NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY (NOFO)
Manufacturing USA Workforce, Education and Vibrant Ecosystems (WEAVE) Public Service Awards

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **Federal Agency Name:** National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), United States Department of Commerce (DOC)

- **Funding Opportunity Title:** Manufacturing USA Workforce, Education and Vibrant Ecosystems (WEAVE) Public Service Awards

- **Announcement Type:** Initial

- **Funding Opportunity Number**: 2023-NIST-MFGUSA-WEAVE-01

- **Assistance Listing (CFDA Number):** 11.619: Arrangements for Interdisciplinary Research Infrastructure

- **Dates:** Applications must be received at Grants.gov by no later than 11:59 p.m., Eastern Daylight Time, on October 2, 2023. Applications received after this deadline will not be considered for funding by NIST.

  Applicants should be aware, and factor in their application submission planning, that the Grants.gov system closes periodically for routine maintenance. Applicants should visit Grants.gov for information on any scheduled closures. Applications cannot be submitted when Grants.gov is closed. **Please note that a federal assistance award cannot be issued if the designated recipient's registration in the System for Award Management (SAM.gov) is not current at the time of the award.**

- **Application Submission Address:** Applications must be submitted using Grants.gov. Applications submitted by postal mail, electronic mail or facsimile will not be accepted.

- **Funding Opportunity Description: Through this W**orkforce, **E**ducation, **a**nd **V**ibrant **E**cosystems (WEAVE) funding opportunity, NIST invites eligible Manufacturing USA institutes to propose high-impact public service projects to support vibrant and inclusive advanced manufacturing ecosystems that promote domestic production of institute-developed advanced manufacturing technologies and equitable access to good jobs.

- **Anticipated Amounts:** NIST anticipates making available a total of $11 million in federal funding through this competition and expects to fund between three to six awards. Individual awards may be up to $3.5 million in federal funding. The period of performance for awards issued pursuant to this NOFO is up to two years.

- **Funding Instrument:** Cooperative Agreement.

- **Eligibility*:*** Eligibility for this program is limited to current Manufacturing USA institutes at the time of proposal submission and at the time of award (should an award be issued). The Manufacturing USA institutes[1] eligible to submit applications under this funding opportunity are: AFFOA, AIM Photonics, America Makes, ARM, BioFabUSA, BioMADE, CESMII, CyManII, EPIXC, IACMI, LIFT, MxD, NextFlex, NIIMBL, PowerAmerica, RAPID, & REMADE. No other entities are eligible to submit applications.

  Importantly, applications for funding must be submitted by a partnership of two or more current Manufacturing USA Institutes. A Manufacturing USA Institute may only serve as the lead applicant on one application but may serve as a subrecipient or as an unfunded collaborator on other applications.

  Also note that members of the institutes, individuals, and organizations not associated with the institutes are NOT eligible to apply under this NOFO; however, they may participate as part of an institute's team.

- **Cost Sharing Requirements*:*** Non-federal cost share is not required pursuant to this program.

- **Public Website, and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and Webinar:** NIST has a public website https://www.nist.gov/oam/funding-opportunities that provides a "Frequently Asked Questions" page, webinar registration, and other information pertaining to this Funding Opportunity. Applicants must submit all questions in writing to manufacturingusa@nist.gov with "FY2023 WEAVE Questions" in the subject line.

  Webinar Information Session: NIST will hold an informational webinar on August 14, 2023, at 4:00pm (EST) to provide general information regarding this NOFO, offer general guidance on preparing applications, and offer the

[1] An organization (university or non-profit) that runs or hosts an institute may submit an application on the institute's behalf.

opportunity for the public to ask questions. Proprietary technical questions about specific proposal ideas will not be permitted, and NIST will not critique or provide feedback on any proposal ideas during the webinar or at any time before submission to Grants.gov. However, NIST will provide information about eligibility requirements, the evaluation criteria, and the review process during the webinar. There is no cost to attend the webinar, but participants must register in advance by sending email to manufacturingusa@nist.gov with "WEAVE Webinar" in the subject line. Participation in the webinar is not required and will not be considered in the application review and selection process.

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FULL ANNOUNCEMENT TEXT

I. Program Description

The statutory authorities for the Manufacturing USA Workforce, Education, And Vibrant Ecosystems (WEAVE) funding opportunity are 15 U.S.C. § 278s(g), 15 U.S.C. § 272(b)(1), (4) and (c)(32), and 42 U.S.C. §§ 18971 - 72.

1. Program Overview

Manufacturing USA brings together industry, academia, and federal partners within a growing network of advanced manufacturing institutes to increase U.S. manufacturing competitiveness and promote a robust and sustainable national manufacturing research and development (R&D) infrastructure. Institutes within Manufacturing USA fill the gap between basic research and commercialization, accelerate non-Federal investment in advanced manufacturing production capacity in the U.S., and enable the commercial application of new technologies.

As of May 2023, seventeen institutes participate in Manufacturing USA. The Department of Commerce sponsors one institute (NIIMBL). The Department of Defense sponsors nine institutes (AFFOA, AIM Photonics, America Makes, ARM Institute, BioFabUSA, BioMADE, LIFT, MxD, and NextFlex), and the Department of Energy sponsors seven institutes (CESMII, CyManII, EPIXC, IACMI, PowerAmerica, RAPID and REMADE) to date. The Advanced Manufacturing National Program Office housed within the Department of Commerce at NIST is tasked with coordinating the activities of the network.

The Manufacturing USA Strategic Plan[2] outlines four strategic goals for the program that align with the statutory purposes and guide the interagency partnership:[3]

Goal 1: Increase the competitiveness of U.S. manufacturing;

Goal 2: Facilitate the transition of innovative technologies into scalable, cost-effective, and high-performing domestic manufacturing capabilities;

Goal 3: Accelerate the development of an advanced manufacturing workforce; and

Goal 4: Promote a network of institutes that build long-term support for and from their communities.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 directed funding to NIST for the Manufacturing USA Program to implement the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act (Division B of Public Law 117-167).

This WEAVE funding opportunity allows Manufacturing USA institutes to apply for special initiative funding to conduct projects that are in the national need and that are unlikely to be funded by the private sector to address provisions in Sections 10262, *Expanding opportunities through the Manufacturing USA Program* (codified in relevant part at 42 U.S.C. 18971) and 10263, *Promoting domestic production of technologies developed under Manufacturing USA Program* (codified in relevant part at 42 U.S.C. 18972) of Division B of Public Law 117-167.

This funding will allow Manufacturing USA institutes to extend ecosystem impacts by increasing engagement with Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Minority Serving Institutions, Tribal Colleges and Universities,

[2] https://www.manufacturingusa.com/sites/manufacturingusa.com/files/2021-01/2019%20MfgUSA%20Strategic%20Plan%2011-10-2020.pdf
[3] https://trumpwhitehouse.archives.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Advanced-Manufacturing-Strategic-Plan-2018.pdf

minority business enterprises and rural serving institutions of higher education, and by promoting domestic production of institute developed technologies.

Manufacturing USA institutes are public-private partnerships with the goal of integrating technology innovation and workforce development to foster economic growth in specific industry sectors. To succeed in meeting national competitiveness needs, Manufacturing USA institutes must succeed at maturing innovative technology for industrial readiness and prepare the advanced manufacturing workforce with skills needed to implement the innovation at industrial scale.

2. Manufacturing USA Public Service Funding Opportunities

Objective: Workforce, Education, and Vibrant Ecosystems (WEAVE) Awards will fund high-impact projects within the Manufacturing USA network to support vibrant and inclusive advanced manufacturing ecosystems that promote domestic production of institute-developed technologies and equitable access to good jobs.[4] A vibrant eco-system delivers good technical and workforce outcomes for all stakeholders, including large and small employers, workers, research and training providers.

Focus areas: The two WEAVE focus areas identified below are aligned with the strategic goals and statutory purposes of Manufacturing USA. This initiative also specifically supports 42 U.S.C. 18971, *Expanding opportunities through the Manufacturing USA Program* and 42 U.S.C. 18972, *Promoting domestic production of technologies developed under Manufacturing USA program*.

Example projects are illustrative in nature and not to be considered an exhaustive list. All proposed projects within the scope of the focus areas below will be considered responsive to this NOFO.

Focus area 1) Partnerships amongst two or more Manufacturing USA institutes to **build vibrant and inclusive ecosystems**, through increased engagement with covered entities. As defined in 42 U.S.C. 18971(b), Covered Entities include: Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs); Tribal Colleges and Universities; Minority Serving Institutions; a minority business enterprise (as such term is defined 15 C.F.R. 1400.2); or a rural-serving institution of higher education (as such term is defined in 20 U.S.C. 1161q).

