

ANNOUNCEMENT OF FEDERAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITY
The Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization
(POWER) Initiative

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **Federal Agency Names:** Economic Development Administration (EDA), Department of Commerce (DOC); Employment and Training Administration (ETA), Department of Labor (DOL); Small Business Administration (SBA); and Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC).
- **Funding Opportunity Title:** *The Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization (POWER) Implementation Grants*
- **Announcement Type:** FY 2015 Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) announcement publishing POWER's application submission requirements and review procedures. Effective date: **May 11, 2015**. This is the initial announcement of this funding opportunity.
- **Funding Opportunity Number:** POWER2015
- **Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Numbers:** 11.307, Economic Adjustment Assistance; 23.002, Appalachian Research Technical Assistance and Demonstration Projects; 17.277 Workforce Investment Act (WIA) National Emergency Grants/Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) National Dislocated Worker Grants
- **Dates:** The deadline for receipt of applications for EDA and ARC funding is July 10, 2015 (**60 calendar days** from the effective date of this announcement). Applications for ETA funding will be accepted on a rolling basis through the end of Program Year 2017 or until funds are no longer available. Proposals for SBA's Regional Innovation Clusters Program contract solicitation will be accepted after June 1st, 2015. Applicants are advised to carefully read the application and submission information provided in section IV. of this FFO.
- **Funding Opportunity Description:** This FFO announces the availability of funding for implementation grants under the Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization (POWER) Initiative. The POWER Initiative is a new interagency effort to assist communities and workers negatively impacted by changes in the coal industry and power sector. Booming natural gas production, declining costs for renewable energy, increases in energy efficiency, flattening electricity demand, and updated clean air standards are changing the way electricity is generated and used across the country. These industry shifts impact workers and communities who have relied on the coal economy¹ as a source of good jobs and economic prosperity.

The goal of the POWER Initiative is to align, leverage, and target complementary federal

¹ "Coal economy" is a term that reflects the complete supply chain of coal reliant industries. This includes, but is not limited to: coal mining, coal-fired power plants, and related transportation, logistics, and manufacturing.

economic and workforce development resources to assist communities and workers negatively impacted by changes in the coal economy. By aligning and leveraging the resources of DOC's EDA, DOL's ETA, ARC, and SBA,² this initiative seeks projects that reach across economic development and workforce development systems and support local solutions that implement existing economic development strategic plans.

This FFO is intended to competitively award grants to partnerships of regionally-oriented economic and workforce development organizations and other key stakeholders located in and supporting impacted coal communities. These grants will enable grantees to take deliberate and measured steps to build economic resilience, industry diversification, local and regional workforce pipelines, and promote new job creation opportunities. Funds across all four programs will be prioritized to those applications that establish a clear linkage between the proposed project and how it will result in local economic growth and diversification, job creation, and job training and reemployment for dislocated workers as outlined in a broader economic and workforce development strategy.

Eligible activities include helping communities: develop and implement local and regional programs to respond on behalf of affected workers and businesses; strengthen or develop emerging industry clusters; prepare and train the existing workforce for new jobs in high-growth or in-demand sectors and occupations; and develop and execute coordinated economic and workforce development activities based on communities' strategic plans. These activities should result in more skilled workers moving into new job opportunities.

In addition to funds made available under this FFO, the POWER initiative makes EDA funds available for planning assistance.³ Additionally, eight additional federal agencies and offices participating in the POWER initiative will provide technical assistance and education and outreach to winning applicants, and/or preference points for additional agency funding.

- **Eligible Applicants:** Applicants are welcome to apply to any combination of funding from EDA, ETA, SBA, and ARC (for projects located within the Appalachian Region⁴). Since each agency has distinct eligibility requirements, applicants with strong and diverse partnerships will be best suited to seek funding from multiple funding sources. Applicants should pay close attention to the eligible applicant portion of the funding from the different agencies since eligibility varies by program. For specific details of eligible applicants for each program please see Section III of the FFO.

² Note that throughout this FFO, EDA, ETA and SBA are collectively referred to as the primary funding agencies (Primary Funding Agencies), and ARC is referred to as a regional funding partner (Regional Funding Partner). See section II.A. of this FFO.

³ Information on the EDA planning assistance can be found at: <http://www.eda.gov/power>

⁴ A description of ARC's region can be found at: http://www.arc.gov/appalachian_region/MapofAppalachia.asp

FULL ANNOUNCEMENT TEXT
**The Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic
Revitalization (POWER) Initiative**

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I. Funding Opportunity Description

A. Overview

This Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) announcement sets out the Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization (POWER) Initiative implementation grant priorities, evaluation factors, and application guidance for funding from the Economic Development Administration (EDA), Department of Commerce (DOC); Employment and Training Administration (ETA), Department of Labor (DOL); Small Business Administration (SBA); and Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC). The goal of the POWER Initiative is to align, leverage, and target complementary federal economic and workforce development programs and resources to assist communities negatively impacted by changes in the coal economy⁵.

This FFO is intended to award grants competitively to partnerships of regionally-driven economic development and workforce development organizations anchored in impacted coal communities. These grants are a mechanism available to assist grantees with building economic resilience, industry diversification, and promote new job creation opportunities. Competitive projects will be tightly linked to existing economic and workforce development strategic plans. Eligible activities include helping communities: develop and implement local and regional programs to respond on behalf of affected workers and businesses; strengthen or develop existing or emerging industry clusters⁶; provide reemployment services and skills training to dislocated workers from local communities to move into new jobs in potential high-growth and in-demand sectors and occupations; execute coordinated economic and workforce development activities based on communities' strategic plans.

