



# Build Back Better Regional Challenge

The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) is seeking applicants (U.S. regions) who want to revitalize their economies by growing new regional industry clusters or by scaling existing clusters. Funding may be requested for planning, infrastructure development, innovation and entrepreneurship support, workforce development, access to capital, and more.

## About this Opportunity:

This opportunity funds the planning and implementation of a collection of three to eight distinct but related projects in a region, in coordination with industry partners, and aligned around a single vision to build and/or scale a strategic industry cluster.

**This is a two-phase opportunity.** **PHASE 1** helps regions develop their economic development strategies. **PHASE 2** funds the implementation of those strategies.

Projects should foster economic growth and competitiveness through job creation, capacity building, and attracting private investment. Page 5 and 6 of the program NOFO lists example projects that relate to example regional growth clusters. In general, projects should reflect what the EDA can provide funding for, including:

- **Construction activities, such as:** water and sewer system improvements, industrial parks, business incubators and accelerators, brownfield redevelopment, technology-based facilities, food aggregation, processing and distribution centers, multi-tenant manufacturing facilities, science and research parks, transportation enhancements, and telecommunications infrastructure (e.g., broadband).
- **Non-construction activities, such as:** design and engineering, technical assistance, economic recovery strategy development, entrepreneurial support, demand-driven workforce training, new academic curricula, market feasibility studies, and the capitalization of revolving loan funds.

## Application Considerations:

- Articulate the coalition's proposed vision and possible outcomes for the cluster.
- Identify the lead institution, coalition members, and existing or potential cluster partners.
- Articulate how the proposed growth cluster will meet the four key elements of a successful cluster (identified in the NOFO). The growth clusters might reflect a hub and spoke model, anchored around a "hub" such as a city, business park, port, research institution, or technology center, and complemented by investment strategies in multiple "spokes" that represent demographic and geographic diversity.
- Articulate how the region presents potential for globally competitive industries and a purposeful approach to actionable economic transformation that leads to quality jobs, long-term economic competitiveness, and stronger urban-rural linkages or stronger rural regional growth clusters.
- Include a proposal for how the technical assistance award funds will be spent.
- Identify any prospective matching funds for Phase 2.

## Application Deadline:

**October 19, 2021 (Phase 1)**

**March 15, 2022 (Phase 2)**

## Eligible Applicants:

Eligible applicants should form a regional coalition. The region may correspond to statistical labor market areas or to an industry that is geographically dispersed but with strong connectivity. Eligible coalition members include a(n):

- ☒ District Organization of an EDA-designated Econ. Development District
- ☒ Indian Tribe or consortium of Indian Tribes
- ☒ State, County, City, or other political subdivision of a State
- ☒ Institution of higher education or consortium of higher ed. institutions
- ☒ Public or private non-profit organization or association acting with officials of a political subdivision of a State

## Award Expectations:

In Phase 1, the EDA expects to grant 50 to 60 awards at \$200,000 to \$500,000 each.



# Good Jobs Challenge

The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) is seeking applicants who want to help get Americans back to work. Funding is intended to bring key entities and employers together to create training programs that provide skills for and connect unemployed or underemployed workers to job opportunities.

## About this Opportunity:

This opportunity intends to bring different entities together in a sectoral partnership to create and support effective training programs that will connect the in-demand and emerging skills needs of employers with qualified workers. It also intends to help workers find and keep quality, higher-wage jobs and to help them advance along their chosen career path.

In particular, this opportunity funds proposals that help to:

1. Establish and develop a regional workforce training system comprised of multiple sector partnerships,
2. Develop the skills training curriculum and materials, and secure technical expertise needed to train workers, and/or
3. Implement non-construction projects needed to provide workforce training and to connect workers with quality jobs (including wrap-around services).

Adequate, modernized facilities are key to a successful workforce training program. Therefore, equipment costs, expenses related to securing adequate space, and other non-construction capital expenses are allowable expenses under this program.

Workforce training models, that meet the interests of the Good Jobs Challenge include skills training programs, registered apprenticeship programs, work-and-learn programs, and certification and credentialing programs.

## Application Deadline:

**January 26, 2022**

## Eligible Applicants:

Eligible applicants include a(n):

- ☒ District Organization of an EDA-designated Econ. Development District
- ☒ Indian Tribe or consortium of Indian Tribes
- ☒ State, County, City, or other political subdivision of a State
- ☒ Institution of higher education or consortium of higher ed. institutions
- ☒ Public or private non-profit organization or association acting with officials of a political subdivision of a State

## Award Expectations:

The EDA expects to grant 25 to 50 awards at \$1 million to \$25 million each. Applications that demonstrate committed non-EDA resources to leverage the EDA award are preferred.