[4] e.g, jobs that adhere to the DOC/DOL good jobs principles: Good Jobs Principles (dol.gov)

Error! Bookmark not defined.Error! Bookmark not defined.Examples of projects within this focus area include, but are not limited to:

- Collaborating with Covered Entities to design and launch sustainable national and/or regional sectoral partnerships[5] that are inclusive of diverse communities, workers and employers, and connect all key stakeholders needed to train the skilled workforce for high-quality advanced manufacturing jobs.
- Coordinating focused workforce recruitment and training activities that leverage multi-institute networks to strengthen participation by Covered Entities;
- Developing and testing mechanisms that reduce barriers to participation by Covered Entities in institute technical and education and workforce development (EWD) activities or increase access to Manufacturing USA institute-developed resources, such as travel and housing stipends, institute mentors, or directed and sustained outreach;
- Integrating Manufacturing USA institute assets into Covered Entities to support growth of national advanced manufacturing innovation capabilities; and/or;
- Developing, piloting, or expanding bootcamps, internships, Registered Apprenticeships, and sabbatical opportunities across Manufacturing USA institutes to engage Covered Entities in technical and EWD activities.

Focus area 2) Partnerships amongst two or more Institutes to pilot new or scale existing initiatives to promote the **transition of institute-developed technologies into commercial use,**

Examples of projects within this focus area include, but are not limited to:

- Developing or maturing domestic supply chains or other enabling technologies to address barriers that limit scale up and commercialization;
- Piloting or expanding mechanisms that attract venture capital, showcase technology developed within institutes, and identify regional innovation ecosystems and workforces that can advance deployment of institute-developed technologies at scale;

[5] A sectoral partnership for workforce development is a systems approach to that involves a public-private partnership of multiple employers within an industry, that brings together educational institutions, economic development agencies, workforce development systems, and labor, worker, and community organizations to identify and collaboratively meet the workforce needs of that industry within a given labor market.

- Developing industry blueprints to improve manufacturability, greater adoption, or environmental impact of new manufacturing technologies;
- Piloting and testing successful institute(s) developed EWD initiatives to provide hands-on training on industry relevant specialized equipment, including the skills needed to operate and maintain the equipment safely and securely; and/or;
- Building multi-institute networks and partnerships to design forward looking credentialling programs, pre-apprenticeships and Registered Apprenticeships, career & technical education programs, community & technical college programs and four-year degree institutions for advanced manufacturing technicians that incorporate institute-developed technologies.

In forming partnerships and project teams across Manufacturing USA institutes, NIST encourages outreach to, recruitment of, and engagement with diverse stakeholders to maximize the extent of geographic**Error! Bookmark not defined.** and institutional diversity, equity, and inclusion **Error! Bookmark not defined.**among project participants.

Applicants proposing Education and Workforce Development activities should follow Department of Commerce best practices and guiding principles to ensure that projects are: led by employers and guided by community partners such as educational institutions, labor unions, community-based organizations, and economic development organizations, employ wraparound services, increase educational and workplace diversity, equity, and inclusion, prioritize proven earn-and learn models like Registered Apprenticeships, lead to industry-recognized credentials, and measure and evaluate outcomes.[6]

NIST also encourages applicants proposing EWD activities to incorporate sectoral partnerships as mechanisms to increase effectiveness, and to engage with the sectoral partnerships and other efforts being undertaken as part of the Investing in America (IIA) Advanced Manufacturing Workforce Sprint.[7]

NIST further encourages applicants to review the resources available through the MEP National Network at https://nist.gov/mep, particularly for connecting applicants with potential subrecipients, contractors, or other collaborators. The NIST Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) National Network is comprised of NIST/MEP federal staff located at the NIST Gaithersburg campus, 51 MEP Centers

[6] https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/goodjobs/Good-Jobs-Summit-Principles-Factsheet.pdf
[7] https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/05/16/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-announces-strategies-to-train-and-connect-american-workers-to-jobs-created-by-the-presidents-investing-in-america-agenda/

located in all 50 states and Puerto Rico, and over 1,450 trusted advisors and experts at more than 430 MEP service locations.

II. Federal Award Information

1. Funding Instrument

The funding instrument that will be used is a cooperative agreement. The nature of NIST's "substantial involvement" will generally include collaboration with the recipient organization in developing and implementing the approved scope of work, in accordance with 2 CFR § 200.01.

2. Funding Availability

In FY2023, NIST anticipates making available a total of $11 million in federal funding through this competition and expects to fund three to six awards. Individual awards may be up to $3.5 million in federal funds. The period of performance for awards issued pursuant to this NOFO is up to two years. The Grants Officer may, on a post-award basis, extend the period of performance at no additional cost to NIST based on a request from a recipient. Project scope, goals, and teams should be commensurate with the requested funding amounts.

3. Indirect (F&A) Costs. NIST will reimburse applicants for proposed indirect (F&A) costs in accordance with 2 CFR § 200.414. Applicants proposing indirect (F&A) costs must follow the application requirements set forth in Section IV.2.A.(8)h. of this NOFO.

III. Eligibility Information

1. Eligible Applicants

Eligibility for this program is limited to current Manufacturing USA institutes at the time of proposal submission and at the time of award (should an award be issued). The Manufacturing USA institutes eligible to submit applications under this funding opportunity are: AFFOA, AIM Photonics, America Makes, ARM Institute, BioFabUSA, BioMADE, CESMII, CyManII, EPIXC, IACMI, LIFT, MxD, NextFlex, NIIMBL, PowerAmerica, RAPID, & REMADE. No other entities are eligible to submit applications.

Importantly, applications for funding must be submitted by a partnership of two or more current Manufacturing USA Institutes. An applicant Institute may only serve as the lead applicant on one application but may serve as a subrecipient or as an unfunded collaborator on other applications.

Please note that members of the institutes, individuals, and organizations not associated with the institutes are NOT eligible to apply under this NOFO; however, they may participate as part of an Institute's team.

2. **Cost Sharing or Matching**
   Non-federal cost sharing or cost matching funds are not required for awards issued pursuant to this NOFO.

3. **Funding Limitations.**
   Applications for product development and/or commercialization are not considered responsive to this NOFO and will not be considered for funding.

   Profit or fee is not an allowable cost under this program. Accordingly, a recipient or a subrecipient may not charge profits, fees, or other increments above cost to an award issued pursuant to this NOFO. Construction activities are not authorized under this program.

4. **No Double Charging Against Other Federal Awards or Contracts.**
   Costs charged against awards issued pursuant to this NOFO, whether paid by federal or non-federal funds, may not also be charged as costs against any other federal award (i.e., no double-billing of costs).

IV. Application and Submission Information

1. Address to Request Application Package

The application package is available at Grants.gov under Funding Opportunity Number 2023-NIST-MFGUSA-WEAVE-01.

2. Content and Format of Application Submission

A. Required Forms and Documents. The application must contain the following:

(1) SF-424 (R&R), Application for Federal Assistance.
The SF-424 must be signed by an authorized representative of the applicant organization.

For SF-424 (R&R), Items 5, 14, and 19, use the Zip Code + 4 format (##### - ####) when addresses are called for.

SF-424 (R&R), Item 18. If the SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying

Activities form (item (6) below) is applicable, attach it to field 18.

The list of certifications and assurances referenced in Item 17 of the SF-424 (R&R) is contained in the Federal Financial Assistance Certifications and Representations (Certs and Reps) as part of the SAM.gov entity registration.

Instructions for filling in the SF-424 (R&R) can be found on Grants.gov, as well as at the NIST Grants Management Division SF-424 Research & Related (R&R) Application Package Guidance.

(2) Research & Related Budget (Total Fed + Non-Fed).

The budget should reflect anticipated expenses for the full term of the project, considering all potential cost increases, including cost of living adjustments. Applicants should note that the budget should include estimated travel costs for project leads to attend two in-person Manufacturing USA network meetings in the Washington, DC area, as directed in the 'Project Management, Resources, and Budget' section of the Project Narrative guidance (Section 6) for this NOFO.

The budget should be detailed in these categories:

A. Senior/Key Person;
B. Other Personnel;
C. Equipment Description;
D. Travel;
E. Participant/Trainee Support Costs
F. Other Direct Costs;
G. Direct Costs (automatically generated);
H. Indirect Costs;
I. Total Direct and Indirect Costs (automatically generated);
J. Fee (not relevant to this competition);
K. Total Costs and Fee (automatically generated);
L. Budget Narrative and Justification document (item (8) below) should be attached to field L.