The objectives of the POWER implementation grants are to:

- (1) Assist impacted communities in diversifying their economies into other industries;
- (2) Create new job opportunities for dislocated workers;
- (3) Attract new sources of job-creating investment; and
- (4) Provide a range of workforce services and skills training, including work-based learning opportunities, resulting in industry-recognized credentials for high-quality, in-demand jobs.

Recognizing the importance of these objectives, the POWER Initiative coordinates resources from multiple agencies to support communities in implementing the POWER objectives. The types of activities that should be considered in implementation projects for economic diversification initiatives can include, but are not limited to:

- Analysis activities that build from strategic economic development plans, including, economic and workforce data collection, supply chain and industry cluster analysis
- Outreach and targeted assistance to businesses, unions, workers and other stakeholders
- Remediation and redevelopment of coal economy sites, where relevant
- Provision of business planning and market exploration services

⁵ “Coal economy” is a term that reflects the complete supply chain of coal reliant industries. This includes, but is not limited to: coal mining, coal-fired power plants, and related transportation, logistics, and manufacturing.

⁶ Industry clusters are networks of interconnected firms and supporting institutions in a common geographic region. Clusters also are generally defined by and benefit from shared labor pools, infrastructure and markets.

- Development of business incubator programs
- Facilitation of access to private capital investment and capacity building to effectively utilize capital investment
- Promotion of exports from businesses in impacted area
- Workforce training and dislocated worker services and supports for impacted workers
- Costs associated with Registered Apprenticeship and on-the-job training models
- Temporary or short-term relocation or commuting costs for available jobs in other parts of the state or region
- Staffing, operating and administrative costs for recipient organization
- Comprehensive strategies that integrate all of these activities and leverage other investments from participating and other federal agencies

Although resources from EDA, ETA, ARC, and SBA⁷ are made available through this FFO, applicants will need to apply separately for each funding source they are interested in pursuing.

EDA investments will be funded through the Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) Program to support projects that implement key actions of Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS) or equivalent regional economic development plans, and create economic ecosystems that support job creation, expanded markets, and economic growth. Eligible activities may include: feasibility studies, construction of key assets or facilities that are integral for diversification strategies, and building regional capacity to promote innovation and entrepreneurship. Projects must benefit impacted coal communities, but applicants need not be physically located in a coal community. Applicants are expected to self-identify how and to what extent they're impacted by closures or layoff events by employers in the coal economy. Please see section III. of this Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) for more information on eligibility criteria and permitted activities.

ETA investments will be funded through a special National Dislocated Worker Grant (DWG⁸) offering, called POWER DWGs, to support initiatives that will prepare dislocated workers for good jobs in high-demand occupations. POWER DWGs will provide funding to increase the capacity of state, local, and tribal governments and their partners to provide dislocated worker services in response to business contractions in the coal economy with associated, direct and indirect layoffs. The proposed services and programs must be directly integrated with an economic development strategy that these same partnerships propose to develop and execute. The types of reemployment services that can be delivered through POWER DWGs include career services, workforce training (including work-based training), and supportive services needed to enable eligible individuals to participate in training and other reemployment services. Please see Appendix B of this FFO for additional information on the criteria and application process for DWGs.

⁷ Note that throughout this FFO, EDA, ETA and SBA are collectively referred to as the primary funding agencies (Primary Funding Agencies), and ARC is referred to as a regional funding partner (Regional Funding partner). See section II.A. of this FFO.

⁸ National Dislocated Worker Grants (DWGs) were called National Emergency Grants (NEG) under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998. Under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act that goes into effect July 1, 2015 the NEGs will now be known as National Dislocated Worker Grants.

SBA funds will be deployed through the Regional Innovation Clusters (RIC) program as contracts. RIC funding will support regional cluster initiatives: formally organized efforts to promote an industry cluster's growth and competitiveness through collaborative activities among cluster participants, which could include industry associations, national laboratories, universities and large and small businesses. SBA-funded cluster initiatives leverage resources to provide specialized assistance to small businesses.

ARC's investments will be funded through the Area Development program. Funds may be used to implement economic diversification strategies that have been developed through a region-wide planning process and designed to address gaps or shortages in the Region's entrepreneurial and industrial ecosystems. Eligible, non-construction activities include, but are not limited to, capacity building, technical assistance, and education and training to help grow jobs, increase investment, and prepare the workforce to take advantage of emerging opportunities in growing industry sectors.

All funding opportunities are subject to the availability of funds. Matching funds are required for EDA and ARC assistance; see Appendices A and D for EDA and ARC matching fund requirements. Applicant teams seeking EDA assistance are expected to demonstrate how they provide a direct benefit to coal communities. However, not all applicant team members need to be physically located in impacted coal communities. For further information about eligibility, permitted activities, and maximum project funding amounts see Appendices A-D for each funding agency's funding opportunity requirements. Overall questions about this FFO can be sent to POWER@eda.gov.

