



Made In America Block Grant (MABG) Program Act of 2011, S.1457

Purpose: Establishes a grant program at the U.S. Department of Commerce to provide small to medium-sized manufacturers in communities hardest hit by unemployment with the resources and strategies they need to retool and retrofit their operations and train their workforce in order to transition to the manufacturing of clean energy, high-technology, and other advanced products. The Block Grant program is intended to give flexibility to states and units of government who fit the eligibility criteria

Eligible Entities: States or certain local units of government that have experienced a seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of at least 10% for any 6 consecutive months between January 1, 2007 and December 31, 2010; or experienced a cumulative decline in employment in the manufacturing sector greater than or equal to 15% during the period between January 1, 2007 and December 31, 2010. Approximately 30 states meet one or both of these criteria.

- States that meet the eligibility criteria on unemployment levels **or** manufacturing job losses can apply to the Secretary of Commerce for MABG funding
- If a state refuses funding, then certain local governments would be eligible to apply directly – provided they meet the unemployment criteria.
- States and local governments that do not meet the eligibility criteria on unemployment levels or manufacturing job losses are still eligible to apply for a pool of competitive grant funding that is set aside.

Additional Details:

- Each successful applicant must form a Made In America Block Grant Partnership Board, which will bring together all of the necessary stakeholders to one table – for example, departments of labor, economic development entities, industry organizations, and education and workforce training agencies – and empower that group to develop the framework and strategy for strengthening the manufacturing industry in their state or locality, as well as distribute assistance, in coordination with the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program, to third party applicants (i.e. small or medium-sized manufacturers) that demonstrate the need and ability to best leverage MABG funding to better succeed in an advanced manufacturing industry.
- There are a number of accountability measures in the bill, including requiring Commerce Department reviews of the manufacturing enhancement strategies submitted by eligible units of government and the use of funds by each third party recipient, as well as a comprehensive study to be conducted by the GAO after two years from the date on which the Secretary of Commerce makes the initial grant award.
- This bill is WTO compliant.

Endorsements:

The Association For Manufacturing Technology (AMT)
BlueGreen Alliance