
HOUSE BILL 1783

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By Representatives Sandlin and Maycumber

1 AN ACT Relating to supporting economic development in distressed
2 areas through hiring of grant writers; adding new sections to chapter
3 43.330 RCW; and creating a new section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that access to
6 economic development assistance from government and philanthropic
7 sources typically requires careful and skilled writing of grant
8 applications. The legislature finds that trained and skilled grant
9 writers are scarce, and particularly difficult to find in distressed
10 areas with higher rates of unemployment that need economic
11 development assistance. Therefore, the legislature intends to provide
12 the department of commerce with the authority and resources necessary
13 to ensure each county associate development organization can recruit
14 and retain a full-time grant writer.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.330
16 RCW to read as follows:

17 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
18 specific purpose, by July 1, 2024, the department shall establish a
19 grant program to support associate development organizations in the
20 recruiting, hiring, and retention of full-time grant writers. The

1 department must award grants on an annual basis and must prioritize
2 grants for distressed areas as defined under RCW 43.168.020.

3 (2) Associate development organizations must apply for the grant
4 program in a manner to be determined by the department.

5 (3) Associate development organizations that receive awards under
6 this section must provide information on the use of the funds,
7 including a description of the associate development organization's
8 recruiting and hiring efforts and, if applicable, the number and
9 types of grants applied for by the grant writers funded by the state,
10 in their annual reports to the department required under RCW
11 43.330.082.

12 (4) Beginning December 31, 2026, the department must include
13 information on grant award funding and use in its reports to the
14 legislature on associate development organizations contracts required
15 under RCW 43.330.082.

16 (5) The department shall adopt rules to implement this section.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 43.330
18 RCW to read as follows:

19 The associate development organization grant writing account is
20 created in the custody of the state treasurer. Revenues to the
21 account consist of appropriations by the legislature, private
22 contributions, and all other sources deposited in the account.
23 Expenditures from the account may be used only for annual grants to
24 associate development organizations to recruit, hire, and retain
25 full-time grant writers. Only the director or the director's designee
26 may authorize expenditures from the account. The account is subject
27 to the allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW, but an
28 appropriation is not required for expenditures.

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