

Build to Scale

FY2027
Notice of Funding Opportunity

U.S. Economic Development Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

B2S

KEY NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY (NOFO) INFORMATION

U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC), U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) 2027 Build to Scale Program (EDA-B2S-2027)	
Assistance Listing Number	11.024 Build to Scale
Key Dates	The application deadline is 4:59pm Eastern Time on February 26, 2027. Applications received after this deadline will not be reviewed or considered. Please carefully read the application and submission information provided in section D at p. 9 for full details.
Funding Instrument	Grant
Funding Amount	Up to $1,000,000 in Federal funds per award for Emerging Path. Up to $7,000,000 in Federal funds per award for Growth Path.
Program Overview	The Build to Scale (B2S) program strengthens America's economic and technological leadership and increases the success of innovation-driven industry by turning U.S. breakthroughs into U.S.-built companies that attract private capital, create jobs, and keep the industries of the future anchored on American soil.
Goals and Objectives	Build to Scale aims to support technology- and innovation-based economic development initiatives that support the next generation of innovation-driven companies, speed the commercialization of new technologies, increase innovation capacity and long-term resilience, and expand employment opportunities in innovation-driven business ventures. Successful B2S projects will produce outcomes such as new products, services, and companies entering the market; high-quality jobs; and/or increased private investment in the region. Funding is available for Eligible Applicants, as identified below, that aid companies in developing, demonstrating, deploying, and adopting critical technologies.
Cost Sharing and Matching	Applicants must provide matching share equal to at least 50 percent of the total project cost; *i.e.*, applicants must match each dollar requested with at least one dollar of matching funding. Matching contributions may consist of cash or in-kind support.
Eligible Projects	Projects should include outcomes that: • Lead to entrepreneurs and startups bringing new products and services in critical technologies to market; • Accelerate the growth of regional economies that are focused on industries of the future; • Help entrepreneurs and startups reach first customers; and • Increase the supply of investment-ready companies and make it easier for technology-enabled entrepreneurs and startups to get private investment.
Eligible Applicants	Eligible applicants for EDA financial assistance under this NOFO include: • A State; • An Indian tribe;

	• A city or other political subdivision of a State;
	• An entity whose application is supported by a State or a political subdivision of a State, and that is—
	  ○ A nonprofit organization;
	  ○ An institution of higher education;
	  ○ A public-private partnership;
	  ○ A science or research park;
	  ○ A Federal laboratory;
	  ○ A venture development organization;
	  ○ An economic development organization or similar entity that is focused primarily on improving science, technology, innovation, or entrepreneurship; or
	  ○ A consortium of any of the aforementioned entities.
	EDA is not authorized to provide grants or cooperative agreements to individuals under this Program. Applications from individuals will not be considered for funding.

Review and Selection Process	Merit reviewers will review all applications and sort the applications based on the evaluation criteria described in section E.1. of this NOFO. See p. 28 for a detailed list of evaluation criteria. A portfolio of projects from the highest tier will then be forwarded to the Selection Official, along with alternates projects from the highest tier which meet certain selection criteria. The Selection Official will then make the final selection for the portfolio of projects for funding based on the Selection Factors set forth in section E.3.c at p. 31.
Estimated Number of Awards	30-40, with expected award amounts spanning low hundreds of thousands of dollars to a maximum of $7 million.
Award Project Period	EDA anticipates Emerging Path awards will typically have a period of performance of up to 36 months. EDA anticipates Growth Path awards will typically have a period of performance of up to 48 months.
How to Apply	Applications will only be accepted electronically through the Economic Development Grants Experience (EDGE) at sfgrants.eda.gov (unless an applicant requests a paper application as a reasonable accommodation).
Informational Webinar	EDA plans to conduct an informational webinar for this NOFO and expects to make available scheduling information and a link to a recording on its website: https://www.eda.gov/funding/programs/build-to-scale
Award Notification	Subject to the availability of funding, EDA will notify successful applicants of their awards via email.
Agency Contacts	Economic Development Administration Email: oie@eda.gov

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B2S

A. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

1. Overview

For over half a century, America has been a global leader in innovation, from the internet boom to the silicon revolution and now the rise of super intelligence. Today, technological leadership depends on advances in hardware, manufacturing capacity, energy, and secure, resilient infrastructure. Entrepreneurs in these sectors face new challenges including the need for capital-intensive testbeds and specialized equipment, lengthy certification processes, and deep integration with industrial, energy, and supply-chain systems.

Many hardware-based startups struggle to access the funding and specialized resources they need to grow into the next generation of U.S. manufacturing companies.[1] This is largely because early-stage private investment has historically favored software, which typically offers faster development timelines and lower capital requirements than hardware. At the same time, strategic competitors are challenging U.S. technological leadership and seeking to increase their shares of global manufacturing output.

To meet these challenges and advance President Trump's commitment to ushering in the Golden Age of American Innovation, the Build to Scale (B2S) program turns scientific and technological advances into stronger U.S.-based businesses that compete and win in global markets and create high-quality American jobs. It addresses critical funding gaps in the development of early-stage companies helping to crowd in private investment and support advanced manufacturing technologies.

B2S accelerates commercialization and deployment of critical technologies, mobilizes private capital, fuels high-wage job creation, and delivers measurable benefits to the American taxpayer. It furthers national priorities by investing in organizations that remove barriers for U.S. businesses to start, scale, and manufacture critical technologies. It strengthens national security by bolstering domestic capacity in advanced manufacturing and emerging technologies that underpin both U.S. global competitiveness and economic resilience. By helping entrepreneurs and companies turn technological advances into market-ready products, B2S strengthens domestic supply chains, grows U.S. manufacturing, and anchors the industries of the future in the United States.

2. Program Information

The barriers that entrepreneurs and companies face when commercializing critical technologies vary based on region, technology, market, current economic conditions, and many other factors. B2S invests in projects designed to overcome the particular challenges and barriers that companies face in their regions in prototyping, testing, manufacturing, and scaling critical technologies. For the purposes of this NOFO, critical technologies should fall under one or more of the key technology focus areas (KTFAs) as enacted by Congress at 42 U.S.C. § 19107(c):

(1) Super intelligence, machine learning, autonomy, and related advances;

(2) High performance computing, semiconductors, and advanced computer hardware and software;

(3) Quantum information science and technology;

(4) Robotics, automation, and advanced manufacturing;

(5) Natural and anthropogenic disaster prevention or mitigation;

[1] Hardware start-ups and manufacturing innovation." Production & Manufacturing Research 11, no. 1 (2023): 2246537. Available at: https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/21693277.2023.2246537 (last accessed October 27, 2026).

(6) Advanced communications technology and immersive technology;

(7) Biotechnology, medical technology, genomics, and synthetic biology;

(8) Data storage, data management, distributed ledger technologies, and cybersecurity, including biometrics;

(9) Advanced energy and industrial efficiency technologies, such as batteries and advanced nuclear technologies, including but not limited to for the purposes of electric generation (consistent with 42 U.S.C. § 1874); and

(10) Advanced materials science, including composites 2D materials, other next-generation materials, and related manufacturing technologies.

Applicants should clearly identify a specific targeted technology or technologies (referred to as "targeted technology(ies)" throughout this NOFO) that fall within one or more KTFAs that their project will focus on bringing to market as new products, components, and/or services. For example, an application might focus on grid-scale batteries as a targeted technology, which falls under KTFA 9: Advanced energy and industrial efficiency technologies, such as batteries and advanced nuclear technologies, including but not limited to for the purposes of electric generation.

Awards made under B2S may only fund operational and programmatic costs related to developing and supporting regional innovation initiatives. Award funds may not be passed on or transferred directly to beneficiaries (*i.e.*, participant startup companies and individuals) served under this program. Recipients may use award funds to provide entrepreneurs and innovation-based businesses with access to equipment, facilities, expertise, or other resources critical to venture development via objective, unbiased processes. In addition, funds may not be used to subsidize such companies' expenses that are unrelated to program activities, including general operating expenses. EDA will not fund activities that already are or will be paid for with other Federal funds or that are or will be counted as cost share on another Federal award.

3. Funding Pathways

The B2S program supports technology-based entrepreneurship and business support and is designed to accelerate company growth in specific target technologies and specific regions with aligned assets, resources, and capabilities. Applicants should define their service region's geography and provide empirical evidence of the assets and gaps in their geography's entrepreneurial and technology ecosystems. Projects should generate sustainable added value for their regions by building upon or augmenting existing regional assets and addressing regional challenges that impede technology development and scaling and/or firm growth.

This B2S NOFO provides funding through two pathways. Applicants must choose one of the funding pathways for their applications based on the specific target technologies and aligned regional assets, resources, and capabilities. Applicants cannot submit more than one application. The two funding pathways are:

a. Emerging Path

The Emerging Path is intended to support nascent ecosystems with limited entrepreneurial activity and few existing innovation assets. This Path supports smaller-scale, stand-alone projects aimed at kickstarting regional entrepreneurial activity. Emerging Path geographies should generally consist of a single metropolitan statistical area (MSA), micropolitan statistical area (μSA), or a specified area outside of MSAs or μSAs (*e.g.,* a rural area).

Applicants to the Emerging Path will be required to provide an Ecosystem Assessment that uses empirical data to analyze and describe regional strengths and gaps in areas such as startup formation, infrastructure, human capital, access to finance, and support programs and institutions. This Ecosystem Assessment should demonstrate that the region has at least some existing sources of research, intellectual property (IP), and expertise in the targeted technology(ies) to build upon. Strong Emerging Path projects will directly address the specific regional gap(s) identified in the Ecosystem Assessment, leverage regional strengths, and demonstrate how the region's pipeline of research, IP, and expertise in the targeted technology(ies) will be translated into new products, services, and companies entering the marketplace, create high-wage jobs, and crowd in private investment.

Projects under the Emerging Path have an award amount of up to $1 million for a period of up to 36 months.

Activities supported under the Emerging Path include, but are not limited to:

- Regional industry and entrepreneurial strategy development, including data collection, asset mapping, planning, and financial sustainability activities;
- Entrepreneurship and business support for new and emerging businesses in the target technology(s), including accelerator training programs, incubation services, start-up competitions and challenges, and providing access to external shared services (*e.g.*, legal and accounting services);
- Technology development support, including access to shared-use facilities and equipment, consulting services, and technology extension services; and
- Support for creating an early-stage capital ecosystem, including investor outreach and education and support for the formation or scale of investment funds and angel investor groups (*e.g.*, special purpose vehicles).
    - Note that B2S funds can be used for the administrative costs of investment funds but cannot be used as investment capital.

Examples of Emerging Path projects could include:

- A shared prototyping and testbed access program that provides startups with subsidized access to existing university labs, equipment, and technical support in a region;
- An angel investor formation program that recruits and trains new angel investors by educating local executives, professionals, and high-net-worth individuals on early-stage investment and the region's emerging technologies;
- A wet lab access program that provides biotech and life sciences startups with access to existing labs at a local community college with fully equipped lab infrastructure (shared equipment, private benches, etc.), allowing the startups to avoid high upfront capital expenditures; or
- A corporate proof-of-concept partnership program, where startups are matched with local corporations to validate feasibility and functionality and test their product's application in a real-world industrial environment.

b. Growth Path

The Growth Path is intended to support more mature technology and entrepreneurial ecosystems with many existing innovation assets. This Path supports large-scale, stand-alone projects or projects with multiple partners and activities aimed at accelerating the growth and outcomes of existing

entrepreneurial and business activity. Projects under this Path can provide support to a single MSA or to a broader region (encompassing a CSA, multiple MSAs, µSAs and/or counties) using a hub-and-spoke model.

