

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 7560

To amend the Small Business Act to codify the Community Advantage Loan Program, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 6, 2024

Ms. CHU (for herself and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Small Business

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## A BILL

To amend the Small Business Act to codify the Community Advantage Loan Program, 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 “Community Advantage  
5       Loan Program Act of 2024”.

**6 SEC. 2. COMMUNITY ADVANTAGE LOAN PROGRAM.**

7       (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNITY ADVANTAGE  
8       LOAN PROGRAM.—Section 7(a) of the Small Business Act  
9       (15 U.S.C. 636(a)) is amended by adding at the end the  
10      following:

1               “(38) COMMUNITY ADVANTAGE LOAN PRO-  
2       GRAM.—

3               “(A) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the  
4       Community Advantage Loan Program are—

5               “(i) to create a mission-oriented loan  
6       guarantee program;

7               “(ii) to increase lending to small busi-  
8       ness concerns in underserved and rural  
9       markets, including to new businesses;

10               “(iii) to ensure that the program  
11       under this subsection expands inclusion  
12       and more broadly meets congressional in-  
13       tent to reach borrowers who are unable to  
14       get credit elsewhere on reasonable terms  
15       and conditions;

16               “(iv) to help underserved small busi-  
17       ness concerns become bankable by utilizing  
18       the small dollar financing and business  
19       support experience of mission-oriented  
20       lenders;

21               “(v) to allow certain mission-oriented  
22       lenders, primarily financial intermediaries  
23       focused on economic development in under-  
24       served markets, access to guarantees for  
25       loans under this subsection and provide

1 management and technical assistance to  
2 small business concerns as needed; and

3 “(vi) to assist covered institutions  
4 with providing business support services  
5 and technical assistance to small business  
6 concerns, when needed.

7 “(B) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

8 “(i) COMMUNITY ADVANTAGE NET-  
9 WORK PARTNER.—The term ‘Community  
10 Advantage Network Partner’—

11 “(I) means a nonprofit, mission-  
12 oriented organization that acts as a  
13 Referral Agent to covered institutions  
14 in order to expand the reach of the  
15 program to small business concerns in  
16 underserved markets; and

17 “(II) does not include a covered  
18 institution making loans under the  
19 program.

20 “(ii) COVERED INSTITUTION.—The  
21 term ‘covered institution’ means an entity  
22 that—

23 “(I) is—

24 “(aa) a development com-  
25 pany, as defined in section 103 of



1 program established under sub-  
2 section (l)(2);

3                         “(II) has approved and disbursed  
4                         10 similarly sized loans during the 24-  
5                         month period preceding the date on  
6                         which such entity submits an applica-  
7                         tion to participate in the program;  
8                         and

9                         “(III) is servicing, as of the date  
10                         on which such entity begins participa-  
11                         tion in the program, not less than 10  
12                         similarly sized loans (other than a  
13                         loan described in subclause (II)) to  
14                         small business concerns in the port-  
15                         folio of the entity.

16                             “(iii) EXISTING BUSINESS.—The term  
17                             ‘existing business’ means a small business  
18                             concern that has been in existence for not  
19                             less than 2 years on the date on which a  
20                             loan is made to such small business con-  
21                             cern under the program.

1 come by the Financial Institutions Exam-  
2 ination Council on a public website of the  
3 Council.

4 “(v) NEW BUSINESS.—The term ‘new  
5 business’ means a small business concern  
6 that has been in existence for not more  
7 than 2 years on the date on which a loan  
8 is made to such small business concern  
9 under the program.

10 “(vi) PROGRAM.—The term ‘program’  
11 means the Community Advantage Loan  
12 Program established under subparagraph  
13 (C).

14 “(vii) REFERRAL AGENT.—The term  
15 ‘Referral Agent’ has the meaning given the  
16 term in section 103.1(f) of title 13, Code  
17 of Federal Regulations, or any successor  
18 regulation.

19 “(viii) RURAL AREA.—The term ‘rural  
20 area’ means any county that the Bureau of  
21 the Census has defined as mostly rural or  
22 completely rural in the most recent decen-  
23 nial census.

