin-  
19 dering the success of women entrepreneurs. The Council

1 shall select the topic for the study in consultation with  
2 the Committee on Small Business of the House of Rep-  
3 resentatives and the Committee on Small Business and  
4 Entrepreneurship of the Senate.”.

5 **SEC. 102. ADDITIONAL PROGRESS REPORTS.**

6 Section 406(d)(4) of the Women’s Business Owner-  
7 ship Act of 1988 (15 U.S.C. 7106(d)(4)) is amended by  
8 inserting before the semicolon at the end the following:  
9 “, and on a biannual basis (notwithstanding paragraph  
10 (6)) submit to the President and to the Committee on  
11 Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and  
12 the Committee on Small Business of the House of Rep-  
13 resentatives a report containing a description of, and the  
14 status of, such initiatives, policies, programs, and plans”.

15 **TITLE II—WOMEN’S BUSINESS**  
16 **CENTERS**

17 **SEC. 201. REVISED FUNDING FORMULA.**

18 Section 29(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.  
19 656(b)) is amended to read as follows:

20 “(b) **AUTHORITY.**—

21 “(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator may  
22 provide financial assistance to private nonprofit or-  
23 ganizations to conduct projects for the benefit of  
24 small business concerns owned and controlled by  
25 women. The projects shall provide—

1           “(A) financial assistance, including train-  
2           ing and counseling in how to apply for and se-  
3           cure business credit and investment capital,  
4           preparing and presenting financial statements,  
5           and managing cash flow and other financial op-  
6           erations of a business concern;

7           “(B) management assistance, including  
8           training and counseling in how to plan, orga-  
9           nize, staff, direct, and control each major activ-  
10          ity and function of a small business concern;  
11          and

12          “(C) marketing assistance, including train-  
13          ing and counseling in identifying and seg-  
14          menting domestic and international market op-  
15          portunities, preparing and executing marketing  
16          plans, developing pricing strategies, locating  
17          contract opportunities, negotiating contracts,  
18          and utilizing varying public relations and adver-  
19          tising techniques.

20          “(2) TIERS.—The Administrator shall provide  
21          assistance under paragraph (1) in three tiers of as-  
22          sistance as follows:

23                 “(A) The first tier shall be to conduct a 5-  
24                 year project in a situation where a project has  
25                 not previously been conducted. Such a project

1 shall be in a total amount of not more than  
2 \$150,000 per year.

3 “(B) The second tier shall be to conduct a  
4 3-year project in a situation where a first-tier  
5 project is being completed. Such a project shall  
6 be in a total amount of not more than  
7 \$100,000 per year.

8 “(C) The third tier shall be to conduct a  
9 3-year project in a situation where a second-tier  
10 project is being completed. Such a project shall  
11 be in a total amount of not more than  
12 \$100,000 per year. Third-tier grants are renew-  
13 able subject to established eligibility criteria as  
14 well as criteria in subsection (b)(4).

15 “(3) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—Of the amounts  
16 made available for assistance under this subsection,  
17 the Administrator shall allocate—

18 “(A) at least 40 percent for first-tier  
19 projects under paragraph (2)(A);

20 “(B) 20 percent for second-tier projects  
21 under paragraph (2)(B); and

22 “(C) the remainder for third-tier projects  
23 under paragraph (2)(C).

24 “(4) BENCHMARKS FOR THIRD-TIER  
25 PROJECTS.—In awarding third-tier projects under

1 paragraph (2)(C), the Administrator shall use  
2 benchmarks based on socio-economic factors in the  
3 community and on the performance of the applicant.

4 The benchmarks shall include—

5 “(A) the total number of women served by  
6 the project;

7 “(B) the proportion of low income women  
8 and socio-economic distribution of clients served  
9 by the project;

10 “(C) the proportion of individuals in the  
11 community that are socially or economically dis-  
12 advantaged (based on median income);

13 “(D) the future fundraising and service co-  
14 ordination plans;

15 “(E) the diversity of services provided; and

16 “(F) regional distribution within the 10  
17 districts of the Administration.”.

18 **SEC. 202. MATCHMAKING FORMULA CHANGE.**

19 Section 29(c)(1) of the Small Business Act (15  
20 U.S.C. 656(c)(1)) is amended—

21 (1) by striking subparagraphs (A) and (B); and

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

23 “(A) For the first and second years of the  
24 project, 1 non-Federal dollar for each 2 Federal  
25 dollars.

1           “(B) Each year after the second year of  
2           the project—

3                   “(i) 1 non-Federal dollar for each  
4                   Federal dollar; or

5                   “(ii) if the center is in a community  
6                   at least 50 percent of the population of  
7                   which is below the median income, 1 non-  
8                   Federal dollar for each 2 Federal dollars.”.

9   **SEC. 203. TERMINATION OF FUNDING.**

10          Section 29(c) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.  
11   656(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

12                   “(5) TERMINATION.—An organization that has  
13                   conducted a project under this subsection—

14                   “(A) is not eligible to conduct another such  
15                   project; and

16                   “(B) may continue thereafter to use the  
17                   women’s business center logo only with the con-  
18                   sent of the Administrator.”.

19   **SEC. 204. WOMEN’S BUSINESS CENTER AWARDS TO BE**  
20                   **MADE PUBLIC.**

21          Section 29(g)(2)(B)(ii)(V) of the Small Business Act  
22   (15 U.S.C. 656(g)(2)(B)(ii)(V)) is amended by inserting  
23   before the semicolon at the end the following: “, and make

- 1 available to the public the award made to each applicant
- 2 so selected”.

Passed the House of Representatives June 18, 2007.

Attest:                   LORRAINE C. MILLER,  
*Clerk.*