Applicants to the Growth Path will be required to provide an Ecosystem Assessment that evaluates regional strengths and gaps in areas such as startup formation and scale up, infrastructure, human capital, access to finance, and support programs and institutions. This Ecosystem Assessment should demonstrate that the region has a competitive advantage nationally in the targeted technology area(s). Strong Growth Path projects will help to overcome the specific regional gap(s) identified in the Ecosystem Assessment, leverage regional strengths, marshal resources and coordinate across ecosystem and industry actors, and demonstrate how the project will accelerate and grow the region's entrepreneurial activities, create high-wage jobs, and crowd in private investment.

Projects under the Growth Path have an award amount of up to $7 million for a period of up to 48 months.

Activities supported under the Growth Path include, but are not limited to:

- Entrepreneurship and business support for creating and scaling businesses in the target technology(s), including accelerator training programs, incubation services, competitions and challenges, and access to shared services (*e.g.*, legal and accounting services);
- Technology development supports, including access to shared-use facilities and equipment (such as prototyping facilities and pilot-scale manufacturing lines), consulting services, and
- Support for growing an early-stage capital ecosystem in the target technology(s), including support for the formation, launch, or scale of investment funds or angel groups and investor outreach and education.
    - Note that strategy development and planning are not eligible activities under the Growth Path. B2S funds can be used for the administrative costs of investment funds but cannot be used as investment capital.

Examples of Growth Path projects could include:

- A project that supports the adoption of advanced manufacturing robotics in small- and medium-sized manufacturers across an entire state via nodes in communities around the state that receive programming, expertise, and technical assistance from a central hub at a regional university robotics center;
- The creation of a shared-use battery pilot manufacturing facility (including the purchase of equipment and support for facility operations) in an existing building for startups to manufacture their energy storage products on a small scale before moving to commercial-scale operations;
- The expansion of an existing cybersecurity accelerator program to increase the range and quality of services provided and number of startups supported;
- A regional commercialization-to-scale platform focused on autonomous maritime systems that provides access to a specialized facility with shared testing equipment for unmanned surface vessels (USVs) or unmanned undersea vehicles (UUVs); growth advisory services (supply chain support, export readiness, etc.); and preparation services for growth-stage funding rounds including introductions to a local investor network;

- A sector-focused go-to-market and talent hub supports regional biotech companies by helping them comply with regulations, secure their first customers, and hire locally. The hub provides tailored regulatory advising, customer pipeline development, technical assistance for pricing and unit economics, and specialized talent services; or
- A regional deep-tech commercialization system that integrates regional universities, accelerators, and other venture support resources into a coordinated pathway from research to revenue. The activities work to improve commercialization outcomes through cross-organization translation teams and shared resources including intake, commercialization playbooks, metrics/data infrastructure, and national/global partnerships.

Applicants should consider the following when selecting a Path for their applications.

	Emerging Path	**Growth Path**
Ecosystem Type	Nascent or emerging ecosystems with relatively little startup activity at present and few existing innovation assets, such as entrepreneurial support programs or risk capital investors.	More mature innovation ecosystems with many existing support programs and institutions and steady rates of startup and risk investment activities.
Project Type	Small-scale, stand-alone project	Large-scale, stand-alone project; A project with multiple, tightly aligned activities; or A project supporting a larger geography using a hub-and-spoke model.
Target Outcomes	Kickstarting entrepreneurial activity	Accelerating growth and outcomes of existing entrepreneurial and/or business activity
Geography	A single MSA or µSA	A single MSA or a larger regional footprint encompassing multiple MSAs and/or µSAs.
Federal Award Amount	Up to $1 million	Up to $7 million
Period of Performance	Up to 36 months	Up to 48 months

4. Statutory Authority

The statutory authority for the B2S program is section 27 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. § 3722). The regulations governing the B2S program are located at subparts A and B of 13 CFR part 312.

B. FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION

1. What Funding is Available Under this Announcement?

Funding in the total amount of approximately $145,000,000 has been appropriated for grants authorized by section 27 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980, pursuant to the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (Pub. L. 118-42), FY2025 Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act (Pub. L. 119-4), and Commerce, Justice, Science; Energy and Water Development; and Interior and Environment Appropriations Act, 2026 (Pub. L. 119-74).[2] EDA expects to make approximately 30-40 awards under this NOFO.

The funding periods and funding amounts referenced in this NOFO are subject to the availability of funds at the time of award as well as to DOC and EDA priorities at the time of award. DOC and EDA will not be held responsible for application preparation costs. Publication of this announcement does not require DOC or EDA to make any specific grant award or to obligate all or any part of available funds.

2. What Funding Instrument is Used, and What is the Period of Performance?

Under this NOFO, EDA may award grants to eligible applicants to support project activities under the Emerging Path and Growth Path. Periods of performance are dependent on the type of project and the scope of work of the grant award. EDA anticipates the Emerging Path awards will have periods of performance of up to 36 months and Growth Path awards will have periods of performance of up to 48 months, with estimated start dates in Summer 2027. See Appendix C.1 at p. 37 for award notification information.

EDA expects all projects to proceed efficiently and expeditiously, and EDA expects applicants to clearly document a reasonable and appropriate timeline in their applications that includes the start and completion dates of the proposed scope of work. EDA expects all B2S projects will be actively implementing their projects within one year of award, with all design, strategy, and preparatory work completed, all hires made, and any subawards and contracts in place. As a condition of their respective awards, recipients will be required to provide timely periodic progress reports and performance data as set forth at Appendix C.3 at p. 37.

C. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1. What Entities are Eligible to Apply for a B2S Award?

Eligible applicants for and eligible recipients of EDA investment assistance under this NOFO include:

- a State[3];
- an Indian tribe;

[2] In the event that additional funds are appropriated to the Build to Scale program in FY 2027, EDA may allocate additional funding to this competition using this NOFO.

[3] The term "State" means one of the several States of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or any other territory or possession of the United States. 15 U.S.C. § 3722(a)(3). Departments within the State government (*e.g.*, a State's Department of Labor) are considered part of the State.

- a city or other political subdivision of a State[4];
- an entity whose application is supported by a State or a political subdivision of a State and that is—
    - A nonprofit organization;
    - An institution of higher education;
    - A public-private partnership;
    - A science or research park;
    - A federal laboratory;
    - A venture development organization[5];
    - An economic development organization or similar entity that is focused primarily on improving science, technology, innovation, or entrepreneurship; or
    - A consortium of any of the aforementioned entities.[6]

EDA is not authorized to provide assistance to individuals or other entity types that are not eligible under this NOFO, and such requests will not be considered for funding.

If an organization is currently implementing one or more prior-year B2S or Regional Innovation Strategies program awards and is submitting an application under this NOFO, EDA will not consider that application for award unless either (i) all activities under the prior-year award, including but not limited to final reporting requirements, are completed and submitted to EDA prior to March 1, 2027, or (ii) the application shows that proposed activities are clearly and explicitly not only nonduplicative of the prior-year award(s) but also complementary to and aligned with its or their activities and goals.

2. What are the Different Types of Federally Funded Program Partners?

Under the B2S program, lead applicants may choose to partner with co-applicants,[7] subrecipients,[8] or

[4] A "political subdivision of a State" is a unit of government created by and under the authority of a higher level of government. For example, counties and cities.

[5] "The term 'venture development organization' means a State or nonprofit organization that contributes to regional or sector-based economic prosperity by providing services for the purposes of accelerating the commercialization of research." 15 U.S.C. § 3722(a)(4).

[6] A "consortium" is two or more eligible entities jointly applying for an award as co-applicants.

[7] ***Co-applicants***: Each co-applicant must be an eligible entity under this NOFO (see section C.1 at p. 6). Generally, co-applicants play a significant role in the project scope of work, which they jointly manage and implement Co-applicants are generally required to submit the same forms that the primary applicant must submit. See section D.2 at p. 12 for specific application requirements and a comprehensive checklist of the documents required for all co-applicants. Co-applicants that receive award funding will be considered "co-recipients."

[8] ***Subrecipients***: To be considered a subrecipient, an organization must be an eligible entity under this NOFO (see section C.1 at p. 6). A subrecipient is an entity that receives a subaward from a pass-through entity (*i.e.*, the lead applicant) to carry out part of a federal award but does not include an individual that is a beneficiary of such award. Subrecipients generally carry out a portion of project activities on behalf of the applicant or co-applicant(s), to achieve a project goal. Additional documentation may be required for each potential subrecipient. Please note: When deciding between applying as a co-applicant or relying on subrecipients to perform part of the scope of work, EDA prefers subrecipients.

contractors,[9] which can all potentially serve as Federally funded partners under the grant. ("Federally funded" means that part of the Federal budget requested in the application would go to these partner entities.) Applications may also include unfunded project partners (entities that would not receive Federal funds from this grant). Before disbursing any program funds, a case-by-case determination must be made as to whether the partner or party receiving the funds has the role of subrecipient or contractor, pursuant to factors listed in 2 CFR § 200.331, ("Subrecipient and contractor determinations").

Contractors that receive Federal funds under a B2S award cannot provide match or cost share for the same award.

3. What are the Cost Sharing or Matching Requirements?

A minimum one-to-one (1:1) match is required for B2S awards. Applicants must demonstrate at the time of application a matching non-Federal share of at least 50 percent of the total project cost; *i.e.*, for every dollar of Federal funds requested, applicants must demonstrate a commitment of at least one dollar of matching share. **Matching share greater than the 1:1 requirement will be accepted but is not necessary to qualify for funding and will not make an application more competitive**. EDA in its sole discretion may agree to reduce the matching share prior to, at, or during an award to no lower than 1:1.

Applicants must provide documentation (*e.g.*, a signed letter, resolution, or MOU) **directly from each entity providing any portion of the matching share** to show that all matching share is committed. EDA will not accept matching share commitment letters from an applicant *on behalf of* a third party; the entity committing the matching share must be the entity that signs the match letter.

Refer to section C.3 at p. 8 for full details on match requirements.

4. What are the Prohibitions and Restrictions on Use of Award Funds and Match?

The following activities are not allowable, and associated costs are not allowable costs, under any B2S award. Such costs may not be charged to the Federal share or to the matching share of a B2S award.

- **Construction**: Construction activities are not allowable. For the purposes of an award made pursuant to this NOFO, construction includes any activity that disturbs the ground or modifies a structure. The purchase of equipment and equipment-related installation in a facility may be considered allowable, but only to the extent that such equipment and any related modifications are used to support another eligible activity under the award. Equipment installation costs and any equipment requiring installation requires prior approval.
- **Equity Investments & Loans**: The use of funds to make equity investments or issue debt is not an allowable cost. Neither Federal nor matching share funds may be invested in startups or other companies, whether through equity, debt, hybrid, or another mechanism.
- **Subsidies to Participant Firms**: Award funds may not be passed on or transferred to non-eligible entities, including companies, startups, and individuals being served by the applicant organization, nor may they be used to subsidize such expenses that are unrelated to program activities, including general operating expenses. Neither Federal nor matching share funds may be used for such costs.

