

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 121

To establish the veterans' business outreach center program, to improve the programs for veterans of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 12, 2017

Mr. HELLER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

A BILL

To establish the veterans' business outreach center program, to improve the programs for veterans 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Veterans Small Busi-
5 ness Ownership Improvements Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. VETERANS’ BUSINESS OUTREACH CENTER PRO-**
 2 **GRAM; OFFICE OF VETERANS BUSINESS DE-**
 3 **VELOPMENT.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 32 of the Small Business
 5 Act (15 U.S.C. 657b) is amended by striking subsections
 6 (d), (e), and (f) and inserting the following:

7 “(d) BOOTS TO BUSINESS PROGRAM.—

8 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

9 “(A) the term ‘covered individual’ means—

10 “(i) a member of the Armed Forces,
 11 without regard to whether the member is
 12 participating in the Transition Assistance
 13 Program of the Department of Defense;

14 “(ii) an individual who is participating
 15 in the Transition Assistance Program of
 16 the Department of Defense;

17 “(iii) an individual who—

18 “(I) served on active duty in any
 19 branch of the Armed Forces, includ-
 20 ing the National Guard and Reserves;
 21 and

22 “(II) was discharged or released
 23 from such service under conditions
 24 other than dishonorable; and

1 “(iv) a spouse or dependent of an in-
2 dividual described in clause (i), (ii), or (iii);
3 and

4 “(B) the term ‘Vet Center’ means a center
5 for readjustment counseling and related mental
6 health services for veterans under section
7 1712A of title 38, United States Code.

8 “(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a
9 program to be known as the ‘Boots to Business Pro-
10 gram’ to provide entrepreneurship training to cov-
11 ered individuals, which shall be carried out by the
12 Administrator.

13 “(3) GOALS.—The goals of the Boots to Busi-
14 ness Program are to—

15 “(A) provide exposure, introduction, and
16 in-depth training for covered individuals inter-
17 ested in business ownership; and

18 “(B) provide covered individuals with the
19 tools and knowledge necessary to identify a
20 business opportunity, draft a business plan,
21 identify sources of capital, connect with local
22 small business resources, and launch a small
23 business concern.

24 “(4) PROGRAM COMPONENTS.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Boots to Busi-
2 ness Program may include—

3 “(i) a brief presentation providing ex-
4 posure to the considerations involved in
5 self-employment and small business owner-
6 ship;

7 “(ii) an online, self-study course fo-
8 cused on the basic skills of entrepreneur-
9 ship, the language of business, and the
10 considerations involved in self-employment
11 and small business ownership;

12 “(iii) an in-person classroom instruc-
13 tion component providing an introduction
14 to the foundations of self employment and
15 small business ownership; and

16 “(iv) in-depth training delivered
17 through online instruction, including an
18 online course that leads to the creation of
19 a business plan.

20 “(B) COLLABORATION.—The Adminis-
21 trator may—

22 “(i) collaborate with public and pri-
23 vate entities to develop a course curriculum
24 for the Boots to Business Program; and

1 “(ii) modify program components in
 2 coordination with entities participating in
 3 the Warriors in Transition programs, as
 4 defined in section 738(f) of the National
 5 Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year
 6 2013 (10 U.S.C. 1071 note).

7 “(C) UTILIZATION OF RESOURCE PART-
 8 NERS.—

9 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Associate Ad-
 10 ministrator shall—

11 “(I) ensure that veterans’ busi-
 12 ness outreach centers regularly partici-
 13 pate, on a nationwide basis, in the
 14 Boots to Business Program; and

15 “(II) to the maximum extent
 16 practicable, use a variety of other re-
 17 source partners and entities in admin-
 18 istering the Boots to Business Pro-
 19 gram.

20 “(ii) GRANT AUTHORITY.—In carrying
 21 out clause (i), the Associate Administrator
 22 may make grants to veterans’ business
 23 outreach centers, other resource partners,
 24 and other entities to carry out components
 25 of the Boots to Business Program.

1 “(D) AVAILABILITY TO DOD.—The Admin-
2 istrator shall—

3 “(i) make available electronically in-
4 formation regarding the Boots to Business
5 Program and all course materials created
6 for the Boots to Business Program to the
7 Secretary of Defense for inclusion on the
8 website of the Department of Defense re-
9 lating to the Transition Assistance Pro-
10 gram and in the Transition Assistance
11 Program manual and other publications
12 and materials available for distribution
13 from the Secretary of Defense; and

14 “(ii) fully participate in the inter-
15 agency governance of the Transition As-
16 sistance Program.

17 “(E) AVAILABILITY TO VETERANS AF-
18 FAIRS.—In consultation with the Secretary of
19 Veterans Affairs, the Associate Administrator
20 shall make available outreach materials regard-
21 ing the Boots to Business Program for distribu-
22 tion and display at local facilities of the Depart-
23 ment of Veterans Affairs (including medical
24 centers, community-based outpatient clinics,
25 Vet Centers, and other facilities determined ap-

1 appropriate by the Associate Administrator and
2 the Secretary), which shall, at a minimum—

3 “(i) describe the Boots to Business
4 Program, including a description of serv-
5 ices provided; and

6 “(ii) include eligibility requirements
7 for participating in the Boots to Business
8 Program.

9 “(5) REVIEW.—The Inspector General of the
10 Administration shall submit to the Committee on
11 Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate
12 and the Committee on Small Business of the House
13 of Representatives an annual report regarding the
14 awarding of grants under the Boots to Business
15 Program.

16 “(e) WOMEN VETERANS BUSINESS TRAINING PRO-
17 GRAM.—

18 “(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term
19 ‘covered individual’ means an individual who—

20 “(A) is female; and

21 “(B) is—

22 “(i) a member of the Armed Forces;

23 “(ii) a veteran; or

24 “(iii) the spouse or dependent of a
25 member of the Armed Forces or a veteran.

1 “(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator
 2 shall establish a program, to be known as the
 3 Women Veterans Business Training Program, to
 4 provide specific training for covered individuals in-
 5 terested in exploring careers as owners of small busi-
 6 ness concerns.

7 “(3) GOALS.—The goals of the Women Vet-
 8 erans Business Training Program are to—

9 “(A) help covered individuals by providing
 10 the tools to become successful entrepreneurs;
 11 and

12 “(B) integrate the leadership, integrity,
 13 focus, and drive of covered individuals into a
 14 premier education training program taught by
 15 accomplished entrepreneurs and entrepreneur-
 16 ship educators from across the United States.

17 “(4) PROGRAM COMPONENTS.—

18 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Women Veterans
 19 Business Training Program may include—

20 “(i) an online, self-study course fo-
 21 cused on the basic skills of entrepreneur-
 22 ship and the language of business;

23 “(ii) a conference where participants
 24 are exposed to accomplished entrepreneurs

1 and entrepreneurship educators from
2 across the United States; and

3 “(iii) a plan to provide ongoing sup-
4 port and mentorship.

5 “(B) COLLABORATION.—The Adminis-
6 trator may collaborate with public and private
7 entities to develop a course curriculum for the
8 Women Veterans Business Training Program.

