

## BACKGROUND

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), signed into law by President Donald J. Trump on March 27, 2020, provides the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) with \$1.5 billion for economic development assistance programs to help communities "*prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.*"

CARES Act funds were appropriated under EDA's [Economic Adjustment Assistance \(EAA\) Program](#). EDA will accept applications for grants to support a wide variety of assistance including:

- Planning and Technical Assistance
- Capitalization and Recapitalization of Revolving Loan Funds (RLFs), which provide access to capital for businesses
- Construction of infrastructure and other economic development projects
- Innovation grants

## TIMELINE

EDA began accepting applications on May 7, 2020 and will deploy its CARES Act funding as quickly, effectively, and efficiently as possible, and in a manner that meets the needs of these communities.

## ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

To be eligible, applicants must explain clearly in their application how the proposed project would "prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus" or respond to "economic injury as a result of coronavirus."

Eligible Applicants include:

- District Organization;
- Indian Tribe or a consortium of Indian Tribes;
- State, county, city, or other political subdivision of a State, including a special purpose unit of a State or local government engaged in economic or infrastructure development activities, or a consortium of political subdivisions;
- Institution of higher education or a consortium of institutions of higher education; or
- Public or private non-profit organization or association acting in cooperation with officials of a political subdivision of a State.

Successful applications will enable affected communities to respond to the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic by supporting affected businesses and communities, including by providing technical assistance to retain existing and hire new employees; by providing a range of skills-training and workforce development projects to help employees compete for high-quality jobs; and by developing and implementing strategies to diversify regional economies to create jobs in new or existing industries.

## ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

Proposed project must “prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus” or respond to “economic injury as a result of coronavirus.”

Examples of projects that may be funded through CARES Act Recovery Assistance include:

- Economic recovery planning and preparing technical strategies to address economic dislocations caused by the coronavirus pandemic.
- Preparing or updating resiliency plans to respond to future pandemics.
- Implementing entrepreneurial support programs to diversify economies.
- Constructing public works and facilities that will support economic recovery, including the deployment of broadband for purposes including supporting telehealth and remote learning for job skills.

\*Each project must be consistent with the region’s current CEDS or equivalent EDA-accepted regional economic development strategy that meets EDA’s CEDS or strategy requirements. Please make sure your project aligns with the goals outlined in the regional CEDS document found [here](#). Additionally, your project may be listed in the 2019 CEDS Community Project List found [here](#).

## PROJECT COST AND MATCH REQUIREMENTS

Applicants can request funding from \$100,000 - \$30,000,000.

Under our CARES Act Recovery Assistance, EDA generally expects to fund at least 80%, and up to 100% of eligible project costs.

## APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

All applicants for CARES Act Recovery Assistance must follow instructions included within the [FY20 PWEAA NOFO](#).

- Download the FY20 PWEAA Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) and application package
- In Form ED-900, section B.3.b., include a description of the economic impacts in the region from the coronavirus pandemic and describe how the proposed project scope of work will respond to those impacts and support pandemic recovery and resilience efforts. Applicants may also provide a separate narrative statement, not to exceed one page in length, of the economic impacts in the region from the coronavirus pandemic and how the proposed project scope of work responds to those impacts.
- Additionally, in Form ED-900, section B.6, explain how the proposed project would meet EDA’s Recovery and Resilience investment priority, which all CARES Act Recovery Assistance projects are expected to meet. You may also explain in this space how the proposed projects will meet any of EDA’s other investment priorities.

As with all EDA funding opportunities, prospective applicants are strongly encouraged to contact their applicable EDA Regional Office representatives to discuss their needs and project plans to help further refine the scope and intended outcomes of proposed projects.

If you have any questions or if you would like to discuss project details prior to application submission, please contact Sydney Swan at [sswan@baylakerpc.org](mailto:sswan@baylakerpc.org).