B. Expected Outcomes

The POWER funding agencies will evaluate the outcomes of the investments made under this FFO. Funding agencies will require recipients to submit financial, performance, and impact reports in accordance with the terms and conditions of the grant award, generally no less than semi-annually. Recipients must submit all project progress and financial reports to the applicable agency program officer in electronic format. Agencies will require recipients to provide regular updates on their progress towards meeting the output and outcome measures identified in their application, as well as any other metrics requested by the applicable agency and identified in the grant special award conditions (conditions agreed upon by the agency and grant recipient after the notice of award).

By integrating resources from EDA, ETA, SBA, and ARC, these agencies have agreed to accept common application elements so as to reduce the burden of applicants in applying for multiple funding sources. Further discussion on common application elements is in section IV.

Generally, communities eligible for grant awards under this FFO are those that have been impacted, or can reasonably demonstrate that they will be impacted, by coal mining and coal power plant employment loss (or layoffs in the manufacturing or transportation logistics supply chains of either). See section III. for more description about eligibility requirements.

C. Funding Principles

Successful, inclusive and long-term economic growth is built upon bottom-up, community-led strategies that promote economic resilience and maximize regional strengths to the fullest extent. The POWER Initiative takes a long-term view towards assisting coal communities in diversifying their economies by investing in local strategies developed by regional partners.

Competitive projects funded under this FFO will demonstrate regionally-driven, comprehensive approaches to addressing economic distress from contractions in the coal economy by emphasizing:

Economic and Workforce Development Integration: Communities and regions that build strong networks across the public, private and non-profit sectors to address complex economic development and workforce development challenges are positioned to maximize economic outcomes for businesses, workers, and residents. Effective economic development efforts rely on a strong basis of economic assets, infrastructure, and workers. Communities under economic distress from industry transitions often need to develop innovative ways to grow local economic opportunities. The most effective strategies better deploy local assets and increase the productivity of local firms and systems and better match the local workforce with local employment opportunities. This is in contrast with more costly practices of relying on attracting firms from outside the region by offering tax abatements or other publicly-funded incentives.

In parallel, workforce development efforts rely on a deep level of engagement and partnership with a range of employers and industry stakeholders where a clear path can be set to meet the human resources needs of local firms and the employment needs of dislocated workers. Integrating efforts between economic development and workforce development can reduce transaction costs, better connect the supply and demand sides of the labor market and allow for greater opportunities to create and fill high demand jobs more quickly than if the two efforts operated independently of each other.

High Quality Jobs and Worker Advancement: Workers and communities rely on the coal industry as a source of good jobs and economic prosperity. As such, the loss of these jobs is particularly impactful to local workers, who may find it challenging to find replacement jobs at an equivalent level. Therefore, this FFO seeks to fund economic development activities that prioritize the development of new and existing industries that maximize the growth potential of family-supporting jobs and careers, and workforce development activities that offer dislocated workers “career pathways” upon re-employment – clear steps to additional education and training directly linked to higher-skilled and better paying jobs within the relevant industry – and associated industry-recognized credentials that allow workers mobility and advancement.⁹

⁹ This principle does not include an expectation that new jobs created must have an equivalent or greater level of quality compared to the coal economy jobs lost – an unrealistic expectation in many labor markets in coal communities. This FFO also recognizes that the quality of jobs created in emerging industries is often evolving, and such industries typically do not yet have matured career pathways or skill standards. Applicants focused on emerging industries where these circumstances prevail should explain how their proposed strategies will create the conditions for increasing job quality and better defined pathways for worker advancement over the longer term (which may extend beyond the time frame of eligible funding).

Planning Foundation: This FFO seeks to fund implementation projects that are led by partnerships of organizations that have already undertaken economic¹⁰ and workforce development strategic planning. More information about eligible applicants is included in section III of this FFO. The POWER Initiative recognizes that there exists a broad spectrum of economic development needs and capacity challenges throughout the country in the communities impacted by the coal economy contraction. As part of POWER's goal of addressing this issue for this implementation FFO, there is the expectation that applicants have already completed the necessary underlying planning activities for diversification and building economic resilience in coal-dependent communities. For those communities that have not completed a regional economic and workforce development plan, they can apply to EDA and other applicable POWER initiative agencies, for grants and technical assistance in preparing a plan, so they can participate in future rounds of the POWER initiative.

Strategy Implementation: This FFO leverages agency funds to help communities put those plans into action. In doing so, POWER funding agencies will focus on awarding grants to those communities with strong strategies for promoting new, regional economic growth and mobilizing a talented workforce base. These grants also focus on attracting and supporting those applicants that represent a strong and diverse coalition of local economic development organizations, local governments, regional planning organizations, labor unions, state and local workforce agencies, institutions of higher education and other job training and adult education providers, supportive services and human services providers, and other relevant economic and workforce development partners.

D. Participating Agencies

1. Primary Funding Agencies

EDA, ETA and SBA (collectively the Primary Funding Agencies) are each contributing funding for the POWER Initiative implementation FFO. Applicants will need to apply separately for each funding source they are interested in pursuing.

- EDA intends to invest up to \$12.5 million in funds from the Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) Program.
- ETA intends to invest up to \$20 million in National Dislocated Worker Grants (DWGs)¹¹ called the POWER DWGs; and
- SBA intends to invest up to \$2.5 million over five years through their Regional Innovation Clusters program.

