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Proposal

Amend the Omnibus Territories Act of 2013 to require departments and agencies, in the case of *grants to Puerto Rico*, to *waive any requirement for local matching funds* (including in-kind contributions) that the area would otherwise be required to provide, including waiver of an entire matching requirement for a grant requiring matching funds of \$500,000 or less. Just like the Act applies to American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (collectively known as insular areas).

There are many grant opportunities (e.g. public health, environment protection, economic development) that have matching requirements (financial and/or in-kind) which Puerto Rico is currently missing out due to the financial crisis. Just like the insular areas, Puerto Rico should have the same opportunity to have a waiver of matching requirement for a grant requiring matching funds of grants of \$500,000 or less, which is much needed in this challenging time.