A separate detailed R&R Budget must be completed for each budget period during the proposed award (e.g., annual basis). To add additional budget periods (e.g., year 2), click "Add Period" embedded at the end of the form. Information regarding the Research & Related Budget (Total Fed + Non-Fed) is available in the R&R Family Section of Grants.gov, as

well as at the NIST Grants Management Division SF-424 Research & Related (R&R) Application Package Guidance.

(3) CD-511, Certification Regarding Lobbying.

Enter "2023-NIST-MFGUSA-WEAVE-01" in the award number field. Enter the title of the application, or an abbreviation of that title, in the project name field.

(4) Research and Related Other Project Information.
Answer the highlighted questions and use this form to attach the Project Narrative (item (6) below), Resume(s) or CV(s) (item (7) below), the Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (item (9) below), the Letters of Commitment (item 11) below), the Data Management Plan (item (12) below), and the Current and Pending Support Form (item (13 below). Instructions for completing the Research and Related Other Project Information can be found in the Grants.gov R&R Forms Repository as well as in the NIST Grants Management Division SF-424 Research and Related (R&R) Application Package Guidance.

Please note that the Project Summary/Abstract is not relevant to this competition. However, Grants.gov requires an attachment to field 7 of the Research and Related Other Project Information form to successfully pass through Grants.gov. Please attach a document to field 7 stating, "A Project Summary/Abstract is not relevant to this competition".

(5) SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (if applicable).

(6) Project Narrative.
The Project Narrative is a word-processed document of no more than twenty (20) single-spaced pages, which is responsive to the program description and to the evaluation criteria. Proposers should note that there is no penalty for submitting less than the maximum of 20 pages, provided that all information is included with sufficient detail to allow evaluation of merit.

The Projective Narrative should contain the following information:

- **Table of Contents**. (Does not count toward the page limit)

- **Executive Summary**. An executive summary of the proposed project consistent with the objectives, requirements, and priorities of this program, including which of the two WEAVE focus areas the project will address. The executive summary should include information indicating how each evaluation criterion and its sub-factors are addressed. A table can be helpful in providing this information. The executive summary should not exceed two (2) pages and does not count towards the page limit for the Project Narrative.

  Please note, if an applicant's proposal is selected for funding, NIST may use all or a portion of the executive summary as part of a press release, or for other public information and outreach purposes. Applicants are advised not to incorporate information that concerns business trade secrets or other confidential commercial or financial information as part of the executive summary. See also 15 CFR § 4.9(c) concerning the designation of business information by the applicant.

- **Project – Rationale**. The applicant should provide sufficient information to understand the rationale, scope, and purpose of the proposed project. It should answer questions such as: What is the national need that the project will address? Why is now the right time and why are the project partners best positioned to meet this need? How does the project build on the technological expertise of the institutes? How will the project's scope of work serve the WEAVE objectives within the focus area(s) chosen? Who benefits from this project, do the beneficiaries agree to that shared vision, and what is the evidence that the project will generate that benefit? Can existing relationships be leveraged for quicker path to success or do new relationships need to be established? Why is the private sector unlikely to fund this work?

  This section should identify how this project will complement or contribute to the missions of the partnering institutes. Where appropriate, identify similar regional, national, or technical efforts and identify the uniqueness or complementary nature of the proposed project to those other

efforts.

- **Project Plan and Execution**. Provide a clear framework for the proposed project that includes goals and objectives and details for how work within the project will be organized, conducted, and progress will be measured. The project plan should include a project timeline with identified major deliverables and appropriate milestones and go/no-go decision points. The plan should also include the accountable partners for deliverables and locations of work that will be conducted. A clear project plan is also required for any sub-projects identified, along with justification for how sub-projects contribute to the overarching project goals and objectives. This section should also identify any potential risks to the success of the project and plans to mitigate those risks.

  WEAVE awards require teaming among Manufacturing USA institutes to bring together key expertise, access to facilities, or specialized goods and services to create larger national or regional impact. Proposers should clearly present what each partnering organization brings to the project and what each will do. The project plan should also identify key unfunded players required for the success of the project, and how participation of those entities will be assured. Letters of Commitment should be provided by proposed subrecipients and unfunded collaborators who will contribute resources to the project proposed (see Section IV.2.A.(10) of this NOFO).

  NOTE: As described in Section I. of this NOFO, the NIST Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership and its Centers may be a useful resource for connecting applicants with potential subrecipients, contractors, or other desired collaborators outside the existing Manufacturing USA network.

- **Project Impact, Outcomes, and Dissemination**. This section should provide sufficient details on: (i) anticipated impacts of the proposed project to the nation, to the partnering institutes and intended beneficiaries; (ii) methodology for identifying, tracking and evaluating project outcomes aligned with the WEAVE objectives for the focus area(s) chosen, including key metrics for measuring outcomes and (iii) a plan for

dissemination of project results, including metrics for the effectiveness of that dissemination, as well as how the project impacts are projected to extend beyond the period of performance.

Applicants must provide details about approaches for sharing lessons learned and best practices resulting from the project, including with other institutes within the Manufacturing USA network and with other key stakeholders such as small and medium manufacturers (SMM) and covered entities as appropriate. Applicants must address the potential for the project to attract future financial support to sustain the project impact.

Letters of Support should be provided by partnering organizations who are expected to be beneficiaries of the project outcomes to express knowledge of the project and agreement that the approach will provide the intended benefits (see Section IV.2.A.(11) of this NOFO).

- **Project Management, Resources, and Budget.** This section should provide a description of project management structure, resources, including key personnel and access to specialized facilities, and project budget at sufficient detail to allow evaluation of these plans. Budgets for sub-projects conducted by sub-recipients should also include sufficient detail to permit evaluation of rationality. This section should answer questions such as: Are the right people working on the project? Is the project sufficiently resourced (people, facilities)? If there are sub-projects, how will coordination be managed to ensure timeliness of project deliverables? Who is responsible for tracking progress and reporting impacts overall and for each project partner? Are project budgets aligned with the scope of work of the project and responsibilities of each partner?

  The applicant should specify plans and timelines for achieving proper and efficient organization, staffing, infrastructure, and management needed to execute the project if these are not currently in place.

Applicants should demonstrate the relevance and cost effectiveness of the proposed project budget through the written budget narrative. The budget narrative should include estimated travel costs for the partnering institute project leads to attend two in-person Manufacturing USA network meetings in the Washington, DC area to share lessons-learned with other institutes and federal partners.

- **Table of Funded Project Participants and Unfunded Informal Collaborators.** (This does not count toward the page limit) Provide a table that identifies all organizations that will participate in and contribute to the project, to the extent that they are known at the time of the application submission. The table should consist of an alphabetically ordered list, by organization, of all Funded Project Participants (including proposal team) and all Unfunded Informal Collaborators. The table should include the organization's name, address, administrative role as applicant, subrecipient, or contractor for funded participants, or collaborator if they will not receive funding. For funded participants, scope of work and proposed funding amount should be included in this table.

(7) Resume(s) or CV(s).

Resumes or CVs are required for all key personnel, including the principal investigator. Resumes are limited to one (1) page per individual. Additional pages per resume will not be considered during the evaluation of the application.

(8) Budget Narrative and Justification.

There is no set format for the Budget Narrative and Justification, however, the written justification should include the necessity and the basis for the cost, as described below. Proposed funding levels must be consistent with the project scope, and only allowable costs should be included in the budget. Information on cost allowability is available in the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards at 2 C.F.R. Part 200, which apply to awards in this program.

The Budget Narrative does not count against the twenty (20) page limit of the Project Narrative. The budget narrative should clearly identify budget at the sub-project level, as needed.

This section will be evaluated in accordance with the Budget Narrative evaluation criteria [Section V.1.D]. It will also be reviewed to determine if all costs are reasonable, allocable, and allowable under 2 C.F.R. Part 200 Subpart E, Cost Principles.

Information needed for each category is as follows (categories not listed are automatically generated by the form or are not relevant to this competition).

a. **Senior/Key Person** – At a minimum, the budget justification should include the following: name, job title, commitment of effort on the proposed project in terms of average number of hours per week or percentage of time, salary rate, total direct charges on the proposed project, description of the role of the individual on the proposed project and the work to be performed.

