consider the absence of complaints or injuries when determining if a noncompliance is inconsequential to safety. The absence of complaints does not mean vehicle occupants have not experienced a safety issue, nor does it mean that there will not be safety issues in the future.<sup>4</sup>

NHTSA has evaluated the merits of the inconsequential noncompliance petition and supplemental materials submitted by BMW and has determined that this particular noncompliance is inconsequential to motor vehicle safety. Specifically, the Agency considered the following when making its decision:

In pertinent part, S5.2.5 requires that each footrest for a passenger other than an operator fold rearward and upward when not in use. NHTSA has issued several interpretations of section S5.2.5. In a letter dated February 16, 1982, to American Honda Motor Co., Inc., with respect to a proposed footboard design, the then Chief Counsel commented that "[w]e consider that the purpose of S5.2.5 is to prevent accidents caused by rigid footrests contacting the ground in a banking turn." <sup>5</sup> Various other NHTSA letters provided the same interpretation of the footrest requirement in S5.2.5.6

BMW conducted a measurement analysis for the K1600 GTL Motorcycle including lean angle to determine the distance between the passenger footrest and the ground when other motorcycle components contact the ground during a banked turn. The analysis indicated that the first component that would

contact the ground would be the rider's footrest at 39 degrees lean angle, followed by other components such as the engine spoiler that would contact the ground at 43 degrees. Next, components including the center stand would contact the ground at 46 degrees. The BMW analysis demonstrated that, as the motorcycle lean angle increases, all of these components contact the ground well before the passenger footrest would make contact with the ground.

Additionally, BMW conducted a measurement analysis for the K1600 B Motorcycle including lean angle to determine the distance between the passenger footrest and the ground when other motorcycle components contact the ground during a banked turn. The analysis indicated that the first component that would contact the ground would be the rider's footrest at 39 degrees, followed by other components such as the engine spoiler that would contact the ground at 42 degrees. Next, components including the engine spoiler would contact the ground at 43.5 degrees. According to BMW's analysis, as the motorcycle lean angle increases, all of these components contact the ground before the passenger footrest would make contact with the ground.

Furthermore, BMW conducted a measurement analysis for the K1600 Grand America Motorcycle including lean angle to determine the distance between the passenger footrest and the ground when other motorcycle components contact the ground during a banked turn. The analysis indicated that the first component that would contact the ground would be the rider's floorboard at a lean angle of 34.5 degrees, followed by other components such as the rider footrest that would contact the ground at 39 degrees. Next, components including the silencer would contact the ground at 42 degrees. As motorcycle lean angle increases, all of these components contact the ground well before the passenger footrest would make contact with the ground.

BMW also conducted real-world test rides with a K 1600 GTL and with a K 1600 Grand America. On-board videos were taken to provide a close-up view of certain components prior to, and at, contact with the ground. The videos confirmed the findings from the measurement analysis.

NHTSA considers the purpose of S5.2.5 is to prevent accidents caused by rigid passenger footrests contacting the ground when a motorcycle is leaned over in a turn. BMW's measurement analysis and real-world testing clearly demonstrate there is no possibility for

the passenger footrests to contact the ground while the motorcycle is under control in a banked turn because numerous other components would contact the ground first, preventing either passenger footrest from ever contacting the ground. Therefore, this noncompliance is inconsequential to motor vehicle safety.

#### VII. NHTSA's Decision

In consideration of the foregoing, NHTSA finds that BMW has met its burden of persuasion that the subject FMVSS No. 123 noncompliance in the affected motorcycles is inconsequential to motor vehicle safety. Accordingly, BMW's petition is hereby granted, and BMW is consequently exempted from the obligation of providing notification of, and a free remedy for, that noncompliance under 49 U.S.C. 30118 and 30120.

NHTSA notes that the statutory provisions (49 U.S.C. 30118(d) and 30120(h)) that permit manufacturers to file petitions for a determination of inconsequentiality allow NHTSA to exempt manufacturers only from the duties found in sections 30118 and 30120, respectively, to notify owners, purchasers, and dealers of a defect or noncompliance and to remedy the defect or noncompliance. Therefore, this decision only applies to the subject motorcycles that BMW no longer controlled at the time it determined that the noncompliance existed. However, the granting of this petition does not relieve vehicle distributors and dealers of the prohibitions on the sale, offer for sale, or introduction or delivery for introduction into interstate commerce of the noncompliant motorcycles under their control after BMW notified them that the subject noncompliance existed.