## Application Considerations:

- Identify and describe the System Lead Entity or Backbone Organization for the training system or sectoral partnership.
- Describe employer leadership and commitments already in place or that are anticipated, and explain how employers were or will be involved in the creation of the training programs.
- Describe stakeholders for the system and/or partnership. Include details about their roles and responsibilities.
- Describe the project's location and region, including its primary service area and the key industries involved.
- Provide an estimated funding request, with justification, for the proposed partnership(s) or system.
- **(Highly encouraged)** Articulate efforts to reach historically under-served populations and areas, communities of color, women, and other groups facing labor market barriers such as persons with disabilities, disconnected youth, individuals in recovery, individuals with past criminal records, including justice impacted and reentry participants, serving trainees (participating in the SNAP, TANF, or WIC program), and veterans and military spouses.



# Economic Adjustment Assistance

The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) is seeking applicants who want to improve their economies by planning, building, innovating, and putting people back to work through construction or non-construction projects designed to meet local needs.

## About this Opportunity:

This opportunity aims to flexibly fund technical, planning, workforce development, entrepreneurship, public works and infrastructure projects.

Selected projects are intended to catalyze economic recovery through strong employment opportunities for workers, including but not limited to opportunities for workforce development, rehiring of laid off workers, and creating and retaining union and well-paying jobs with good benefits.

In general, proposed projects should reflect what the EDA can provide funding for, including:

- **Construction activities, such as:** water and sewer system improvements, industrial parks, business incubators and accelerators, brownfield redevelopment, technology-based facilities, food aggregation, processing and distribution centers, multi-tenant manufacturing facilities, science and research parks, transportation enhancements, and telecommunications infrastructure (e.g., broadband).
- **Non-construction activities, such as:** design and engineering, technical assistance, economic recovery strategy development, entrepreneurial support, demand-driven workforce training, new academic curricula, market feasibility studies, and the capitalization of revolving loan funds.

## Suggested Application Deadline:

**March 15, 2022**

## Eligible Applicants:

Eligible applicants include a(n):

- ☒ District Organization of an EDA-designated Econ. Development District
- ☒ Indian Tribe or consortium of Indian Tribes
- ☒ State, County, City, or other political subdivision of a State
- ☒ Institution of higher education or consortium of higher ed. institutions
- ☒ Public or private non-profit organization or association acting with officials of a political subdivision of a State

## Award Expectations:

The EDA expects to grant about 250 awards at \$100,000 to \$10 million each. The EDA expects to fund at least 80%, and up to 100%, of eligible project costs. Applicants with increased levels of match may be more competitive.

## Application Considerations:

- Applications for construction assistance, design and engineering assistance, non-construction assistance, and revolving loan fund assistance each comprise a series of specific forms that must be completed by the applicant.
- Applications to support a business incubator or accelerator (regardless of the assistance type requested) must also include a feasibility study, evidence of financial capacity to operate the facility, and a management plan with their application materials.
- A specific non-construction or construction project, that was originally applied for under a Build Back Better Regional Challenge NOFO, may be considered under the Economic Adjustment Assistance NOFO if the respective Build Back Better package of projects is not selected. Accordingly, the EDA, in its discretion, may move a specific project listed in a Build Back Better Regional Challenge NOFO to another NOFO.



# Indigenous Communities

The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) is seeking applicants who want to support the needs of Tribal Governments and Indigenous communities by developing and executing projects that these communities need to support economic development and improve the future of their economies.

## About this Opportunity:

This opportunity aims to assist indigenous communities economically recover from the coronavirus pandemic. It is also intended to help reduce economic inequities and unique economic development challenges that existed in indigenous communities prior to the coronavirus pandemic.

Any construction or non-construction project that creates jobs, helps to retain jobs, or increases the economic diversity or resiliency of an indigenous community is eligible for funding. Funding may support the development of pandemic recovery strategies as well as the implementation of recovery projects, such as infrastructure improvements and capitalization of revolving loan funds. Competitive projects, as identified in the Indigenous Communities NOFO, include:

- Infrastructure projects (e.g., broadband, energy, road, water, and wastewater infrastructure) and community water facilities.
- Vocational and higher education facilities.
- Community health facilities that are necessary for future job creation.
- Non-construction projects, including technical assistance, to support business development, entrepreneurship assistance, economic development planning, rural prosperity, and workforce training in indigenous communities.

## Suggested Application Deadline:

**March 15, 2022**

## Eligible Applicants:

Eligible applicants are:

- ☒ Indian Tribes or a consortium of Indian Tribes, as defined in 13 C.F.R. § 300.3
- ☒ A public or private non-profit organization or association serving Native Hawaiians
- ☒ A public or private non-profit organization or association serving Native Pacific Islanders of Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, or the Republic of Palau

## Award Expectations:

The EDA expects to grant about 50 awards at \$100,000 to \$5 million each.

## Application Considerations:

- Applications for construction assistance, design and engineering assistance, non-construction assistance, and revolving loan fund assistance each comprise a series of specific forms that must be completed by the applicant.
- Applications to support a business incubator or accelerator (regardless of the assistance type requested) must also include a feasibility study, evidence of financial capacity to operate the facility, and a management plan with their application materials.
- Tribal entities may apply for funding under this program or any other program under the American Rescue Plan Act. However, a project should only be submitted under one program only (not multiple).



# Travel, Tourism, and Outdoor Recreation

The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) is seeking applicants who want to accelerate the recovery of communities that rely on the travel, tourism and outdoor recreation sectors. Non-competitive state tourism grants (which are invite-only) and competitive grants (described in more detail below) are available.