9 “(5) WOMEN VETERANS BUSINESS TRAINING.—
10 The Associate Administrator shall—

11 “(A) compile information on resources
12 available to women veterans for business train-
13 ing, including resources for—

14 “(i) vocational and technical edu-
15 cation;

16 “(ii) general business skills, such as
17 marketing and accounting; and

18 “(iii) business assistance programs
19 targeted to women veterans;

20 “(B) disseminate the information compiled
21 under subparagraph (A) through veterans’ busi-
22 ness outreach centers and women’s business
23 centers; and

24 “(C) in consultation with the Secretary of
25 Veterans Affairs, make available outreach mate-

1 rials regarding the Women Veterans Business
 2 Training Program for distribution and display
 3 at local facilities of the Department of Veterans
 4 Affairs (including medical centers, community-
 5 based outpatient clinics, Vet Centers (as de-
 6 fined in subsection (d)(1)), and other facilities
 7 determined appropriate by the Associate Ad-
 8 ministrator and the Secretary), which shall, at
 9 a minimum—

10 “(i) describe the Women Veterans
 11 Business Training Program, including a
 12 description of services provided; and

13 “(ii) include eligibility requirements
 14 for participating in the Women Veterans
 15 Business Training Program.

16 “(6) GRANT AUTHORITY.—The Associate Ad-
 17 ministrator may make grants to veterans’ business
 18 outreach centers, women’s business centers, and
 19 other entities, including other resource partners, to
 20 carry out components of the Women Veterans Busi-
 21 ness Training Program.

22 “(f) BUSINESS TRAINING PROGRAM FOR SERVICE
 23 DISABLED VETERANS.—

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall es-
 25 tablish a Business Training Program for Service

1 Disabled Veterans to provide specific training for
2 service-disabled veterans interested in exploring ca-
3 reers as owners of small business concerns.

4 “(2) GOALS.—The goals of the Business Train-
5 ing Program for Service Disabled Veterans are to—

6 “(A) help service-disabled veterans by pro-
7 viding the tools to become successful entre-
8 preneurs; and

9 “(B) integrate the leadership, integrity,
10 focus, and drive of service-disabled veterans
11 into a premier education training program
12 taught by accomplished entrepreneurs and en-
13 trepreneurship educators from across the
14 United States.

15 “(3) PROGRAM COMPONENTS.—

16 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Business Train-
17 ing Program for Service Disabled Veterans may
18 include—

19 “(i) an online, self-study course fo-
20 cused on the basic skills of entrepreneur-
21 ship and the language of business;

22 “(ii) a conference where participants
23 are exposed to accomplished entrepreneurs
24 and entrepreneurship educators from
25 across the United States; and

1 “(iii) a plan to provide ongoing sup-
2 port and mentorship.

3 “(B) COLLABORATION.—The Adminis-
4 trator may collaborate with public and private
5 entities to develop a course curriculum for the
6 Business Training Program for Service Dis-
7 abled Veterans.

8 “(4) AVAILABILITY TO VETERANS AFFAIRS.—In
9 consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs,
10 the Associate Administrator shall make available
11 outreach materials regarding the Business Training
12 Program for Service Disabled Veterans for distribu-
13 tion and display at local facilities of the Department
14 of Veterans Affairs (including medical centers, com-
15 munity-based outpatient clinics, Vet Centers (as de-
16 fined in subsection (d)(1)), and other facilities deter-
17 mined appropriate by the Associate Administrator
18 and the Secretary), which shall, at a minimum—

19 “(A) describe the Business Training Pro-
20 gram for Service Disabled Veterans, including a
21 description of services provided; and

22 “(B) include eligibility requirements for
23 participating in the Business Training Program
24 for Service Disabled Veterans.

1 “(5) GRANT AUTHORITY.—The Associate Ad-
 2 ministrators may make grants to veterans’ business
 3 outreach centers and other entities, including other
 4 resource partners, to carry out components of the
 5 Business Training Program for Service Disabled
 6 Veterans.

7 “(g) VETERANS’ BUSINESS OUTREACH CENTER
 8 PROGRAM.—

9 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

10 “(A) the term ‘active duty’ has the mean-
 11 ing given that term in section 101 of title 10,
 12 United States Code;

13 “(B) the term ‘Reservist’ means a member
 14 of a reserve component of the Armed Forces, as
 15 described in section 10101 of title 10, United
 16 States Code;

17 “(C) the term ‘small business concern
 18 owned and controlled by veterans’—

19 “(i) has the meaning given that term
 20 in section 3(q); and

21 “(ii) includes a small business con-
 22 cern—

23 “(I) not less than 51 percent of
 24 which is owned by 1 or more spouses
 25 of veterans or, in the case of any pub-

1 licly owned business, not less than 51
 2 percent of the stock of which is owned
 3 by 1 or more spouses of veterans; and
 4 “(II) the management and daily
 5 business operations of which are con-
 6 trolled by 1 or more spouses of vet-
 7 erans;

8 “(D) the term ‘spouse’, relating to a mem-
 9 ber of the Armed Forces on active duty, vet-
 10 eran, service-disabled veteran, or Reservist, in-
 11 cludes an individual who, on the date on which
 12 the member of the Armed Forces on active
 13 duty, veteran, service-disabled veteran, or Re-
 14 servist died, is the spouse of the member of the
 15 Armed Forces on active duty, veteran, service-
 16 disabled veteran, or Reservist; and

17 “(E) the term ‘veterans’ business outreach
 18 center program’ means the program established
 19 under paragraph (2)(A).

20 “(2) PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.—

21 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator,
 22 acting through the Associate Administrator,
 23 shall establish a veterans’ business outreach
 24 center program, under which the Associate Ad-
 25 ministrator may provide financial assistance to

1 educational institutions, veterans’ nonprofit
 2 community-based organizations, and Federal,
 3 State, and local departments and agencies to
 4 conduct a 5-year project for the benefit of small
 5 business concerns owned and controlled by vet-
 6 erans, which, upon application by the entity re-
 7 ceiving financial assistance, may be renewed for
 8 1 or more additional 5-year periods.

9 “(B) FORM OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

10 Financial assistance under this subsection may
 11 be in the form of a grant, a contract, or a coop-
 12 erative agreement.

13 “(3) VETERANS’ BUSINESS OUTREACH CEN-

14 TERS.—Each entity that receives financial assistance
 15 under this subsection shall establish or operate a
 16 veterans’ business outreach center (which may in-
 17 clude establishing or operating satellite offices in the
 18 region described in paragraph (5) served by that en-
 19 tity) that provides to veterans (including service-dis-
 20 abled veterans), Reservists, and the spouses of mem-
 21 bers of the Armed Forces on active duty, veterans
 22 (including service-disabled veterans), and Reserv-
 23 ists—

24 “(A) financial advice, including training
 25 and counseling on applying for and securing

business credit and investment capital, preparing and presenting financial statements, and managing cash flow and other financial operations of a small business concern;

“(B) management advice, including training and counseling on the planning, organization, staffing, direction, and control of each major activity and function of a small business concern;

“(C) technical assistance, training, and counseling to assist in identifying and obtaining Federal procurement opportunities;

“(D) marketing advice, including training and counseling on identifying and segmenting domestic and international market opportunities, preparing and executing marketing plans, developing pricing strategies, locating contract opportunities, negotiating contracts, and using public relations and advertising techniques; and

“(E) other advice, including training and counseling.