(Authority: 49 U.S.C. 30118, 30120: delegations of authority at 49 CFR 1.95 and 501.8)

## Otto G. Matheke III,

Director, Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance. [FR Doc. 2023–23529 Filed 10–24–23; 8:45 am] BILLING CODE 4910–59–P

#### **DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

### National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

[Docket No. NHTSA-2020-0064; Notice 2]

Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC, Denial of Petition for Decision of Inconsequential Noncompliance

**AGENCY:** National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

<sup>35355 (</sup>June 12, 2013) (finding noncompliance had no effect on occupant safety because it had no effect on the proper operation of the occupant classification system and the correct deployment of an air bag); Osram Sylvania Prods. Inc.; Grant of Petition for Decision of Inconsequential Noncompliance, 78 FR 46000 (July 30, 2013) (finding occupant using noncompliant light source would not be exposed to significantly greater risk than occupant using similar compliant light source).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> See Morgan 3 Wheeler Limited; Denial of Petition for Decision of Inconsequential Noncompliance, 81 FR 21663, 21666 (Apr. 12, 2016); see also United States v. Gen. Motors Corp., 565 F.2d 754, 759 (D.C. Cir. 1977) (finding defect poses an unreasonable risk when it "results in hazards as potentially dangerous as sudden engine fire, and where there is no dispute that at least some such hazards, in this case fires, can definitely be expected to occur in the future").

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> https://www.nhtsa.gov/interpretations/aiam3524.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> An earlier interpretation from 1973 also to American Honda stated that S5.2.5 regulates "only the direction in which footrests shall retract, so that if they are inadvertently left down when not in use they will fold rearward and upward should they hit an obstacle while the motorcycle is travelling forward." That interpretation suggests that contact of the footrests with obstacles other than the ground or roadway may be a consideration. However, all other agency interpretations of S5.2.5 focus on footrest contact with the ground/roadway. See <a href="https://www.nhtsa.gov/interpretations/nht73-622">https://www.nhtsa.gov/interpretations/nht73-622</a>.

**ACTION:** Denial of petition.

SUMMARY: Mercedes-Benz AG and Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC, (collectively, "Mercedes-Benz" or "Petitioner") have determined that certain model year (MY) 2020 Mercedes-Benz GLS 580 motor vehicles do not fully comply with Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard (FMVSS) No. 118, Power-operated Window, Partition, and Roof Panel Systems. Mercedes-Benz filed a noncompliance report dated May 11, 2020, and subsequently petitioned NHTSA on June 3, 2020, for a decision that the subject noncompliance is inconsequential as it relates to motor vehicle safety. This notice announces the denial of Mercedes-Benz's petition.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Frederick Smith, Office of Vehicle Safety Compliance, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), telephone (202) 366–7487, facsimile (202) 366–3081.

#### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Overview: Mercedes-Benz has determined that certain MY 2020 Mercedes-Benz GLS 580 motor vehicles do not fully comply with the requirements of paragraph S6(a)(1) of FMVSS No. 118, Power-operated Window, Partition, and Roof Panel Systems (49 CFR 571.118). Mercedes-Benz filed a noncompliance report dated May 11, 2020, pursuant to 49 CFR part 573, Defect and Noncompliance Responsibility and Reports. Mercedes-Benz subsequently petitioned NHTSA on June 3, 2020, for an exemption from the notification and remedy requirements of 49 U.S.C. Chapter 301 on the basis that this noncompliance is inconsequential as it relates to motor vehicle safety, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 30118(d) and 30120(h) and 49 CFR part 556, Exemption for Inconsequential Defect or Noncompliance.

Notice of receipt of Mercedes-Benz petition was published with a 30-day public comment period, on October 23, 2020, in the **Federal Register** (85 FR 67604). No comments were received. To view the petition and all supporting documents log onto the Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) website at <a href="https://www.regulations.gov/">https://www.regulations.gov/</a>. Then follow the online search instructions to locate docket number "NHTSA-2020-0064."