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[9] ***Contractors*:** Contractors are entities that receive a contract, defined as a legal instrument by which a recipient or subrecipient purchases property or services needed to carry out a project or program under a Federal award (for definition of "contractor" see 2 CFR § 200.1). Contractors do not have to meet eligibility requirements under this NOFO; however, all contracts (including with contractors listed in application materials) **must be procured in accordance with the procurement standards at 2 CFR §§ 200.317-327**.

- **Advertising & Marketing**: In accordance with 2 CFR § 200.421(e), the costs of promotional items and memorabilia, including models, gifts, and souvenirs, as well as the costs of advertising and public relations designed to promote the applicant are not allowable. However, in accordance with 2 CFR 200.421(b), certain costs related specifically to recruiting participants and conducting program outreach (e.g., social media ads, press releases, flyers) may be allowable.
- **Internships & Wages/Stipends**: Establishing and administering an internship or similar work experience program are not allowable activities. Stipends, wages, and other payments to interns or similar work experience program participants are not allowable costs.
- **Cloud Service Credits**: Credits distributed to companies (*i.e.*, startups and individuals) being served by the applicant organization are not allowable costs and thus are not an allowable source of matching share.

Additionally, a provider of matching share, whether providing cash or in-kind contributions, may not serve as a contractor under the same award (*i.e.*, it may not be paid with award funds, whether federal or match funds, to provide goods or services to the award recipient).

Funding may not duplicate other Federal funding, including funding awarded under other innovation-centric EDA programs (*e.g.*, Tech Hubs), other Department of Commerce programs, or other Federal agency programs (*e.g.*, NSF Engines).

It is DOC policy that award funds may not be used to pay for management fees in excess of costs or profits, unless statutorily authorized.

D. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

1. Where Can I Find and Submit an Application?

To be eligible for funding, an applicant must obtain, complete, and timely submit a complete application electronically through the Economic Development Grants Experience (EDGE) at sfgrants.eda.gov. The deadline for the receipt of an application is **4:59pm Eastern Time on February 26, 2027**. Applications received after this deadline will not be reviewed or considered. Applications will only be accepted electronically through EDGE at sfgrants.eda.gov.

Before submitting an application under this NOFO, each applicant must register its organization with EDGE. Please note: this process can be lengthy and requires ensuring the organization and certain individuals are registered with multiple organization/systems (*e.g.*, SAM.gov, EDGE), and confirmation at each step. **EDA strongly encourages prospective applicants to begin the pre-submission process as soon as possible as it may take up to four weeks due to system processing requirements.** Absent an EDGE systems issue as described below, incomplete applications or applications received after the submission deadline will not be considered for funding.

a. Alternatives to Submission through EDGE

To accommodate applicants' accessibility requirements, a paper version of the application may be submitted by contacting EDA via email at oie@eda.gov.

b. Timing of Submission

The date and time that an application will be deemed to be electronically received will be determined in accordance with the electronic submission instructions provided through EDGE. See section D.1 at p. 9 for information regarding electronic submissions. **Absent an EDGE systems issue as described below, applications received after the application deadline will not be considered for funding.** EDA strongly

suggests that applicants submit applications substantially before the deadline. In addition, please note the following:

- EDA will not accept any unsolicited changes, additions, revisions, or deletions to applications or supporting documents after the submission deadline.
- Throughout the review and selection process, EDA reserves the right to seek clarification from applicants whose applications are being reviewed and considered.
- Applicants may be asked to clarify objectives and timelines and modify budgets or other specifics as necessary to comply with Federal requirements and provide supplemental information required by the agency before award. Regardless of any such requests, any unallowable costs or expenses that are included in any application materials, all expenses and activities must conform to the terms and conditions of the award. See section E.2 at p. 31for application review and selection information.
- Applicants are strongly encouraged to start early and not to wait until near the application deadline before logging on and reviewing the instructions for submitting an application. Applicants should **save and print written proof** of an electronic submission.

Absent an EDGE systems issue (as described below), **late applications will not be accepted** for any reason, including but not limited to late submissions caused by issues with SAM.gov. In situations described in this subsection, applications must have email or facsimile receipt timestamps no later than the application deadline or must be postmarked or the equivalent on or before the application deadline. **An application that is not timestamped or postmarked, as applicable, by the application deadline will not be reviewed.**

EDA intends to review each application promptly after receiving the complete application. EDA may request additional documentation or information from the applicant to make an eligibility determination. EDA will reject any documentation that the agency determines is inaccurate or incomplete, which may cause the application to be rejected.

EDA will not accept paper, facsimile, or email transmissions of applications except as provided in D.1.a. at p. 9. To obtain and submit an application through EDGE, an applicant must register for an EDGE account at sfgrants.eda.gov. As part of the registration process, you will register one Authorized Representative for your organization, however, multiple points of contact may be registered or added by the lead applicant to the application workspace to view or work on completing the application. The Authorized Representative will be the only official with the authority to submit applications. The required electronic file format for attachments is text-searchable Portable Document Format (PDF) and, where appropriate, Microsoft Excel.

c. Verify that Your Submission was Successful

Applicants should save and print confirmation of an electronic submission made through EDGE. Applicants, specifically the Authorized Representative submitting the application and materials, will receive a time and date-stamped email from EDGE confirming the submission and receipt of the application and other required documents.

Applicants should save and print both the confirmation screen provided on EDGE after the applicant has submitted an application and the confirmation email sent when the application has been successfully submitted.

It is the applicant's responsibility to verify that your submission was submitted successfully through EDGE on or before February 26, 2027, and to ensure that the submission was complete as to form and

content. Absent an EDGE systems issue as described directly below, incomplete applications or applications received after the submission deadline will not be considered for funding.

d. EDGE Systems Issues

If you experience a systems issue with EDGE (*i.e.*, a technical problem or glitch with the webpage) that you believe threatens your ability to complete a submission before a deadline, please (i) print any error message received; (ii) email the help desk at GrantHDSupport@eda.gov; and (iii) contact EDA at oie@eda.gov. Please be sure to track your issue using a case number given to you by the help desk regarding their communications with EDGE. Please note that problems with an applicant's computer system or equipment are not considered a systems issue. Similarly, an applicant's failure to (i) complete the required registration, (ii) ensure that a registered Authorized Representative submits the application, or (iii) receive a notice receipt of an email message from EDGE are not considered a systems issue. An EDGE systems issue is an issue occurring in connection with the operation of the website itself, such as the temporary loss of service due to unexpected volume of traffic or failure of information technology systems, both of which are highly unlikely. In the event of a confirmed systems issue, EDA reserves the right to accept an application in an alternate format.

Applicants should go to sfgrants.eda.gov and click on the Resources page for assistance in navigating EDGE and for a list of useful resources.

e. Other Submission Requirements

i. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM)

Applicants are required to: (i) be registered in SAM before submitting an application; (ii) provide a valid unique entity identifier (UEI) in the application (UEI is also required for subrecipients); (iii) make certain certifications (see also Appendix C.14. at p. 40), and (iv) continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which they have an active Federal award or an application or plan under consideration by a Federal awarding agency. EDA may 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 the EDA is ready to make an award, EDA may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive an award and use that determination as a basis for making an award to another applicant. Recipients will be subject to reporting requirements, as identified in OMB guidance published at 2 CFR parts 25 and 170.

All subrecipients must have a UEI before any subawards are made. Please ensure the UEI of each subrecipient is provided in the budget narrative.

ii. Pre-Submission Registration

- How to register your organization with SAM.gov (or how to renew your organization's registration), visit SAM.gov's "Getting Started with Registration" page.
- How to check an organization's current SAM.gov registration status, visit SAM.gov's "Check Entity Registration Status" page.
- PLEASE NOTE: Before making a Federal award with a total amount of Federal share greater than the simplified acquisition threshold (currently $350,000 but periodically adjusted), EDA is required to review and consider any information about the applicant that is in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through SAM (formerly FAPIIS). See 41 U.S.C. § 2313. Each applicant, at its option, may review information in the designated integrity and performance systems accessible through SAM and comment on any information about itself that a Federal awarding agency previously entered and is currently in the designated integrity and performance system

accessible through SAM. EDA will consider any comments by the applicant, in addition to the other information in the designated integrity and performance system, in making a judgment about the applicant's integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under Federal awards when completing the review of risk posed by applicants as described in 2 CFR § 200.206.

- How to create an EDGE account, visit sfgrants.eda.gov.
- The hyperlinks to (*i.e.*, the URLs of) these resources are up to date as of the date of publication, but please note that EDA does not control these systems, and they may change without notice. If you encounter problems or questions that are not answered by the pages linked above, please visit the respective system's entry page (*e.g.*, SAM.gov) and navigate to its respective "Help," "Support," or similar section.

2. Content of Application

a. Required and Optional Application Documents

All B2S applications must include the required documents noted in the chart below to be considered for funding. Optional documents may also be included.

Application Documents, Forms, and Supporting Information	Required or Optional?
Project Narrative	Required, one per application
Scope of Work	Required, one per application
Budget Narrative and Staffing Plan	Required, one per application
Ecosystem Assessment	Required, one per application
Match Letters	Required, one per match source
State/Local Government Support	Required from non-public[10] applicants, including consortia that do not include a public entity as a member
SF-424 (Application for Federal Assistance)	Required, one per applicant
SF-424A (Budget Information Non-Construction Programs)	Required, one per applicant
CD-511 (Certification Regarding Lobbying)	Required, one per applicant
SF-LLL (Disclosure of Lobbying Activities)	If applicable, one per applicant[11]
State Single-Point-of-Contact (SPOC)/Intergovernmental Review Compliance Documentation	If applicable, for each participating State in primary service area[12]
Organizational Documentation	Required for each non-public applicant and subrecipient
Indirect Cost Rate (ICR) Documentation	If applicable, for each applicant
Project Service Area and FIPS Codes	Required, one per application
Environmental and Historic Preservation Documentation, including Certification Clause (Appendix A to Environmental Narrative)	If applicable, *i.e.*, equipment installation requires building modifications, one per application

b. Project Design and Substance

i. Project Narrative

All B2S applicants must provide a Project Narrative of **no more than eight (8) total pages with margins no less than one-half inch (0.5") using Arial, Calibri, Times New Roman, or a similar font of size no less than eleven (11) points to be considered for funding**. Anything beyond eight pages will not be reviewed, and attachments or appendices will not be reviewed or evaluated.

Your narrative should explain the targeted technology(ies) your project is focused on commercializing, the gap(s) you are addressing, why your organization is well positioned to solve it, which funding pathway was selected and why, and how the proposed project will accelerate economic growth in your region and align with national technology priorities. Narratives should draw on evidence from the Ecosystem Assessment to show the gap(s), describe the solution, and define the outcomes the project will deliver to address the gap(s).

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[10] Non-public entities are applicants that are nonprofit organizations, institutions of higher education that are not 100% publicly controlled, public-private partnerships, science or research parks, Federal laboratories, venture development organizations, or economic development or similar organizations.
Public entities are applicants that are States, Indian tribes, cities, other political subdivisions of States, and institutions of higher education that are 100% publicly controlled (including consortia of one or more of these types of entities).

