

(B) not later than 6 months after the date of the initiation of the evaluation under subparagraph (A), submit to the Administrator, the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate, and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives, a report containing—

- (i) the results of the evaluation; and
- (ii) any recommendations regarding whether the Efficiency Program, with or without modification, should be extended to include the participation of all small business development centers.

(8) Guarantee

To the extent not inconsistent with State law, the Administrator may guarantee the timely payment of a loan made to a small business concern through an on-bill financing agreement on such terms and conditions as the Administrator shall establish through a formal rulemaking, after providing notice and an opportunity for comment.

(9) Implementation

Subject to amounts approved in advance in appropriations Acts and separate from amounts approved to carry out section 648(a)(1) of this title, the Administrator may make grants or enter into cooperative agreements to carry out this subsection.

(10) Authorization of appropriations

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to make grants and enter into cooperative agreements to carry out this subsection.

(11) Termination

The authority under this subsection shall terminate 4 years after the date of disbursement of the first grant under the Efficiency Program.

(d) Small business telecommuting

(1) Pilot program

(A) In general

The Administrator shall conduct, in not more than 5 of the regions of the Administration, a pilot program to provide information regarding telecommuting to employers that are small business concerns and to encourage such employers to offer telecommuting options to employees.

(B) Special outreach to individuals with disabilities

In carrying out the Telecommuting Pilot Program, the Administrator shall make a concerted effort to provide information to—

- (i) small business concerns owned by or employing individuals with disabilities, particularly veterans who are individuals with disabilities;
- (ii) Federal, State, and local agencies having knowledge and expertise in assisting individuals with disabilities, including veterans who are individuals with disabilities; and
- (iii) any group or organization, the primary purpose of which is to aid individuals with disabilities or veterans who are individuals with disabilities.

(C) Permissible activities

In carrying out the Telecommuting Pilot Program, the Administrator may—

- (i) produce educational materials and conduct presentations designed to raise awareness in the small business community of the benefits and the ease of telecommuting;
- (ii) conduct outreach—
 - (I) to small business concerns that are considering offering telecommuting options; and
 - (II) as provided in subparagraph (B); and
- (iii) acquire telecommuting technologies and equipment to be used for demonstration purposes.

(D) Selection of regions

In determining which regions will participate in the Telecommuting Pilot Program, the Administrator shall give priority consideration to regions in which Federal agencies and private-sector employers have demonstrated a strong regional commitment to telecommuting.

(2) Report to Congress

Not later than 2 years after the date on which funds are first appropriated to carry out this subsection, the Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report containing the results of an evaluation of the Telecommuting Pilot Program and any recommendations regarding whether the pilot program, with or without modification, should be extended to include the participation of all regions of the Administration.

(3) Termination

The Telecommuting Pilot Program shall terminate 4 years after the date on which funds are first appropriated to carry out this subsection.

(4) Authorization of appropriations

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Administration \$5,000,000 to carry out this subsection.

(Pub. L. 110-140, title XII, § 1203, Dec. 19, 2007, 121 Stat. 1766.)

CODIFICATION

Section is comprised of section 1203 of Pub. L. 110-140. Subsec. (e) of section 1203 of Pub. L. 110-140 amended section 638 of this title.

Section was enacted as part of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, and not as part of the Small Business Act which comprises this chapter.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective on the date that is 1 day after Dec. 19, 2007, see section 1601 of Pub. L. 110-140, set out as a note under section 1824 of Title 2, The Congress.

§ 657i. Coordination of disaster assistance programs with FEMA

(a) Coordination required

The Administrator shall ensure that the disaster assistance programs of the Administration

are coordinated, to the maximum extent practicable, with the disaster assistance programs of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

(b) Regulations required

The Administrator, in consultation with the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, shall establish regulations to ensure that each application for disaster assistance is submitted as quickly as practicable to the Administration or directed to the appropriate agency under the circumstances.