   Fringe benefits should be identified separately from salaries and wages and based on rates determined by organizational policy. The items included in the fringe benefit rate (e.g., health insurance, parking, etc.) should not be charged under another cost category.

b. **Other Personnel** - Data is requested at the project role level, and not at the individual level for Other Personnel. The budget justification should include the following: job title, commitment of effort on the proposed project in terms of average number of hours per week or percentage of time, salary rate, total direct charges on the proposed project, description of the role of the position on the proposed project and the work to be performed.

   Fringe benefits should be identified separately from salaries and wages and based on rates determined by organizational policy. The items included in the fringe benefit rate (e.g., health insurance, parking, etc.) should not be charged under another cost category.

c. **Equipment Description** – Equipment is defined as an item of

property that has an acquisition cost of $5,000 or more (unless the organization has established lower levels) and an expected service life of more than one year. The budget justification should list each piece of equipment, the cost, and a description of how it will be used and why it is necessary to the successful completion of the proposed project. Please note that any general use equipment (computers, etc.) charged directly to the award should be allocated to the award according to expected usage on the project. Any items that do not meet the threshold for equipment can be included under the Materials and Supplies line item in Section F, Other Direct Costs.

d. **Travel** - For all travel costs, required by the recipient to complete the project, including attendance at any relevant conferences, the budget justification for travel should include the following: destination; names or number of people traveling; dates and/or duration; mode of transportation, lodging and subsistence rates; and description of how the travel is directly related to the proposed project. For travel that is yet to be determined, please provide best estimates based on prior experience. If a destination is not known, an approximate amount may be used with the assumptions given for the location of the meeting.

e. **Participant/Trainee Support Costs** – Participant support costs are stipends, subsistence allowances, travel, and registration fees paid to or on behalf of participants or trainees, who are not employees of your organization, for conferences or training projects. The budget justification should indicate the names or number of participants or trainees, a description and calculation of costs per person, a description and date of the event, and a description of why the cost is necessary for the successful completion of the proposed project.

f. **Other Direct Costs** – For costs that do not easily fit into the other cost categories, please list the cost, and the breakdown of the total costs by quantity or unit of cost. Include the necessity of the cost for the completion of the proposed project. Only allowable costs can be charged to the award.

   Each subaward or contractual cost should be treated as a separate item in the Other Direct Costs category. Describe the services to be provided and the necessity of the subaward or

contract to the successful performance of the proposed project. Contracts are for obtaining goods and services. Subawardees perform part of the project scope of work. For each subaward, applicants must provide budget detail justifying the cost of the work performed on the project.

h. **Indirect Costs** – Commonly referred to as Facilities & Administrative Costs, Indirect Costs are defined as costs incurred by the applicant organization that cannot otherwise be directly assigned or attributed to a specific project. For more details, *see* Section IV.2.A.(9) of this NOFO.

(9) Indirect Cost Rate Agreement.

(Does not count towards page limit.) If indirect costs are included in the proposed budget, provide a copy of the approved negotiated agreement if this rate was negotiated with a cognizant Federal audit agency. If the rate was not established by a cognizant Federal audit agency, provide a statement to this effect. If the successful applicant includes indirect costs in the budget and has not established an indirect cost rate with a cognizant Federal audit agency, the applicant will be required to obtain such a rate in accordance with Section B.06 of the Department of Commerce Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions, dated November 12, 2020.

Alternatively, in accordance with 2 C.F.R. § 200.414(f), applicants that do not have a current negotiated (including provisional) indirect cost rate (except for those non-Federal entities described in appendix VII, paragraph D.1.b. of 2 CFR Part 200) may elect to charge a de minimis rate of 10 percent of modified total direct costs (MTDC). Applicants proposing a 10 percent de minimis rate pursuant to 2 C.F.R. § 200.414(f) should note this election as part of the budget portion of the application. Please be aware that Foreign applicants will be limited to use of the de minimis rate and will not have the opportunity to negotiate an indirect cost rate with NIST.

(10) Subaward Budget Form

The Research & Related Subaward Budget Attachment Form is required if sub-recipients and contractors are included in the application budget.

Instructions for completing subaward budget forms are available by visiting the R & R Family section of the Grants.gov Forms Repository and

scrolling down to the R & R Subaward Budget Attachment(s) Form and selecting “Instructions.”

(11) Letters of Commitment.

Letters that commit specific resources (not just funding) to the project are required for any subawards or contracts to known third parties, effectively forming a team, as described in Section IV.2.A.(6). The Letter of Commitment should indicate organization’s willingness to participate as a contractor, subrecipient, or unfunded partner, as applicable, describe what work they will do in relation to the Project Narrative, and specify the associated cost (if any) of the proposed subaward or contract to the applicant (see Section I. of this NOFO).

(12) Data Management Plan.

Consistent with NIST Policy 5700.00[8], *Managing Public Access to Results of* Federally *Funded Research,* and NIST Order 5701.00[9], *Managing Public Access to Results of Federally Funded Research*”, applicants must include a Data Management Plan (DMP).

All applications for activities that will generate scientific data using NIST funding are required to adhere to a DMP or explain why data sharing *and*/or preservation are not within the scope of the project. For the purposes of the DMP, NIST adopted the definition of “research data” at 2 C.F.R. § 200.315(e)(3).

The DMP must include, at a minimum, a summary of proposed activities that are expected to generate data; a summary of the types of data expected to be generated by the identified activities; a plan for storage and maintenance of the data expected to be generated by the identified activities, including after the end of the award’s period of performance; and a plan describing whether and how data generated by the identified activities will be reviewed and made available to the public.

A template for the DMP, an example DMP, and the rubric against which the DMP will be evaluated for sufficiency is available at: Information for Applicants and Awardees. An applicant is not required to use the template as long as the DMP contains the required information.

[8] https://www.nist.gov/system/files/documents/2018/06/19/final_p_5700.pdf
[9] https://www.nist.gov/system/files/documents/2019/11/08/final_o_5701_ver_2.pdf

If an application stands a reasonable chance of being funded and the DMP is determined during the review process to be insufficient, the program office may reach out to the applicant to resolve deficiencies in the DMP. If an award is issued prior to the deficiencies being fully rectified, the award will include a Specific Award Condition (SAC) stating that no research activities shall be initiated, or costs incurred for those activities under the award until the NIST Grants Officer amends the award to indicate the SAC has been satisfied.

Reasonable costs for data preservation and access may be included in the application.

(13) Current and Pending Support Form.

(Does not count towards page limit.) Any application that includes investigators, researchers, and key personnel must identify all sources of current and potential funding, including this proposal. Any current project support (e.g., federal, state, local, public, or private foundations, etc.) must be listed on this form. The proposed project and all other projects or activities requiring a portion of time of the principal investigator (PI), co-PI, and key personnel must be included, even if no salary support is received. The total award amount for the entire award period covered, including indirect costs, must be shown as well as the number of person-months per year to be devoted to the project, regardless of the source of support. Similar information must be provided for all proposals already submitted or that are being submitted concurrently to other potential funders.

Applicants must complete the Current and Pending Support Form, using multiple forms as necessary to account for all activity for each individual identified in the PI, co-PI, and key personnel roles. A separate form should be used for each identified individual.

Applicants must download the Current and Pending Support Form from the NIST website at https://www.nist.gov/oaam/grants-management-division/current-and-pending- support and reference the guidance provided as it contains information to assist with accurately completing the form.

B. Attachment of Required Documents

Items IV.2.A.(1) through IV.2.A.(4) above are part of the standard application package in Grants.gov and can be completed through the download application process.

Item IV.2.A.(5), the SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities form, is an optional application form which is part of the standard application package in Grants.gov. If item IV.2.A.(5), the SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities form is applicable to this proposal, attach it to field 18 of the SF-424 (R&R), Application for Federal Assistance.

Item IV.2.A.(6), the Project Narrative, should be attached to field 8 (Project Narrative) of the Research and Related Other Project Information form by clicking on “Add Attachment”.

Item IV.2.A.(8), the Budget Narrative and Justification, should be attached to field L (Budget Justification) of the Research and Related Budget (Total Fed + Total Non-Fed) form by clicking on “Add Attachment”.

Items IV.2.a.(7), Resume(s) or CV(s), IV.2.a.(9), the Indirect Cost Rate Agreement, IV.2.a.(11) Letters of Commitment if applicable to the submission, IV.2.a.(12), the Data Management Plan, and IV.2.a.(13), the Current and Pending Support Form, must be completed and attached by clicking on “Add Attachments” found in item 12 (Other Attachments) of the Research and Related Other Project Information form.