[11] A form SF-LLL is required if an applicant has retained a registered lobbyist in conjunction with the proposed project.

[12] Only certain States participate in the SPOC compliance process. See section D.2.c.v. at p. 24.

Strong narratives will make a straightforward, logical case for why the project is necessary, timely, and likely to produce lasting economic benefits that continue beyond the grant period. Clear, focused, and concise writing is highly valued.

Project Narratives must address the following areas:

A. Executive Summary

Provide an executive summary of no more than 100 words; this summary must include the project title, applicant's name, service region, targeted technology(ies), and selected funding path (*i.e.*, Emerging Path or Growth Path). EDA may publish the executive summary, including but not limited to on its or other websites and via social media.

B. The Need

Describe gap(s) identified in the Ecosystem Assessment you are trying to solve. Include:

- The specific problem, gap, or unmet need in your regional ecosystem that your project addresses and why it matters (including how it hinders regional development and/or aligns with national priorities);
- Who experiences this problem and at what scale, using data from the Ecosystem Assessment where possible;
- Why existing solutions or approaches have fallen short and not adequately addressed the need; and
- Why this need matters now and is urgent.

C. Approach

Describe your proposed solution and how it leverages regional assets and strengths identified in the Ecosystem Assessment. This section should include:

- A clear description of the project and its activities;
- How the solution directly addresses the identified regional need(s) and evidence supporting why you think your solution is the best approach;
- Why the selected funding path (Emerging Path or Growth Path) is appropriate for your proposed project (see the table in section A.3. at p. 5 for information on selecting a funding path);
- A description of why your organization and any key regional partners are best positioned within your region to carry out this project;
- A description of any subawardees, contractors, or other project partners and their specific roles and responsibilities in carrying out the project;
- Who the project will serve and how these beneficiaries will engage with it;
- How this solution leverages regional assets; and
- What differentiates this solution from existing alternatives.

D. Technology

Describe the targeted technology(ies) your project seeks to bring to market and/or increase market adoption of and how the proposed work will advance the commercialization and real-world deployment of the technology(ies). This section should include:

- An explanation of the targeted technology(ies) the project will support and its importance to the future of the United States economy and national security. For the purposes of this NOFO, targeted technologies should fall within one or more of the key technology focus areas (KTFAs) – see the full list of KTFAs in section A.2. on p. 1;
- The current maturity level of the technology(ies) and what remains to reach market adoption or expanded use;
- How requested funding will accelerate technology development, market adoption, and/or expanded use;
- Who will adopt or deploy the technology(ies), in which initial use cases or markets (including specific products, components, and/or services that will be developed), and evidence supporting these claims; and
- Why public funding is necessary at this stage to reduce risk, unlock adoption, or accelerate impact.

E. Demand and Validation

Describe the demand for your proposed work and provide evidence that your approach is likely to succeed and deliver public value. This section should include:

- Evidence that the proposed work is needed or in demand, with demonstrated interest or commitment from users, partners, and/or stakeholders. The application should quantify the existing base of potential users/beneficiaries wherever possible, drawing on evidence from the Ecosystem Assessment;
- A plan to build a bigger pipeline of users, partners, and/or stakeholders; and
- Evidence that your approach can deliver outcomes efficiently that address the identified need/problem.

F. Measurable Goals and Outcomes

Using a table similar to the one provided below: demonstrate how proposed activities will produce outputs that lead to outcomes that advance commercialization in the targeted technology(ies) and generate economic impact, and how outputs and outcomes will narrow the gap(s) identified in the Ecosystem Assessment. The text in italics provides illustrative examples of project metrics.

This section should:

- Quantify the current starting point for metrics the project intends to change in the Current Ecosystem Conditions column. These should directly connect to the key gap(s) the project is attempting to address (as identified in the Ecosystem Assessment);
- Identify measurable outputs, defined as direct deliverables resulting from activities (*e.g.*, number of individuals trained, number of startups supported);
- Describe anticipated outcomes, defined as the changes made or benefits gained by the outputs (*e.g.*, increased venture capital raised, jobs created);
- Include outputs that lead directly to intermediate outcomes, which in turn directly drive progress toward reducing the targeted gap(s) and achieving the Target Ecosystem State;
- Define the Target Ecosystem State as a long-term aspiration for the ecosystem, reflecting the metric(s) used in the Current Ecosystem Conditions column and Ecosystem Assessment.

Current Ecosystem Conditions	Outputs (by end of Period of Performance)	Intermediate Outcomes (within 2 – 3 years after Period of Performance)	Long-term Outcomes (Within 5 years after Period of Performance)	Target Ecosystem State
What is the current measurable starting point of identified ecosystem gap(s) [drawn from Ecosystem Assessment]	What deliverables will project activities produce?	What measurable changes result from outputs?	What measurable changes demonstrate sustained impact?	What is the ecosystem condition you are ultimately working toward?
[Emerging Path] *[Poor access to early-stage capital - no dedicated venture capital or angel networks operate within the region: $0 Private Investment in past 3 years]*	*[10 investor outreach sessions; formation of angel investment network]*	*[$500k private investment in local startups]*	*[$500k private investment per year in local startups; 30% increase in number of active angel investors]*	*[Active angel network deploying $1.5M+ annually, reaching peer region levels of early-stage capital]*
[Growth Path] *[Low startup survival rate - region produces 15 new technology startups annually, but the 3-year survival rate is 28% compared to the 45% national average, indicating gaps in support beyond initial formation]*	*[25 startups supported annually through accelerator; dedicated post-formation mentorship program launched]*	*[10 supported startups secure first contract; 3-year survival rate of supported cohort reaches 40%]*	*[15 startups annually secure first contract; time to first contract reduced by 40% for participants; regional 3-yr survival rate reaches 45%]*	*[Regional startup survival rate meets or exceeds the 45% national average]*

G. Taxpayer Bargain

A taxpayer bargain is intended to illustrate how federal investment in a project will provide a return – either quantitatively or qualitatively – to the American taxpayer. As part of the taxpayer bargain, EDA is placing significant focus on how the proposed project would yield a return to the U.S. taxpayer that

justifies the grant. Specifically, your application should explain why federal investment for the proposed project is necessary and how it is beneficial to taxpayers. This section should address the following questions:

- Why Federal funding is necessary for this project;
- How the project will benefit Americans and why the investment is a strong bargain for taxpayers;
- How project success will increase regional economic prosperity, create and retain private-sector jobs, and strengthen the region's innovation capacity;
- How the project and its beneficiaries, especially for-profit entities, will share benefits and gains with U.S. taxpayers;
- A high-level description of any match, commitments, or direct returns to the government; and
- What are the monetary benefits that the applicant will share with the taxpayer if the project is funded and successful? Note that this is different from generalized benefits or positive externalities generated from the implementation of the project.

Examples of Taxpayer Bargain Could Include: [13]

- If a for-profit entity uses an EDA-supported business accelerator and generates revenue over a specific threshold from products commercialized, it returns a portion of that revenue to the taxpayer or re-invests that revenue in scaled future programming.
- Startups participate in an accelerator with no upfront cost, and in lieu of program fees, the accelerator receives a small share of future revenue for a defined period- aligning returns with the startup's performance so that only ventures achieving commercial success contribute financially. A portion of this revenue is returned to EDA through a program income model, and the remainder is reinvested back into the accelerator to support future ventures.
- In a project to scale the commercialization of products where the federal government is a buyer, the applicant establishes discounted or negotiated rates for government procurement.
- An EDA-supported testbed facility requires fees from the companies that it supports; at the end of the period of performance, the grantee returns a portion of the collected user fees to EDA to return to the U.S. Treasury.
- EDA's investments in testing facilities attract foreign direct investments into the region from multinational companies expanding operations into the U.S. leading to supply chain expansion and increased domestic resilience.

H. Long-Term Viability Plan

Describe how the project will sustain its operations and outcomes after federal funding ends, including how it will become self-sufficient or transition to non-federal funding sources. This section should include:

[13] This list is non-exhaustive.

- A description of whether the proposed project is a one-time activity or an activity that will continue after the award period;
- If project activities will continue post-award, provide:
    - A long-term viability plan for post-award operations, including anticipated challenges and barriers; and
    - A plan for achieving self-sufficiency or identifying non-federal funding sources once federal funds are expended.

ii. Scope of Work (SOW)

Applicants must submit a **no more than two (2) page** scope of work using the required template in Appendix A. on p. 34 which specifies:

- The specific activities the project will undertake;
- Semi-annual milestones and deliverables that indicate positive progress;
- Work performed by the applicant, subrecipients, co-applicants, and unfunded partners;
- Clear roles and responsibilities for all parties; and
- Activities and milestones that should align with and support claims made in the project narrative and budget narrative.

Note that EDA expects all B2S projects will be actively implementing their projects within one year of award, with all design, strategy, and preparatory work completed, all hires made, and any subawards and contracts in place.

iii. Budget Narrative and Staffing Plan

Applicants must submit a budget narrative describing how funds will be used and a staffing plan showing what staff will be required to implement the project using the EDA non-construction budget narrative and staffing plan template available at: https://www.eda.gov/sites/default/files/2026-07/1_NC%20Grantee%20Toolkit_Non-Construction_Budget_Narrative.xlsx

Project budget narratives must identify and justify each budget line item (including both the Federal share and matching non-Federal share) identified in the SF-424A. The narrative total must match the total project costs listed in both the SF-424, Question 18, Line g ("TOTAL") and the appropriate totals fields of the SF-424A.

The budget narrative and staffing plan must include an itemized list of the matching share sources showing the total match contribution per each matching share source and whether the match is cash or in-kind. This list should be consistent with the match commitment letters from each source of match.

Each line item in the non-construction budget narrative and staffing plan must clearly indicate:

1. the budget category (from the SF-424A) to which the line item corresponds;
1. a description of the intended use of funds for each line item; and

2. if any matching share is allocated to a given line item, a citation to the one or more commitment letters that documents each relevant matching organization's commitment to provide the matching share of the given line item.

Recipients generally must expend the non-Federal share, whether in cash or in-kind, in proportion to the Federal grant rate. In other words, regardless of whether the matching share is allocated in the approved budget, EDA will make each disbursement to the recipient at the grant rate (for B2S, that is typically a 50:50 ratio of Federal and matching share funds - but the ratio may differ depending on the final budget approved by EDA). If the applicant needs to deviate from this standard (for example, to allow for the expenditure of more Federal money or more matching share funds at different points in the project), the applicant must propose and clearly explain in the budget narrative why the deviation is necessary. See also section B.03 of the Department of Commerce General Terms & Conditions.

The budget narrative should include specific, clear, itemized valuations of all project costs, including any in-kind matching funds (which, for personnel costs, should be supported by the staffing plan). Each cost should be placed in the appropriate budget category. For example, a program "event" may consist of contracts for services, supplies, and local transportation. Each of these items needs to be described adequately. The "Other" category should only be used for costs that cannot be categorized as personnel, fringe benefits, supplies, equipment, contractual, or indirect costs.

The budget narrative should also clearly explain how each line-item cost ties into specific element(s) of the proposed scope of work.

Applicants should include a list of any equipment they anticipate purchasing or receiving as in-kind match for the project.

