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115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1680

To amend the Small Business Act to improve the women's business center program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 22, 2017

Mr. KNIGHT (for himself and Mr. LAWSON of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Small Business

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A BILL

To amend the Small Business Act to improve the women's business center program, and for other purposes.

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 ''Women's Business Centers Improvements Act of 2017''.

SEC. 2. OFFICE OF WOMEN'S BUSINESS OWNERSHIP.

Section 29(g) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656(g)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking subparagraphs (B) and (C) and inserting the following:

''(B) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The responsibilities of the Assistant Administrator shall be to administer the programs and services of the Office of Women's Business Ownership.

''(C) DUTIES.—The Assistant Administrator shall perform the following functions with respect to the Office of Women's Business Ownership:

''(i) Recommend the annual administrative and program budgets of the Office and eligible entities receiving a grant under the Women's Business Center Program.

''(ii) Review the annual budgets submitted by each eligible entity receiving a grant under the Women's Business Center Program.

''(iii) Select applicants to receive grants to operate a women's business center after reviewing information required by this section, including the budget of each applicant.

''(iv) Collaborate with other Federal departments and agencies, State and local governments, not-for-profit organizations,

and for-profit enterprises to maximize utilization of taxpayer dollars and reduce (or eliminate) any duplication among the programs overseen by the Office of Women's Business Ownership and those of other entities that provide similar services to women entrepreneurs.

''(v) Maintain a clearinghouse to provide for the dissemination and exchange of information between women's business centers.

''(vi) Serve as the vice chairperson of the Interagency Committee on Women's Business Enterprise and as the liaison for the National Women's Business Council.''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) MISSION.—The mission of the Office of Women's Business Ownership shall be to assist women entrepreneurs to start, grow, and compete in global markets by providing quality support with access to capital, access to markets, job creation, growth, and counseling by—

''(A) fostering participation of women entrepreneurs in the economy by overseeing a net-

work of women's business centers throughout States and territories;

"(B) creating public-private partnerships to support women entrepreneurs and conduct outreach and education to startup and existing small business concerns owned and controlled by women; and

"(C) working with other programs overseen by the Administrator to ensure women are well-represented and being served and to identify gaps where participation by women could be increased.

"(4) ACCREDITATION PROGRAM.—

"(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Administrator shall establish standards for an accreditation program for accrediting eligible entities receiving a grant under this section, after notice and the opportunity for public comment of no less than 60 days.

"(B) TRANSITION PROVISION.—Before the date on which standards are established under subparagraph (A), the Administrator may not terminate a grant under this section absent evi-

dence of fraud or other criminal misconduct by the recipient.

''(C) CONTRACTING AUTHORITY.—The Administrator may provide financial assistance, by contract or otherwise, to a relevant national women's business center representative association to provide assistance in establishing the standards required under subparagraph (A) or for carrying out an accreditation program pursuant to such standards.''.

SEC. 3. WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTER PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 29(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (4);

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively;

(3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

''(2) the term 'eligible entity' means—

''(A) an organization described in section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code;

''(B) a State, regional, or local economic development organization, so long as the orga-

nization certifies that grant funds received under this section will not be co-mingled with other funds;

''(C) an institution of higher education, unless such institution is currently receiving a grant under section 21;

''(D) a development, credit, or finance corporation chartered by a State, so long as the corporation certifies that grant funds received under this section will not be co-mingled with other funds; or

''(E) any combination of entities listed in subparagraphs (A) through (D);''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(5) the term 'women's business center' means the location at which counseling and training on the management, operations (including manufacturing, services, and retail), access to capital, international trade, Government procurement opportunities, and any other matter is needed to start, maintain, or expand a small business concern owned and controlled by women.''.

(b) AUTHORITY.—Section 29(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656(b)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) as subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C), respectively, and adjusting the margins accordingly;

(2) by striking ''The Administration'' and all that follows through ''5-year projects'' and inserting the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established a Women's Business Center Program under which the Administrator may provide a grant to any eligible entity to operate one or more women's business centers'';

(3) by striking ''The projects shall'' and inserting the following:

''(2) USE OF FUNDS.—The women's business centers shall be designed to provide counseling and training that meets the needs of women, especially socially or economically disadvantaged women, and shall''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

''(3) AMOUNT OF GRANTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The amount of a grant provided under this subsection to an eligible entity per project year shall be not more than $185,000 (as such amount is annually ad-

justed by the Administrator to reflect the change in inflation).