Item IV.2.A.(10), the Subaward Budget Form(s), if applicable to the submission, should be attached to the Research & Related Subaward Budget (Total Fed + Non-Fed) Attachment(s) Form in the application package.

Following these directions will create zip files which permit transmittal of the documents electronically via Grants.gov.

Applicants should carefully follow specific Grants.gov instructions at www.Grants.gov to ensure the attachments will be accepted by the Grants.gov system. A receipt from Grants.gov indicates only that an application was transferred to a system. It does not provide details concerning whether all attachments (or how many attachments) transferred successfully. Applicants will receive a series of e-mail messages over a period of up to two business days before learning

whether a Federal agency's electronic system has received its application. Applicants are strongly advised to use Grants.gov's "Download Submitted Forms and Applications" option to check that their application's required attachments were contained in their submission.

After submitting the application, check the status of your application here: CHECK APPLICATION STATUS . If any, or all, of the required attachments are absent from the submission, follow the attachment directions found above, resubmit the application, and check again for the presence of the required attachments.

If the directions found on the Grants.gov Online Help page are not effective, please contact the Grants.gov Help Desk immediately. If calling from within the United States or from a U.S. territory, please call 800-518-4726. If calling from a place outside the United States or a U.S. territory, please call 606-545-5035. E-mails should be addressed to support@grants.gov. Assistance from the Grants.gov Help Desk will be available around the clock every day, with the exception of Federal holidays. Help Desk service will resume at 7:00 a.m. Eastern Time the day after Federal holidays.

Applicants can track their submission in the Grants.gov system by following the procedures at the Grants.gov Track My Application page. It can take up to two business days for an application to fully move through the Grants.gov system to NIST. NIST uses the Tracking Numbers assigned by Grants.gov and does not issue Agency Tracking Numbers.

C. Application Format

(1) **Submission:** Applicants must submit electronic copies of proposals as specified above. Paper, email, and facsimile (fax) submissions will not be accepted.

(2) **Figures, Graphs, Images, and Pictures**: Should be of a size that is easily readable or viewable and may be displayed in landscape orientation. Any figures, graphs, images, or pictures will count toward the page limits for the Project Narrative.

(3) **Font:** Easy to read font (11-point minimum). Smaller type may be used in figures and tables but must be clearly legible.

(4) **Page limit**: The Project Narrative is limited to twenty (20) single-spaced pages, noting the limit of two (2) pages for the Executive Summary.

(5) **Page limit exclusions**:

- SF-424 (R&R), Application for Federal Assistance;
- Research & Related Budget (Total Fed + Non-Fed);
- CD-511, Certification Regarding Lobbying;
- Research and Related Other Project Information;
- SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities;
- Executive Summary – maximum of 2 pages;
- Resumes – maximum of 1 page per person;
- Budget Narrative and Justification;
- Indirect Cost Rate Agreement;
- Subaward Budget Form;
- Letters of Commitment;
- Data Management Plan;
- Current and Pending Support Form

(6) **Page layout:** The proposal must be in portrait orientation.

(7) **Page size**: 21.6 centimeters by 27.9 centimeters (8.5 inches by 11 inches).

(8) **Page numbering**: Number pages sequentially.

(9) **Application language**: English. All documents must be in English, including but not limited to the initial application, any additional documents submitted in response to a NIST request, all reports, and any correspondence with NIST.

(10) **Typed document**: All applications, including forms, must be typed; handwritten forms will not be accepted.

D. Application Replacement Pages.
Applicants may not submit replacement pages and/or missing documents once an application has been submitted. Any revisions must be made by submission of a new application that must be received by NIST by the submission deadline.

E. Pre-applications.
Pre-applications will not be accepted under this NOFO.

3. **Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM).** Pursuant to 2 CFR part 25, applicants and recipients are required to: (i) be registered in SAM before submitting its application; (ii) provide a valid unique entity identifier in its application; and (iii) continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active federal award or an application or plan under consideration by a federal awarding agency, unless otherwise excepted from these requirements pursuant to 2 CFR § 25.110. **NIST will not make a federal award to an applicant until the applicant has complied with all applicable unique entity identifier and SAM requirements and, if an applicant has not fully complied with the requirements by the time that NIST is ready to make a federal award pursuant to this NOFO, NIST may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive a federal award and use that determination as a basis for making a federal award to another applicant.**

4. **Submission Dates and Times**
   - Applications must be received at Grants.gov by no later than 11:59 p.m., Eastern Daylight Time, on October 2, 2023. Applications received after this deadline will not be considered for funding by NIST.

   - Applicants should be aware, and factor in their application submission planning, that the Grants.gov system closes periodically for routine maintenance. Applicants should visit Grants.gov for information on any scheduled closures.

   When developing the submission timeline, please keep in mind that: (1) all applicants are required to have current registrations in the electronic System for Award Management (SAM.gov) and Grants.gov; (2) the free annual registration process in the SAM.gov generally takes between three and five business days but can take more than three weeks; and applicants will receive e-mail notifications over a period of up to two business days as the application moves through intermediate systems before the applicant learns via a validation or rejection notification whether NIST has received the application. (See Grants.gov for full information on application and notification through Grants.gov.) Please note that a Federal assistance award cannot be issued if the designated recipient's registration in the System for Award Management (SAM.gov) is not current at the time of the award.

5. **Intergovernmental Review**
   Applications submitted by State and local governments are subject to Executive Order (E.O.) 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs," pursuant to which each State designates an entity to coordinate, and review proposed federal

financial assistance and direct federal development. All other applicants should consult the Intergovernmental Review State Single Point of Contact (SPOC) to determine whether the application is subject to State review pursuant to E.O. 12372. The current SPOC List may be found here: https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/SPOC-4-13-20.pdf

6. Other Submission Requirements

a. Applications must be submitted at Grants.gov. Paper applications will not be accepted.

(1) Applicants should carefully follow specific Grants.gov instructions to ensure that all attachments will be accepted by the Grants.gov system. A receipt from Grants.gov indicating an application is received does not provide information about whether attachments have been received. For further information or questions regarding applying electronically for the 2023-NIST-MFGUSA-WEAVE-01 announcement, contact the Grants.gov Help Desk at 800-518-4726.

(2) Applicants should be aware, and factor in their application submission planning, that the Grants.gov system closes periodically for routine maintenance. Applicants should visit Grants.gov for information on any scheduled closures. Applications cannot be submitted when Grants.gov is closed.

b. Amendments:

Any amendments to this NOFO will be announced through Grants.gov.

V. Application Review Information

1. Evaluation Criteria.

NIST will use the following criteria in evaluating applications and assigning scores, with a maximum score of 100. The four criteria below will be weighted equally (with a maximum of 25 points each). Each sub criterion within each of the four criteria will also be weighed equally. Reviewers will evaluate:

A. Project – Rationale: Reviewers will evaluate the extent to which the proposal clearly aligns with the objectives of this NOFO and with national needs including:

- the relevance of the project's scope of work with respect to the WEAVE objective and focus area(s) chosen;

- the clarity and rationality with which the proposers have identified a national need that will be addressed through this project and that is aligned with the missions and capabilities of the project partners;
- the rationality of the identified beneficiaries for the project outcomes, and extent to which the proposal is convincing that the project will generate those benefits; and
- the extent to which the proposal is convincing in articulating why the private sector is unlikely to fund this work.

B. Project Plan and Execution: Reviewers will evaluate the overall rationality, clarity, and cohesion of the proposed project plan, including:

- the coherence and rationality of the project's goals and objectives, and how any sub-projects described contribute to the overarching goals and objectives;
- the extent to which the collaboration between the partnering Manufacturing USA institutes provides the expertise and/or access to specialized facilities and services that extends the potential impact of the project;
- the rationality and effectiveness of the project plan for organizing and conducting the work within the project to accomplish the major deliverables within the timeline proposed;
- as applicable, the rationality of any plans presented to engage with covered entities (as defined in 42 U.S.C. 18971(b)).
- the extent to which the project creates reciprocal value among the project partners;
- the rationality, effectiveness, and specificity of the measures for tracking progress, including for identified milestones and go/no-go decision points;
- the clarity and rationality for assigning project deliverables and locating work within specific partners for the project, and any sub-projects identified;
- the rationality for the identified potential risks to the success of the project and effectiveness of associated mitigation strategies; and
- as applicable, the effectiveness of the outreach strategy for key unfunded collaborators required for the success of the project, as well as the evidence in the form of Letters of Commitment detailing specific resources that unfunded project collaborators will contribute to the project to support the proposal objectives.

