



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

Key Section-By-Section Summaries

Section 3: Eligible Entities

- Eligible entities include states, units of local government, or Indian tribes that 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 and territories meet one or both criteria.

Section 3: Eligible Activities

- Eligible entities may make grants to third parties (i.e. small- to medium-sized manufacturers) for any of the following activities:
 - Retooling or retrofitting, including equipment, facilities, infrastructure, or capital;
 - Diversifying of business plans to advance the production of clean energy, energy efficiency, high technology, or other advanced products or components (as defined by the Secretary);
 - Improving the energy or process efficiency of a manufacturing facility;
 - Retraining employees to provide skills necessary to operate new or advanced manufacturing equipment; or sustain or improve the processes of a manufacturer.
 - Training new employees, including through on-the-job training;
 - Providing capital and technical expertise to expand export opportunities.
- Eligible entities may also establish a revolving loan fund to provide financing to small- or medium-sized manufacturers to finance the costs of activities described above.

Section 4: Manufacturing Enhancement Strategy

- Eligible entities that receive notice of a MABG award must submit a manufacturing enhancement strategy to the Secretary of Commerce, which shall include
 - A description of their plans to disburse MABG grants to third parties (i.e. small- to medium-sized manufacturers)
 - A description of the goals of the sub-grants, including the number of jobs to be created or sustained, sales increases or retention, cost savings through energy efficiency measures, and workforce training investments (such as number of training hours and professional certifications to be acquired)

Section 4: Made In America Partnership Board

- Eligible entities must also commit to forming a Made In America Partnership Board that will be responsible for making sub-grants to small- or medium-sized manufacturers and providing the Secretary of Commerce with a strategic plan to enhance the state or local government's competitiveness in advanced manufacturing industries.
- The Board is to be comprised of economic development organizations, departments of labor, workforce investment boards, institutions of higher education, including community colleges, and to the extent possible, coordinate with a Hollings Manufacturing Extension Center as a preferred provider or services to implement the manufacturing enhancement strategy of the recipient.