

CAMEO Recess Packet

July 2018

Why You Need to Be an Advocate

CAMEO advocates for micro-businesses every day. On Capitol Hill and in the Administration, CAMEO is active in promoting our agenda. But any successful advocacy effort also includes direct communications between constituents and their elected officials. That is where you come in. While CAMEO's government relations team will continue to advocate to the nearly 170 organizations and agencies dedicated to furthering micro-business development, your engagement with lawmakers in your home districts can make all the difference.

How to Reach Your Legislator

The best way to make sure CAMEO's message is heard is to schedule a meeting with your Senators and Representative through their local district office, but other options also exist.

- Your Senators are Dianne Feinstein and Kamala Harris. Senator Feinstein's office locations and phone numbers can be found [here](#). Senator Harris' office locations and phone numbers can be found [here](#).
- Click [here](#) to find your Representative by entering your zip code. Each Member has a website with the locations and phone numbers of District/State offices.
- Schedule a meeting with your legislators. Call their district office and be flexible. You may have to make more than one call to arrange this meeting.
- An alternative to one-on-one meetings is attending District/State town hall meetings. These are open to the public and can generally be found on the Member's website or by contacting the office. If you attend one of those events, you can request a brief introduction with the Member.
- Finally, social media, including Twitter and Facebook, are brief, but well-used avenues for communicating with legislators. Congressional Committees also have social media accounts where comments can be directed.

Making the Meeting Valuable

The goal of Congressional outreach during recess is to amplify the message CAMEO builds in Washington. Start by introducing yourself, your business, and CAMEO.

Good meeting tips:

- *Keep It Simple:* Members will likely not know the ins and outs of our policy requests. Likewise, you are not expected to be a policy expert.
- *Keep It Concise:* These meetings tend to be short. Know what you want to say and focus on the “ask.”
- *Have Your Handout:* Leave behind the Funding Request Chart with the office. This has additional information staff will want.
- *Follow Up:* Follow up matters. After the meeting, be sure to send the appropriate thank you email to the legislator and any staff members in attendance. If you discussed any items that need to be passed along, please do so in a timely fashion. If the legislator asked you any questions and you need additional information, please feel free to send your requests to Heidi Pickman at hpickman@microbiz.org.

What to Talk About

Ask for Support on CAMEO’s Funding Requests

The work of lenders and counselors is only possible with adequate resources. Each year, CAMEO submits funding requests for proven programs that have a significant return for the American economy. An important part of our advocacy efforts is ensuring that the programs are fully funded, and we ask that you echo CAMEO’s requests.

Appropriations Committees in the House and Senate each draft separate funding bills, which are then merged into the final funding levels presented to the President. As with most years, differences between the House and Senate dollar amounts for entrepreneurial programming government-wide will need to be addressed.

Please find a chart on the final page of this packet with an update on CAMEO’s FY2019 appropriations requests and the funding levels provided in the legislation passed by the House and the bills being considered in the Senate. We encourage you to talk to your Members of Congress about proposed funding levels for key entrepreneurial programs.



Urge Your Senators to Support Increase in Funding for PRIME Program

SBA's Program for Investment in Micro-entrepreneurs (PRIME) provides assistance to organizations that help low-income entrepreneurs who lack sufficient training and education to gain access to capital to establish and expand their small businesses.

CAMEO has been active on Capitol Hill, advocating for robust funding of this program. The House of Representatives passed their appropriations legislation funding this program for FY2019 at the same level as FY2018 - \$5 million. The Senate version, which was unanimously approved in committee, cut funding for the PRIME Program down to \$2.5 million. This bill now awaits a vote by the full Senate.

Upon their return, the Senate will move forward on funding for FY2019. CAMEO is asking its members to reach out to your Senators Dianne Feinstein and Kamala Harris to urge them to support funding for the PRIME Program at the same level as the House bill - \$5 million.

Senator Feinstein's office locations and phone numbers can be found [here](#). Senator Harris' office locations and phone numbers can be found [here](#). Give examples of how the PRIME programs has assisted the community and the entrepreneurs it serves.

Let us know how your meetings went by contacting Heid Pickman at hpickman@microbiz.org



FY2019 Entrepreneurship Funding Update

U.S. Department of Treasury- Financial Services and General Government Appropriations

Program	FY2019 House	FY2019 Senate	FY2019 CAMEO Requests	FY2019 – White House Budget Request
Treasury CDFI Fund	\$216 million	\$250 million	\$300 million	\$14 million
Treasury CDFI BGP	\$500 million	\$500 million	\$1 billion	\$500 million

U.S. Small Business Administration- Financial Services and General Government Appropriations

Program	FY2019 House	FY2019 Senate	FY2019 CAMEO Requests	FY2019 – White House Budget Request
Microloan Program: Lending	\$42 million	\$42 million	\$44 million	\$42 million
Microloan Program: TA	\$31 million	\$31 million	\$31 million	\$25 million
PRIME	\$5 million	\$2.5 million	\$10 million	N/A
Women’s Business Centers	\$18 million	\$18 million	\$21.75 million	\$16 million
Small Business Development Centers	\$130 million	\$130 million	\$140 million	\$110 million

U.S. Department of Agriculture- Agriculture, Rural Development and FDA Appropriations

Program	FY2019 House	FY2019 Senate	FY2019 CAMEO Requests	FY2019 – White House Budget Request
Rural Business Development Grants (RBDG)	\$34 million	\$40.3 million	\$30 million	Office of Rural Development Eliminated
Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program (RMAP)	Zero	Zero	\$3 million	
Intermediary Relending Program (IRP)	\$20 million	\$18.9 million	\$19 million	
Value Added Producer Grants (VRPG)	\$15 million	\$15 million	\$11 million	