II. Vehicles Involved: Mercedes-Benz stated that it determined that 22 MY 2020 Mercedes-Benz GLS 580 motor vehicles manufactured between February 8, 2019, and September 20, 2019, do not meet the requirements of FMVSS No. 118, S6(a)(1).

*III. Noncompliance:* Mercedes-Benz explains that the noncompliance is that

the automatic reversal systems and actuation devices for the sunroofs in the subject vehicles do not fully comply with paragraph S6(a)(1) of FMVSS No. 118. Specifically, when the vehicle's "car wash mode" is activated by using the central touch display in the center console, the sunroof may close automatically.

IV. Rule Requirements: Paragraph S6(a)(1) of FMVSS No. 118 includes the requirements relevant to this petition. An actuation device must not cause a window, partition, or roof panel to begin to close from any open position when tested using a stainless steel sphere having a surface finish between 8 and 4 micro inches and a radius of 20 mm  $\pm$  0.2 mm, when the surface of the sphere is placed against any portion of the actuation device.

V. Summary of Mercedes-Benz's Petition: The following views and arguments presented in this section are the views and arguments provided by Mercedes-Benz and do not reflect the views of NHTSA. Mercedes-Benz describes the subject noncompliance and contends that the noncompliance is inconsequential as it relates to motor vehicle safety.

In support of its petition, Mercedes-Benz offers the following reasoning:

- 1. Mercedes-Benz alleges that "due to their specific operating parameters, even though the buttons used to activate car wash mode do not meet the performance requirement of paragraph S6(a), the condition does not create an increased safety risk."
- 2. First, Mercedes-Benz states, "the car wash mode feature must first be activated by the user. Car wash mode is not automatically enabled unless and until the operator activates the feature by affirmatively accepting the option and turning the feature on. Thus, unless car wash mode is already active within the vehicle, the condition described above cannot occur."
- 3. Mercedes-Benz further states, "[o]nce the vehicle has initialized car wash mode, the feature can only be activated through a series of steps using either the vehicle's central touch display or from a touchpad located in the center console. Activating car wash mode is a multi-step process and the process varies depending on the current menu contained on the display screen. For example, if car wash mode has been programmed by the user inside the 'favorites' menu, then a series of two touches is needed to activate car wash mode. In all other cases, the operator would first need to change the display screen to the vehicle menu first and from there, navigate to the car wash mode icon. In either case, car wash

mode will not become active unless each of these steps is executed in the corresponding order. Because of the complexity involved in navigating through the required sequence of events there is an extremely low likelihood of the car wash mode being inadvertently activated in the first place."

4. Further, Mercedes-Benz claims "the sunroofs in the subject vehicles contain an auto-reverse feature. Upon detecting an object or obstruction inside the sunroof, it will automatically stop and reverse course and fully retract. While the sunroofs do not meet the requirements of paragraph S5, Mercedes-Benz states that they are certified to the European standard UN-R-21. The European standard incorporates many of the performance features included in the automatic reversal function contained in FMVSS No. 118, paragraph S5. The sunroofs in the subject vehicles will automatically reverse prior to exerting 100 Newtons of pinch force, and consistent with the options provided at paragraph S5.2, the sunroof will either retract to a position at least as wide as the initial position before closing or will allow a 200-mm rod to be inserted in the gap."

5. Mercedes-Benz says that NHTSA "has previously granted petitions for inconsequential treatment for FMVSS No. 118 involving similar circumstances and vehicle features. NHTSA granted a petition by General Motors involving a noncompliance with FMVSS No. 118, paragraph S4(e), where for 60 seconds after the vehicles are started, an issue with the sunroof module would allow the sunroof to close via the control button if the engine is turned off and a front door is opened. In that instance, in order to activate the sunroof, a series of specific steps must be taken in order and the steps must be completed within a 60-second time frame. See General Motors Corporation, Grant of Petition for Decision of Inconsequential Noncompliance, 73 FR 22459 (April 25, 2008). In granting the petition, the Agency found that the potential for entrapment in a power operated sunroof presented less of a risk of entrapment than power-operated windows because, in general, sunroofs are less physically accessible than power-operated windows. The decision also focused on the presence of an auto-reverse feature, which would reverse the movement of the sunroof before it exerted a pressure of 100 Newtons. In granting the petition, the Agency noted the presence of this auto-reverse feature as one that would further reduce the risk of entrapment.'