24 “(ix) STATE.—The term ‘State’  
25 means each of the several States, the Dis-

7                             “(I) that is located in—

“(aa) a low- or moderate-income community;

“(cc) a rural area;

zone by the Secretary of Housing  
and Urban Development;

“(II) for which more than 50 percent of the employees reside in a low- or moderate-income community;

“(III) that is a new business;

“(IV) that is owned and controlled by one or more veterans or spouses of veterans;

“(V) that is located in any area for which a disaster declaration or determination described in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (E) of subsection (b)(2) has been made that has not terminated more than 2 years before the date on which a loan is made to the small business concern under the program, except—

“(aa) in the case of a disaster that is not a major disaster described in subsection (b)(2)(A), the Administrator may extend such period; and

“(bb) in the case of major disaster described in subsection

(b)(2)(A), that period shall be 5 years;

10                                 “(VII) that is owned and con-  
11                                 trolled by an individual who has com-  
12                                 pleted a term of imprisonment in a  
13                                 Federal, State, or local jail, or prison;  
14                                 or

20                         “(C) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is estab-  
21                         lished a Community Advantage Loan Program  
22                         under which the Administration may guarantee  
23                         loans made by covered institutions under this  
24                         subsection, with an emphasis on loans made to

1           small business concerns in underserved mar-  
2           kets.

3           “(D) PROGRAM LEVELS.—In fiscal year  
4           2024 and each fiscal year thereafter, not more  
5           than 10 percent of the number of loans guaran-  
6           teed under this subsection may be guaranteed  
7           under the program.

8           “(E) GRANDFATHERING OF EXISTING  
9           LENDERS.—Any covered institution that was li-  
10          censed by the Administrator as a Community  
11          Advantage small business lending company dur-  
12          ing the period beginning on May 1, 2023, and  
13          ending on October 31, 2023, or that partici-  
14          pated in the Community Advantage Pilot Pro-  
15          gram of the Administration, and was in good  
16          standing, as determined by the Administra-  
17          tion—

18                 “(i) shall be designated as partici-  
19                 pants in the program;

20                 “(ii) shall not be required to submit  
21                 an application to participate in the pro-  
22                 gram; and

23                 “(iii) for the purpose of determining  
24                 the loan loss reserve amount of the covered  
25                 institution, shall have participation in the

1           Community Advantage Pilot Program in-  
2           cluded in the calculation under subparagraph  
3           (J).

4           “(F) REQUIREMENT TO MAKE LOANS TO  
5           UNDERSERVED MARKETS.—Not less than 60  
6           percent of loans made by a covered institution  
7           under the program shall consist of loans made  
8           to small business concerns in underserved mar-  
9           kets.

10          “(G) MAXIMUM LOAN AMOUNT; COLLAT-  
11          ERAL.—

12           “(i) MAXIMUM LOAN AMOUNT.—  
13               “(I) IN GENERAL.—Except as  
14               provided in subclause (II), the max-  
15               imum loan amount for a loan guaran-  
16               teed under the program is \$350,000.

17           “(II) EXPERIENCED LENDERS.—

18               “(aa) IN GENERAL.—The  
19               Administrator may select not  
20               more than 8 covered institutions  
21               to be designated as ‘experienced  
22               lenders’ to be eligible to make  
23               loans under this paragraph. An  
24               experienced lender shall have not  
25               less than 5 years of experience

making loans under the Community Advantage Pilot Program of the Administration or the program established under this paragraph.

“(bb) MAXIMUM LOAN AMOUNT.—An experienced lender may make a loan guaranteed under the program in an amount that is not more than \$750,000, but not less than 60 percent of the total number of such loans made by an experienced lender shall be in an amount that is less than or equal to \$350,000.

“(CC) as described in clause (ii) of paragraph (2)(G), if the balance of the financing outstanding at the time of the disbursement of the loan is as described in that clause.

18                           “(ii) COLLATERAL.—

19                             “(I) IN GENERAL.—A covered in-  
20                             stitution may not require collateral  
21                             with respect to a loan guaranteed  
22                             under the program if the amount of  
23                             that loan is less than or equal to  
24                             \$50,000.

1                         “(II) POLICIES AND PROCES-  
2                         DURES OF COVERED INSTITUTION.—

3                         In determining the amount of collateral  
4                         required with respect to a loan  
5                         guaranteed under the program, a covered  
6                         institution may use the collateral  
7                         policies and procedures of the covered  
8                         institution with respect to similarly  
9                         sized commercial loans made by the  
10                         covered institution that are not guar-  
11                         anteed by the Administrator.