¹⁰ If a partnership or region does not have a robust strategic plan in place in time to meet deadlines for the POWER FFO, applicants are encouraged to apply for EDA POWER Planning grants which provide federal support for planning around coal economy-related economic impacts. For additional information, applicants are encouraged to contact their regional EDA representative (<http://www.eda.gov/contact/>) and visit EDA's POWER website (<http://www.eda.gov/POWER/>).

¹¹ National Dislocated Worker Grants are authorized by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and replace National Emergency Grants effective July 1, 2015.

2. Regional Funding Partner

ARC (the Regional Funding Partner) is offering up to \$500,000 of additional funding for POWER Initiative projects located within their region. In general, to be eligible for ARC funds, a POWER Initiative applicant must propose a project located within the ARC region and propose a distinct scope of work specifically for the funds requested from ARC. Applicants are not required to be located in a coal community to apply; however, projects must target coal communities. Please note that other eligibility conditions apply and the applicant must submit supplementary application materials directly to ARC. For complete eligibility and application information for ARC funding under the POWER Initiative, please carefully read Appendix D.

3. Other Participating Agencies

The POWER Initiative involves additional federal agencies and offices that will provide technical assistance, education, and outreach to winning applicants. A summary of how each federal agency and office plans to assist winning applicants can be found in Appendix E. The additional federal agencies and offices are the:

- Rural Business Cooperative Service, Department of Agriculture
- Department of Energy
- Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response, Environmental Protection Agency
- Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund, Department of Treasury
- SelectUSA, Department of Commerce
- Manufacturing Extension Partnerships, Department of Commerce
- Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of Interior
- Corporation for National and Community Service

4. Applicant Engagement with Supporting Agencies

Recognizing the advantages that can accrue from leveraging the resources of the multiple federal agencies participating in the POWER Initiative, winning applicants will be able to identify and interact with participating agencies through a single point of contact drawn from one of those agencies, who in turn will coordinate with each participating agency at both national and regional levels to ensure that the winning applicant is maximizing available federal resources.

II. Award Information

A. How much funding is available from the Funding Agencies?

Awards will be made only to the extent that funds are available. EDA, ETA, SBA, or ARC will not be held responsible (collectively or individually) for application preparation costs. Publication of this FFO does not obligate EDA, ETA, SBA, or ARC (collectively or individually) to award any specific grant or cooperative agreement or to obligate all or any part of available funds.

The Primary Funding Agencies, subject to the availability of funds, are making the following sources of funds available under this FFO:

- **EDA** expects to make approximately \$12.5 million available for the POWER Initiative to make investments in economic development activities leading to job creation, expanded markets, economic growth, and global competitiveness. EDA expects to make individual grant awards up to approximately \$1 million. Although EDA expects to award grants, EDA may choose to make awards via cooperative agreements based on the anticipated amount of interaction needed between EDA and the recipient during the project period. *See Appendix A for the full description and requirements for pursuing EDA funding.*
- **ETA** expects to make up to \$20 million available through a special National Emergency Grant offering called the POWER DWGs. ETA expects to make grant awards up to approximately \$2 million. DWG funds can be used for planning and implementation activities relating to training and reemployment of dislocated workers directly aligned with a regional or local economic development plan. Applicants interested in applying for POWER DWG resources should follow the DWG application process here: [website link](#). *See Appendix B for the full description and requirements for pursuing ETA funding.*
- **SBA** expects to make approximately \$2.5 million available over five years, with an expected FY 2015 award of up to \$500,000, for the POWER Initiative to strengthen regional cluster initiatives. SBA expects to make one Regional Innovation Cluster award in the first year with an option to extend funding over the next four years. *See Appendix C for the full description and requirements for pursuing SBA funding.*

The Regional Funding Partner, subject to the availability of funds, is making the following funds available under this FFO:

- **ARC** expects to make up to \$500 thousand available through the Area Development Program. ARC expects to make individual grant awards up to \$75,000 for each project located in their geographical area. These funds will be for activities including technical assistance, improving regional infrastructure, workforce development, equipment purchase, and/or other activities that address gaps or shortages in a region's industrial or entrepreneurial ecosystem. These funds will be made available through the Appalachian Area Development Program. *See Appendix D for the full description and requirements for pursuing ARC funding.*

B. What is the Funding Agency project period?

For each funding agency, the project period under this competitive solicitation is:

- **EDA:** The project period for economic development assistance from EDA under this FFO is expected to last up to three years (36 months). EDA expects that all projects will proceed efficiently, and prefers applicants with demonstrated capacity to implement investments expeditiously to accelerate positive economic impacts from this investment.
- **ETA:** The rolling application period is expected to last up to three years (36 months) or until funds are fully expended. The project period for ETA funds upon an award is expected to last up to three years (36 months).

- **SBA:** The project period for SBA funds is expected to last up to five years (60 months).
- **ARC:** The period of performance for the ARC funds is expected to last from one to three years (12 to 36 months).

III. Eligibility Information

Given the funding principles discussed in section I.C., applicants are expected to bring together new or existing partnerships of economic development and workforce development stakeholders to serve as the applicant team. All members of the applicant team are not required to be located in a coal community to apply; however, projects must target coal communities. An applicant team member that is eligible for multiple sources of funding may be the primary applicant, and recipient, of multiple awards provided the applicant meets all eligibility criteria for each program. Eligibility for each funding agency is detailed in the Attachments A, B, C and D.