The staffing plan should list all positions from the applicant organization that would be charged to the Federal and non-Federal portions of the budget for each year of the period of performance. People that are contractors or consultants are not considered part of the staffing plan and should be listed in the contractual budget category. The staffing plan must include position titles, maximum annual salaries, percentage of time dedicated to the project, and the total amount of annual salaries that would be charged to the project. The total amount of annual salaries that would be charged to the project must be consistent with the amount reflected on the "Personnel" budget line item on the Form SF-424A for each project year.

iv. Ecosystem Assessment

B2S applicants must submit an Ecosystem Assessment of **no more than three (3) total pages with margins no less than one-half inch (0.5") using Arial, Calibri, Times New Roman, or a similar font of size no less than eleven (11) points**. Anything beyond three pages will not be reviewed, and attachments or appendices will not be reviewed or evaluated.

The Ecosystem Assessment is an objective, evidence-based evaluation of the region's current technology and entrepreneurial ecosystem in the targeted technology(s) and defined service area. It identifies regional strengths and gaps, how they relate, and provides the evidentiary foundation for the project narrative (*i.e.*, what assets and resources exist, what is working, and what is missing or underperforming).

The assessment should be grounded in evidence from credible, non-biased sources and benchmarked against national averages. Wherever possible, applicants should use published data from third-party sources over anecdotal information. Examples of credible sources include federal data (Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census Bureau, USPTO, NSF), industry databases (PitchBook, Crunchbase), and academic or institutional research (NERDE). EDA and Argonne National Laboratory have developed the Economic

Development Capacity Index (EDCI) to help assess local economic development capacity across the United States. The five EDCI indicators (human capital, financial, industry, infrastructure, and institutions & partnerships) and their subindices can be a valuate source of data for conducting an ecosystem assessment. Additionally, some applicants may be located in a region with an Economic Development District (EDD) that has developed a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) – a strategy-driven plan for regional economic development. CEDS include data on the economic conditions of a given region, as well as analyses of regional strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities. Much of this data can be leveraged for use in an ecosystem assessment. A complete list of EDDs and CEDS can be found here.

Where quantitative data is unavailable—particularly for emerging technologies or smaller geographies—applicants should describe the basis for their conclusions and identify the sources that informed their assessment. Qualitative evidence is acceptable when grounded in credible sources, but applicants should be transparent about data limitations.

This assessment should provide the evidentiary foundation for the Project Narrative. In particular, identified gaps in the Ecosystem Assessment should directly inform the need and proposed approach(es) in the Project Narrative. The assessment and project narrative should complement, not duplicate, each other.

Ecosystem Assessment Path Expectations

Emerging Path applicants should demonstrate that a technological foundation currently exists in their targeted technology(s) to build upon, even if nascent. Significant gaps in startup activity, access to private capital, resources, and/or outcomes (when compared to national averages) are expected and acceptable so long as they are clearly identified and the proposed project will address at least one of these gaps and improve outcomes. Applicants may also benchmark against peer regions with more established startup activity in the target technology. Peers should have similar characteristics – such as population size, industry base, or industrial assets – to ensure a meaningful comparison. Qualitative evidence is acceptable where quantitative data is unavailable.

Growth Path applicants should demonstrate established assets, active commercialization activity, private capital access, and national competitiveness in the targeted technology(ies). Assessments should include benchmarking against national averages and/or peer regions and quantitative evidence of outcomes at scale. Identified gaps should focus on barriers to scaling and acceleration of startup and technology development activities.

Ecosystem Assessment Format and Structure

Ecosystem assessments should include and address each of the four sections below using the template provided in Appendix B on p. 35; all sections should be addressed, but depth of analysis should vary based on relevance to the region, selected path, and proposed activities. Rather than listing strengths and gaps separately, applicants should show how they relate. For example, strong research output paired with an insufficient commercialization pathway, or significant employer demand with a small workforce pipeline to meet it. Where a section contains both strengths and gaps, applicants should disaggregate the data to show where the strength ends and the gap begins. Where anchor institutions or federally funded programs operate in the ecosystem, applicants should introduce them in the most relevant section and cross-reference briefly in others as needed, rather than fully describing the same entity multiple times.

A. Executive Summary

Provide an approximately 200-word executive summary that identifies the service region and targeted technology(ies) and summarizes the region's competitive position—the key strengths that make this a credible place for entrepreneurship and/or business activity in the target technology(ies)—as well as the most critical gap(s) or barrier(s) hindering commercialization and company formation and growth in the targeted technology(ies), drawing on evidence from the sections below.

B. Foundation for Commercialization

Identify the region's base of commercially-relevant research and intellectual property in the targeted technology(s), as well as pathways to move ideas toward market. Where applicable, identify anchor institutions and describe their role in the regional ecosystem; anchors introduced here may be cross-referenced in subsequent sections without repeating the full description. Address both sources of innovation and pathways to commercialization and identify any gaps in regional commercialization pathways.

- **Sources of Innovation.** This includes technology- and industry-relevant research institutions, federal laboratories, or corporate R&D generating knowledge and IP in the targeted technology(ies). Identify key institutions and include evidence of output such as publications, patents, technology disclosures, or research expenditures. Prioritize evidence that is recent, technology-specific, and quantified rather than cataloging all output.
- **Pathways to Commercialization.** This includes mechanisms that translate research and IP into new businesses, such as technology transfer offices, licensing programs, proof-of-concept funding, or Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)/Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) activity. Identify what pathways are in place, evidence of their activity, and where pathways are absent or underperforming.

C. Ecosystem Resources

Describe the resources available to support entrepreneurs through company development and growth, as well as any gaps in entrepreneurial support resources. Wherever possible, the availability of these resources should be benchmarked against national averages and/or peer regions. Address infrastructure, talent and workforce, capital, and support programs that are most relevant to the targeted technology(s).

- **Infrastructure**. This includes technology- and industry-relevant physical and digital infrastructure such as laboratories, prototyping facilities, manufacturing equipment, testing facilities, clinical and healthcare facilities, co-working spaces, or broadband. Detail what type of infrastructure exists, how much capacity is available, current utilization, relevant security and cybersecurity mechanisms, and gaps in available infrastructure. This section should focus only on infrastructure that is *relevant* to the technology and project, not provide an exhaustive list.
- **Talent and Workforce.** This includes the current workforce in the targeted technology(ies) (employment in related occupations) and the pipeline that develops talent (degree programs, credentials, apprenticeships, workforce development initiatives). Describe the size of the talent pool, regional demand of skilled workers, what training programs exist, alignment with the target technology area, and gaps in available workforce or training programming.
- **Capital**. This includes funders at various stages of company development—angel investors, venture capital, public programs, CDFIs, or other early-stage or growth capital—investing in

sectors relevant to the target technology(ies). Describe what types of capital are available, activity levels where data is accessible (deal level, capital deployed, SBIR/STTR awards), and which stages and sectors investment is available or limited. Where there gaps in investment activity – particularly private sector investment activity – specify whether the gaps are due to absence of investors, deal flow, a mismatch with venture needs, or a combination of these factors.

- **Support Programs.** This includes incubators, accelerators, mentorship networks, technology extension program, Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs), Manufacturing USA institutes, or shared services (legal, accounting, regulatory, go-to-market). Describe what types of relevant programs exist, how many entrepreneurs they serve, relevant outcomes (such as funding raised, companies launched, or jobs created), and any gaps in support programming.

D. Ecosystem Performance

Applicants should demonstrate what results the ecosystem is currently producing—evidence of outcomes (such as new businesses, jobs), in the targeted technology(ies) beyond existence of assets. Quantify where data is accessible; where it is not, describe the basis for conclusions. Wherever possible, measures of outcomes should be benchmarked against national averages and/or peer regions. Where data allows, describe whether activity is growing, declining, or flat. Relevant negative signals should be included where relevant; honest identification strengthens credibility.

- **Industry and Entrepreneurial Activity**. This includes measures of industry concentration in the targeted technology(ies) (such as employment, establishments, location quotients), startup activity (number of companies, stages, trends), and evidence of commercialization outcomes (or lack of outcomes) where available (*e.g.*, spinouts formed, startups reaching market, licenses generating revenue). Applicants may include information on anchor companies, industry associations, or other relevant private sector initiatives where relevant. Describe the level of activity, trajectory over time, and relevance to the targeted technology(ies).
- **Market Presence and Demand.** Identify existing buyers, customers, or institutional partners that create market demand for the targeted technology(ies) in or accessible to the service area. Describe the region's market presence and quantify where possible (via customer presence, procurement activity, contract awards). Data sources on market and customers may be difficult to find, so qualitative assessments may be used where quantitative data cannot be found.

v. Match Letters

Applications must include commitment letters or equivalent documents that demonstrate, to the satisfaction of EDA, that **all match** (whether cash or in-kind) from **all sources** (*i.e.*, applicant, co-applicants, subrecipients, and any third-party sources) referenced in the application will be unencumbered, unrestricted, and committed at the time of award.

Each matching share commitment letter must:

1. be from the entity making the contribution;

   Each match commitment letter must be **signed by a person with authority to commit funds on behalf of** the contributing/donor organization. In other words, if any entity besides the applicant will be donating match, please obtain and submit a match letter from that entity.

A provider of matching share, whether cash or in-kind contributions, **may not** serve as a contractor under the award for which it provides matching share. Funds from other Federal financial assistance awards can serve as matching share funds **only** if authorized by statute, which may be determined by EDA's reasonable interpretation of the statute.

2. state whether each element of the match contribution is cash or in-kind;
3. **if in-kind, provide a valuation and description for each element of the in-kind** contributions;

   In-kind contributions may be used for the required matching share and must consist of contributions directly related to the proposed project, such as services, equipment, or space. An in-kind contribution is a non-monetary contribution. Goods or services offered free or at less than (discounted) the usual charge can be considered an in-kind contribution and still require a signed letter of commitment. EDA will fairly evaluate all in-kind contributions, which must be eligible project costs and meet applicable Federal cost principles and uniform administrative requirements.

   For all sources of in-kind match, the letter should include details on what the in-kind contribution will consist of and an itemized valuation. Match letters simply stating an in-kind match amount without providing a description and an itemized valuation will be deemed insufficient. Additionally, each item of in-kind match must be categorized appropriately within the budget (*e.g.*, as contractual costs, equipment costs, supplies costs).
4. confirm that the contribution is from a non-Federal source or from a Federal source that is explicitly authorized by statute to be used as matching share; and
5. reflect, to EDA's satisfaction, that the match is committed, unencumbered, and available at the time of award.

TIP: See these examples of how to state valuations for in-kind match:

- 40 hours of subject matter expert time during the project, at $100 hourly rate, for a total in-kind contribution of $4,000 across the period of performance.
- 1,000 square feet of donated event space valued at $2,000 per event for six events over the course of the project, for a total in-kind contribution of $12,000 across the period of performance.
- 10 3D printers valued at $4,000 per printer, for a total in-kind contribution of $40,000 across the period of performance.

Please note that all project funds—both Federal funds and matching funds—are subject to the funding restrictions set forth at section C.4 at p. 8. If your project is awarded, every activity and cost must be allowable under 2 CFR part 200.

