



**Testimony of Associate Administrator Lisa Shimkat
Before the U.S. House Committee on Small Business
March 18, 2026**

Chairman Williams, Ranking Member Velázquez, Members of the Committee: Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on behalf of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA).

My name is Lisa Shimkat, and I am honored to serve as the Associate Administrator for SBA's Office of Field Operations. In this role, I oversee the agency's nationwide field network of 68 district offices and 10 regional offices, which serve as the frontline connection between the SBA and America's small businesses.

Before taking this position, I served for more than a decade as the State Director of America's Small Business Development Center in Iowa, where I led a network of fifteen centers dedicated to supporting entrepreneurs across the state. During that time, our centers assisted more than 24,000 entrepreneurs and owners, supported the launch of 2,500 new businesses, helped create more than 18,000 jobs, and secured more than \$900 million in capital infusion for small businesses.

My experience reinforced something I see every day in my current role: small businesses succeed when federal programs support, rather than hinder innovation, growth, and entrepreneurship.

The SBA's field staff are the boots on the ground ambassadors executing the vision and agenda of the Trump Administration's SBA under the leadership of Administrator Kelly Loeffler.

Under Administrator Loeffler, the agency moved the vast majority of its workforce to the field, strengthening on-the-ground delivery and improving access for entrepreneurs in America's main streets.

After years of mission creep characterized by bureaucratic expansion and a politicized agenda, Administrator Loeffler fundamentally realigned the agency to serve its local lenders, job creators, and taxpayers. The SBA cut the bureaucracy and workforce in Washington and prioritized moving employees into the field.



Today, 97% of SBA Office of Field Operations employees are located outside of Washington, D.C., serving entrepreneurs through our regional and district offices across this great country.

Through this robust nationwide network, SBA field offices remain deeply engaged with the lending community, small businesses, and other stakeholders under Administrator Loeffler's leadership. Since January 20, 2025, our field network has hosted over 30,000 events, connecting with nearly half a million small business owners and entrepreneurs.

These engagements include lender outreach, training opportunities, and partnerships with chambers of commerce, resource partners, and state and local economic development organizations to ensure small businesses have more access to capital, training, and contracting opportunities.

SBA field teams hosted thousands of training sessions, helping entrepreneurs better understand SBA programs and resources so they can grow and strengthen their businesses.

The agency also shifted field resources to rural and veteran communities that were ignored by the previous administration.

This fresh approach has produced real results. In Fiscal Year 2025 alone, the SBA delivered \$7.1 billion in lending to rural, small businesses, and nearly \$1.5 billion to veteran-owned small businesses.

This change also allowed SBA resource partners to serve more than 82,000 rural entrepreneurs, while 31 Veteran Business Outreach Centers assisted almost 60,000 active-duty, veteran, and military spouse entrepreneurs.

SBA resource partners supported hundreds of thousands of entrepreneurs and more than two million jobs nationwide.

Additionally, we are putting SBA staff back in the field where small businesses operate. Our district teams are spending more time in the field, training lenders, visiting manufacturers, restaurants, family farms, and startups in their communities to share the resources that the SBA provides at no cost to small business owners.



These visits allow us to hear directly from small businesses about the barriers they faced under the previous Administration and highlight how rolling back more than \$110 billion of burdensome regulations can support their growth as we continue the economic comeback under President Trump. Additionally, SBA staff are promoting the newly created Red Tape Hotline, which provides a direct channel for small businesses to report burdensome, duplicative, and costly regulations that negatively impact their success.

As responsible stewards of American taxpayers, the SBA identified opportunities to eliminate wasteful contracts and consolidate leases, including the closure of 19 offices that housed either zero or only one full-time employee that were not effectively serving small businesses and often working from home. The agency announced last year it would relocate six of its regional offices out of sanctuary cities to prioritize the safety of SBA employees and the small businesses we serve, with a focus on less costly, more accessible locations that comply with federal immigration law.

Most importantly, through roundtables, community visits, small business tours, and direct engagement, our field teams gather feedback and listen to entrepreneurs and small business owners across the U.S. about what support they need from the SBA to succeed.

America's 36 million small businesses are the backbone of our economy, and the SBA's field network plays a critical role in ensuring those entrepreneurs have the resources they need to start, grow, and compete.

In closing, I want to thank this Committee for its continued partnership and oversight. Together, we can ensure the SBA's Office of Field Operations remains a strong bridge between Washington and Main Street—delivering meaningful support to the entrepreneurs who power America's economy.

Thank you, and I look forward to your questions.