"(B) ADDITIONAL GRANTS.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), with respect to an eligible entity that has received $185,000 in grants under this subsection in a project year, the Administrator may award an additional grant under this subsection of up to $65,000 during such project year if the Administrator determines that the eligible entity—

"(I) agrees to obtain, after its application has been approved and notice of award has been issued, cash contributions from non-Federal sources of 1 non-Federal dollar for each Federal dollar;

"(II) is in good standing with the Women's Business Center Program; and

"(III) has met performance goals for the previous project year, if applicable.

"(ii) LIMITATIONS.—The Administrator may only award additional grants under clause (i)—

"(I) during the 3rd and 4th quarters of the fiscal year; and

"(II) from unobligated amounts made available to the Administrator to carry out this section.

"(4) NOTICE AND COMMENT REQUIRED.—The Administrator may only make a change to the standards by which an eligible entity obtains or maintains grants under this section, the standards for accreditation, or any other requirement for the operation of a women's business center if the Administrator first provides notice and the opportunity for public comment, as set forth in section 553(b) of title 5, United States Code, without regard to any exceptions provided for under such section.".

(c) CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION.—Section 29(c) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking "the recipient organization" and inserting "an eligible entity"; and

(B) by striking ''financial assistance'' and inserting ''a grant'';

(2) in paragraph (3)—

(A) by striking ''financial assistance authorized pursuant to this section may be made by grant, contract, or cooperative agreement and'' and inserting ''grants authorized pursuant to this section''; and

(B) in the second sentence, by striking ''a recipient organization'' and inserting ''an eligible entity'';

(3) in paragraph (4)—

(A) by striking ''recipient of assistance'' and inserting ''eligible entity'';

(B) by striking ''during any project, it shall not be eligible thereafter'' and inserting ''during any project for 2 consecutive years, the eligible entity shall not be eligible at any time after that 2-year period'';

(C) by striking ''such organization'' and inserting ''the eligible entity''; and

(D) by striking ''the recipient'' and inserting ''the eligible entity''; and

(4) by adding at end the following:

''(5) SEPARATION OF PROJECT AND FUNDS.—An eligible entity shall—

''(A) carry out a project under this section separately from other projects, if any, of the eligible entity; and

''(B) separately maintain and account for any grants under this section.

''(6) EXAMINATION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—

''(A) REQUIRED SITE VISIT.—Each applicant, prior to receiving a grant under this section, shall have a site visit by an employee of the Administration, in order to ensure that the applicant has sufficient resources to provide the services for which the grant is being provided.

''(B) ANNUAL REVIEW.—An employee of the Administration shall—

''(i) conduct an annual review of the compliance of each eligible entity receiving a grant under this section with the grant agreement, including a financial examination; and

''(ii) provide such review to the eligible entity as required under subsection (l).

''(7) REMEDIATION OF PROBLEMS.—

''(A) PLAN OF ACTION.—If a review of an eligible entity under paragraph (6)(B) identifies any problems, the eligible entity shall, within 45 calendar days of receiving such review, provide the Assistant Administrator with a plan of action, including specific milestones, for correcting such problems.

''(B) PLAN OF ACTION REVIEW BY THE ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR.—The Assistant Administrator shall review each plan of action submitted under subparagraph (A) within 30 calendar days of receiving such plan and—

''(i) if the Assistant Administrator determines that such plan will bring the eligible entity into compliance with all the terms of the grant agreement, approve such plan;

''(ii) if the Assistant Administrator determines that such plan is inadequate to remedy the problems identified in the annual review to which the plan of action relates, the Assistant Administrator shall set forth such reasons in writing and provide such determination to the eligible entity

within 15 calendar days of such determination.

''(C) AMENDMENT TO PLAN OF ACTION.—An eligible entity receiving a determination under subparagraph (B)(ii) shall have 30 calendar days from the receipt of the determination to amend the plan of action to satisfy the problems identified by the Assistant Administrator and resubmit such plan to the Assistant Administrator.

''(D) AMENDED PLAN REVIEW BY THE ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR.—Within 15 calendar days of the receipt of an amended plan of action under subparagraph (C), the Assistant Administrator shall either approve or reject such plan and provide such approval or rejection in writing to the eligible entity.

''(E) APPEAL OF ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR DETERMINATION.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—If the Assistant Administrator rejects an amended plan under subparagraph (D), the eligible entity shall have the opportunity to appeal such decision to the Administrator, who may

delegate such appeal to an appropriate officer of the Administration.

''(ii) OPPORTUNITY FOR EXPLANATION.—Any appeal described under clause (i) shall provide an opportunity for the eligible entity to provide, in writing, an explanation of why the eligible entity's plan remedies the problems identified in the annual review.

