

(as defined in section 9902(2) of title 42, including any revision required by that section).

(Pub. L. 103-325, title I, §172, as added Pub. L. 106-102, title VII, §725, Nov. 12, 1999, 113 Stat. 1472.)

SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 103-325, title I, §171, as added by Pub. L. 106-102, title VII, §725, Nov. 12, 1999, 113 Stat. 1471, provided that: "This subtitle [subtitle C (§§171-181) of title I of Pub. L. 103-325, as added by Pub. L. 106-102, enacting this chapter] may be cited as the 'Program for Investment in Microentrepreneurs Act of 1999', also referred to as the 'PRIME Act'."

§ 6902. Establishment of program

The Administrator shall establish a microenterprise technical assistance and capacity building grant program to provide assistance from the Administration in the form of grants to qualified organizations in accordance with this chapter.

(Pub. L. 103-325, title I, §173, as added Pub. L. 106-102, title VII, §725, Nov. 12, 1999, 113 Stat. 1473.)

§ 6903. Uses of assistance

A qualified organization shall use grants made under this chapter—

- (1) to provide training and technical assistance to disadvantaged entrepreneurs;
- (2) to provide training and capacity building services to microenterprise development organizations and programs and groups of such organizations to assist such organizations and programs in developing microenterprise training and services;
- (3) to aid in researching and developing the best practices in the field of microenterprise and technical assistance programs for disadvantaged entrepreneurs; and
- (4) for such other activities as the Administrator determines are consistent with the purposes of this chapter.

(Pub. L. 103-325, title I, §174, as added Pub. L. 106-102, title VII, §725, Nov. 12, 1999, 113 Stat. 1473.)

§ 6904. Qualified organizations

For purposes of eligibility for assistance under this chapter, a qualified organization shall be—

- (1) a nonprofit microenterprise development organization or program (or a group or collaborative thereof) that has a demonstrated record of delivering microenterprise services to disadvantaged entrepreneurs;
- (2) an intermediary;
- (3) a microenterprise development organization or program that is accountable to a local community, working in conjunction with a State or local government or Indian tribe; or
- (4) an Indian tribe acting on its own, if the Indian tribe can certify that no private organization or program referred to in this paragraph exists within its jurisdiction.

(Pub. L. 103-325, title I, §175, as added Pub. L. 106-102, title VII, §725, Nov. 12, 1999, 113 Stat. 1473.)

§ 6905. Allocation of assistance; subgrants

(a) Allocation of assistance

(1) In general

The Administrator shall allocate assistance from the Administration under this chapter to ensure that—

- (A) activities described in section 6903(1) of this title are funded using not less than 75 percent of amounts made available for such assistance; and
- (B) activities described in section 6903(2) of this title are funded using not less than 15 percent of amounts made available for such assistance.

(2) Limit on individual assistance

No single person may receive more than 10 percent of the total funds appropriated under this chapter in a single fiscal year.

(b) Targeted assistance

The Administrator shall ensure that not less than 50 percent of the grants made under this chapter are used to benefit very low-income persons, including those residing on Indian reservations.

(c) Subgrants authorized

(1) In general

A qualified organization receiving assistance under this chapter may provide grants using that assistance to qualified small and emerging microenterprise organizations and programs, subject to such rules and regulations as the Administrator determines to be appropriate.

(2) Limit on administrative expenses

Not more than 7.5 percent of assistance received by a qualified organization under this chapter may be used for administrative expenses in connection with the making of subgrants under paragraph (1).

(d) Diversity

In making grants under this chapter, the Administrator shall ensure that grant recipients include both large and small microenterprise organizations, serving urban, rural, and Indian tribal communities serving diverse populations.

(e) Prohibition on preferential consideration of certain SBA program participants

In making grants under this chapter, the Administrator shall ensure that any application made by a qualified organization that is a participant in the program established under section 636(m) of this title does not receive preferential consideration over applications from other qualified organizations that are not participants in such program.

(Pub. L. 103-325, title I, §176, as added Pub. L. 106-102, title VII, §725, Nov. 12, 1999, 113 Stat. 1473.)