Finally, any proposed use of unrecovered indirect costs as match must conform to the requirements of 2 CFR § 200.306(c). For more information on required documentation for indirect costs, see section D.2.e. at p. 26.

vi. State/Local Government Support Letters

Applicants that are a non-public entity (*e.g.*, non-profits, private institutions of higher education) must submit one or more resolutions or letters that demonstrate that the application is supported by one or more States or political subdivisions of a State (*e.g.*, counties or, municipalities) that encompass all or a substantial portion of the communities served by this project. If an applicant or co-applicant is a State, an Indian tribe, a city or other political subdivision of a State, or an institution of higher education that is 100% publicly controlled, this requirement does not apply.

State/local government support letters should be signed by executives from the State or political subdivision of the State. Examples of authorities who may indicate such support include State and local executive branch officials (*e.g.*, State governors, State cabinet members, mayors, city managers, city finance directors, county executives, or other municipal executives) or State and local legislators (*e.g.*, State legislators, city councilpersons). Support from Federal officials, including but not limited to members of the United States Congress, does not meet this requirement. Other examples of organizations that do NOT meet this requirement include letters from non-profits, chambers of commerce, and public universities.

c. Forms and Supporting Documentation

i. SF-424 (Application for Federal Assistance)

The SF-424 is a standard form used across government funding programs, accessed through EDA's EDGE. The SF 424 details high-level information on the applicant. The SF-424 should contain project-specific details on estimated funding and match amounts in Box 18.

*If there is a co-applicant leading this project, the co-applicant will need to submit an additional SF-424 to be uploaded to EDGE as a PDF attachment. Box 18 should have the exact same values on both forms.

ii. SF-424A (Budget Information—Non-Construction Programs)

Applicants must fill out and submit a SF-424A (for non-construction component projects) in EDGE. Dollar values represented on this form must align with the dollar values described in the Budget Narrative.

iii. CD-511 (Certification Regarding Lobbying)

The CD-511 form is used to certify whether the applicant engages in lobbying activities. While submission of this signed form is required, applicants may write "not applicable" on the form to indicate that their organization does not engage in lobbying activities.

*Any co-applicants will need to submit an additional CD-511.

iv. SF-LLL (Disclosure of Lobbying Activities)

The SF-LLL form is used to disclose whether the applicant has reportable lobbying activities and is required if an Applicant has retained a registered lobbyist in conjunction with the proposed project. While submission of this signed form is required, applicants may write "not applicable" on the form to indicate that their organization does not have reportable lobbying activities.

*Any co-applicants will need to submit an additional SF-LLL.

v. SPOC Compliance

If the proposed project is covering a service area in a State that has adopted a process under Executive Order (EO) 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs," the applicant must give State and local governments a reasonable opportunity to review and comment on the proposed project, including review and comment from area-wide planning organizations in metropolitan areas. Applicants with a project service area that is within a participating State(s) **must** submit documentation demonstrating compliance with that State's or those States' processes.[14]

[14] For a list of participating states as of Jan. 2025, see https://www.ojp.gov/IntergovernmentalReviewSPOCList.pdf.

To ensure compliance, applicants should reach out to their State's Single Points of Contact (SPOC) to understand that State's specific processes. EDA strongly encourages applicants to contact SPOCs early in the application period to determine the relevant State's or States' processes. Based on the applicant's State, EDA requires the following documentation:

State does not participate	No documentation required—check SF-424 box 19(c).
State participates; this grant program not subject to review	Documentation (*e.g.*, a State executive order, a signed letter from the SPOC, or other written guidance from the SPOC) showing that this grant program is not subject to review—provide the documentation as an attachment and check SF-424 box 19(b).
State participates; this grant program subject to review	Documentation (*e.g.*, a signed letter from the SPOC) with comments or indicating that this project was not selected for review, or, if the comment period has expired or comments were not received, a copy of the applicant's request for comments—provide the documentation as an attachment and check SF-424 box 19(a).

Applicants with any questions about SPOC compliance may contact the respective State's SPOC representative listed in the SPOC list linked above.

d. Organizational Documentation

Each ***non-public*** applicant and co-applicant must provide documentation that supports each applicant's or co-applicants' **organizational status as an eligible entity**, depending on the type of organization:

- Nonprofit organizations must submit documentation that demonstrates their status as nonprofit organizations, including, at minimum: (1) articles of incorporation; (2) current certificate of good standing, and (3) current bylaws. EDA may request additional documentation as needed to ascertain the nonprofit entity's status.
- Applicants applying as (a) institutions of higher education that are not 100% publicly controlled, (b) science or research parks, (c) Federal laboratories, (d) venture development organizations, or (e) economic development organizations or similar entities must provide documentation that demonstrates their organization's status as the relevant entity type.

  A venture development organization must be a State or nonprofit organization that contributes to regional or sector-based economic prosperity by providing services for the purposes of accelerating the commercialization of research. 15 U.S.C. § 3722(a)(4).

  For purposes of the B2S program, EDA defines an economic development organization as an organization with a primary purpose to support the economic development of a community or region. To evaluate an organization's eligibility as an economic development organization or similar entity, EDA will look to the organization's Articles of Incorporation, Charter, Resolutions, Bylaws, and other documents that may be relevant to establish the primary purpose of the organization. Applicants are encouraged to submit all relevant documentation to EDA for evaluation. EDA reserves the right to request additional information from applicants to establish eligibility, as necessary.
- Entities applying as public-private partnerships (PPP) must submit documentation of their contractual relationship defining the public private partnership which contains details of the agreement, including roles and responsibilities, and is signed by all parties.

  For purposes of the B2S program, EDA defines a public-private partnership (PPP) as a relationship formalized by contractual agreement between a public agency and a private-sector entity that reasonably defines the terms of collaboration in the delivery and financing of a public project. EDA

will typically review agreements for items such as the purpose and objectives of the partnership, the binding/contractual nature of the relationship, the duties and responsibilities of each party, and the duration of the agreement. The scope of the relationship documented in the agreement may be limited to the proposal set forth in a given partnership's grant application or may encompass a broader program, initiative, or other set of activities or goals.

Organizations that plan to apply to this NOFO as a PPP may structure their applications in one of four ways: (1) the private entity that is party to the PPP applies on behalf of the PPP that includes the contractual agreement establishing the PPP, and that clearly documents the roles and responsibilities of each member of the PPP; (2) the public entity that is party to the PPP applies on behalf of the PPP that includes the contractual agreement establishing the PPP and that clearly documents the roles and responsibilities of each member of the PPP; (3) the PPP applies as a single entity if the PPP is an established entity, independent of the parties to the PPP and with its own organizational structure and clearly defined management team; and the application includes the contractual agreement establishing the PPP, and clearly documents the roles and responsibilities of each member of the PPP; or (4) if the public and private partners are equally involved in the management and/or carrying out of the grant, then the entities of the PPP should submit as co-applicants. The application should include the contractual agreement establishing the PPP and clearly document the roles and responsibilities of each member of the PPP.

- States, Indian tribes, cities or other political subdivisions of States, and institutions of higher education that are 100% publicly controlled are not required to submit organizational documentation.
- EDA strongly encourages applicants that may be eligible under this entity category to contact the representative listed in section G at p. 32 with any questions regarding eligibility.
- If the application names any specific subrecipient(s) that are not 100% publicly controlled, please provide documentation that supports each named subrecipient's organizational status as an eligible entity, depending on the type of organization (see bullet-point list directly above).
- Regardless of entity type, EDA reserves the right to request documentation or additional proof of organizational status.

e. Indirect Cost Rate Documentation

If indirect costs are included in the budget, the applicant must include documentation to support the indirect cost rate it is using[15]. The type of documentation will depend on whether the applicant has a negotiated indirect cost rate agreement (NICRA) or not or is a State or local unit of government. Please review the relevant section below to determine the appropriate documentation that must be provided:

For applicants with a NICRA:

If an Applicant has a current, approved, and negotiated indirect cost rate agreement (NICRA), then it must submit a copy of its NICRA when claiming indirect costs in its budget, even if claiming an amount less than it's entitled to (for example, if the entity wishes to claim 15%). Negotiated rate agreements from state agencies will not be accepted. The maximum dollar amount of allocable indirect costs for

[15] Along with other controlling law, awards made under this NOFO will be governed by the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance) as set forth in 2 CFR part 200, as updated and revised by the final rule published in the Federal Register on April 22, 2024 (89 FR 30046). Among other changes, the revised regulations increase the de minimis indirect cost rate from 10% to 15% of modified total direct costs.

which EDA will reimburse a recipient will be the lesser of the (i) line-item amount for the Federal share of indirect costs contained in the EDA approved budget for the award, or (ii) Federal share of the total allocable indirect costs of the award based on either (a) the indirect cost rate approved by EDA (or applicable cognizant Federal agency), provided that the cost rate is current at the time the costs were incurred and provided that the rate is approved on or before the award end date, or (b) other acceptable documentation as indicated below.

For applicants without a NICRA:

If the applicant does not have a current or pending NICRA, it may propose indirect costs in its budget; however, the applicant must prepare and submit an allocation plan and rate proposal for approval within ninety calendar days from the award start date (unless claiming the 15 percent de minimis indirect cost rate, discussed below). See 2 CFR part 200 Apps. III, IV, V, VI, VII for guidance. The allocation plan and the rate proposal shall be submitted to EDA_Indirect@ibc.doi.gov (or the applicable cognizant Federal agency). The applicant should include a statement in its Budget Narrative that it does not have a current or pending NICRA and will submit an allocation plan and rate proposal to EDA or the applicant's cognizant Federal agency for approval.

In accordance with 2 CFR § 200.414(f), an applicant that does not have a current negotiated or provisional NICRA, may elect to charge a de minimis rate of 15 percent of modified total direct costs (subject to the exceptions of § 200.414(f)). No documentation is required to justify the 15 percent de minimis indirect cost rate; however, an applicant electing to charge a de minimis rate of 15 percent must include a statement in its Budget Narrative that it does not have a current negotiated (including provisional) rate and is electing to charge the de minimis rate.

For State or local unit of government applicants:

If the applicant is a State or local unit of government that receives less than $35 million in direct Federal funding per year it may submit any of the following:

- Negotiated indirect cost rate agreement (NICRA);
- a Certificate of Indirect Costs from the Department of the Interior (DOI) or EDA;[16]
- an acknowledgment received from EDA and a Certificate of Indirect Costs in the form prescribed at 2 CFR part 200, app. VII; or
- a Cost Allocation Plan approved by a Federal agency (note that cost allocation plans or indirect cost rates approved by State agencies are not acceptable).

f. Project Service Area and FIPS Codes

Applicants **must** identify their proposed primary service area(s) by county or counties. **Counties should be identified by both name and 5-digit FIPS codes.** See 2020 State, County, Minor Civil Division, and Incorporated Place FIPS Codes available at https://www.census.gov/geographies/reference-files/2020/demo/popest/2020-fips.html.

Please find an optional spreadsheet template at https://www.eda.gov/funding/programs/build-to-scale.

This should be added as an attachment to the SF-424.

[16] https://www.eda.gov/sites/default/files/filebase/archives/2021/files/tools/grantee-forms/Certificate-of-Indirect-Costs-template.pdf

g. Environmental Narrative

If any project equipment, whether funded by EDA or provided as match, requires minor modifications to structures, *e.g.*, removal of drywall or installation of wiring, applicants must provide environmental information. An environmental narrative that details required components may be accessed in EDA's website at https://www.eda.gov/sites/default/files/2026-02/Environmental-Narrative-Template-and-Application-Certification-Clause%2002.12.2026.docx. The documentation should reflect whether the project is categorically excludable or should be a draft environmental assessment or environmental impact statement, as funded by the technical assistance award. Applicants should consult with agency contacts listed in Appendix C.5. at p. 38 to ensure the appropriate documentation is prepared. This includes filling out the environmental narrative and the Certification Clause found on Appendix A to the Environmental Narrative. This Certification Clause must be completed separately and signed by the applicant's authorized representative.