A. What should an applicant team look like?

The POWER Initiative is not setting prescriptive parameters for how an applicant team is comprised. In order to be consistent with the funding principles and be most effective in addressing complex economic development and workforce development challenges, there are some key stakeholders that are routinely engaged in such activities (See Table A below for some examples). Also, depending on which source of funding each team is applying for, the lead applicant may need to be shifted to be compliant with each agency's funding requirements. For EDA and ARC there is no mandatory primary applicant; however, each applicant and co-applicant must be individually eligible for EDA assistance. However, ETA requires the State in collaboration with local Workforce Development Board(s) (formerly Workforce Investment Boards under WIA), or an entity eligible to receive funding under section 166 of WIOA serve as the lead applicant. For the SBA, there are no primary mandatory applicant requirements, beyond the requirement that the applicant must not be barred from contracting with the federal government and registered in the System for Award Management (SAM). To help explain the variability in how these teams can be constructed, the figure below includes notional primary and supporting partner types. Applicants are NOT expected to precisely follow this model as it is only an example.

Table A – Example Applicant Teams by Funding Agency

	EDA Applications	ETA Applications	SBA Applications	ARC Applications
Primary Applicant	Any organization listed below	State Workforce Agencies	Any organization listed below	Any organization listed below
Potential Partners	Workforce Investment Board Local Governments State Workforce/Labor Agency Institutions of Higher Education Other Economic/Workforce Development Orgs. Economic Development District	Workforce Investment Board Local Governments State Workforce Agency Institutions of Higher Education Other Economic/Workforce Development Orgs. Registered Apprenticeship Programs	Workforce Investment Board Local Governments Economic Development District Institutions of Higher Education Other Economic/Workforce Development Orgs. Economic Development Corporation	Workforce Investment Board Local Governments State Workforce/Labor Agency Institutions of Higher Education Other Economic/Workforce Development Orgs. Local Development District

An application for funding under this FFO must be submitted by an organization that is eligible, or a partnership of organizations that is collectively eligible and designates a lead applicant, to receive funding from the Primary Funding Agencies.

For example, the applicant team may consist of two or more organizations with one organization eligible to receive ETA funds and the other organization eligible to receive EDA funds, which submits separate applications for each funding source with a common “core” narrative as well as additional text satisfying any agency specific narrative requirements. For this reason it is critical that the applicant review the eligibility requirements for each funding agency to avoid inadvertent disqualification due to ineligible partners playing the lead applicant role. For further detail, please consult the eligibility criteria for each application listed below in Appendices A-D.

B. How Do I Know I’m in a Coal Economy Community?

A critical emphasis for this opportunity is the nexus between a proposed project and the impacts the community has experienced (or will experience based on an official notification, such as a utility’s announcement that it will retire a coal-fired power plant or an employer’s Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notice) related to the regional coal economy contractions.

Communities eligible for these implementation funds are those that have been impacted, or can reasonably demonstrate that they will be impacted, by coal mining and coal power plant employment loss (or layoffs in the manufacturing or transportation logistics supply chains of either). Instead of pre-defining geographies that are eligible, we welcome any application that can demonstrate the degree of economic distress/impact resulting from coal economy contractions (e.g., mine closures, power plant closures, etc.). Applicants will then need to demonstrate how the proposed project will mitigate those impacts through support for job-creating economic development in compatible industries¹² and/or other industries. Prospective applicants are encouraged to reference either the data available through government sources, such as the Mine Safety Health Administration¹³ or through announcements of individual facility closures. **A description of the community’s reliance on the coal economy and the related contractions plus any supporting data will be expected in the core project narrative.**

C. Variability in Funding Eligibility by Funding Agency

The table below summarizes some of the major distinctions between the funding eligibility requirements among the funding agencies:

Funding Agency	Eligible Applicants	Eligible Communities
EDA	1. District Organization; 2. Indian Tribe or a consortium of Indian Tribes; 3. State, county, city, or other political subdivision of a State, including a special purpose unit of a State or local government engaged in economic or infrastructure development activities, or a consortium of political subdivisions; 4. Institution of higher education or a consortium of institutions of higher education; or 5. Public or private non-profit organization or association acting in cooperation with officials of a political subdivision of a State.¹⁴	Applicants must provide third-party data that clearly indicates that the relevant Region is subject to one (or more) of the following economic distress criteria: (i) an unemployment rate that is, for the most recent 24-month period for which data are available, at least one percentage point greater than the national average unemployment rate; (ii) per capita income that is, for the most recent period for which data are available, 80 percent or less of the national average per capita income; or (iii) a “Special Need,” as determined by EDA.¹⁵ Applicants will need to demonstrate a “nexus” with coal economy closures (including official announcements of future closures) for events since 2011.

¹² “Compatible industries” are other industries that can utilize many of the same economic development assets and workers that were utilized in the industry that has contracted.

¹³ <http://www.msha.gov/OpenGovernmentData/DataSets/Mines.zip>

¹⁴ See section 3 of PWEDA (42 U.S.C. § 3122) and 13 C.F.R. § 300.3.

¹⁵ See Appendix A, pages A-3 to A-5 for a detailed description of special need criteria. Also see section 301 of PWEDA (42 U.S.C. § 3161) and 13 C.F.R. § 301.3.

