
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1717

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By House Appropriations (originally sponsored by Representatives Rule, Corry, Paul, Stonier, Chapman, Duerr, and Timmons)

READ FIRST TIME 02/24/23.

1 AN ACT Relating to supporting innovation at associate development
2 organizations; adding new sections to chapter 43.330 RCW; and
3 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 associate
6 development organizations are critical to Washington state's economic
7 success. Associate development organizations consist of 34 regional
8 organizations servicing all of Washington's 39 counties, underpinning
9 Washington state's economic development programs and initiatives
10 across the state. With a mission of confidential and client-based
11 economic development, associate development organizations enhance
12 economic development service delivery and results statewide through
13 public-private and state-local partnerships.

14 Therefore, the legislature intends by this act to establish a
15 competitive grant program to support innovation, sustainability,
16 partnerships, and equity at associate development organizations with
17 the goal of growing jobs, expanding existing firms, recruiting new
18 businesses, and supporting an equitable economy and inclusive
19 economic development.

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

3 (1) Subject to the availability of funds appropriated for this
4 specific purpose, the department shall establish an annual
5 competitive grant program to support and catalyze initiatives to
6 foster innovation, sustainability, partnerships, and equity at
7 associate development organizations. The department shall develop
8 grant award criteria with relevant stakeholders and award funding
9 based on initiatives that are aligned with its work and priorities.
10 Awards must be given equitably across the state.

11 (2) Grant recipients must provide information on the use of the
12 funds in their annual reports to the department required under RCW
13 43.330.082.

14 (3) Beginning December 31, 2026, the department must include
15 information on grant award funding and use in its report to the
16 legislature on associate development organizations contracts.

17 (4) The department shall adopt rules to implement this section.

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

20 The associate development organization innovation,
21 sustainability, partnerships, and equity grant account is created in
22 the state treasury. Moneys in the account may be spent only after
23 appropriation. Revenues to the account consist of appropriations by
24 the legislature, private contributions, and all other sources
25 deposited in the account. Expenditures from the account may be used
26 only for an annual grant to associate development organizations to
27 support and catalyze initiatives to foster innovation,
28 sustainability, partnerships, and equity.

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