

1 Title: To amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to authorize the
2 Secretary of Commerce to make predevelopment grants, and for other purposes.

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5 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in
6 Congress assembled,

7 [SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

8 This Act may be cited as the “Economic Empowerment Through Predevelopment Act of
9 2023”.]

10 SEC. 2. PREDEVELOPMENT GRANTS.

11 (a) Predevelopment Grants.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Title II of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965
13 is amended by inserting after section 207 (42 U.S.C. 3147) the following:

14 “SEC. 208. PREDEVELOPMENT GRANTS.

15 “(a) Predevelopment Grants.—On the application of an eligible recipient, the Secretary may
16 make grants or cooperative agreements for—

17 “(1) community asset mapping;

18 “(2) training;

19 “(3) technical assistance and organizational development;

20 “(4) feasibility, environmental, and market studies;

21 “(5) demonstration projects;

22 “(6) organizational capacity building;

23 “(7) organizing and facilitating convenings;

24 “(8) permitting, including professional services; and

25 “(9) other predevelopment activities determined by the Secretary to be appropriate.

26 “(b) Application Assistance.—In the case of a project under this section that provides
27 assistance to 1 or more eligible recipients with low organizational capacity, [as determined by
28 the Secretary,] the Secretary may waive the prohibition under section 213.”.

29 (2) COST SHARING.—Section 204(c)(3) of the Public Works and Economic Development
30 Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3144(c)(3)) is amended—

31 (A) in the paragraph heading, by inserting “AND PREDEVELOPMENT GRANTS” after
32 “AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE”; and

33 (B) by striking “section 207” and inserting “section 207 or 208”.

34 (3) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents contained in section 1(b) of the Public
35 Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (79 Stat. 552; 112 Stat. 3597; 118 Stat.

1 1761) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 207 the following:
2 “Sec.208.Predevelopment grants.”.

3 (b) Conforming Amendments.—

4 (1) DIRECT EXPENDITURE OR REDISTRIBUTION BY RECIPIENT.—Section 217(a) of the
5 Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3154c(a)) is amended by
6 striking “or 207” and inserting “207, or 208”.

7 (2) POWERS OF SECRETARY.—Section 601(a)(12) of the Public Works and Economic
8 Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3211(a)(12)) is amended by striking “section 207”
9 and inserting “sections 207 and 208”.
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