Each application will be reviewed by EDA for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended. During the NEPA review process, applicants may be instructed to contact the designated State and/or Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO/THPO), provide approvals from other governmental agencies, or provide more detailed environmental information. EDA, after compliance with requirements for consultation with Federally recognized Indian Tribes, may require applicants to participate in Tribal consultation, as necessary. The implementing regulations of NEPA require EDA to provide public notice of the availability of project-specific environmental documents, such as environmental impact statements, environmental assessments, findings of no significant impact, and records of decision, to the affected public.

E. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

Throughout the review and selection process, EDA, at its sole discretion, may seek clarification, including but not limited to written clarifications and corrected or missing documents. EDA, in its sole discretion, may continue the review process for applications with non-substantive issues that may be easily addressed. **An applicant's failure to provide complete and accurate supporting documentation in a timely manner when requested by EDA may result in the removal of that application from consideration.**

1. Evaluation Criteria

Applications under this NOFO will be reviewed against the following six criteria. Merit Reviewers will evaluate applications competitively using the following criteria. The number of points that can be earned for each category of criteria is listed below, with 100 points the maximum total that can be earned.

Summary of Criteria	
Criterion	Point Value (100 points possible)
Response to Regional Need	25
Project Quality and Ability to Execute	20
Economic Impact	20
Taxpayer Bargain	15
Alignment with National Technology Priorities	10
Long-term Viability	10

a. Response to Regional Need—25 Points

Under this criterion, EDA will assess the extent to which the project responds to the regional technology and entrepreneurship ecosystem gaps, as evidenced in the Ecosystem Assessment. In evaluating proposals against this criterion, EDA will consider:

- Whether the regional ecosystem gaps are clearly identified and supported by empirical evidence;
- Whether the proposed project activities directly target these gaps and how likely they are to overcome these gaps;
- Whether the selected funding path is appropriate based on the region's characteristics and the proposed project activities;
- Whether regional strengths and assets are clearly identified and whether the proposed project leverages and builds upon these strengths;
- Whether the proposed project will address the most critical resource gaps (in terms of infrastructure, talent, access to capital, and/or support programs) entrepreneurs and growing companies face in the region; and
- Whether there is a clearly identified base of users (*e.g.*, entrepreneurs, firms, investors) who would be served by the project activities and/or have expressed a need for the project activities, and whether this potential user base has been quantified through empirical evidence.

b. Project Quality and Ability to Execute—20 Points

Under this criterion, EDA will assess the project's design, the applicant's ability to execute the project (*e.g.*, are staffing plans, timelines, and goals realistic, subawards logical and uncomplicated, and benchmarks based in data), the interconnections and interfaces among the project and other regional efforts, and the role of the private sector, including how the project leverages private capital. In evaluating proposals against this criterion, EDA will consider:

- To what extent the project plan (*e.g.*, staffing plans, timelines, and goals) is properly defined and realistic;
- Whether the proposed budget is reasonable and consistent with requirements;
- How likely it is that the applicant and any subrecipients can successfully execute the proposed work to completion;
- Whether the applicant has provided credible evidence that target beneficiaries want, will use, and will benefit from the proposed project;
- Whether the applicant has made a strong case that the proposed project activities will lead to the stated objectives and outcomes; and

- Whether the project builds on existing regional assets, resources, capacities, and other relevant Federally funded work related to strengthening technology development in critical industries, without causing duplication in the ecosystem.

c. Economic Impact—20 Points

Under this criterion, EDA will assess the extent to which the applicant's strategy will likely lead to growth and long-term stability to a competitive industry ecosystem. In evaluating proposals against this criterion, EDA will consider:

- The degree to which the project's outputs and outcomes contribute to closing the ecosystem gaps identified as targets for this initiative;
- What types of and how many high-wage jobs entrepreneurs and companies supported by the project will create in the region;
- The extent to which the project will leverage and crowd in private capital investments;
- To what extent greater regional competitiveness in the targeted technology(s) would increase the region's economic resilience, stability, and growth; and
- How likely it is that both the innovation and manufacturing of targeted technology(s) will remain in the region and in the United States.

d. Taxpayer Bargain—15 Points

Under this criterion, EDA will assess the extent to which the project generates benefits and gains for the American taxpayer, particularly by for-profit entities that receive support from or participate in project activities. In evaluating proposals against this criterion, EDA will consider:

- How does the project propose to share benefits and gains with the American taxpayer, and how likely is it that these shared benefits will be realized;
- Justification for public support to solve the identified regional need/gap; and
- Whether EDA investment is clearly necessary to support the proposed project or whether another entity—for example, a for-profit entity—could make this investment or a more substantial investment in this project on its own.

e. Alignment with National Technology Priorities—10 Points

Under this criterion, EDA will assess how well the proposed project aligns with national technology priorities, as defined by the KTFAs. In evaluating proposals against this criterion, EDA will consider:

- The extent to which the applicant has clearly identified and explained their targeted technology(s) and associated products, components, and/or services that they are seeking to commercialize;
- The extent to which the targeted technology(s) are relevant and important to the future of the United States economy;
- The extent to which the plan addresses national security priorities such as supply chain resiliency and accelerating the pace of innovation in critical technologies; and
- The extent to which the proposed project would accelerate technology innovation, development, and maturation.

f. Long-term Viability—10 Points

Under this criterion, EDA will assess likelihood that the funded project can be sustained over the long-run once federal support ends. In evaluating proposals against this criterion, EDA will consider:

- Whether project activities will have a lasting impact on the region after the award has ended; and
- If the project activities will continue post-award, whether the applicant has articulated a clear plan to become self-sustaining once grant funds have been expended and how viable this plan seems.

2. Review and Selection Process

a. Technical Review (for Eligibility and Completeness)

EDA will initially conduct an eligibility and technical application completeness review (the "Technical Review") of all applications received by the application deadline. Applications received from ineligible entities will not be considered for funding. Applications that do not contain all forms and required documentation listed at section D.2 at p. 12 may be deemed non-responsive and excluded from further consideration.

EDA expects all applicants to complete and include all required forms and documentation. However, EDA, in its sole discretion, may determine that an omission is a non-substantive technical deficiency if it can easily and quickly be rectified and therefore may continue its consideration of the application despite the deficiency. Technical Review will be conducted separately for each application.

b. Merit Review

At least three Merit Reviewers will evaluate each application against the evaluation criteria at section E.1 on p. 28. EDA, in its sole discretion, may use a statistical technique to normalize, aggregate, and group Merit Reviewers' quantitative evaluations. EDA will sort the applications into tiers based on this initial review. A fourth reviewer will review all applications from the highest tier and any applications needed to meet certain Selection Factors (see section E.2.c below for a description of the Selection Factors). All applications that have received four reviews will then be re-sorted based on the four reviews and a portfolio of projects from the highest tier will then be forwarded to the Selection Official, along with alternate projects from the highest tier which meet certain selection criteria. The Selection Official will then make the final selection for the portfolio of projects for funding based on the Selection Factors.

During the review and selection process, EDA may consult with subject matter experts to help EDA evaluate technical aspects of proposed projects.

c. Selection Official and Grants Officer's Decision

The Selection Official, who may also serve as the Grants Officer, has been delegated the authority to make the final decision on whether to fund an application. The Selection Official will select projects from the highest tier of applications based on any of the following Selection Factors. Where applicable, the Selecting Official may select certain projects from other tiers, as justified by the Selection Factors, or use Selection Factors to distinguish similarly situated applications that are otherwise considered substantially equal in merit:

6. The extent to which the application meets the overall objectives of section 27 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980, as amended (15 U.S.C. § 3722);
7. The extent to which the selection of the application, alone or in the context of other applications, supports EDA's compliance with appropriations law requirements and report language guidance;
8. The applicant's performance under previous Federal financial assistance awards, including whether the awardee competed Scopes of Work and submitted required performance reports and data;

9. The extent to which the application contributes to America by advancing national security and economic competitiveness interests;
10. The extent to which the application contributes to the American taxpayer by sharing realized financial gains from for-profit entities that commercialize this technology with the American taxpayer;
11. The extent to which the application will ensure that growth in its technology, innovation, and advanced manufacturing sectors produces opportunities across the identified region and its populations;
12. The likelihood that the funded project can be sustained over the long-run once federal support ends;
13. Whether and to what extent the proposed project is aligned with and complements a Designated Tech Hub under the FY 2023 Regional Technology and Innovation Hub Program Phase 1 Notice of Funding Opportunity (EDA-TECHHUBSPHASE1-2023 NOFO) or under a future NOFO that designates hubs pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 3722a(d) or with a region encompassed by an NSF Engines award[17], or whether the applicant and proposal otherwise is affiliated with such a Hub or Engine and complements that Hub's or Engine's strategy;
14. The extent to which the project supports EDA's goals of balance in distribution of program funds within the overall portfolio of EDA's awards granted under the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980, including geographic balance (including but not limited to geographic diversity among urban and rural States and diversity among regions of the United States), project type balance (including but not limited to diversity among the nature of funded activities and the type of project), sectoral focus balance (including but not limited to advanced wood products; advanced manufacturing; super intelligence; bioscience; commercial space; energy; marine energy; nanotechnology; telecommunications, including broadband), and organizational type balance (including but not limited to organization size and stage of development);

The final decision of the Selection Official must be consistent with this NOFO and applicable law. **There is no appeal process for denied applications.**

F. FEDERAL AWARDING AGENCY CONTACT

For questions concerning this NOFO, you may contact the EDA by email at oie@eda.gov.

G. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON FEDERAL AWARD ADMINISTRATION, POLICY, AND LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Please review Appendix C at p. 37, which covers **each of the following topics** in detail:

1. Federal Award Notices
2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements
3. Reporting
4. Requirements for Recipients with more than $10 million in Federal-wide funding
5. Right to Use Information
6. Disclosure of Information

[17] NSF made 10 inaugural Engines awards in January 2024 (see https://new.nsf.gov/funding/initiatives/regional-innovation-engines/portfolio) and 12 additional awards in July 2026 (see https://www.nsf.gov/news/nsf-awards-12-new-regional-innovation-engines-fuel-research).

7. Freedom of Information Act
8. Notice of Government-Wide Procurement Restriction
9. Past Performance and Non-Compliance with Award Provisions
10. EDA's Non-Relocation Policy
11. NOFO Changes Communicated on Grants.gov
12. Audit Requirements
13. Office of Inspector General Rights and Responsibilities
14. Certifications Required by Annual Appropriations Acts for Corporations and for Awards over $5 Million
15. Termination
16. Fraud Awareness Training
17. Build America, Buy America Requirements

B2S

APPENDIX A. SCOPE OF WORK TEMPLATE

*This document represents a template for the Scope of Work (SOW), a requirement introduced in section D.2.b.ii. on p. 18. Applicants must submit SOWs of **no more than 2 pages** for their projects.*

Scope of Work

Project Name: [Insert Name of Project]
Lead Organization: [Insert Name of Lead Organization]

ACTIVITY 1: [Describe the specific activity that supports the project's objective. *e.g., Launch new sector-aligned accelerator program*.]