Funding Agency	Eligible Applicants	Eligible Communities
ETA	1. State workforce agency in partnership with local workforce development board responsible for administering Title I of the Workforce Investment Act/Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, i.e., Adult, Youth and Dislocated Worker Programs; or 2. An entity eligible to receive funding under the WIA/WIOA Section 166 Indian and Native American Program must serve as the lead applicants. If a state is the lead, they must include as partners local workforce development boards from affected communities, as relevant.	Local areas impacted by layoff events in the last 18 months. Special consideration can be given to events prior to 18 months on a case-by-case basis.
SBA	Educational institutions, public or private organizations and businesses, individuals, State and local governments, Indian tribes and lending and financial institutions and sureties that have the capability to provide the required business assistance.	Any community with a reliance on the coal economy.
ARC	1. Local Development Districts; 2. Indian Tribe or a consortium of Indian Tribes; 3. State, county, city, or other political subdivision of a State, including a special purpose unit of a State or local government engaged in economic or infrastructure development activities, or a consortium of political subdivisions; or 4. Institution of higher education or a consortium of institutions of higher education; or Public or private non-profit organization or association.	An ARC applicant must demonstrate that the primary beneficiary of their proposal is entirely located within one or more of the 420 officially designated Appalachian counties and has been impacted, or will imminently be impacted, by loss of employment from disruptions in coal-related supply chains, from the recent closure of a nearby coal mine or mines, or from the loss of a coal-fired electric generating unit.

IV. Application and Submission Information

A. How do I obtain an application package?

Applicants may access the application package for this competitive solicitation electronically at www.grants.gov (Grants.gov). See section IV of this FFO for detailed instructions on application submission. SBA solicitation materials are available through FedBizOpps.gov. ETA applications are available online at: http://wdr.doleta.gov/directives/corr_doc.cfm?DOCN=9195.

Applicants may also request paper application forms from the ETA Regional Office, EDA Regional Office, or SBA National Office.

B. Deadline for Receipt of Applications

The application deadline date depends on each funding agency's requirements. The application deadline for EDA and ARC funding is 60 days from the date of announcement of this FFO. ETA and SBA funding will be awarded on a rolling basis until funds are expended (and for up to three years in the case of ETA). Proposals for SBA's Regional Innovation Clusters Program contract solicitation will be accepted on a rolling basis after June 1st, 2015. The application deadlines and submission methods are summarized in the table below:

Agency	Submission Deadline	Submission Method
EDA	60 Days from announcement (July 10 th , 2015)	Applicants have the option of submitting their application via CD, paper copy or electronically via Grants.gov. Paper and CD applications must be delivered to the address listed in Appendix A of this FFO by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time. The deadline for receipt of applications through Grants.gov is July 10 th , 2015 at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time.
ETA	Rolling	Applicants will follow the existing DWG program application submission process. Please see Appendix B for details regarding submitting an ETA application.
SBA	Anticipated Deadline: July 10 th , 2015	For the Regional Innovation Cluster program, Applicants will follow the instructions in the solicitation on FedBizOpps (FBO.gov)
ARC	60 Days from announcement (July 10 th , 2015)	Applicants should submit applications via email to POWER15@arc.gov by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time on July 10, 2015. Applications should be in Adobe Portable Document Format (.pdf). Alternatively, paper applications may be delivered to the address found at www.arc.gov/POWER by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time on July 10, 2015.

The funding agencies will not accept any unsolicited changes, additions, revisions or deletions to applications after the closing date and time have passed.

This interagency FFO offers applicants the opportunity to prepare a “core” Project Narrative which can be used in all applications, with expanded discussion relevant to the requirements for that agency. See section IV.D. for more information.

C. How do applicants propose one project for multiple sources of funding?

Applicants should directly reference how requested resources from each agency would be integrated into the proposed project. As discussed in section 1.C of this FFO, the effort to integrate resources and align compatible activities into a singular vision is critical to making substantive advances in economic development. As a result, applicants for this opportunity are required to provide a Project Narrative that demonstrates how they’re coordinating their economic and workforce development strategies toward meeting the goals of the POWER Initiative. However, an award for all sources of funding applied for is not guaranteed. Therefore, applicants should demonstrate their contingency options for the severability of each distinct aspect of the scope of work should one or more requested sources of funding not be awarded.

Applicants cannot use multiple funding sources available under this FFO to fund the same activities. Applicants must clearly demonstrate that funds will not overlap across activities. See Appendix A of this FFO for examples of activities that may be supported using EDA funds; see Appendix B of this FFO for examples of activities that may be supported using ETA funds; see Appendix C of this FFO for examples of activities that may be supported using SBA funds; and see Appendix D of this FFO for examples of activities that may be supported using ARC funds.

The following is an example of how organizations could partner to propose one project with distinct scopes of work funded by the Primary and Regional Funding Agencies.