“(4) APPLICATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—An entity desiring to receive financial assistance under this subsection shall submit an application to the Asso-

1 ciate Administrator at such time and in such
2 manner as the Associate Administrator may re-
3 quire.

4 “(B) 5-YEAR PLAN.—Each application de-
5 scribed in subparagraph (A) shall include a 5-
6 year plan on proposed fundraising and training
7 activities relating to the veterans’ business out-
8 reach center.

9 “(C) DETERMINATION AND NOTIFICA-
10 TION.—Not later than 90 days after the date
11 on which applications for a fiscal year are re-
12 quired to be submitted under subparagraph (A),
13 the Associate Administrator shall approve or
14 deny any application submitted and notify the
15 applicant of the determination.

16 “(D) AVAILABILITY OF APPLICATION.—
17 The Associate Administrator shall make every
18 effort to make the application under subpara-
19 graph (A) available online.

20 “(5) ELIGIBILITY.—The Associate Adminis-
21 trator may select to receive financial assistance
22 under this subsection—

23 “(A) a Veterans’ Business Outreach Cen-
24 ter established by the Administrator under sec-

tion 8(b)(17) on or before the day before the date of enactment of this subsection; or

“(B) educational institutions, veterans’ nonprofit community-based organizations, and Federal, State, and local departments and agencies located in various regions of the United States, as the Associate Administrator determines is appropriate.

“(6) SELECTION CRITERIA.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Associate Administrator shall establish selection criteria, stated in terms of relative importance, to evaluate and rank applicants under paragraph (5)(B) for financial assistance under this subsection.

“(B) CRITERIA.—The selection criteria established under this paragraph shall include—

“(i) the experience of the applicant in conducting programs or ongoing efforts designed to impart or upgrade the business skills of veterans (including service-disabled veterans), Reservists, and the spouses of members of the Armed Forces on active duty, veterans (including service-disabled veterans), and Reservists who own or may own small business concerns;

1 “(ii) for an applicant for initial finan-
2 cial assistance under this subsection—

3 “(I) the ability of the applicant
4 to begin operating a veterans’ busi-
5 ness outreach center within a min-
6 imum amount of time; and

7 “(II) the geographic region to be
8 served by the veterans’ business out-
9 reach center;

10 “(iii) the demonstrated ability of the
11 applicant to—

12 “(I) provide managerial coun-
13 seling and technical assistance to en-
14 trepreneurs; and

15 “(II) coordinate services provided
16 by veterans service organizations and
17 other public or private entities;

18 “(iv) the demonstrated ability to le-
19 verage and coordinate with existing re-
20 sources and infrastructure of the Adminis-
21 tration; and

22 “(v) for any applicant for a renewal of
23 financial assistance under this subsection,
24 the results of the most recent examination
25 under paragraph (11) of the veterans’

1 business outreach center operated by the
 2 applicant.

3 “(C) CRITERIA PUBLICLY AVAILABLE.—

4 The Associate Administrator shall—

5 “(i) make publicly available the selec-
 6 tion criteria established under this para-
 7 graph;

8 “(ii) include the criteria in each solici-
 9 tation for applications for financial assist-
 10 ance under this subsection;

11 “(iii) make every effort to ensure re-
 12 gional accessibility and geographic rep-
 13 resentation in awarding financial assist-
 14 ance under this subsection; and

15 “(iv) to the extent practicable, make
 16 publicly available the approximate antici-
 17 pated date for the determination of award
 18 recipients by the Administration and the
 19 anticipated timing of disbursement.

20 “(7) AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE.—The amount of
 21 financial assistance provided under this subsection
 22 to an entity for each fiscal year shall be not less
 23 than \$100,000.

24 “(8) FEDERAL SHARE.—

25 “(A) IN GENERAL.—

1 “(i) INITIAL FINANCIAL ASSIST-
2 ANCE.—Except as provided in clause (ii)
3 and subparagraph (E), an entity that re-
4 ceives financial assistance under this sub-
5 section shall provide non-Federal contribu-
6 tions for the operation of the veterans’
7 business outreach center established by the
8 entity in an amount equal to—

9 “(I) in each of the first and sec-
10 ond years of the project, not less than
11 33 percent of the amount of the fi-
12 nancial assistance received under this
13 subsection; and

14 “(II) in each of the third through
15 fifth years of the project, not less
16 than 50 percent of the amount of the
17 financial assistance received under
18 this subsection.

19 “(ii) RENEWALS.—An entity that re-
20 ceives a renewal of financial assistance
21 under this subsection shall provide non-
22 Federal contributions for the operation of
23 the veterans’ business outreach center es-
24 tablished by the entity in an amount equal
25 to not less than 50 percent of the amount

1 of the financial assistance received under
2 this subsection.

3 “(B) FORM OF NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—
4 Not more than 50 percent of the non-Federal
5 share for a project carried out using financial
6 assistance under this subsection may be in the
7 form of in-kind contributions.

8 “(C) TIMING OF DISBURSEMENT.—The
9 Associate Administrator may disburse not more
10 than 25 percent of the financial assistance
11 awarded to an entity before the entity obtains
12 the non-Federal share required under this para-
13 graph with respect to that award.

14 “(D) FAILURE TO OBTAIN NON-FEDERAL
15 FUNDING.—

16 “(i) IN GENERAL.—If an entity that
17 receives financial assistance under this
18 subsection fails to obtain the non-Federal
19 share required under this paragraph dur-
20 ing 2 consecutive fiscal years, the entity
21 may not receive a disbursement under this
22 subsection in a subsequent fiscal year or a
23 disbursement for any other project funded
24 by the Administration, unless the Adminis-
25 trator makes a written determination that

1 the entity will be able to obtain a non-Fed-
 2 eral contribution.

3 “(ii) RESTORATION.—An entity pro-
 4 hibited from receiving a disbursement
 5 under clause (i) in a fiscal year may re-
 6 ceive financial assistance in a subsequent
 7 fiscal year if the entity obtains the non-
 8 Federal share required under this para-
 9 graph for the subsequent fiscal year.

10 “(E) WAIVER OF NON-FEDERAL SHARE
 11 FOR INITIAL RECIPIENTS.—

12 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Upon request by
 13 an entity, and in accordance with this sub-
 14 paragraph, the Administrator may waive,
 15 in whole or in part, the requirement to ob-
 16 tain non-Federal funds under subpara-
 17 graph (A)(i) for a fiscal year. The Admin-
 18 istrator may not waive the requirement for
 19 an entity to obtain non-Federal funds
 20 under this subparagraph for more than a
 21 total of 2 fiscal years.