§ 6906. Matching requirements

(a) In general

Financial assistance under this chapter shall be matched with funds from sources other than the Federal Government on the basis of not less

than 50 percent of each dollar provided by the Administration.

(b) Sources of matching funds

Fees, grants, gifts, funds from loan sources, and in-kind resources of a grant recipient from public or private sources may be used to comply with the matching requirement in subsection (a).

(c) Exception

(1) In general

In the case of an applicant for assistance under this chapter with severe constraints on available sources of matching funds, the Administrator may reduce or eliminate the matching requirements of subsection (a).

(2) Limitation

Not more than 10 percent of the total funds made available from the Administration in any fiscal year to carry out this chapter may be excepted from the matching requirements of subsection (a), as authorized by paragraph (1) of this subsection.

(Pub. L. 103-325, title I, §177, as added Pub. L. 106-102, title VII, §725, Nov. 12, 1999, 113 Stat. 1474.)

§ 6907. Applications for assistance

An application for assistance under this chapter shall be submitted in such form and in accordance with such procedures as the Administrator shall establish.

(Pub. L. 103-325, title I, §178, as added Pub. L. 106-102, title VII, §725, Nov. 12, 1999, 113 Stat. 1474.)

§ 6908. Recordkeeping

The requirements of section 4714 of title 12 shall apply to a qualified organization receiving assistance from the Administration under this chapter as if it were a community development financial institution receiving assistance from the Fund under subtitle A.

(Pub. L. 103-325, title I, §179, as added Pub. L. 106-102, title VII, §725, Nov. 12, 1999, 113 Stat. 1474.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Subtitle A, referred to in text, is subtitle A (§§101-121) of title I of Pub. L. 103-325, Sept. 23, 1994, 108 Stat. 2163, known as the Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994, which is classified principally to subchapter I (§4701 et seq.) of chapter 47 of Title 12, Banks and Banking. For complete classification of subtitle A to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 4701 of Title 12 and Tables.

§ 6909. Authorization

In addition to funds otherwise authorized to be appropriated to the Fund to carry out this title,¹ there are authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator to carry out this chapter—

- (1) \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2000;
- (2) \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2001;
- (3) \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2002; and

¹ See References in Text note below.

- (4) \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2003.

(Pub. L. 103-325, title I, §180, as added Pub. L. 106-102, title VII, §725, Nov. 12, 1999, 113 Stat. 1474.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This title, referred to in text, is title I of Pub. L. 103-325, Sept. 23, 1994, 108 Stat. 2163. Subtitle A (§§101-121) of title I, known as the Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994, is classified principally to subchapter I (§4701 et seq.) of chapter 47 of Title 12, Banks and Banking. Subtitle B (§§151-158) of title I, known as the Home Ownership and Equity Protection Act of 1994, enacted sections 1639 and 1648 of this title, amended sections 1602, 1604, 1610, 1640, 1641, and 1647 of this title, and enacted provisions set out as notes under sections 1601 and 1602 of this title. Subtitle C (§§171-181) of title I, known as the Program for Investment in Microentrepreneurs Act of 1999 or PRIME Act, is classified generally to this chapter. For complete classification of title I of Pub. L. 103-325 to the Code, see Tables.

§ 6910. Implementation

The Administrator shall, by regulation, establish such requirements as may be necessary to carry out this chapter.

(Pub. L. 103-325, title I, §181, as added Pub. L. 106-102, title VII, §725, Nov. 12, 1999, 113 Stat. 1475.)

CHAPTER 96—ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES IN GLOBAL AND NATIONAL COMMERCE

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SUBCHAPTER I—ELECTRONIC RECORDS AND SIGNATURES IN COMMERCE

§ 7001. General rule of validity

(a) In general

Notwithstanding any statute, regulation, or other rule of law (other than this subchapter and subchapter II), with respect to any transaction in or affecting interstate or foreign commerce—

(1) a signature, contract, or other record relating to such transaction may not be denied legal effect, validity, or enforceability solely because it is in electronic form; and

(2) a contract relating to such transaction may not be denied legal effect, validity, or enforceability solely because an electronic signature or electronic record was used in its formation.

(b) Preservation of rights and obligations

This subchapter does not—