12                         “(H) INTEREST RATES.—The maximum  
13                         allowable interest rate prescribed by the Admin-  
14                         istration on any financing made on a deferred  
15                         basis pursuant to the program shall not exceed  
16                         the maximum allowable interest rate under sec-  
17                         tions 120.213 and 120.214 of title 13, Code of  
18                         Federal Regulations, or any successor regula-  
19                         tions.

20                         “(I) REFINANCING OF COMMUNITY ADVAN-  
21                         TAGE PROGRAM LOANS.—A loan guaranteed  
22                         under the program or guaranteed under the  
23                         Community Advantage Pilot Program of the  
24                         Administration may be refinanced into another

1           loan under this subsection that is made by a  
2           lender that does not participate in the program.

3           “(J)    LOAN   LOSS   RESERVE   REQUIRE-  
4           MENTS.—

5           “(i)    LOAN   LOSS   RESERVE   ACCOUNT  
6           FOR   COVERED   INSTITUTIONS.—A   covered  
7           institution—

8           “(I)    with   not   more   than   5   years  
9           of   participation   in   the   program   shall  
10          maintain   a   loan   loss   reserve   account  
11          with   an   amount   equal   to   5   percent   of  
12          the   outstanding   amount   of   the  
13          unguaranteed   portion   of   the   loan  
14          portfolio   of   the   covered   institution  
15          under   the   program;   and

16          “(II)    with   more   than   5   years   of  
17          participation   in   the   program   shall  
18          maintain   a   loan   loss   reserve   account  
19          with   an   amount   equal   to   the   average  
20          repurchase   rate   of   the   covered   institu-  
21          tion   over   the   36-month   period   pre-  
22          ceding   the   most   recent   recalculation  
23          conducted   under   clause   (iii),   except  
24          that   such   amount   shall   not   be   less  
25          than   3   percent   of   the   outstanding

1                   amount of the unguaranteed portion  
2                   of the loan portfolio of the covered in-  
3                   stitution under the program.

4                   “(ii) ADDITIONAL LOAN LOSS RE-  
5                   SERVE AMOUNT FOR SELLING LOANS ON  
6                   THE SECONDARY MARKET.—In addition to  
7                   the amount required in the loan loss re-  
8                   serve account under clause (i), a covered  
9                   institution that sells a program loan on the  
10                  secondary market shall be required to  
11                  maintain the following additional amounts  
12                  in the loan loss reserve account:

13                  “(I) For a covered institution  
14                  with less than 5 years of experience  
15                  selling program loans on the sec-  
16                  ondary market, an amount equal to 3  
17                  percent of the guaranteed portion of  
18                  each program loan sold on the sec-  
19                  ondary market.

20                  “(II) For a covered institution  
21                  with more than 5 years of experience  
22                  selling program loans on the sec-  
23                  ondary market, an amount equal to  
24                  the average repurchase rate for loans  
25                  sold by the covered institution on the

1 secondary market over the 36-month  
2 period preceding the most recent re-  
3 calculation conducted under clause  
4 (iii), except that such amount shall be  
5 not less than 2 percent of the guaran-  
6 teed portion of each program loan  
7 sold into the secondary market.

8 “(iii) RECALCULATION.—On October  
9 1 of each year, the Administrator shall re-  
10 calculate the loan loss reserve required  
11 under clauses (i) and (ii).

12 “(K) TRAINING.—

13 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Upon the initial  
14 entry of a covered institution into the pro-  
15 gram, and on an ongoing basis, the Admin-  
16 istrator shall provide accessible trainings to  
17 support compliance by the covered institu-  
18 tion with program requirements and to im-  
19 prove communication between the covered  
20 institution and the Administration. Such  
21 trainings shall include—

22 “(I) guidance with respect to the  
23 program for following the regulations  
24 of the Administration; and

1                         “(II) guidance for covered insti-  
2                         tutions participating in the program  
3                         that is intended to help lenders effec-  
4                         tively reach and support small busi-  
5                         ness concerns in underserved markets,  
6                         including management and technical  
7                         assistance delivery.

8                         “(ii) CONTRACT.—The Administrator  
9                         may enter into a contract to provide any  
10                         training described in clause (i) with an or-  
11                         ganization—

12                         “(I) with expertise in lending  
13                         under this subsection; and primarily  
14                         specializing in—

15                         “(aa) mission-oriented lend-  
16                         ing; and

17                         “(bb) lending to small busi-  
18                         ness concerns in underserved  
19                         markets.

20                         “(iii) OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—The  
21                         Administrator shall provide any training  
22                         described in clause (i) for the employees  
23                         and contractors of the Administration that  
24                         regularly engage with covered institutions  
25                         or borrowers under the program.