''(iii) NOTICE OF DETERMINATION.—The determination of the appeal shall be provided to the eligible entity, in writing, within 15 calendar days from the eligible entity's filing of the appeal.

''(iv) EFFECT OF FAILURE TO ACT.—If the Administrator fails to act on an appeal made under this subparagraph within the 15-calendar-day period specified under clause (iii), the eligible entity's amended plan of action submitted under subparagraph (C) shall be deemed to be approved.

''(8) TERMINATION OF GRANT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall issue regulations (after providing an opportunity for notice and comment) to provide

that, if an eligible entity fails to comply with a plan of action approved by the Assistant Administrator under paragraph (7)(B)(i) or an amended plan of action approved by the Assistant Administrator under paragraph (7)(D) or approved on appeal under paragraph (7)(E), the Assistant Administrator shall terminate the grant provided to the eligible entity under this section.

''(B) APPEAL OF TERMINATION.—An eligible entity that has a grant terminated under subparagraph (A) shall have the opportunity to challenge the termination on the record and after an opportunity for a hearing.

''(C) FINAL AGENCY ACTION.—The determination made pursuant to subparagraph (B) shall be considered final agency action for the purposes of chapter 7, title 5, United States Code.''.

(d) SUBMISSION OF 5-YEAR PLAN.—Section 29(e) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656(e)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''applicant organization'' and inserting ''eligible entity'';

(2) by striking ''a recipient organization'' and inserting ''an eligible entity'';

(3) by striking ''financial assistance'' and inserting ''grants''; and

(4) by striking ''site''.

(e) APPLICATIONS AND CRITERIA FOR INITIAL GRANT.—Subsection (f) of section 29 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656) is amended to read as follows:

''(f) APPLICATIONS AND CRITERIA FOR INITIAL GRANT.—

''(1) APPLICATION.—Each eligible entity desiring a grant under subsection (b) shall submit to the Administrator an application that contains—

''(A) a certification that the eligible entity—

''(i) has designated an executive director or program manager, who may be compensated using grant funds under subsection (b) or other sources, to manage the women's business center for which a grant under subsection (b) is sought;

''(ii) meets the accounting and reporting requirements established by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget;

''(B) information demonstrating that the eligible entity has the ability and resources to

meet the needs of the market to be served by the women's business center, including the ability to obtain the non-Federal contribution required under subsection (c);

"(C) information relating to the assistance to be provided by the women's business center in the area in which the women's business center is located;

"(D) information demonstrating the experience and effectiveness of the eligible entity in—

"(i) conducting the services described under subsection (a)(5);

"(ii) providing training and services to a representative number of women who are socially or economically disadvantaged; and

"(iii) working with resource partners of the Administration and other entities, such as universities; and

"(E) a 5-year plan that describes the ability of the eligible entity to provide the services described under subsection (a)(3), including to a representative number of women who are socially or economically disadvantaged.

''(2) REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS FOR INITIAL GRANTS.—

''(A) REVIEW AND SELECTION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall review applications to determine whether the applicant can meet obligations to perform the activities required by a grant under this section, including—

''(I) the experience of the applicant in conducting activities required by this section;

''(II) the amount of time needed for the applicant to commence operations should it be awarded a grant;

''(III) the capacity of the applicant to meet the accreditation standards established by the Administrator in a timely manner;

''(IV) the ability of the applicant to sustain operations for more than 5 years (including its ability to obtain sufficient non-Federal funds for that period);

''(V) the location of the women's business center and its proximity to other grant recipients under this section; and

''(VI) the population density of the area to be served by the women's business center.

''(ii) SELECTION CRITERIA.—

''(I) RULEMAKING.—The Administrator shall issue regulations (after providing an opportunity for notice and comment) to specify the criteria for review and selection of applicants under this subsection.

''(II) MODIFICATIONS PROHIBITED AFTER ANNOUNCEMENT.—With respect to a public announcement of any opportunity to be awarded a grant under this section made by the Administrator pursuant to subsection (l)(1), the Administrator may not modify regulations issued pursuant to subclause (I) with respect to such opportunity unless required to do so by

an Act of Congress or an order of a Federal court.

"(III) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this clause may be construed as prohibiting the Administrator from modifying the regulations issued pursuant to subclause (I) (after providing an opportunity for notice and comment) as such regulations apply to an opportunity to be awarded a grant under this section that the Administrator has not yet publicly announced pursuant to subsection (l)(1).

"(B) RECORD RETENTION.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall maintain a copy of each application submitted under this subsection for not less than 5 years.

"(ii) PAPERWORK REDUCTION.—The Administrator shall take steps to reduce, to the maximum extent practicable, the paperwork burden associated with carrying out clause (i).".

