

Item 2.

AB 3205 (Salas) Regions Rise Grant Program.

Summary: AB 3205 establishes the Regions Rise Grant Program, administered by the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz), for the purpose of supporting inclusive, cross jurisdictional, and innovative processes that lead to inclusive strategies to address barriers and challenges confronting communities in creating economic prosperity for all.

Proposed Amendments:

1. Add legislative intent and program objectives that demonstrate how the grant program relates to the current coronavirus emergency.
2. Set a specific overall purpose for the program that more clearly encompasses the goals and objectives already articulated in the bill. Use the existing purpose to set the program's goals.
3. Mandate the inclusion of historically underrepresented voices within the regional collectives funded through the program, including project steering committees.
4. Shift the drafting of the bill from setting regional boundaries to funding regional collectives comprised of public and private stakeholders who organize themselves around one or more community challenges impacting multiple government jurisdictions.
5. Allow applications with overlapping geographic boundaries to be funded to the extent that regional collectives' work is distinctly different, e.g. one collective is focusing on maternal health in lower income neighborhoods, while another collective is working on aligning education and workforce training opportunities with an emerging high tech industry sector.
6. Clarify the sustainable development principles that are intended to drive the work of the regional collectives funded through the grant program.
7. Set threshold criteria for evaluating grant applications, including requirements for reporting outcomes annually and providing letters of support from local government agencies, ethnic chambers, and other public and private stakeholders.
8. Modify the matching funds provision to reflect that some of the most important issues that need to be addressed may also be in areas that do not have access to matching funds.
9. Clarify that grants may be awarded to regional collectives in a range of development stages, including those initiating and expanding regional convening, those sustaining regional engagements, and those that are ready to implement recommended strategies.
10. Expand the list of mandatory regional partnership members to include at least one economic development entity.