6. Mercedes-Benz further asserts that "much like the conditions present in the General Motors Corporation vehicles,

the noncompliance in the car wash mode feature of the subject vehicles similarly does not create an increased safety risk. Assuming that the function has been initialized by the operator, a series of specific and coordinated steps must occur in order to activate car wash mode. If those steps are not carried out in the precise order required, then the car-wash mode program will not be activated. Even in the unlikely event that the car wash mode function is inadvertently activated, there is no enhanced risk of injury because of the sunroof auto-reverse feature."

Mercedes-Benz concludes by again contending that the subject noncompliance is inconsequential as it relates to motor vehicle safety, and that its petition to be exempted from providing notification of the noncompliance, as required by 49 U.S.C. 30118, and a remedy for the noncompliance, as required by 49 U.S.C. 30120, should be granted.

VI. NHTSA's Analysis: The burden of establishing the inconsequentiality of a failure to comply with a performance requirement in a standard—as opposed to a labeling requirement with no performance implications—is more substantial and difficult to meet. Accordingly, NHTSA has not found many such noncompliances inconsequential.¹ Potential performance failures of safety-critical equipment, like seat belts or air bags, are rarely deemed inconsequential.

An important issue to consider in determining inconsequentiality based upon NHTSA's prior decisions on noncompliance issues was the safety risk to individuals who experience the type of event against which the recall would otherwise protect.<sup>2</sup> In general, NHTSA does not consider the absence of complaints or injuries to show that the issue is inconsequential to safety. "Most importantly, the absence of a complaint does not mean there have not been any safety issues, nor does it mean that there will not be safety issues in the

Arguments that only a small number of vehicles or items of motor vehicle equipment are affected have also not justified granting an inconsequentiality petition.5 Similarly, NHTSA has rejected petitions based on the assertion that only a small percentage of vehicles or items of equipment are likely to actually exhibit a noncompliance. The percentage of potential occupants that could be adversely affected by a noncompliance does not determine the question of inconsequentiality. Rather, the issue to consider is the consequence to an occupant who is exposed to the consequence of that noncompliance.<sup>6</sup> These considerations are also relevant when considering whether a defect is inconsequential to motor vehicle safety.

NHTSA has reviewed the Mercedes-Benz inconsequentiality petition and does not concur with Mercedes-Benz's conclusion that the noncompliance is inconsequential to motor vehicle safety and is denying Mercedes-Benz's petition.

FMVSS 118 S6 sets performance requirements intended to mitigate the potential for injury from a window or sunroof being inadvertently closed when a person is in its path. Under the standard, the operating controls may not allow a window, sunroof or partition to close when a test sphere (simulating a child's knee) is pressed against the control. Specifically, FMVSS No. 118

S6(a)(1) requires that "an actuation device must not cause a window, partition, or roof panel to begin to close from any open position when tested . . . [u]sing a stainless steel sphere having a surface finish between 8 and 4 micro inches and a radius of 20 mm  $\pm$  0.2 mm, place the surface of the sphere against any portion of the actuation device."

According to the Mercedes-Benz petition, "the actuation devices used to engage car wash mode do not meet the inadvertent activation provisions of FMVSS No. 118 S6(a)(1)." However, Mercedes-Benz argues activating carwash mode is a multi-step process and the process varies depending on the current menu contained on the display screen of a particular vehicle. After considering information provided by Mercedes-Benz and from online descriptions of the system, NHTSA believes there is a minimal level of complexity involved in navigating through the required sequence of events to actuate and close the sunroof. The controls at issue include those located on the console between the front seats where a child could easily stand or kneel. Given the unpredictable behavior of an unattended child, inadvertent selection of the "Quick Access" or "Favorite" hard buttons, where the "Car Wash Mode" icon can be located, is a foreseeable and appreciable risk. Car Wash Mode can be programmed as the only selectable icon within the "Favorite" menu, increasing its susceptibility to accidental engagement.

