

Program Synopsis

General Information

Document Type:	Grant Notice
Notice of Funding Opportunity Number:	SB-OITST-26-001
Posted Date:	July 9, 2026
Original Due Date for Applications:	August 18, 2026
Archive Date:	September 2026
Funding Instrument Type:	Grant
Category of Funding Activity	Business and Commerce
Explanation of “Other” Category of Funding Activity:	
Expected Number of Awards:	SBA anticipates making maximum 56 awards subject to available funding for proposed activities and requested amounts.
Estimated Total Program Funding:	\$20 Million
Award Ceiling:	\$900,000
Award Floor:	\$100,000
CFDA Number	59.061 – State Trade Expansion Program (STEP)
Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement:	<u>Non-federal entities may not use program income for the purpose of meeting their match</u>

Eligible Applicants:

15 U.S.C. § 649(l) provides that STEP grants may be awarded only to “States,” meaning any of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa. Therefore, only non-Federal entities that meet this definition are eligible to apply for and administer an award under this Notice of Funding Opportunity.

For purposes of this Notice of Funding Opportunity, the term “eligible non-federal entity” means a state agency or other entity that, prior to the date of application for this Announcement, has been officially designated by the State Governor, or equivalent thereof (e.g., Mayor of the District of Columbia), as the sole applicant and lead entity for conducting the State’s trade and export activities.

- i. The organizational structure of the State’s designated international trade arm must show an official agency relationship with State government, and the State must provide financial backing in meeting the required match amount and show support for program activities.
- ii. Only those proposals accompanied by the written designation of the State Governor, or his/her designee, may submit an application for evaluation and funding consideration.
- iii. Should the Governor, or equivalent thereof, assign to a designee the signatory responsibility for the designation letter, the designation letter must include an acknowledgement that the Governor, or his/her equivalent, has authorized the designee to sign the letter on his/her behalf.
- iv. For insular areas, the equivalent of a State Governor is the appropriate signatory.