(c) Completion; revision

The initial regulations shall be completed not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of the Small Business Disaster Response and Loan Improvements Act of 2008. Thereafter, the regulations shall be revised on an annual basis.

(d) Report

The Administrator shall include a report on the regulations whenever the Administration submits the report required by section 657o of this title.

(Pub. L. 85-536, §2[37], as added Pub. L. 110-234, title XII, §12062(2), May 22, 2008, 122 Stat. 1407, and Pub. L. 110-246, §4(a), title XII, §12062(2), June 18, 2008, 122 Stat. 1664, 2169.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The date of the enactment of the Small Business Disaster Response and Loan Improvements Act of 2008, referred to in subsec. (c), is the date of enactment of subtitle B (§§12051-12091) of title XII of Pub. L. 110-246, which was approved June 18, 2008.

CODIFICATION

Pub. L. 110-234 and Pub. L. 110-246 enacted identical sections. Pub. L. 110-234 was repealed by section 4(a) of Pub. L. 110-246.

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 2[37] of Pub. L. 85-536 was renumbered section 2[49] and is set out as a note under section 631 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Enactment of this section and repeal of Pub. L. 110-234 by Pub. L. 110-246 effective May 22, 2008, the date of enactment of Pub. L. 110-234, see section 4 of Pub. L. 110-246, set out as a note under section 8701 of Title 7, Agriculture.

§ 657j. Information tracking and follow-up system for disaster assistance

(a) System required

The Administrator shall develop, implement, or maintain a centralized information system to track communications between personnel of the Administration and applicants for disaster assistance. The system shall ensure that whenever an applicant for disaster assistance communicates with such personnel on a matter relating to the application, the following information is recorded:

- (1) The method of communication.
- (2) The date of communication.
- (3) The identity of the personnel.
- (4) A summary of the subject matter of the communication.

(b) Follow-up required

The Administrator shall ensure that an applicant for disaster assistance receives, by tele-

phone, mail, or electronic mail, follow-up communications from the Administration at all critical stages of the application process, including the following:

- (1) When the Administration determines that additional information or documentation is required to process the application.
- (2) When the Administration determines whether to approve or deny the loan.
- (3) When the primary contact person managing the loan application has changed.

(c) Report on web portal for disaster loan application status

(1) In general

Not later than 90 days after November 25, 2015, the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report relating to the creation of a web portal to the¹ track the status of applications for disaster assistance under section 636(b) of this title.

(2) Contents

The report under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) information on the progress of the Administration in implementing the information system under subsection (a);

(B) recommendations from the Administration relating to the creation of a web portal for applicants to check the status of an application for disaster assistance under section 636(b) of this title, including a review of best practices and web portal models from the private sector;

(C) information on any related costs or staffing needed to implement such a web portal;

(D) information on whether such a web portal can maintain high standards for data privacy and data security;

(E) information on whether such a web portal will minimize redundancy among Administration disaster programs, improve management of the number of inquiries made by disaster applicants to employees located in the area affected by the disaster and to call centers, and reduce paperwork burdens on disaster victims; and

(F) such additional information as is determined necessary by the Administrator.

(Pub. L. 85-536, §2[38], as added Pub. L. 110-234, title XII, §12067, May 22, 2008, 122 Stat. 1410, and Pub. L. 110-246, §4(a), title XII, §12067, June 18, 2008, 122 Stat. 1664, 2172; Pub. L. 114-88, div. B, title III, §2303, Nov. 25, 2015, 129 Stat. 696.)

CODIFICATION

Pub. L. 110-234 and Pub. L. 110-246 enacted identical sections. Pub. L. 110-234 was repealed by section 4(a) of Pub. L. 110-246.

AMENDMENTS

2015—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 114-88 added subsec. (c).

EFFECTIVE DATE

Enactment of this section and repeal of Pub. L. 110-234 by Pub. L. 110-246 effective May 22, 2008, the

¹ So in original. The word “the” probably should not appear.