- **EDA Scope of Work Example:** A partnership of NGOs, economic development organizations, local workforce agencies, and a local university or community college located near a recently closed coal mine had determined through their strategic planning efforts that a pivotal step for the region’s economic growth is to focus on supporting business start-ups in information technology. An EDA grant is used to renovate an existing, publicly-owned facility to be a technology-focused small business incubator. The business incubator includes high-speed internet connectivity, shared network equipment services, and meeting rooms.
- **ETA Scope of Work Example:** The same group of partners plus participation from the K-12 school district, local labor organizations, and other relevant stakeholders could apply to the POWER DWG under the leadership of the state workforce agency and with local workforce development boards, to partner with the university or community college to implement a training program, for IT-related occupations where labor market analysis shows unmet demand from regional employers across multiple sectors. Funds could be used to cover tuition and related books and materials, certification or credential exams, and costs for career counseling and supportive services such as transportation and work-related equipment or tools for

several cohorts of classes. The program could also include a work-based training component where students participate in on-the-job activities that could include paid internships, on-the-job training, or Registered Apprenticeships.

- **SBA Scope of Work Example:** Within the same group of partners, SBA Regional Innovation Cluster funding could be used to bolster an information technology cluster initiative. Funds could be used to organize a series of showcasing events for early stage information technology companies to introduce their business models to potential larger industry partners. Concurrently, funds could be used to provide proposal writing assistance to a team of information technology companies competing for a federal IT contract. Within the same scenario, SBA funding could be used to provide an emerging IT company with commercialization assistance in an effort to secure a Phase 1 Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grant to expedite the market-readiness of a new software development technology.
- **ARC Scope of Work Example:** In this example, the higher education partner could apply for additional ARC funding for the purchase of training or enterprise software, audio/visual equipment, enabling costs such as childcare and transportation for enrolled trainees, cost associated with connecting the classroom with broadband Internet access, or in some cases, e.g., when there is a firm commitment from the applicant to sustain the program after the grant funding has ceased, first-year operations of the program including personnel costs. Additionally, ARC funds could be used for a youth and/or student entrepreneurship component for the EDA-funded business incubator.

D. Common Requirements for Application Content

Applications that do not contain all required forms listed in the appendices, or that fail to adhere to the instructions in this FFO, will be considered non-responsive and will not be considered for funding. Additional application materials not requested under this FFO will not be reviewed or evaluated. Specific application guidelines for length and style parameters are included in Appendices A-D.

Applicants are advised to carefully read the instructions contained in this FFO and in all forms contained in the application package. It is the sole responsibility of each applicant to ensure that a complete application package is received.

1. Common Application Content

While separate applications are required to be submitted to each funding agency from which the applicant team requests funding, a single “core” project narrative is necessary across all funding agencies. The core project narrative will, where an applicant is applying for more than one federal funding source, provide an overview of the applicant’s project goals, expected impacts and funding request and a description of how funding from multiple agencies would assist the applicant in reaching their desired impact. To reduce the burden on applicants, the core project narrative will be accepted by all funding agencies in their applications, with necessary elaboration for agency-specific requirements.

Core Project Narrative Requirements (please see below for detailed descriptions of each section and Table B for an overview):

The Core Project Narrative should include:

- 1) A description of the qualifying event and its impact on the community
 - a) This would include any layoff events, announced future layoffs, economic impacts from coal economy contractions, and descriptions of how the community has been impacted, or can reasonably demonstrate that they will be impacted, by coal economy employment losses. Economic indicators, labor market analyses, official announcements, demographic, and industry data are strong sources of data to demonstrate these impacts.
 - b) Applicants are encouraged to provide data (median income, coal mine closures, etc.) from federal sources such as the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Energy Information Administration, or DOL (<http://www.msha.gov/OpenGovernmentData/OGIMSHA.asp>). All sources of information, however, will be considered as part of the application. Please note that regions are areas defined by their economic and spatial relationships, which need not be contiguous or defined by political boundaries that are capable of undertaking self-sustained economic and workforce development.
- 2) A project summary and description of integrated approach of economic and workforce development activities
 - a) A discussion of the overall project and specific discussion of economic and workforce development activities.
 - b) A discussion of how the economic and workforce development activities described are going to be integrated in a complementary manner and how the project is consistent with the other “Funding Principles” summarized in Section I.C.
 - c) A discussion of how each federal funding source would be utilized, and how any existing federal, state, local, and/or private resources/capacity would be leveraged.
 - d) If the applicant is *only* pursuing funding for economic development assistance the narrative should include a full explanation of how workforce development efforts are going to be integrated and are already resourced (*vice versa for requests for only workforce development funding*).
 - e) An overview of the applicant’s funding requests to all funding agencies including an overview budget (more detailed budgets will be required for each individual application for funding requested by each funding agency).
- 3) A description of connectedness with existing planning efforts
 - a) It is critical to demonstrate how the project proposed is the implementation of an existing planning effort. Eligible economic development plans will include Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS) that address economic diversification needs or other equivalent regional economic development plans. Eligible workforce development plans will include regional and/or state-wide strategies for addressing workforce shortfalls that are compatible with applicable economic development plans. A copy of the plan(s) referenced will need to be included in the application package.
 - b) A description of the region’s economic diversification goals and how the project will help bring the region closer to those goals.
- 4) A description of the regional economic and workforce development partnership
 - a) A discussion of what resources and capabilities each partner brings to the project and how they will functionally align, leverage and execute their collective efforts in the implementation of this project.
 - b) Applicants should describe any additional (existing) federal or state resources (grants, loans, etc.) that would complement activities described in the project and how their effectiveness would be amplified.