1                 “(L) COMMUNITY ADVANTAGE OUTREACH  
2                 AND EDUCATION.—The Administrator—

3                         “(i) shall develop and implement a  
4                 plan—

5                         “(I) to promote the program to  
6                 prospective covered institutions; and

7                         “(II) to conduct outreach and  
8                 educate prospective covered institu-  
9                 tions about the program; and

10                         “(ii) may enter into contracts with 1  
11                 or more nonprofit organizations experi-  
12                 enced in working with and training mis-  
13                 sion-driven lenders (that are not Commu-  
14                 nity Advantage Network Partners) to pro-  
15                 vide the promotion, outreach, and edu-  
16                 cation described in clause (i).

17                 “(M) COMMUNITY ADVANTAGE NETWORK  
18                 PARTNER PARTICIPATION.—

19                         “(i) IN GENERAL.—A covered institu-  
20                 tion that uses a Community Advantage  
21                 Network Partner shall abide by policies  
22                 and procedures of the Administration con-  
23                 cerning the use of Referral Agent fees per-  
24                 mitted by the Administration and disclo-  
25                 sure of those fees.

1                         “(ii) PAYMENT OF FEES.—Notwith-  
2                         standing any other provision of law, all  
3                         fees described in clause (i) shall be paid by  
4                         the covered institution to the Community  
5                         Advantage Network Partner upon dis-  
6                         bursement of the applicable program loan.

7                         “(N) DELEGATED AUTHORITY.—A covered  
8                         institution is not eligible to receive delegated  
9                         authority from the Administration under the  
10                         program until the covered institution has satis-  
11                         fied the following applicable requirements:

12                         “(i) For a covered institution actively  
13                         participating in the Community Advantage  
14                         Pilot Program of the Administration, as of  
15                         the day before the date of enactment of  
16                         this paragraph—

17                         “(I) the covered institution has  
18                         approved and fully disbursed not  
19                         fewer than 10 loans under that Pilot  
20                         Program; and

21                         “(II) the Administrator has eval-  
22                         uated the ability of the covered insti-  
23                         tution to fulfill program requirements.

24                         “(ii) For any covered institution not  
25                         described in clause (i)—

1                         “(I) the covered institution has  
2                         approved and fully disbursed not  
3                         fewer than 20 loans under the pro-  
4                         gram; and

5                         “(II) the Administrator has eval-  
6                         uated the ability of the covered insti-  
7                         tution to fulfill program requirements.

8                         “(O) REPORTING.—

9                         “(i) WEEKLY REPORTS.—

10                         “(I) IN GENERAL.—The Admin-  
11                         istrator shall report on the website of  
12                         the Administration, as part of the  
13                         weekly reports on lending approvals  
14                         under this subsection—

15                         “(aa) on and after the date  
16                         of enactment of this paragraph,  
17                         the number and dollar amount of  
18                         loans guaranteed under the Com-  
19                         munity Advantage Pilot Program  
20                         of the Administration; and

21                         “(bb) on and after the date  
22                         on which the Administrator be-  
23                         gins to approve loans under the  
24                         program, the number and dollar

1                   amount of loans guaranteed  
2                   under the program.

3                   “(II) SEPARATE ACCOUNTING.—  
4                   The number and dollar amount of  
5                   loans reported in a weekly report  
6                   under subclause (I) for loans guaran-  
7                   teed under the Community Advantage  
8                   Pilot Program of the Administration  
9                   and under the program shall include a  
10                  breakdown by the demographic infor-  
11                  mation of the owners of the small  
12                  business concerns, by whether the  
13                  small business concern is a new busi-  
14                  ness or an existing business, and by  
15                  whether the small business concern is  
16                  located in an urban area or rural  
17                  area, further disaggregated by—

18                  “(aa) loans less than or  
19                  equal to \$50,000;

20                  “(bb) loans greater than  
21                  \$50,000 and less than or equal  
22                  to \$150,000;

23                  “(cc) loans greater than  
24                  \$150,000 and less than or equal  
25                  to \$250,000;

1                         “(dd) loans greater than  
2                         \$250,000 and less than or equal  
3                         to \$350,000; and

4                         “(ee) loans greater than  
5                         \$350,000 and less than or equal  
6                         to \$750,000.