## About this Opportunity:

This opportunity provides funding to communities that have been the hardest hit by challenges facing the travel, tourism, and outdoor recreation sectors. Applicants interested in this opportunity may propose construction and non-construction activities focused on pandemic recovery strategies and the implementation of recovery projects. Eligible projects include:

- Water and stormwater/wastewater improvements
- Pier construction and improvements
- New outdoor recreation and trail infrastructure and public access enhancements
- Nature-based infrastructure projects to improve access to recreation
- Cultural, arts, and tourism facilities
- Workforce training facilities and capacity building programs
- Accessibility enhancements
- Country-wide or multi-state travel, tourism, or outdoor recreation promotion

Projects that are not eligible include: state and local tourism promotion and marketing projects as well as projects that are primarily residential in nature, that create community amenities not specific to regional tourism, that directly support casinos or gaming, and that support general governmental/public safety functions. Additionally, requests for funding to supplement operating budgets or to replace lost revenue are not eligible.

## Suggested Application Deadline:

**March 15, 2022**

## Eligible Applicants:

Eligible applicants include a(n):

- ☒ District Organization of an EDA-designated Econ. Development District
- ☒ Indian Tribe or consortium of Indian Tribes
- ☒ State, County, City, or other political subdivision of a State
- ☒ Institution of higher education or consortium of higher ed. institutions
- ☒ Public or private non-profit organization or association acting with officials of a political subdivision of a State

## Award Expectations:

The EDA expects to grant about 150 awards at \$100,000 to \$10 million each. The EDA expects to fund at least 80%, and up to 100%, of eligible project costs. Applicants with increased levels of match may be more competitive.

## Application Considerations:

- Applications for construction assistance, design and engineering assistance, and non-construction assistance each comprise a series of specific forms that must be completed by the applicant.
- Articulate if the applicant is also seeking or receiving any other funding for the project, including funding under a State Tourism Grant.
- A specific project, that was originally applied for under a Build Back Better Regional Challenge NOFO, may be considered under the Tourism NOFO if the Build Back Better package of projects is not selected. Accordingly, the EDA, in its discretion, may move a specific project listed in a Build Back Better Regional Challenge NOFO to another NOFO. However, the EDA encourages all travel, tourism, and outdoor recreation projects be submitted under this program.





# Statewide Planning, Research, & Networks

The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) is seeking applicants who want to promote equitable outcomes and develop local economies that are more resilient to future economic shocks and climate change. State planning grants (which are invite-only) and competitive grants (described in more detail below) are available.

## About this Opportunity:

This opportunity aims to invest in research that evaluates EDA programs as well as efforts that support communities of practice.

The **Research** program subset funds the development of tools, recommendations, and resources that shape Federal economic development policies and decision-making. The EDA is specifically interested in projects that enable real-time research into the EDA's ARPA programs.

The **Communities of Practice (Networks)** program subset funds proposals to build, launch, and operate a nationwide network supporting Build Back Better Regional Challenge participants, Jobs Challenge grantees, and Coal Community grantees (i.e., cohorts). Eligible applications may be designed to:

- Establish and strengthen collaboration between core groups within a cohort, including building urban-rural linkages.
- Develop, organize, and disseminate best practices to accelerate the work and impacts of members across a cohort.
- Increase awareness of members' work among existing partners and new stakeholders within the cohort.
- Address issues such as environmental justice, equity and inclusion, access for under-served communities, and communities impacted by the downturn in the coal economy.
- Serve as an industry liaison and convener.
- Advance economic development in partnership with the EDA and the other successful applicants for this challenge.

## Application Considerations:

- Include the following components in the application: executive summary, project narrative, capacity and project management commentary, a budget narrative and staffing plan, a project schedule (with major milestones and deliverables delineated), resumes of key personnel, and matching share documentation (if applicable). A range of forms and supporting documentation must also be included.
- Articulate and have a logical nexus to supporting EDA's Investment Priorities and specific programmatic funding priorities.
- Articulate how the applicant is a subject matter expert in implementing research -OR- in developing and sustaining a Community of Practice. Note that applicants will need to demonstrate past successes.
- Identify potential challenges and risks, and propose corresponding mitigation strategies.
- Describe plans to work collaboratively, where feasible and practicable, with EDA's Research and National Technical Assistance (RNTA) program award recipients and/or other EDA partners, stakeholders, and other grantees.

## Suggested Application Deadline:

**October 31, 2021**

## Eligible Applicants:

Eligible applicants include a(n):

- ☒ District Organization of an EDA-designated Econ. Development District
- ☒ Indian Tribe or consortium of Indian Tribes
- ☒ State, County, City, or other political subdivision of a State
- ☒ Institution of higher education or consortium of higher ed. institutions
- ☒ Public or private non-profit organization or association acting with officials of a political subdivision of a State

## Award Expectations:

The EDA expects to grant about 20 awards at \$200,000 to \$6 million each. Applications that propose a matching share may be more competitive in the evaluation process.