22 “(ii) CONSIDERATIONS.—In deter-
 23 mining whether to waive the requirement
 24 to obtain non-Federal funds under this

1 subparagraph, the Administrator shall con-
2 sider—

3 “(I) the economic conditions af-
4 fecting the entity;

5 “(II) the impact a waiver under
6 this subparagraph would have on the
7 credibility of the veterans’ business
8 outreach center program;

9 “(III) the demonstrated ability of
10 the entity to raise non-Federal funds;
11 and

12 “(IV) the performance of the en-
13 tity.

14 “(iii) LIMITATION.—The Adminis-
15 trator may not waive the requirement to
16 obtain non-Federal funds under this sub-
17 paragraph if granting the waiver would un-
18 dermine the credibility of the veterans’
19 business outreach center program.

20 “(9) AFFILIATION WITH SMALL BUSINESS DE-
21 VELOPMENT CENTERS.—

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—An entity receiving fi-
23 nancial assistance under this subsection shall
24 enter into an agreement to affiliate with a small
25 business development center for purposes of

1 carrying out the activities of the entity using
2 the financial assistance.

3 “(B) CONSISTENCY WITH AGREEMENT.—

4 The terms of an agreement to affiliate under
5 subparagraph (A) shall be in accordance with
6 the terms of any agreement between the appli-
7 cable small business development center and the
8 Administration.

9 “(10) CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—A veterans’
10 business outreach center may enter into a contract
11 with a Federal department or agency to provide spe-
12 cific assistance to veterans, service-disabled veterans,
13 Reservists, or the spouses of members of the Armed
14 Forces on active duty, veterans, service-disabled vet-
15 erans, or Reservists with prior written approval of
16 the Associate Administrator. Performance of such
17 contract shall not hinder the veterans’ business out-
18 reach center in carrying out the terms of the grant
19 received by the veterans’ business outreach center
20 from the Administrator.

21 “(11) EXAMINATION AND DETERMINATION OF
22 PERFORMANCE.—

23 “(A) EXAMINATION.—

24 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than
25 180 days after the date of enactment of

1 this subsection and every year thereafter,
2 the Associate Administrator shall conduct
3 an annual examination of the programs
4 and finances of each veterans' business
5 outreach center established or operated
6 using financial assistance under this sub-
7 section.

8 “(ii) FACTORS.—In conducting the ex-
9 amination under clause (i), the Associate
10 Administrator shall consider whether the
11 veterans' business outreach center has
12 failed—

13 “(I) to provide the information
14 required to be provided under sub-
15 paragraph (B), or the information
16 provided by the center is inadequate;

17 “(II) to comply with a require-
18 ment for participation in the veterans'
19 business outreach center program, as
20 determined by the Associate Adminis-
21 trator, including—

22 “(aa) failure to acquire or
23 properly document a non-Federal
24 share;

1 “(bb) failure to establish an
2 appropriate partnership or pro-
3 gram for marketing and outreach
4 to small business concerns;

5 “(cc) failure to achieve re-
6 sults described in a financial as-
7 sistance agreement; and

8 “(dd) failure to provide to
9 the Administrator a description
10 of the amount and sources of any
11 non-Federal funding received by
12 the center;

13 “(III) to carry out the 5-year
14 plan described in paragraph (4)(B);

15 “(IV) to meet the eligibility re-
16 quirements under paragraph (5); or

17 “(V) to serve small business con-
18 cerns in the geographic region served
19 by the veterans’ business outreach
20 center.

21 “(B) INFORMATION PROVIDED.—In the
22 course of an examination under subparagraph
23 (A), the veterans’ business outreach center shall
24 provide to the Associate Administrator—

1 “(i) an itemized cost breakdown of ac-
 2 tual expenditures for costs incurred during
 3 the most recent full fiscal year, including
 4 the amount spent on administrative ex-
 5 penses;

6 “(ii) documentation of the amount of
 7 non-Federal contributions obtained and ex-
 8 pended by the veterans’ business outreach
 9 center during the most recent full fiscal
 10 year;

11 “(iii) with respect to any in-kind con-
 12 tribution under paragraph (8)(B),
 13 verification of the existence and valuation
 14 of such contribution; and

15 “(iv) any additional information the
 16 Associate Administrator determines nec-
 17 essary.

18 “(C) DETERMINATION OF PERFORM-
 19 ANCE.—

20 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Associate Ad-
 21 ministrator shall analyze the results of
 22 each examination under subparagraph (A)
 23 and, based on that analysis, make a deter-
 24 mination regarding the performance of the

1 programs and finances of each veterans’
2 business outreach center.

3 “(ii) NONDELEGATION OF DETER-
4 MINATION.—The duty under clause (i) to
5 make a determination regarding the per-
6 formance of the programs and finances of
7 a veterans’ business outreach center may
8 not be delegated.

9 “(D) DISCONTINUATION OF FUNDING.—

10 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Associate Ad-
11 ministrator may discontinue an award of
12 financial assistance to an entity at any
13 time for poor performance as determined
14 under subparagraph (C).

15 “(ii) RESTORATION.—The Associate
16 Administrator may continue to provide fi-
17 nancial assistance to an entity in a subse-
18 quent fiscal year if the Associate Adminis-
19 trator determines under subparagraph (C)
20 that the veterans’ business outreach center
21 has taken appropriate measures to improve
22 its performance and it is viable.

23 “(12) COORDINATION OF EFFORTS AND CON-
24 SULTATION.—

1 “(A) COORDINATION AND CONSULTA-
2 TION.—To the extent practicable, the Associate
3 Administrator and each entity that receives fi-
4 nancial assistance under this subsection shall—

5 “(i) coordinate outreach and other ac-
6 tivities with other programs of the Admin-
7 istration and the programs of other Fed-
8 eral agencies, including programs at local
9 facilities of the Department of Veterans
10 Affairs;

11 “(ii) consult with technical representa-
12 tives of the district offices of the Adminis-
13 tration in carrying out activities using fi-
14 nancial assistance under this subsection;
15 and

16 “(iii) provide information to the vet-
17 erans business development officers des-
18 ignated under subparagraph (B) and co-
19 ordinate with the veterans business devel-
20 opment officers to increase the ability of
21 the veterans business development officers
22 to provide services throughout the area
23 served by the veterans business develop-
24 ment officers.

1 “(B) VETERANS BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
2 OFFICERS.—

3 “(i) DESIGNATION.—The Adminis-
4 trator shall designate not fewer than 1 in-
5 dividual in each district office of the Ad-
6 ministration as a veterans business devel-
7 opment officer, who shall communicate and
8 coordinate activities of the district office
9 with entities that receive financial assist-
10 ance under this subsection.

11 “(ii) INITIAL DESIGNATION.—The
12 first individual in each district office of the
13 Administration designated by the Adminis-
14 trator as a veterans business development
15 officer under clause (i) shall be an indi-
16 vidual that is employed by the Administra-
17 tion on the date of enactment of this sub-
18 section.