C. Project Impact, Outcomes, and Dissemination: Reviewers will evaluate how the project creates a larger national or regional impact including:

- the extent to which the project is likely to create the anticipated impacts to the nation, the partnering institutes, and the intended beneficiaries;

- evidence of meaningful, collaborative partnerships established to the extent appropriate within the communities where projects are based;
- the evidence that key stakeholders and intended beneficiaries recognize the value of the project, including the quality and sufficiency of the Letters of Support provided by partnering organizations;
- the rationality and effectiveness of the methodology used for identifying, tracking, and evaluating project outcomes aligned with WEAVE objectives for the focus area(s) chosen, including key metrics for measuring outcomes;
- the effectiveness of the plan for dissemination of project results, including appropriate metrics for tracking anticipated project impact beyond the period of performance;
- the rationality of any identified potential sources of future financial support to sustain or extend the project beyond the period of performance; and
- the clarity and sufficiency of the described approaches for sharing lessons learned and best practices resulting from the project with other institutes within the Manufacturing USA network and with appropriate stakeholders such as SMMs or communities who may be benefit from the project outcomes.

D. Project Management, Resources, Budget. Reviewers will evaluate the sufficiency of the plan to manage the project and the access to needed resources including:

- the effectiveness and clarity of the proposed project management structure to facilitate collaboration across the project teams to accomplish project objectives, track progress, and comply with the timelines and budgets proposed;
- the extent to which the capabilities and expertise of identified key personnel align with the defined roles and skills needed to accomplish the project's goals and objectives;
- the rationality and effectiveness of the plan to coordinate and leverage resources among different partners and mitigate any gaps in staffing or access to materials, specialized equipment and/or facilities needed to execute the project within timelines presented; and
- the clarity and rationality of the budget with respect to the proposed scope of work and the contributions of each partner, including the sufficiency of detail and clarity in budgets for any sub-projects proposed to allow an assessment of the reasonableness of those associated costs.

2. Selection Factors

The selection factors for this competition are:

1) The availability of funding;

2) The likelihood that the project would not be funded through another federal agency;

3) The complementarity of the project topics relative to the overall portfolio of activities funded under this NOFO; and

4) Whether the application complements or supports other Administration priorities or projects supported by DoC or other federal agencies such as, but not limited to, the Investing in America (IIA) Advanced Manufacturing Workforce Sprint, the Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership program and advancing the DOC/DOL Good Jobs Principles.

3. Review and Selection Process

Proposals, reports, documents, and other information related to applications submitted to NIST and/or relating to financial assistance awards issued by NIST will be reviewed and considered by Federal employees, or non-Federal personnel who have entered into conflict of interest and confidentiality agreements covering such information, where applicable.

A. Initial Administrative Review of Applications. All applications received in response to this NOFO will be reviewed as received to determine whether they are eligible, complete, and responsive to this NOFO. Applications determined to be ineligible, incomplete, and/or non-responsive will not be reviewed. However, NIST, in its sole discretion, may continue the review process for an application that is missing non-substantive information which may easily be rectified or cured during the review process.

B. Full Review of Eligible, Complete, and Responsive Applications. Applications that are determined to be eligible, complete, and responsive will proceed for full reviews in accordance with the review and selection process below:

(1) Merit Review. At least three (3) independent, objective reviewers, who may be Federal employees or non-Federal personnel, with appropriate professional and technical expertise relating to the topics covered in this NOFO, will evaluate, and score each eligible, complete, and responsive application based on the evaluation criteria. While every application will have at least three (3) reviewers, applications may have more than three (3) reviewers if specialized expertise is needed to evaluate an application. (see section V.1. of this NOFO). Each reviewer will provide a written technical

assessment against the evaluation criteria and based on that assessment will assign each application a numeric score, with a maximum score of 100. Through the NIST competition manager, reviewers may ask clarifying questions relative to information contained in the applicant's proposal and will take such information into account into account in assigning merit review scores. During the review process, the reviewers may discuss the applications with each other, but scores will be determined on an individual basis, not a consensus. Based on the numerical average of the reviewers' scores, an initial rank order will be prepared and provided to the evaluation panel for further consideration.

(2) Evaluation Panel. Following the merit review, an evaluation panel consisting of NIST staff and/or other Federal employees with the appropriate technical expertise will conduct a panel review of the ranked applications. The evaluation panel may contact applicants via e-mail to clarify contents of an application. The evaluation panel will provide a final adjectival rating and written evaluation of the applications to the Selecting Official for further deliberation, considering:

• All application materials;
• Results of the merit reviewers' evaluations, including scores and written assessments;
• Any relevant publicly available information; and
• Any clarifying information obtained from the applicants.

The adjectival ratings are:

- Fundable Outstanding;
- Fundable Very Good;
- Fundable Average; or
- Unfundable.

For decision-making purposes, applications receiving the same adjectival rating will be considered to have an equivalent ranking, although their technical review scores may not necessarily be the same.

(3) Selection. The Selecting Official, the Director of the NIST Office of Advanced Manufacturing, or designee, will make final award recommendations to the NIST Grants Officer. The Selecting Official shall generally select and recommend the most meritorious application for an award based upon the adjectival ratings and one or more of the Selection

Factors. The Selecting Official retains the discretion to select and recommend an application out of order based on one or more of the Selection Factors. In addition, in accordance with the program's authorizing legislation, the Selecting Official will make a determination whether the project is (1) in the national interest and (2) unlikely to receive private sector financial support.

NIST reserves the right to negotiate the budget costs with any applicant selected to receive an award, which may include requesting that the applicant removes certain costs. Additionally, NIST may request that successful applicants modify objectives or work plans and provide supplemental information required by the agency prior to award. NIST also reserves the right to reject an application where information is uncovered that raises a reasonable doubt as to the responsibility of the applicant. NIST may select some, all, or none of the applications, or part(s) of any application. The final approval of selected applications and issuance of awards will be by the NIST Grants Officer. The award decisions of the NIST Grants Officer are final.

(4) Federal Awarding Agency Review of Risk Posed by Applicants. After applications are proposed for funding by the selecting official, the NIST grants management division (GMD) performs pre-award risk assessments in accordance with 2 CFR § 200.206, which may include a review of the financial stability of an applicant, the quality of the applicant's management systems, the history of performance, and/or the applicant's ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements imposed on non-federal entities.

In addition, prior to making an award where the total Federal share is expected to exceed the simplified acquisition threshold (currently $250,000), NIST GMD will review and consider the publicly available information about that applicant in the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS). An applicant may, at its discretion, review, and comment on information about itself previously entered into FAPIIS by a Federal awarding agency. As part of its review of risk posed by applicants, NIST GMD will consider any comments made by the applicant in FAPIIS in making its determination about the applicant's integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under Federal awards. Upon completion of the pre-award risk assessment, the Grants Officer will make a responsibility determination concerning whether the applicant is qualified to receive the subject award and, if so, whether appropriate specific conditions that

correspond to the degree of risk posed by the applicant should be applied to an award.

C. Anticipated Announcement and Award Date

Review of applications, selection of successful applicants, and award processing is expected to be completed within 90-120 calendar days of receipt of a complete application.

D. Additional Information

A. Safety. Safety is a top priority at NIST. Employees and affiliates of award recipients who conduct project work at NIST will be expected to be safety-conscious, to attend NIST safety training, and to comply with all NIST safety policies and procedures, and with all applicable terms of their guest research agreement.

B. Notification to Unsuccessful Applicants. Unsuccessful applicants will be notified by e-mail and will have the opportunity to receive a debriefing after the opportunity is officially closed. Applicants must request within 10 business days of the email notification to receive a debrief from the program office. The program office will then work with the unsuccessful applicant in arranging a date and time of the debrief.

C. Retention of Unsuccessful Applications. Unsuccessful applications will be retained in accordance with the General Record Schedule 1.2/021.

VI. Federal Award Administration Information

1. Federal Award Notices.

Successful applicants will receive an award package from the NIST Grants Officer.

2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

A. Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements. Through 2 CFR § 1327.101, the Department of Commerce adopted uniform administrative requirements, cost principles, and audit requirements for federal awards at 2 CFR part 200, which apply to awards in this NOFO. Refer to http://go.usa.gov/SBYh and http://go.usa.gov/SBg4.