In their petition, Mercedes-Benz states, "the sunroofs in the subject vehicles contain an auto-reverse feature. Upon detecting an object or obstruction inside the sunroof, it will automatically stop and reverse course and fully retract. While the sunroofs do not meet the requirements of S5, they are certified to the European standard UN-R-21. The European standard incorporates many of the performance features included in the automatic reversal function contained in FMVSS 118, S5." NHTSA acknowledges that the sunroofs in the Mercedes-Benz vehicles in question are compliant with UN-R-21, but Mercedes-Benz concedes they do not comply with FMVSS 118 S5, NHTSA's regulations governing automatic reversal systems. While UN-R-21 does provide a level of safety, FMVSS 118 S5 provides a greater level of protection from pinching injuries, particularly to smaller appendages like a child's fingers.

Finally, in the petition Mercedes-Benz claims the circumstances here are analogous to the circumstances in a previous NHTSA determination that

future." 3 "[T]he fact that in past reported cases good luck and swift reaction have prevented many serious injuries does not mean that good luck will continue to work." 4

Arguments that only a small number

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Morgan 3 Wheeler Limited; Denial of Petition for Decision of Inconsequential Noncompliance, 81 FR 21663, 21666 (Apr. 12, 2016).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> United States v. Gen. Motors Corp., 565 F.2d 754, 759 (D.C. Cir. 1977) (finding defect poses an unreasonable risk when it "results in hazards as potentially dangerous as sudden engine fire, and where there is no dispute that at least some such hazards, in this case fires, can definitely be expected to occur in the future").

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> See Mercedes-Benz, U.S.A., L.L.C.; Denial of Application for Decision of Inconsequential Noncompliance, 66 FR 38342 (July 23, 2001) (rejecting argument that noncompliance was inconsequential because of the small number of vehicles affected); Aston Martin Lagonda Ltd.; Denial of Petition for Decision of Inconsequential Noncompliance, 81 FR 41370 (June 24, 2016) (noting that situations involving individuals trapped in motor vehicles—while infrequent—are consequential to safety); Morgan 3 Wheeler Ltd.; Denial of Petition for Decision of Inconsequential Noncompliance, 81 FR 21663, 21664 (Apr. 12, 2016) (rejecting argument that petition should be granted because the vehicle was produced in very low numbers and likely to be operated on a limited basis)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> See Gen. Motors Corp.; Ruling on Petition for Determination of Inconsequential Noncompliance, 69 FR 19897, 19900 (Apr. 14, 2004); Cosco Inc.; Denial of Application for Decision of Inconsequential Noncompliance, 64 FR 29408, 29409 (June 1, 1999).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Cf. Gen. Motors Corporation; Ruling on Petition for Determination of Inconsequential Noncompliance, 69 FR 19897, 19899 (Apr. 14, 2004) (citing prior cases where noncompliance was expected to be imperceptible, or nearly so, to vehicle occupants or approaching drivers).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> See Gen. Motors, LLC; Grant of Petition for Decision of Inconsequential Noncompliance, 78 FR 35355 (June 12, 2013) (finding noncompliance had no effect on occupant safety because it had no effect on the proper operation of the occupant classification system and the correct deployment of an air bag); Osram Sylvania Prods. Inc.; Grant of Petition for Decision of Inconsequential Noncompliance, 78 FR 46000 (July 30, 2013) (finding occupant using noncompliant light source would not be exposed to significantly greater risk than occupant using similar compliant light source).

noncompliance was inconsequential. NHTSA considers each petition on its own merits and the prior decision cited by the Petitioner has limited applicability in this case. NHTSA believes the circumstances for accidental window/sunroof closure involved in the cited General Motors (GM) petition are significantly different than those required under Mercedes-Benz current petition. In granting the GM petition, the agency was persuaded that the high level of complexity involved in navigating through the required sequence of events effectively eliminated any entrapment risk, particularly the limited timeframe within which the events would have to occur. Specifically, NHTSA stated, "[i]t is very unlikely that the entire sequence of events-starting the engine, turning the engine off, opening a front door, a person becoming positioned in the sunroof opening, and pushing the sunroof close button—will occur in less than 60 seconds from the time the ignition is turned off and the vehicle operator has exited the vehicle and left the immediate area." General Motors, Decision Granting Petition for Inconsequential Noncompliance, 73 FR 22459 (April 25, 2008). In contrast, the noncompliance in the Mercedes-Benz

petition does not involve as great a level of complexity in the required sequence of events that would lead to sunroof engagement. The Mercedes-Benz petition states, in the subject vehicles, as few as two inputs to the centralized control devices is sufficient to actuate and close the sunroof, *i.e.*, with Car Wash Mode included in the "Favorites" menu. Furthermore, the touch screens at issue here remain activated indefinitely until the vehicle is turned off or a user activates a command. NHTSA therefore does not agree that the prior determination in the GM case is analogous or persuasive here.