19 “(13) EXISTING CONTRACTS.—An award of fi-
20 nancial assistance under this subsection shall not
21 void any contract or cooperative agreement between
22 any entity and the Administration or grant to any
23 entity from the Administration that is in effect on
24 the date of such award.

1 “(h) VETERANS BUSINESS OWNERS INITIATIVE
2 PILOT PROGRAM.—

3 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

4 “(A) the term ‘covered individual’ means—

5 “(i) a member of the Armed Forces
6 on active duty, as defined in section
7 101(d)(1) of title 10, United States Code;

8 “(ii) a member of the Armed Forces
9 who is participating in the Transition As-
10 sistance Program of the Department of
11 Defense;

12 “(iii) a member of a reserve compo-
13 nent of the Armed Forces named in section
14 10101 of title 10, United States Code;

15 “(iv) a veteran; and

16 “(v) a spouse or dependent of an indi-
17 vidual described in clause (i), (ii), (iii), or
18 (iv);

19 “(B) the term ‘institution of higher edu-
20 cation’ has the meaning given the term in sec-
21 tion 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965
22 (20 U.S.C. 1002); and

23 “(C) the term ‘pilot program’ means the
24 Veterans Business Owners Initiative Pilot Pro-
25 gram established under paragraph (2).

1 “(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days
2 after the date of enactment of this subsection, the
3 Administrator shall establish a pilot program, to be
4 known as the Veterans Business Owners Initiative
5 Pilot Program, to provide grants to nonprofit enti-
6 ties to carry out peer support groups that provide
7 training to covered individuals interested in explor-
8 ing careers as owners of small business concerns.

9 “(3) GOALS.—The goals of the pilot program
10 are—

11 “(A) to facilitate training for covered indi-
12 viduals, staff, and mentors to develop the as-
13 sistance to be provided through peer support
14 groups under the pilot program, including edu-
15 cation, coaching, peer support, business men-
16 toring, and benefits counseling; and

17 “(B) to arrange for external assistance, in-
18 cluding micro-financing, for covered individuals.

19 “(4) APPLICATION.—A nonprofit entity that de-
20 sires a grant under the pilot program shall submit
21 to the Administrator an application at such time, in
22 such manner, and containing such information as
23 the Administrator may require.

1 “(5) PILOT PROGRAM COMPONENTS.—Activities
2 carried out through a peer support group under the
3 pilot program may include—

4 “(A) providing assistance to covered indi-
5 viduals to identify their passions and skill sets
6 with respect to business, including coaching and
7 mentorship for covered individuals who suffer
8 from the consequences of being at war;

9 “(B) providing exposure to covered individ-
10 uals to the considerations involved in self-em-
11 ployment and small business ownership;

12 “(C) an instruction component that pro-
13 vides an introduction to the foundations of self-
14 employment and small business ownership; and

15 “(D) in-depth training that leads to the
16 creation of a business plan.

17 “(6) COLLABORATION.—The Administrator
18 may—

19 “(A) collaborate with public and private
20 entities to develop a course initiative for peer
21 support groups carried out under the pilot pro-
22 gram; and

23 “(B) design the course curriculum to allow
24 covered individuals to receive college credit or a
25 certificate through an institution of higher edu-

1 cation upon completion of all components of the
 2 curriculum.

3 “(i) ONLINE COORDINATION.—

4 “(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term
 5 ‘veterans’ assistance provider’ means—

6 “(A) a veterans’ business outreach center
 7 established under subsection (g);

8 “(B) an employee of the Administration
 9 assigned to the Office of Veterans Business De-
 10 velopment; or

11 “(C) a veterans business development offi-
 12 cer designated under subsection (g)(12)(B).

13 “(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Associate Admin-
 14 istrator shall establish an online mechanism to—

15 “(A) provide information that assists vet-
 16 erans’ assistance providers in carrying out the
 17 activities of the veterans’ assistance providers;
 18 and

19 “(B) coordinate and leverage the work of
 20 the veterans’ assistance providers, including by
 21 allowing a veterans’ assistance provider to—

22 “(i) distribute best practices and
 23 other materials;

24 “(ii) communicate with other vet-
 25 erans’ assistance providers regarding the

1 activities of the veterans' assistance pro-
 2 vider on behalf of veterans; and

3 “(iii) pose questions to and request
 4 input from other veterans' assistance pro-
 5 viders.

6 “(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
 7 is authorized to be appropriated for each of fiscal years
 8 2017 through 2021—

9 “(1) \$2,500,000 to carry out subsection (g);

10 “(2) \$8,000,000 to carry out subsections (d),
 11 (e), and (f); and

12 “(3) such sums as may be necessary to carry
 13 out subsection (h).

14 “(k) LIMITATIONS ON USE FOR OVERSEAS TRAV-
 15 EL.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Financial assistance made
 17 available under this section may not be used for
 18 travel outside of the United States (as defined in
 19 section 202(a)(7) of the State Department Basic
 20 Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 4302(a)(7)))
 21 until after the date on which the Administrator sub-
 22 mits to the Committee on Small Business and En-
 23 trepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on
 24 Small Business of the House of Representatives a
 25 plan describing how services will provided by recipi-

1 ents, and how the Administrator will oversee the
2 provision of services, outside of the United States.

3 “(2) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—After the date de-
4 scribed in paragraph (1), a recipient of financial as-
5 sistance made available under this section may use
6 not more than 5 percent of the amount of the finan-
7 cial assistance for travel outside of the United
8 States.

9 “(1) REPORTS.—Not later than 180 days after the
10 date of enactment of this subsection and every year there-
11 after, the Associate Administrator shall submit to the
12 Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of
13 the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the
14 House of Representatives a report on the performance and
15 effectiveness for the programs authorized under this sec-
16 tion, which may be included as part of another report sub-
17 mitted to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepre-
18 neurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Busi-
19 ness of the House of Representatives by the Associate Ad-
20 ministrator, and which shall include the following:

21 “(1) BOOTS TO BUSINESS.—For the Boots to
22 Business Program under subsection (d)—

23 “(A) the number of program participants
24 using each component of the Boots to Business
25 Program;

1 “(B) the completion rates for each compo-
2 nent of the Boots to Business Program;

3 “(C) to the extent possible—

4 “(i) the demographics of program par-
5 ticipants, to include gender, age, race, rela-
6 tionship to military, Military Occupational
7 Code, and years of service of program par-
8 ticipants;

9 “(ii) the number of small business
10 concerns formed or expanded with assist-
11 ance under the Boots to Business Pro-
12 gram;

13 “(iii) the gross receipts of small busi-
14 ness concerns receiving assistance under
15 the Boots to Business Program;

16 “(iv) the number of jobs created with
17 assistance under the Boots to Business
18 Program;

19 “(v) the number of referrals to other
20 resources and programs of the Administra-
21 tion;

22 “(vi) the number of program partici-
23 pants receiving financial assistance under
24 loan programs of the Administration;

1 “(vii) the type and dollar amount of
2 financial assistance received by program
3 participants under loan programs of the
4 Administration; and

5 “(viii) results of participant satisfac-
6 tion surveys, including a summary of any
7 comments received from program partici-
8 pants;

9 “(D) an evaluation of the effectiveness of
10 the Boots to Business Program in each region
11 of the Administration during the most recent
12 fiscal year;

13 “(E) an assessment of additional perform-
14 ance outcome measures for the Boots to Busi-
15 ness Program, as identified by the Associate
16 Administrator;

17 “(F) any recommendations of the Adminis-
18 trator for improvement of the Boots to Busi-
19 ness Program, which may include expansion of
20 the types of individuals who are covered individ-
21 uals;

22 “(G) an explanation of how the Boots to
23 Business Program has been integrated with
24 other transition programs and related resources

1 of the Administration and other Federal agen-
 2 cies; and

3 “(H) any additional information the Ad-
 4 ministrator determines necessary.