B. Department of Commerce Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions. The Department of Commerce will apply to each award in

this program, the Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions in effect on the date of award. The current version, dated November 12, 2020, is accessible at Department of Commerce Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions. Refer to Section VII. of this NOFO, Federal Awarding Agency Contacts, Grant Rules and Regulations if you need more information.

C. **Pre-award Notification Requirements**. The Department of Commerce will apply the Pre-award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements dated December 30, 2014 (79 FR 78390), accessible at http://go.usa.gov/hKkR. Refer to section VII. of this NOFO, Federal Awarding Agency Contacts, Grant Rules and Regulations if you need more information.

D. **Funding Availability and Limitation of Liability**. Funding for the program listed in this NOFO is contingent upon the availability of appropriations. NIST or the Department of Commerce will not be responsible for application preparation costs, including but not limited to the program's failure to receive funding or cancellation due to agency priorities. Publication of this NOFO does not oblige NIST or the Department of Commerce to award any specific project or to obligate any available funds.

E. **Collaborations with NIST Employees.** All applications should include a description of any work proposed to be performed by an entity other than the applicant, and the cost of such work should ordinarily be included in the budget. If an applicant proposes collaboration with NIST, the statement of work should include a statement of this intention, a description of the collaboration, and prominently identify the NIST employee(s) involved, if known. Any collaboration by a NIST employee must be approved by appropriate NIST management and is at the sole discretion of NIST. Prior to beginning the merit review process, NIST will verify the approval of the proposed collaboration. Any unapproved collaboration will be stricken from the application prior to the merit review. Any collaboration with an identified NIST employee that is approved by appropriate NIST management will not make an application more or less favorable in the competitive process. NIST's costs should not be included in the application.

F. **Use of Federal Government-Owned Intellectual Property.** If the applicant anticipates using any Federal Government-owned intellectual property, in the custody of NIST or another Federal agency, to carry out the work proposed, the applicant should clearly identify such intellectual property in the proposal. This information will be used to ensure that no Federal employee involved in the development of the intellectual property will

participate in the review process for that competition. In addition, if the applicant intends to use the Federal Government-owned intellectual property, the applicant must comply with all statutes and regulations governing the licensing of Federal government patents and inventions, described in 35 U.S.C. §§ 200-212, 37 C.F.R. Part 401, 2 C.F.R. §200.315, and in Section C.03 of the Department of Commerce Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions, dated November 12, 2020. Questions about these requirements may be directed to the Chief Counsel for NIST, (301) 975-2803, nistcounsel@nist.gov.

Any use of Federal Government-owned intellectual property by a recipient of an award under this announcement is at the sole discretion of the Federal Government and will need to be negotiated on a case-by-case basis by the recipient and the Federal agency having custody of the intellectual property if a project is deemed meritorious. The applicant should indicate within the statement of work whether it already has a license to use such intellectual property or whether it intends to seek a license from the applicable Federal agency.

If any inventions made in whole or in part by a NIST employee arise in the course of an award made pursuant to this NOFO, the United States Government may retain its ownership rights in any such invention.

Licensing or other disposition of the Federal Government's rights in such inventions will be determined solely by the Federal Government, through NIST as custodian of such inventions, and include the possibility of the Federal Government putting the intellectual property into the public domain.

G. Research Activities Involving Human Subjects, Human Tissue, Data or Recordings Involving Human Subjects Including Software Testing. This section summarizes the requirements for applications that potentially involve research involving human subjects. Additional information that describes the NIST review process for such applications and provides details regarding the documentation required is available here: https://w3auth.nist.gov/oaam/grants-management-division/nist-nofo-information/nist-notice-funding-opportunity-requirements. Both this summary and the additional information provided at the link will be incorporated into any award made under this NOFO.

Any application that includes research activities involving human subjects, human tissue/cells, or data or recordings from or about human subjects

must satisfy the requirements of the Common Rule for the Protection of Human Subjects ("Common Rule"), codified for the Department of Commerce at 15 C.F.R. Part 27.[10] Research activities involving human subjects that fall within one or more of the classes of vulnerable subjects found in 45 C.F.R. Part 46, Subparts B, C and D must satisfy the requirements of the applicable subpart(s). In addition, any such application that includes research activities on these subjects must comply with all applicable statutory requirements imposed upon the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and other Federal agencies, all regulations, policies and guidance adopted by DHHS, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and other Federal agencies on these topics, and all Executive Orders and Presidential statements of policy on applicable topics. The website of the Office of Human Research Protection (OHRP) in the DHHS contains the applicable regulatory, policy and guidance and (includes links to FDA, but may not include all applicable FDA regulations and policies.

If the application is accepted for [or awarded] funding, organizations that have an Institutional Review Board (IRB) are required to follow the procedures of their organization for approval of exempt and non-exempt research activities that involve human subjects. The IRB must be currently registered with OHRP that is linked to the engaged organization. Organizations that do not have an IRB must demonstrate the ability to expeditiously contract with a commercial IRB to conduct a review of the proposed activities. Also, all engaged organizations must possess a currently valid Federalwide Assurance (FWA) on file from OHRP. The NIST IRB is unable to serve as the IRB for financial assistance recipients.

The NIST Research Protections Office (RPO) reserves the right to conduct an administrative review of all applications that potentially include research involving human subjects and were approved by an authorized non-NIST institutional entity (an IRB or entity analogous to the NIST RPO) under 15 C.F.R. § 27.112 (Review by Institution). Conducting an "administrative review" means that the NIST RPO will review and verify the performing institution's determinations made under the Common Rule and all documentation that support such determinations.

[10] NIST uses the Common Rule definitions for research and human subjects research contained in 15 C.F.R. § 27.102.

All applications involving human subjects research must clearly indicate, by separable task, all research activities believed to be exempt or non-exempt research involving human subjects, the expected institution(s) where the research activities involving human subjects may be conducted, and the institution(s) expected to be engaged in the research activities. Some documents may be requested for a pre-review during the proposal review process; however, the Grants Officer may allow final versions of certain required documents to be produced at an appropriate designated time post-award. If an award is issued, no research activities involving live vertebrate animals shall be initiated or costs incurred for those activities under the award until the NIST Grants Officer issues written approval. In addition, all re-approvals, amendments, modifications, changes, annual reports, and closure will be reviewed by NIST.

This summary and the information provided here: https://w3auth.nist.gov/oaam/grants-management-division/nist-nofo-information/nist-notice-funding-opportunity-requirements reflect the existing NIST policy and requirements for Research Involving Human Subjects. Should the policy be revised prior to award, a clause reflecting the policy current at time of award may be incorporated into the award. If the policy is revised after award, a clause reflecting the updated policy may be incorporated into the award.

For more information regarding research projects involving human subjects, contact Anne Andrews, Director, NIST Research Protections Office (e-mail: anne.andrews@nist.gov; phone: (301) 975-5445).

H. Research Activities Involving Live Vertebrate Animals or Pre-Existing Cell Lines/Tissues from Vertebrate Animals. This section summarizes the requirements for applications that potentially involve research involving live vertebrate animals or pre-existing cell lines or tissues from vertebrate animals. Additional information that describes the NIST review process for such applications and provides details regarding the documentation required is available here: https://w3auth.nist.gov/oaam/grants-management-division/nist-nofo-information/nist-notice-funding-opportunity-requirements. Both this summary and the additional information provided at the link will be incorporated into any award made under this NOFO.

Any application that proposes research activities involving live vertebrate animals that are to be cared for, euthanized, or used by award recipients to accomplish research goals, teaching, or testing must meet the requirements of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) (7 U.S.C. § 2131 et seq.),

and the AWA final rules (9 C.F.R. Parts 1, 2, and 3), and if appropriate, the Good Laboratory Practice for Nonclinical Laboratory Studies (21 C.F.R. Part 58). In addition, such research activities should be in compliance with the *"*U.S. Government Principles for Utilization and Care of Vertebrate Animals Used in Testing, Research, and Training*"* (Principles). NIST reserves the right to conduct an administrative review of all applications that potentially include research activities that involve live vertebrate animals, or custom samples from, or field studies with live vertebrate animals. Conducting an "administrative review" means that the NIST RPO will review and verify the performing institution's determinations made under the applicable legal and policy requirements and all documentation that support such determinations. Some documents may be requested for a pre-review during the proposal review process; however, the Grants Officer may allow final versions of certain required documents to be produced at an appropriate designated time post-award. If an award is issued, no research activities involving live vertebrate animals shall be initiated or costs incurred for those activities under the award until the NIST Grants Officer issues written approval. In addition, all re-approvals, amendments, modifications, changes, annual reports, and closure will be reviewed by NIST.