Therefore, Mercedes-Benz has not met its burden of persuasion and for the reasons described herein NHTSA does not find that the subject noncompliance is inconsequential to motor vehicle safety.

VII. NHTSA's Decision: In consideration of the foregoing analysis, NHTSA finds that Mercedes-Benz has not met its burden of persuasion that the FMVSS No. 118 noncompliance at issue is inconsequential to motor vehicle safety.

Accordingly, Mercedes-Benz's petition is hereby denied and Mercedes-Benz is consequently obligated to provide notification of, and a free

remedy for, the noncompliance under 49 U.S.C. 30118 and 30120.

(Authority: 49 U.S.C. 30118, 30120: delegations of authority at 49 CFR 1.95 and 501.8)

#### Cem Hatipoglu,

Acting Associate Administrator for Enforcement.

[FR Doc. 2023–23528 Filed 10–24–23; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4910–59–P

#### **DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY**

## **Community Development Financial Institutions Fund**

# Funding Opportunities: Small Dollar Loan Program; 2024 Funding Round

Funding Opportunity Title: Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) inviting Applications for the fiscal year (FY) 2024 Funding Round of the Small Dollar Loan Program (SDL Program).

Announcement Type: Announcement of funding opportunity.

Funding Opportunity Number: CDFI–2024–SDL.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 21.025. Dates:

TABLE 1—FY 2024 SMALL DOLLAR LOAN PROGRAM FUNDING ROUND CRITICAL DEADLINES FOR APPLICANTS

Description	Deadline	Time (eastern time—ET)	Submission method
OMB Standard Form (SF)–424 Mandatory form Last day to enter the Employer Identification Number (EIN) and Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) numbers in AMIS.	November 20, 2023 November 20, 2023	11:59 p.m 11:59 p.m	
Last day to contact SDL Program Staff	December 18, 2023	5 p.m	Service Request via AMIS or CDFI Fund Helpdesk: 202–653–0421 or sdlp@cdfi.treas.gov.
Last day to contact the Certification, Compliance Monitoring and Evaluation (CCME) Help Desk.	December 18, 2023	5 p.m	CCME Helpdesk: 202–653–0423 or Compliance and Reporting AMIS Service Request.
Last day to contact IT Help desk regarding AMIS support only.	December 20, 2023	5 p.m	CDFI Fund IT Helpdesk: 202–653–0422 or IT AMIS Service Request.
Last day to submit Title VI Compliance Work- sheet (all Applicants) *.	December 20, 2023	5 p.m	Electronically via AMIS.
SDL Program Application and Required Attachments.	December 20, 2023	5 p.m	Electronically via AMIS.

<sup>\*</sup>This requirement also applies to Applicants' prospective sub-recipients that are not direct beneficiaries of federal financial assistance (e.g., Depository Institutions Holding Company and their Subsidiary Depository Institutions).

Executive Summary: The Small Dollar Loan Program (SDL Program) is administered by the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI Fund). Through the SDL Program, the CDFI Fund provides (1) grants for Loan Loss Reserves (LLR) to enable a Certified Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) establish a loan loss reserve fund in order to cover the losses on small

dollar loans associated with starting a new small dollar loan program or expanding an existing small dollar loan program; and (2) grants for Technical Assistance (TA) for technology, staff support, and other eligible activities to enable a Certified CDFI to establish and maintain a small dollar loan program. All awards provided through this Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) are subject to funding availability.

#### I. Program Description

A. Authorizing Statute: The SDL Program is authorized by Title XII—Improving Access to Mainstream Financial Institutions Act of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010 (Pub. L. 111–203), which amended the Riegle Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994 (Pub. L. 103–325) to include the SDL Program