5 “(2) WOMEN VETERANS BUSINESS TRAINING
 6 PROGRAM.—For the Women Veterans Business
 7 Training Program under subsection (e)—

8 “(A) the number of program participants
 9 using each component of the Women Veterans
 10 Business Training Program;

11 “(B) the completion rates for each compo-
 12 nent of the Women Veterans Business Training
 13 Program;

14 “(C) to the extent possible—

15 “(i) the demographics of program par-
 16 ticipants, to include gender, age, race, rela-
 17 tionship to military, and years of service;

18 “(ii) the number of small business
 19 concerns formed or expanded with assist-
 20 ance under the Women Veterans Business
 21 Training Program;

22 “(iii) the gross receipts of small busi-
 23 ness concerns receiving assistance under
 24 the Women Veterans Business Training
 25 Program;

1 “(iv) the number of jobs created with
2 assistance under the Women Veterans
3 Business Training Program;

4 “(v) the number of referrals to other
5 resources and programs of the Administra-
6 tion;

7 “(vi) the number of referrals from
8 other resources and programs of the Ad-
9 ministration and other Federal agencies;

10 “(vii) the number of program partici-
11 pants receiving financial assistance under
12 loan programs of the Administration;

13 “(viii) the type and dollar amount of
14 financial assistance received by program
15 participants under loan programs of the
16 Administration; and

17 “(ix) the results of participant satis-
18 faction surveys, including a summary of
19 any comments received from program par-
20 ticipants;

21 “(D) an assessment of additional perform-
22 ance outcome measures for the Women Vet-
23 erans Business Training Program, as identified
24 by the Associate Administrator;

1 “(E) any recommendations of the Adminis-
 2 trator for improvement of the Women Veterans
 3 Business Training Program;

4 “(F) an explanation of how the Women
 5 Veterans Business Training Program has been
 6 integrated with other transition programs and
 7 related resources of the Administration and
 8 other Federal agencies; and

9 “(G) any additional information the Ad-
 10 ministrators determines necessary.

11 “(3) BUSINESS TRAINING PROGRAM FOR SERV-
 12 ICE DISABLED VETERANS.—For the Business Train-
 13 ing Program for Service Disabled Veterans under
 14 subsection (f)—

15 “(A) the number of program participants
 16 using each component of the Business Training
 17 Program for Service Disabled Veterans;

18 “(B) the completion rates for each compo-
 19 nent of the Business Training Program for
 20 Service Disabled Veterans;

21 “(C) to the extent possible—

22 “(i) the demographics of program par-
 23 ticipants, to include gender, age, race, rela-
 24 tionship to military, and years of service;

1 “(ii) the number of small business
2 concerns formed or expanded with assist-
3 ance under the Business Training Program
4 for Service Disabled Veterans;

5 “(iii) the gross receipts of small busi-
6 ness concerns receiving assistance under
7 the Business Training Program for Service
8 Disabled Veterans;

9 “(iv) the number of jobs created with
10 assistance under the Business Training
11 Program for Service Disabled Veterans;

12 “(v) the number of referrals to other
13 resources and programs of the Administra-
14 tion;

15 “(vi) the number of referrals from
16 other resources and programs of the Ad-
17 ministration and other Federal agencies;

18 “(vii) the number of program partici-
19 pants receiving financial assistance under
20 loan programs of the Administration;

21 “(viii) the type and dollar amount of
22 financial assistance received by program
23 participants under loan programs of the
24 Administration; and

1 “(ix) the results of participant satis-
 2 faction surveys, including a summary of
 3 any comments received from program par-
 4 ticipants;

5 “(D) an assessment of additional perform-
 6 ance outcome measures for the Business Train-
 7 ing Program for Service Disabled Veterans, as
 8 identified by the Associate Administrator;

9 “(E) any recommendations of the Adminis-
 10 trator for improvement of the Business Train-
 11 ing Program for Service Disabled Veterans;

12 “(F) an explanation of how the Business
 13 Training Program for Service Disabled Vet-
 14 erans has been integrated with other transition
 15 programs and related resources of the Adminis-
 16 tration and other Federal agencies; and

17 “(G) any additional information the Ad-
 18 ministrator determines necessary.

19 “(4) VETERAN’S BUSINESS OUTREACH CENTER
 20 PROGRAM.—For the veterans’ business outreach cen-
 21 ter program under subsection (g)—

22 “(A) an evaluation of the effectiveness of
 23 the veterans’ business outreach center program
 24 in each region of the Administration during the
 25 most recent full fiscal year;

1 “(B) for each veterans’ business outreach
2 center established or operated using financial
3 assistance provided under subsection (g)—

4 “(i) the number of individuals receiv-
5 ing assistance from the veterans’ business
6 outreach center, including the number of
7 such individuals who are—

8 “(I) veterans or spouses of vet-
9 erans;

10 “(II) service-disabled veterans or
11 spouses of service-disabled veterans;

12 “(III) Reservists (as defined in
13 subsection (g)) or spouses of Reserv-
14 ists; or

15 “(IV) spouses of members of the
16 Armed Forces on active duty;

17 “(ii) the average distance traveled by
18 veterans to access services at the veterans’
19 business outreach center;

20 “(iii) the number of small business
21 concerns formed by individuals receiving
22 assistance from the veterans’ business out-
23 reach center, including—

24 “(I) veterans or spouses of vet-
25 erans;

1 “(II) service-disabled veterans or
2 spouses of service-disabled veterans;

3 “(III) Reservists or spouses of
4 Reservists; or

5 “(IV) spouses of members of the
6 Armed Forces on active duty; and

7 “(iv) to the extent possible—

8 “(I) the gross receipts of small
9 business concerns receiving assistance
10 from the veterans’ business outreach
11 center;

12 “(II) the employment increases
13 or decreases of small business con-
14 cerns receiving assistance from the
15 veterans’ business outreach center;

16 “(III) the increases or decreases
17 in profits of small business concerns
18 receiving assistance from the veterans’
19 business outreach center;

20 “(IV) the number of referrals by
21 the veterans’ business outreach center
22 to other resources and programs of
23 the Administration;

24 “(V) the results of satisfaction
25 surveys, including a summary of any

1 comments received from small busi-
2 ness concerns receiving assistance
3 from the veterans' business outreach
4 center;