- c) Applicants are invited to demonstrate the region's, or partnership's, effectiveness in using federal funds by providing documentation regarding ongoing or prior completed federally funded projects.

The Agency-Specific Project Narrative should include:

The applicant will need to be responsive to the unique requirements of those funds for which the applicant is pursuing. Some examples will include but not be limited to: detailed scopes of work for agency funds, descriptions of key personnel, and specific plans for services delivered. See Appendices A-D for each agency's specific requirements.

Table B: Project Narrative Structure Overview

Core Project Narrative - Common for All POWER Applications	Relevance to Coal Economy Impacts/Event + Project Summary and Integration Approach + Economic Development Activities + Workforce Development Activities + Connectedness with Existing Planning Efforts + Partnerships Engaged in Project
Agency-Specific Narrative	Additional detail required by each individual funding agency

V. Application Review Information

Throughout the review and selection process, each funding agency reserves the right to seek clarification in writing from applicants whose applications are being reviewed and considered. The funding agency may ask applicants to clarify application materials, objectives, and work plans, or modify budgets or other specifics necessary to comply with Federal requirements.

A. Technical Review

Each funding agency will conduct their own initial review of applications submitted and received by the deadline stated in Section IV.B. of this FFO. Each funding agency will conduct an independent responsiveness review to ensure compliance with its agency-specific requirements. This review will determine if the application satisfies: (a) all requirements for a complete submission (including all required forms, documentation of cost share or matching funds, and addenda to the Proposal); (b) agency-specific eligibility criteria (listed by agency in Section III of this FFO); and (c) agency-specific requirements for permitted activities. Applications determined to be ineligible, incomplete, and/or non-responsive will be eliminated from further review. Upon

completion of the technical review, applications that are determined to be eligible, complete, and responsive by the respective funding agency will proceed to full merit reviews in accordance with the following review and selection processes.

B. Common Evaluation Criteria

Each funding agency will conduct its own technical and merit reviews to determine its funding decisions. However, it is the express intent of the POWER Initiative that the merit review processes be coordinated and integrated where plausible among funding agencies from which funds are sought. To enable that integration, the funding agencies will give consideration to the following evaluation factors in conducting their internal reviews:

- *Relative Viability of Project and Applicant Team*
 - o The comparative ability of the applicant and the proposed project to realistically achieve the desired results and catalyze additional resources;
 - o The ability of a project to start quickly, support the creation of high quality jobs, and assist workers;
 - o The robustness of the regional partnership involved in developing and implementing the project;
 - o The comparative financial or management capability of the applicant;
 - o The applicant's performance under previous Federal financial assistance awards, including whether the grantee submitted required performance reports and data;
- *Economic Impact*
 - o The strength of the nexus between the proposed project and the economic impacts of contractions in the coal economy;
 - o The relative economic distress of the region;
- *Relative Strength of Economic and Workforce Development Integration*
 - o The demonstrated coordination between the project's economic development and workforce development efforts;
 - o The extent to which the application meets the overall funding principles of section 1.C of this FFO;
 - o The extent to which the project will enable the community/region to become more diversified and more economically prosperous and dislocated workers served by the project regain family supporting jobs and careers through reemployment;
- *Relative Strength of Connectedness with Existing Plans and Strategies*
 - o The connectedness of the project with an existing CEDS or equivalent economic development and/or workforce development strategies.

All internal agency reviews (technical and merit) will be conducted separately by EDA, SBA, ARC, and ETA. Those reviews will be coordinated among the funding agencies and will be augmented by subject matter experts from each funding agency. Further interagency review will be conducted of applications with grant funding requests of multiple agencies through interagency review panels. Panels will include government representatives of each funding agency, excluding SBA which will maintain its procurement process in accordance with the Federal Acquisition Regulations (FAR). Additional coordination among funding agencies will be conducted, when necessary, to explore the synergies proposed by the applicant through the leveraging of separate federal funding streams. Based on their evaluation, the interagency panel will prepare a

recommendation to augment individual agency merit review recommendations to each funding agency selecting official.

C. Agency Selection Process

Selecting officials are authorized to make the final decision on whether to fund an application. In accordance with each agency's distinct regulatory requirements, the selecting officials vary. The selecting officials for the POWER Initiative are:

- EDA's selecting official is the Regional Director in each of EDA's six regional offices, who will review award recommendations and select EDA awardees for their respective region.
- ARC's selecting officials are the ARC federal and state Co-chairs.
- ETA's selecting official is the designated ETA Grants Officer.
- SBA's selecting official is the designated Contracting Officer for the Regional Innovation Cluster Program.

Funding agencies reserve the right to negotiate the budget costs with the applicants that have been selected to receive awards, which may include requesting that the applicant remove certain costs. Additionally, funding agencies may request that the applicant modify objectives or work plans and provide supplemental information. Funding agencies also reserve the right to reject an application where information is uncovered that raises a reasonable doubt as to the responsibility of the applicant. Funding agencies may select part, some, all, or none of the applications. The final approval of selected applications and issuance of awards will be by the funding agencies' Selecting Official or Officials. The award decisions of the funding agencies' Selecting Official or Officials are final.

Notifications for award will be made in accordance with that funding agency's grant announcement procedures. For projects that receive awards from more than one funding source, the grant award notification will be coordinated among those funding agencies to ensure consistency of expectations and communications.