The applicant should clearly indicate in the application, by separable task, all research activities believed to include research involving live vertebrate animals and the institution(s) where the research activities involving live vertebrate animals may be conducted. In addition, the applicant should indicate any activity/task that involves an excluded or custom collection from vertebrate animals, or a field study with animals.

This summary and the information provided here: : https://w3auth.nist.gov/oaam/grants-management-division/nist-nofo-information/nist-notice-funding-opportunity-requirements. reflect the existing NIST policy for Research Involving Live Vertebrate Animals. Should the policy be revised prior to award, a clause reflecting the policy current at time of award may be incorporated into the award. If the policy is revised after award, a clause reflecting the updated policy may be incorporated into the award.

For more information regarding research projects involving live vertebrate animals, contact Anne Andrews, Director, NIST Research Protections Office (e-mail: anne.andrews@nist.gov; phone: 301-975-5445).

I. Signage and Public Acknowledgements:
Recipients are encouraged to post project signage and to include public acknowledgments in published and other collateral materials (*e.g.*, press releases, marketing materials, website, etc.) satisfactory in form and substance to NIST, that identifies the nature of the project and indicates that "the project is funded by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023." In addition, recipients employing project signage are encouraged to use the official Investing in America emblem in accordance with the Official Investing in America Emblem Style Guide: https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Investing-in-America-Brand-Guide.pdf. Costs associated with signage and public acknowledgments must be reasonable and limited. Signs or public acknowledgments should not be produced, displayed, or published if doing so results in unreasonable cost, expense, or recipient burden. The Recipient is encouraged to use recycled or recovered materials when procuring signs.

3. Reporting.

(1) Reporting Requirements. The following reporting requirements described in Sections A.01, Reporting Requirements, of the Department of Commerce Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions, dated November 12, 2020, apply to awards in this program:

A. **Financial Reports**. Each award recipient will be required to submit an SF-425, Federal Financial Report on a semi-annual basis for the periods ending March 31 and September 30 of each year. Reports will be due within 30 days after the end of the reporting period. A final financial report is due within 120 days after the end of the project period.

B. **Research Performance Progress Report (RPPR).** Each award recipient will be required to submit a RPPR on a semi-annual basis for the periods ending March 31 and September 30 of each year. Reports will be due within 30 days after the end of the reporting period. The RPPR shall conform to the requirements in 2 C.F.R. § 200.329 and Department of Commerce Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions, Section A.01.

A final RPPR shall be submitted within 120 days after the expiration date of the award, and publication citation information as well as links to publicly available data shall be submitted as soon as they become available.

C. **Patent and Property Reports.** From time to time, and in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Requirements and other terms and conditions governing the award, the recipient may need to submit property and patent reports.

D. **Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters.** In accordance with section 872 of Public Law 110-417 (as amended; see 41 U.S.C. 2313), if the total value of a recipient's currently active grants, cooperative agreements, and procurement contracts from all Federal awarding agencies exceeds $10,000,000 for any period of time during the period of performance of an award made under this NOFO, then the recipient shall be subject to the requirements specified in Appendix XII to 2 C.F.R. Part 200, for maintaining the currency of information reported to SAM that is made available in FAPIIS about certain civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings involving the recipient.

(2) Audit Requirements. The Department of Commerce Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions, Section D.01, and 2 C.F.R. Part 200 Subpart F, adopted by the Department of Commerce through 2 C.F.R. § 1327.101, require any non-Federal entity (i.e., including non-profit institutions of higher education and non-profit organizations) that expends Federal awards of $750,000 or more in the recipient's fiscal year to conduct a single or program specific audit in accordance with the requirements set out in the Subpart. Additionally, unless otherwise specified in the terms and conditions of the award, entities that are not subject to Subpart F of 2 C.F.R. Part 200 (e.g., for-profit commercial entities) that expend $750,000 or more in DOC funds during their fiscal year must submit to the Grants Officer either: (i) a financial related audit of each DOC award or subaward in accordance with Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards; or (ii) a project specific audit for each award or subaward in accordance with the requirements contained in 2 C.F.R. § 200.507. Applicants are reminded that NIST, the Department of

Commerce Office of Inspector General, or another authorized Federal agency may conduct an audit of an award at any time.

(3) **Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006.** In accordance with 2 C.F.R. Part 170, all recipients of a Federal award made on or after October 1, 2010, are required to comply with reporting requirements under the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (Public Law No. 109-282). In general, all recipients are responsible for reporting sub-awards of $25,000 or more. In addition, recipients that meet certain criteria are responsible for reporting executive compensation. Applicants must ensure they have the necessary processes and systems in place to comply with the reporting requirements should they receive funding. Also see the Federal Register notice published September 14, 2010, at 75 FR 55663.

VII. Federal Awarding Agency Contacts

Questions should be directed to the following:

Subject area	Point of contact
Programmatic and technical questions	Kelley Rogers Phone: 301-975-4374 E-mail: kelley.rogers@nist.gov with "FY2023 WEAVE" in the subject line.
Technical assistance with Grants.govsubmissions	grants.gov Phone: 800-518-4726 E-mail: support@grants.gov
Grant rules and regulations	Dean Iwasaki Phone: 301-975-8449 E-mail: dean.iwasaki@nist.gov

VIII. Other Information

1. **Personal and Business Information**
   The applicant acknowledges and understands that information and data contained in applications for financial assistance, as well as information and data contained in financial, performance and other reports submitted by applicants, may be used by the department of commerce in conducting reviews and evaluations of its financial assistance programs. For this

purpose, applicant information and data may be accessed, reviewed, and evaluated by department of commerce employees, other federal employees, and also by federal agents and contractors, and/or by non-federal personnel, all of whom enter into appropriate conflict of interest and confidentiality agreements covering the use of such information. As may be provided in the terms and conditions of a specific financial assistance award, applicants are expected to support program reviews and evaluations by submitting required financial and performance information and data in an accurate and timely manner, and by cooperating with department of commerce and external program evaluators. In accordance with 2 CFR § 200.303(e), applicants are reminded that they must take reasonable measures to safeguard protected personally identifiable information and other confidential or sensitive personal or business information created or obtained in connection with a department of commerce financial assistance award.

In addition, Department of Commerce regulations implementing the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 USC sec. 552, are found at 15 CFR part 4, public information. These regulations set forth rules for the department regarding making requested materials, information, and records publicly available under the FOIA. Applications submitted in response to this NOFO may be subject to requests for release under the act. If an application contains information or data that the applicant deems to be confidential commercial information that should be exempt from disclosure under FOIA, that information should be identified, bracketed, and marked as privileged, confidential, commercial, or financial information. In accordance with 15 CFR § 4.9, the department of commerce will protect from disclosure confidential business information contained in financial assistance applications and other documentation provided by applicants to the extent permitted by law.

2. Public Website, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and Webinar:

NIST has a public website https://www.nist.gov/oam/funding-opportunities that provides a “Frequently Asked Questions” page, webinar registration, and other information pertaining to this Funding Opportunity. Applicants must submit all questions in writing to manufacturingusa@nist.gov with “FY2023 WEAVE Questions” in the subject line.

NIST will hold an informational webinar on August 14, 2023, to provide general information regarding this NOFO, offer general guidance on preparing applications, and offer the opportunity for the public to ask

questions. Proprietary technical questions about specific proposal ideas will not be permitted, and NIST will not critique or provide feedback on any proposal ideas during the webinar or at any time before submission to Grants.gov. However, NIST will provide information about eligibility requirements, the evaluation criteria, and the review process during the webinar. There is no cost to attend the webinar, but participants must register in advance by sending email to manufacturingusa@nist.gov with “WEAVE Webinar” in the subject line. Participation in the webinar is not required and will not be considered in the application review and selection process.

3. **Allowable Costs**

Funds awarded cannot necessarily pay for all the costs that the recipient might incur in the course of carrying out an award. Generally, costs that are allowable include salaries, equipment, supplies, contractual, and other, as long as these are "necessary and reasonable" specifically for the purpose of the award. Allowable costs are determined by reference to the OMB Uniform Guidance at 2 C.F.R. Part 200, adopted by the Department of Commerce at 1327.101. All cost reimbursement subawards are subject to those federal cost principles applicable to the particular type of organization concerned. A recipient may request approval of pre-award costs; however, all costs incurred before the Federal awarding agency makes the Federal award are at the recipient's risk.