(f) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTER PROGRAM.—Section 29 of

the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656) is amended by inserting after subsection (k) the following:

''(l) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTER PROGRAM.—The Administrator shall provide—

''(1) a public announcement of any opportunity to be awarded grants under this section, and such announcement shall include the standards by which such award will be made, including the regulations issued pursuant to subsection (f)(2)(A)(ii);

''(2) the opportunity for any applicant for a grant under this section that failed to obtain such a grant a debriefing with the Assistant Administrator to review the reasons for the applicant's failure; and

''(3) with respect to any site visit or evaluation of an eligible entity receiving a grant under this section that is carried out by an officer or employee of the Administration (other than the Inspector General), a copy of the site visit report or evaluation, as applicable, within 30 calendar days of the completion of such vision or evaluation.''.

(g) CONTINUED FUNDING FOR CENTERS.—Section 29(m) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656(m)) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

''(3) APPLICATION AND APPROVAL FOR CONTINUATION GRANTS.—

''(A) SOLICITATION OF APPLICATIONS.—The Administrator shall solicit applications and award continuation grants under this subsection for the first fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this paragraph, and every third fiscal year thereafter.

''(B) CONTENTS OF APPLICATION.—Each eligible entity desiring a grant under this subsection shall submit to the Administrator an application that contains—

''(i) a certification that the applicant—

''(I) is an eligible entity;

''(II) has designated an executive director or program manager to manage the women's business center operated by the applicant; and

''(III) as a condition of receiving a grant under this subsection, agrees—

''(aa) to receive a site visit as part of the final selection process, at the discretion of the Administrator; and

''(bb) to remedy any problem identified pursuant to the site visit under item (aa);

''(ii) information demonstrating that the applicant has the ability and resources to meet the needs of the market to be served by the women's business center for which a grant under this subsection is sought, including the ability to obtain the non-Federal contribution required under paragraph (4)(C);

''(iii) information relating to assistance to be provided by the women's business center in the geographic area served by the women's business center for which a grant under this subsection is sought;

''(iv) information demonstrating that the applicant has worked with resource partners of the Administration and other entities;

''(v) a 3-year plan that describes the services provided by the women's business center for which a grant under this subsection is sought—

''(I) to serve women who are business owners or potential business owners by conducting training and counseling activities; and

''(II) to provide training and services to a representative number of women who are socially or economically disadvantaged; and

''(vi) any additional information that the Administrator may reasonably require.

''(C) REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator—

''(I) shall review each application submitted under subparagraph (B), based on the information described in such subparagraph and the criteria set forth under clause (ii) of this subparagraph; and

"(II) as part of the final selection process, may, at the discretion of the Administrator, conduct a site visit to each women's business center for which a grant under this subsection is sought, in particular to evaluate the women's business center using the selection criteria described in clause (ii)(II).

"(ii) SELECTION CRITERIA.—

"(I) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall evaluate applicants for grants under this subsection in accordance with selection criteria that are—

"(aa) established before the date on which applicants are required to submit the applications;

"(bb) stated in terms of relative importance; and

"(cc) publicly available and stated in each solicitation for applications for grants under this subsection made by the Administrator.

"(II) REQUIRED CRITERIA.—The selection criteria for a grant under this subsection shall include—

"(aa) the total number of entrepreneurs served by the applicant;

"(bb) the total number of new startup companies assisted by the applicant;

"(cc) the percentage of clients of the applicant that are socially or economically disadvantaged;

"(dd) the percentage of individuals in the community served by the applicant who are socially or economically disadvantaged;

"(ee) the successful accreditation of the applicant under the accreditation program developed under subsection (g)(5); and

"(ff) any additional criteria that the Administrator may reasonably require.

"(iii) CONDITIONS FOR CONTINUED FUNDING.—In determining whether to make a grant under this subsection, the Administrator—

"(I) shall consider the results of the most recent evaluation of the women's business center for which a grant under this subsection is sought, and, to a lesser extent, previous evaluations; and

"(II) may withhold a grant under this subsection, if the Administrator determines that the applicant has failed to provide the information required to be provided under this paragraph, or the information provided by the applicant is inadequate.

"(D) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 60 calendar days after the date of each deadline to submit applications under this paragraph, the Administrator shall approve or deny each submitted application and notify the applicant for each such application of the approval or denial.

"(E) RECORD RETENTION.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall maintain a copy of each application submitted under this paragraph for not less than 5 years.

"(ii) PAPERWORK REDUCTION.—The Administrator shall take steps to reduce, to the maximum extent practicable, the paperwork burden associated with carrying out clause (i).''; and

(2) by striking paragraph (5) and inserting the following:

"(5) AWARD TO PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS.—There shall be no limitation on the number of times the Administrator may award a grant to an applicant under this subsection.''.