5 “(VI) the number of small busi-
6 ness concerns receiving assistance
7 from the veterans' business outreach
8 center that received financial assist-
9 ance under loan programs of the Ad-
10 ministration;

11 “(VII) the type and dollar
12 amount of financial assistance re-
13 ceived under loan programs of the Ad-
14 ministration by small business con-
15 cerns receiving assistance from the
16 veterans' business outreach center;

17 “(VIII) the number of small
18 business concerns receiving assistance
19 from the veterans' business outreach
20 center that obtained a Federal con-
21 tract through a small business con-
22 tracting program;

23 “(IX) the type and dollar amount
24 of the Federal contracts awarded to
25 small business concerns receiving as-

1 sistance from the veterans’ business
2 outreach center;

3 “(X) an assessment of additional
4 performance outcome measures for
5 the veterans’ business outreach cen-
6 ter, as identified by the Associate Ad-
7 ministrators; and

8 “(XI) the results of the examina-
9 tion of the veterans’ business outreach
10 center under subsection (g)(10);

11 “(C) any recommendations of the Adminis-
12 trator for improvement of the veterans’ busi-
13 ness outreach center program;

14 “(D) an explanation of how the veterans’
15 business outreach center program has been in-
16 tegrated with other transition programs and re-
17 lated resources of the Administration and other
18 Federal agencies; and

19 “(E) any additional information the Ad-
20 ministrator determines necessary.

21 “(5) OTHER ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS AD-
22 MINISTERED BY THE OFFICE OF VETERANS BUSI-
23 NESS DEVELOPMENT.—An evaluation of the effec-
24 tiveness of any other activities and programs admin-
25 istered by the Office of Veterans Business Develop-

1 ment, including using the metrics identified in para-
2 graphs (1) through (4).

3 “(6) VETERANS BUSINESS OWNERS INITIATIVE
4 PILOT PROGRAM.—For the Veterans Business Own-
5 ers Initiative Pilot Program under subsection (h)—

6 “(A) the number of program participants
7 using each component of the Veterans Business
8 Owners Initiative Pilot Program;

9 “(B) the completion rates for each compo-
10 nent of the Veterans Business Owners Initiative
11 Pilot Program;

12 “(C) to the extent possible—

13 “(i) the demographics of program par-
14 ticipants, including gender, age, race, rela-
15 tionship to military, and years of service;

16 “(ii) the number of small business
17 concerns formed or expanded with assist-
18 ance under the Veterans Business Owners
19 Initiative Pilot Program;

20 “(iii) the gross receipts of small busi-
21 ness concerns receiving assistance under
22 the Veterans Business Owners Initiative
23 Pilot Program;

1 “(iv) the number of jobs created with
2 assistance under the Veterans Business
3 Owners Initiative Pilot Program;

4 “(v) the number of referrals to other
5 resources and programs of the Administra-
6 tion;

7 “(vi) the number of referrals from
8 other resources and programs of the Ad-
9 ministration and other Federal agencies;

10 “(vii) the number of program partici-
11 pants receiving financial assistance under
12 loan programs of the Administration;

13 “(viii) the type and dollar amount of
14 financial assistance received by program
15 participants under loan programs of the
16 Administration; and

17 “(ix) the results of participant satis-
18 faction surveys, including a summary of
19 any comments received from program par-
20 ticipants;

21 “(D) an assessment of additional perform-
22 ance outcome measures for the Veterans Busi-
23 ness Owners Initiative Pilot Program, as identi-
24 fied by the Associate Administrator;

1 “(E) any recommendations of the Adminis-
 2 trator for improvement of the Veterans Busi-
 3 ness Owners Initiative Pilot Program;

4 “(F) an explanation of how the Veterans
 5 Business Owners Initiative Pilot Program has
 6 been integrated with other transition programs
 7 and related resources of the Administration and
 8 other Federal agencies; and

9 “(G) any additional information the Ad-
 10 ministrators determines necessary.”.

11 (b) FEDERAL SHARE FOR EXISTING PROGRAM.—

12 (1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term
 13 “existing award” means an award made under the
 14 Veterans’ Business Outreach Center Program of the
 15 Small Business Administration before the date of
 16 enactment of this Act that is in effect on the date
 17 of enactment of this Act.

18 (2) EXCEPTION FROM PROVISION ON FAILURE
 19 TO OBTAIN NON-FEDERAL FUNDING.—During the 2-
 20 year period beginning on the date of enactment of
 21 this Act, subsection (g)(8)(D) of section 32 of the
 22 Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657b), as added by
 23 subsection (a), shall not apply to an existing award.

24 (c) GAO REPORTS.—

25 (1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

1 (A) the term “covered individual” means—

2 (i) a veteran;

3 (ii) a service-disabled veteran;

4 (iii) a Reservist;

5 (iv) the spouse of an individual de-
6 scribed in clause (i), (ii), or (iii); or

7 (v) the spouse of a member of the
8 Armed Forces;

9 (B) the terms “Reservist”, “small business
10 concern owned and controlled by veterans”, and
11 “veterans’ business outreach center program”
12 have the meanings given those terms in section
13 32(g) of the Small Business Act, as added by
14 subsection (a); and

15 (C) the terms “service-disabled veteran”,
16 “small business concern”, and “veteran” have
17 the meanings given those terms under section 3
18 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632).

19 (2) REPORT ON ACCESS TO CREDIT.—

20 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year
21 after the date of enactment of this Act, the
22 Comptroller General of the United States shall
23 submit a report regarding the ability of small
24 business concerns owned and controlled by cov-
25 ered individuals to access credit to—

1 (i) the Committee on Veterans' Af-
2 fairs and the Committee on Small Business
3 and Entrepreneurship of the Senate; and

4 (ii) the Committee on Veterans' Af-
5 fairs and the Committee on Small Business
6 of the House of Representatives.

7 (B) CONTENTS.—The report submitted
8 under subparagraph (A) shall include an anal-
9 ysis of—

10 (i) the sources of credit used by small
11 business concerns owned and controlled by
12 covered individuals and the percentage of
13 the credit obtained by small business con-
14 cerns owned and controlled by covered in-
15 dividuals that is obtained from each
16 source;

17 (ii) the default rate for small business
18 concerns owned and controlled by covered
19 individuals separately for each source of
20 credit described in clause (i), as compared
21 to the default rate for the source of credit
22 for small business concerns generally;

23 (iii) the Federal lending programs
24 available to provide credit to small busi-

ness concerns owned and controlled by covered individuals;

(iv) gaps, if any, in the availability of credit for small business concerns owned and controlled by covered individuals that are not being filled by the Federal Government or private sources;

(v) obstacles faced by covered individuals in trying to access credit;

(vi) the extent to which deployment and other military responsibilities affect the credit history of veterans and Reservists; and

(vii) the extent to which covered individuals are aware of Federal programs targeted towards helping covered individuals access credit.