7                         “(ii) ANNUAL REPORTS.—

8                         “(I) IN GENERAL.—For each fis-  
9                         cal year in which the program is in ef-  
10                         fect, the Administration shall submit  
11                         to the Committee on Small Business  
12                         and Entrepreneurship of the Senate  
13                         and the Committee on Small Business  
14                         of the House of Representatives, and  
15                         make publicly available on the inter-  
16                         net, information about loans provided  
17                         under the program and under the  
18                         Community Advantage Pilot Program  
19                         of the Administration.

20                         “(II) CONTENTS.—Each report  
21                         submitted and made publicly available  
22                         under subclause (I) shall include—

23                         “(aa) the number and dollar  
24                         amounts of loans provided to  
25                         small business concerns under

1 the program, including a break-  
2 down by—

1                     “(CC) express loans  
2                     provided under paragraph  
3                     (31) of similar amounts; and  
4                     “(DD) other loans  
5                     made under this subsection  
6                     of similar amounts provided  
7                     to small business concerns  
8                     in underserved markets;  
9                     “(cc) a comparison of the  
10                    number and dollar amounts of  
11                    loans provided to small business  
12                    concerns under the program and  
13                    under each category of loans de-  
14                    scribed in item (aa), broken down  
15                    by—  
16                     “(AA) loans less than  
17                    or equal to \$50,000;  
18                     “(BB) loans greater  
19                    than \$50,000 and less than  
20                    or equal to \$150,000;  
21                     “(CC) loans greater  
22                    than \$150,000 and less than  
23                    or equal to \$250,000;

1                         “(DD) loans greater  
2                         than \$250,000 and less than  
3                         or equal to \$350,000; and  
4                         “(EE) loans greater  
5                         than \$350,000 and less than  
6                         or equal to \$750,000;  
7                         “(dd) the number and dollar  
8                         amounts of loans provided to  
9                         small business concerns under  
10                        the program by State, and the  
11                        jobs created or retained within  
12                        each State; and  
13                         “(ee) a list of covered insti-  
14                         tutions participating in the pro-  
15                         gram and the Community Advan-  
16                         tage Pilot Program of the Ad-  
17                         ministration, including—  
18                         “(AA) the name, loca-  
19                         tion, and contact informa-  
20                         tion, such as the website and  
21                         telephone number, of each  
22                         covered institution; and  
23                         “(BB) a breakdown by  
24                         the number and dollar  
25                         amount of the loans ap-

“(P) GAO REPORT.—Not later than 5 years after the date of the enactment of this paragraph, the Comptroller General of the United States shall 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—

1                         “(II) the performance of covered  
2                         institutions participating in the pro-  
3                         gram; and

4                         “(ii) providing recommendations on  
5                         the administration of the program and the  
6                         findings under subclauses (I) and (II) of  
7                         clause (i).

8                         “(Q) REGULATIONS.—

9                         “(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than  
10                         180 days after the date of enactment of  
11                         this paragraph, the Administrator shall  
12                         issue rules governing the program, includ-  
13                         ing metrics for lender performance, metrics  
14                         of success and benchmarks of the program,  
15                         and criteria for appropriate management  
16                         and technical assistance.

17                         “(ii) UPDATES.—The Administrator  
18                         shall consult the report submitted under  
19                         subparagraph (P) and, not later than 180  
20                         days after the date on which the Compt-  
21                         roller General of the United States sub-  
22                         mits such report, amend any existing rules  
23                         of the Administration based on the rec-  
24                         ommendations contained in such report.”.

1       (b) PARTICIPATION.—Section 7(a)(2) of the Small  
2 Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)(2)) is amended—

3               (1) in subparagraph (A), in the matter pre-  
4 ceding clause (i), by striking “and (F)” and insert-  
5 ing “(F), and (G)”;  
6 and

7               (2) by adding at the end the following:

8               “(G) PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMUNITY

9 ADVANTAGE LOAN PROGRAM.—Subject to sub-  
10 paragraph (G)(i)(II)(cc) of paragraph (38), in  
11 an agreement to participate in a loan on a de-  
12 ferred basis under that paragraph, the partici-  
13 pation by the Administration shall be—

14               “(i) 80 percent of the balance of the  
15 financing outstanding at the time of the  
16 disbursement of the loan, if that balance is  
17 greater than \$150,000 and less than or  
18 equal to \$350,000; or

19               “(ii) 90 percent of the balance of the  
20 financing outstanding at the time of the  
21 disbursement of the loan, if that balance is  
less than or equal to \$150,000.”.