(h) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 29 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656) is amended—

(1) in subsection (h)(2), by striking "to award a contract (as a sustainability grant) under subsection (l) or'';

(2) in subsection (j)(1), by striking "The Administration'' and inserting "Not later than November 1 of each year, the Administrator'';

(3) in subsection (k)—

(A) by striking paragraphs (1) and (4);

(B) by inserting before paragraph (2) the following:

''(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Administration to carry out this section, to remain available until expended, $21,750,000 for each of fiscal years 2018 through 2021.''; and

(C) in paragraph (2), by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

''(B) EXCEPTIONS.—Of the amount made available under this subsection for a fiscal year, the following amounts shall be available for selection panel costs, costs associated with maintaining an accreditation program, and post-award conference costs:

''(i) For the first fiscal year beginning after the date of the enactment of this subparagraph, 2.65 percent.

''(ii) For the second fiscal year beginning after the date of the enactment of this subparagraph and each fiscal year thereafter through fiscal year 2021, 2.5 percent.''; and

(4) in subsection (m)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking ''subsection (b) or (l)'' and inserting ''this subsection or subsection (b)''; and

(B) in paragraph (4)(D), by striking ''or subsection (l)''.

(i) EFFECT ON EXISTING GRANTS.—

(1) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—A nonprofit organization receiving a grant under section 29(m) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656(m)), as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act, shall continue to receive the grant under the terms and conditions in effect for the grant on the day before the date of enactment of this Act, except that the nonprofit organization may not apply for a continuation of the grant under section 29(m)(5) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656(m)(5)), as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) LENGTH OF CONTINUATION GRANT.—The Administrator of the Small Business Administration may award a grant under section 29(m) of the Small Business Act to a nonprofit organization receiving a grant under section 29(m) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656(m)), as in effect on the day be-

fore the date of enactment of this Act, for the period—

(A) beginning on the day after the last day of the grant agreement under such section 29(m); and

(B) ending at the end of the third fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 4. MATCHING REQUIREMENTS UNDER WOMEN'S BUSINESS CENTER PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 29(c) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656(c)), as amended by section 3 of this Act, is further amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking ''As a condition'' and inserting ''Subject to paragraph (6), as a condition''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(9) WAIVER OF NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Upon request by an eligible entity, and in accordance with this paragraph, the Administrator may waive, in whole or in part, the requirement to obtain non-Federal funds under this subsection for counseling and training activities of the eligible entity carried out using a grant under this section for a

fiscal year. The Administrator may not waive the requirement for an eligible entity to obtain non-Federal funds under this paragraph for more than a total of 2 consecutive fiscal years.

''(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—In determining whether to waive the requirement to obtain non-Federal funds under this paragraph, the Administrator shall consider—

''(i) the economic conditions affecting the eligible entity;

''(ii) the impact a waiver under this paragraph would have on the credibility of the Women's Business Center Program under this section;

''(iii) the demonstrated ability of the eligible entity to raise non-Federal funds; and

''(iv) the performance of the eligible entity.

''(C) LIMITATION.—The Administrator may not waive the requirement to obtain non-Federal funds under this paragraph if granting the waiver would undermine the credibility of the Women's Business Center Program.

''(10) SOLICITATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, eligible entity may—

''(A) solicit cash and in-kind contributions from private individuals and entities to be used to carry out the activities of the eligible entity under the project conducted under this section; and

''(B) use amounts made available by the Administrator under this section for the cost of such solicitation and management of the contributions received.

''(11) EXCESS NON-FEDERAL DOLLARS.—The amount of non-Federal dollars obtained by an eligible entity that is above the amount that is required to be obtained by the eligible entity under this subsection shall not be subject to the requirements of part 200 of title 2, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor thereto, if such amount of non-Federal dollars—

''(A) is not used as matching funds for purposes of implementing the Women's Business Center Program; and

''(B) was not obtained using funds from the Women's Business Center Program.''.

(b) REGULATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of Small Business Administration shall—

(A) except as provided in paragraph (2), and not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, publish in the Federal Register proposed regulations by the Administrator to carry out the amendments made to section 29 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656) by this Act; and

(B) accept public comments on such proposed regulations for not less than 60 days.

(2) EXISTING PROPOSED REGULATIONS.—Paragraph (1)(A) shall not apply to the extent proposed regulations by the Administrator have been published on the date of enactment of this Act that are sufficient to carry out the amendments made to section 29 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 656) by this Act.

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