(3) REPORT ON VETERANS' BUSINESS OUTREACH CENTER PROGRAM.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the end of the second fiscal year beginning after the date on which the veterans' business outreach center program is established, the Comptroller General of the United States shall evaluate the effectiveness of the veterans' busi-

1 ness outreach center program, and submit to
2 Congress a report on the results of that evalua-
3 tion.

4 (B) CONTENTS.—The report submitted
5 under subparagraph (A) shall include—

6 (i) an assessment of—

7 (I) the use of amounts made
8 available to carry out the veterans'
9 business outreach center program;

10 (II) the effectiveness of the serv-
11 ices provided by each entity receiving
12 financial assistance under the vet-
13 erans' business outreach center pro-
14 gram;

15 (III) whether the services de-
16 scribed in subclause (II) are duplica-
17 tive of services provided by other vet-
18 erans service organizations, programs
19 of the Small Business Administration,
20 or programs of another Federal de-
21 partment or agency and, if so, rec-
22 ommendations regarding how to al-
23 leviate the duplication of the services;

24 (IV) whether there are areas of
25 the United States in which there are

1 not adequate entrepreneurial services
 2 for small business concerns owned and
 3 controlled by veterans and, if so,
 4 whether there is a veterans' business
 5 outreach center established under the
 6 veterans' business outreach center
 7 program providing services to that
 8 area; and

9 (V) whether there is a correlation
 10 between the proximity of a veterans'
 11 business outreach center to small
 12 business concerns owned and con-
 13 trolled by veterans and the rate of the
 14 use of the services of the veterans'
 15 business outreach center; and

16 (ii) recommendations, if any, for im-
 17 proving the veterans' business outreach
 18 center program.

19 **SEC. 3. IMPROVEMENTS TO BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND**
 20 **ENTREPRENEURIAL PROGRAMS.**

21 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

22 (1) the terms “Administration” and “Adminis-
 23 trator” mean the Small Business Administration
 24 and the Administrator thereof, respectively;

(2) the term “individual eligible for a veteran entrepreneurial development program” means—

(A) a covered individual, as defined in section 32(d)(1) of the Small Business Act, as amended by section 2;

(B) a covered individual, as defined in section 32(e)(1) of the Small Business Act, as amended by section 2;

(C) a service-disabled veteran, as defined in section 3(q)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(q)(1)); and

(D) an individual who qualifies to be the owner of a small business concern owned and controlled by veterans, as defined in section 32(g)(1)(C) of the Small Business Act, as amended by section 2;

(3) the term “one-stop resource” means the one-stop online resource established under subsection (c)(1); and

(4) the term “small business concern” has the meaning given that term under section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632).

(b) VETERAN PEER-TO-PEER NETWORKS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall establish guidelines to improve the

1 network of peer-to-peer counseling and mentoring for indi-
2 viduals eligible for a veteran entrepreneurial development
3 program relating to the business development and entre-
4 preneurial programs of the Administration.

5 (c) ONE-STOP ONLINE RESOURCE.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall es-
7 tablish an online mechanism that serves as a one-
8 stop online resource for veterans regarding all of the
9 entrepreneurial development programs of the Admin-
10 istration.

11 (2) CONTENTS.—The one-stop resource shall
12 include descriptions of each entrepreneurial program
13 of the Administration (which shall include the pro-
14 grams described in paragraph (3)), including—

15 (A) target client descriptions for each pro-
16 gram;

17 (B) contact information for information on
18 or assistance regarding each program from lo-
19 cally, statewide, and nationally available
20 sources;

21 (C) a detailed description of the services
22 available under each program;

23 (D) a description of any costs associated
24 with the services under each program;

1 (E) an outline of program curriculums if
 2 training seminars or courses are offered; and

3 (F) other resource information that the
 4 Administrator determines appropriate and nec-
 5 essary for veteran entrepreneurs and veterans
 6 who own small business concerns, in order to
 7 ensure the one-stop online resource provides in-
 8 formation and resources necessary for a veteran
 9 beginning to develop a small business concern.

10 (3) PROGRAMS.—The programs identified and
 11 described under the one-stop resource shall in-
 12 clude—

13 (A) the small business development center
 14 program under section 21 of the Small Busi-
 15 ness Act (15 U.S.C. 648);

16 (B) the women’s business center program
 17 under section 29 of the Small Business Act (15
 18 U.S.C. 656);

19 (C) the programs of the Office of Entre-
 20 preneurship Education of the Administration;

21 (D) the Boots to Business Program under
 22 section 32(d) of the Small Business Act, as
 23 amended by section 2(a) of this Act;

24 (E) the Women Veterans Business Train-
 25 ing Program under section 32(e) of the Small

1 Business Act, as amended by section 2(a) of
 2 this Act;

3 (F) the Business Training Program for
 4 Service Disabled Veterans under section 32(f)
 5 of the Small Business Act, as amended by sec-
 6 tion 2(a) of this Act;

7 (G) the veterans' business outreach center
 8 program under section 32(g) of the Small Busi-
 9 ness Act, as amended by section 2(a) of this
 10 Act;

11 (H) the Service Corps of Retired Execu-
 12 tives program authorized by section 8(b)(1) of
 13 the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(b)(1));
 14 and

15 (I) any other program of the Administra-
 16 tion determined appropriate by the Adminis-
 17 trator.

18 **SEC. 4. REPORTING REQUIREMENT FOR INTERAGENCY**

19 **TASK FORCE.**

20 Section 32(c) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.
 21 657b(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

22 “(4) REPORT.—Not less frequently than once
 23 each year, the Administrator shall submit to Con-
 24 gress a report—

1 “(A) discussing the appointments made to
2 and activities of the task force; and

3 “(B) identifying and outlining a plan for
4 outreach and promotion of all the programs au-
5 thorized under the Veterans Small Business
6 Ownership Improvements Act, or an amend-
7 ment made by that Act.”.

8 **SEC. 5. EDUCATIONAL TRAINING.**

9 Section 8(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.
10 637(b)) is amended—

11 (1) in paragraph (16), by striking “and” at the
12 end;

13 (2) in paragraph (17), by striking the period at
14 the end and inserting “; and”; and

15 (3) by adding at the end the following:

16 “(18) to make a grant to, or enter into a coop-
17 erative agreement with, a nonprofit entity to operate
18 an educational training program to provide assist-
19 ance to small business concerns owned and con-
20 trolled by veterans regarding how to increase the
21 likelihood of being awarded contracts with the Fed-
22 eral Government—

23 “(A) which shall be made to or entered
24 into with a nonprofit entity that has a track
25 record of successfully providing educational and

1 job training services to targeted veterans popu-
2 lations in diverse locations;

3 “(B) under which the nonprofit entity shall
4 be required to match any Federal funds re-
5 ceived for the program with State, local, or pri-
6 vate sector funds; and

7 “(C) under which the nonprofit entity shall
8 use a diverse group of professional service ex-
9 perts, such as Federal, State, and local con-
10 tracting experts and private sector industry ex-
11 perts with first-hand experience in Federal Gov-
12 ernment contracting, to provide instruction to
13 small business concerns owned and controlled
14 by veterans.”.

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