Milestone/Deliverable (include applicable metrics)	**Responsible Entity**	**Timeline (month or quarter and year of completion)**
•	•	•
•	•	•
•	•	•
•	•	•

Critical Dependencies: [Identify key factors, partnerships, or resources that are necessary for successful execution. *E.g., successful execution of employer commitments; approval of new curriculum by college dean, etc.*]

ACTIVITY 2: [Describe the specific activity that supports the project's objective. *e.g., Launch new sector-aligned accelerator program.*]

Milestone/Deliverable (include applicable metrics)	**Responsible Entity**	**Timeline (month or quarter and year of completion)**
•	•	•
•	•	•
•	•	•
•	•	•

Critical Dependencies: [Identify key factors, partnerships, or resources that are necessary for successful execution. *E.g., successful execution of private sector employer commitments; approval of new curriculum by college dean, etc.*]

APPENDIX B. ECOSYSTEM ASSESSMENT TEMPLATE

This document represents a template for the Ecosystem Assessment, a requirement introduced in section D.2.b.iv. on p. 19. Applicants must submit Ecosystem Assessments of no more than three (3) total pages with margins no less than one-half inch (0.5") using Arial, Calibri, Times New Roman, or a similar font of size no less than eleven (11) points. Please consult the instructions provided in section D.2.b.iv. on p. 19 before filling in the ecosystem template. The italicized, bracketed text below provides guidance on the content for each section and should be deleted.

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1. Executive Summary

[Approximately 200-word executive summary that identifies the service region and target key technology(s) and summarizes the region's competitive position—the key strengths that make this a credible place for entrepreneurship in the target key technology(ies)—as well as the most critical gap(s) or barrier(s) hindering commercialization and company formation and growth in the target key technology(ies).]

2. Foundation for Commercialization

[Identify the region's base of commercially-relevant research and intellectual property in the target key technology(s), as well as pathways to move ideas toward market.]

Sources of Innovation:

[Provide a listing and brief description of institutions that are relevant to the targeted technology(ies), including research institutions, federal laboratories, or corporate R&D institutions. Provide data on innovation outputs that are relevant to the targeted technology(ies), such as publications, patents, technology disclosures, or research expenditures.]

Pathways to Commercialization:

[Description of relevant programs/mechanisms that translate research and IP in the target technology(ies) into new businesses, such as technology transfer offices, licensing programs, proof-of-concept funding, or Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)/Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) activity. Describe what pathways are in place, evidence of their activity, and where pathways are absent or underperforming.]

3. Ecosystem Resources

[Describe the resources available to support entrepreneurs through company development and growth and any gaps in entrepreneurial support resources.]

Infrastructure:

[Describe physical and digital infrastructure that is relevant to the target technology(ies), such as laboratories, prototyping facilities, manufacturing equipment, testing facilities, clinical and healthcare facilities, co-working spaces, or broadband. Detail what type of infrastructure exists, how much capacity is available, current utilization, relevant security and cybersecurity mechanisms, and gaps in available infrastructure.]

Talent and Workforce:

[Describe the current workforce in the targeted technology(ies) (employment in related occupations) and the pipeline that develops talent (degree programs, credentials, apprenticeships, workforce development initiatives). Describe the size of the talent pool, regional demand of skilled workers, what training programs exist, alignment with the target technology area, and gaps in available workforce or training programming.]

Capital:

[Describe funding sources for technology development and firm growth in the target technology(ies) at various stages—angel investors, venture capital, public programs, CDFIs, or other early-stage or growth capital. Describe what types of capital are available, activity levels where data is accessible (deal level, capital deployed, SBIR/STTR awards), and which stages are available or limited. Where capital activity is low, note whether the gap is due to absence of investors, deal flow, a mismatch with venture needs, or a combination of these factors.]

4. Ecosystem Performance

[Describe what results the regional ecosystem is producing in the target technology(ies) and industry(ies)—evidence of outcomes (such as new businesses and jobs in the targeted technology(ies) beyond existence of assets. Where data allows, describe whether activity is growing, declining, or flat.]

Industry and Entrepreneurial Activity:

[Provide relevant data on industry concentration in the targeted technology(ies) (employment, establishments, location quotient), startup activity (number of companies, stages, trends), and evidence of commercialization outcomes (or lack of outcomes) where available (e.g., spinouts formed, startups reaching market, licenses generating revenue). Applicants may include information on anchor companies where relevant. Describe the level of activity, trajectory over time, and relevance to the targeted technology(ies).]

Market Presence and Demand:

[Where possible, identify existing buyers, customers, or institutional partners that create market demand for the targeted technology(ies) in or accessible to the service area. Describe the region's market presence and quantify where possible (via customer presence, procurement activity, contract awards).]

APPENDIX C. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON FEDERAL AWARD ADMINISTRATION, POLICY, AND LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

1. Federal Award Notices

Under this NOFO, EDA expects to notify applicants of its decision via email. If an application is selected for funding, the EDA Grants Officer will issue a signed grant award (Notice of Award), which is the authorizing financial assistance award document and includes the DOC Financial Assistance General Terms and Conditions (DOC GTCs) and Specific Award Conditions.

By accepting the Notice of Award, the applicant agrees to comply with all award provisions. EDA will provide the Notice of Award to the applicant's Authorized Representative through EDGE. The applicant's Authorized Representative must review and accept the Notice of Award without modification within 30 calendar days of the date of receipt. **Failure to sign and return the Notice of Award during this timeframe may be considered grounds for appropriate enforcement action pursuant to 2 CFR § 200.339 ("Remedies for noncompliance"), including award termination.**

If an applicant is awarded funding, neither DOC nor EDA is under any obligation to provide any additional future funding in connection with that award or to make any future awards. Amendment or renewal of an award to increase funding or to extend the period of performance is at the discretion of DOC and EDA.

EDA will provide written notice to all applicants informing them whether their application was selected for funding. EDA will retain unsuccessful applications in accordance with EDA's record retention schedule.

2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Recipients of an EDA award will be bound by the DOC General Terms & Conditions (DOC GT&Cs) and by the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance) as set forth in 2 CFR part 200.

For all funded projects, DOC will apply the DOC GT&Cs applicable on the date of the award. The DOC GT&Cs may be accessed at the following website: https://www.commerce.gov/oam/policy/financial-assistance-policy. Recipients of DOC financial assistance are obligated to comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities, in Federally assisted programs or activities.

DOC will apply the Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements effective December 26, 2014, 79 Fed. Reg. 78,390. The Pre-Award Notice may be accessed at http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-12-30/pdf/2014-30297.pdf.

3. Reporting

a. Financial, Performance, and Outcomes Reports

All recipients are required to submit progress reports and financial status reports generally no less than semi-annually, in accordance with the terms and conditions of the grant award. In addition, all recipients will be required to track and submit performance data on EDA-sponsored outputs and resulting outcomes, semi-annually and annually, respectively. All reports must be submitted in electronic format as specified in the terms of the award. As part of its administration of the B2S Implementation Challenge, EDA may conduct program evaluations. If so, **EDA may share performance data with evaluators and** recipients of grants under this program may need to furnish performance data to

evaluators, including but not limited to EDA staff and outside parties contracted by EDA. Note: costs related to data and evaluation are allowable. EDA may also, for research purposes linked to improving economic outcomes, choose to share data with other Federal partners, including but not limited to statistical agencies.

b. Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006

The Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 includes a requirement for awardees of applicable Federal grants to report information about first-tier subawards and executive compensation under Federal assistance awards issued in FY 2011 or later. All awardees of applicable grants and cooperative agreements are required to report to sam.gov on all sub-awards over $30,000. Please see the OMB guidance published at 2 CFR part 170.

c. Government Performance and Results Act

EDA will require additional data on activities, outputs, and actual outcomes of the funded investment, in part to fulfill the requirements of the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA).

Award recipients must submit the Outputs and Outcomes Questionnaires (Form ED-916) to EDA on an annual basis for a total of five years after the date the period of performance starts. The first Outputs and Outcomes Questionnaire must be submitted to EDA one year after the date the period of performance starts. The Outputs and Outcomes Questionnaire must be submitted to EDA at the end of every year thereafter for a total of five years, or as otherwise directed by EDA.

For more information, please refer to https://www.eda.gov/performance/.

4. Requirements for Recipients with more than $10 Million in Federal-Wide Funding

As required by appendix XII to 2 CFR part 200, a recipient with more than $10 million in Federal-wide funding must maintain the currency of information reported to SAM that is made available in the designated integrity and performance system (formerly FAPIIS) about civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings.

5. Federal Awarding Agency Contacts

For questions concerning this NOFO or for more information about EDA programs, you may contact your respective EDA Economic Development Representative (EDR). Up to date EDR contact information is available at https://eda.gov/contact/. If you are unable to connect with your designated EDR, contact the Office of Innovation & Entrepreneurship via email at oie@eda.gov.

6. Right to Use 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.

7. Disclosures of Information

For the purposes of achieving rigorous program evaluations, all applications (including those that are not selected for funding) may be shared with EDA staff, outside parties contracted by EDA for the purposes of evaluation, and other Federal agencies.

8. Freedom of Information Act

EDA may publish any applications it receives, including any supporting documentation, on its website or through other means.

In addition, Department of Commerce regulations implementing the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (5 U.S.C. § 552), may be 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 FOIA. In the event that 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.

9. Notice of Government-Wide Procurement Restriction

The general rule for Federal financial assistance is that contractors that develop draft specifications, requirements, statements of work, invitations for bids, or requests for proposals are prohibited from competing for the final procurement. In accordance with 2 CFR §§ 200.317 and 200.319, only State and Indian Tribe recipients are expressly exempt from this prohibition; States and Indian Tribes must follow the same policies and procedures they use for procurements from their non-Federal funds. Local governments may also take advantage of the exemption in two narrow circumstances: (i) if they are required (by statute, for example) to follow the State's procurement rules in full and without exception; or (ii) if they are required to follow a specific State procurement rule that creates an explicit conflict with the prohibition in 2 CFR § 200.319(b) (*i.e.*, there is a statute that requires or permits the local government e to award the final procurement to the same contractor that developed the draft specifications). Absent one of these two scenarios, the local government must comply with the prohibition.

10. Past Performance and Non-Compliance with Award Provisions

Unsatisfactory performance under prior Federal awards may result in an application not being considered for funding. Failure to comply with any or all of the provisions of an award may have a negative impact on future funding by DOC (or any of its operating units) and may be considered grounds for any or all of the following actions: (1) establishing an account receivable; (2) withholding payments to the recipient under any DOC award(s); (3) changing the method of payment from advance to reimbursement only; (4) imposing other specific award conditions; (5) suspending any active DOC award(s); and (6) terminating any active DOC award(s).

11. EDA's Non-Relocation Policy

Applicants are advised that, should an application be selected for award, the recipient will be required to adhere to a specific award condition relating to EDA's non-relocation policy as follows:

In signing this award of financial assistance, Recipient(s) attests that EDA funding is not intended by the Recipient to assist its efforts to induce the relocation of existing jobs within the U.S. that are located outside of its jurisdiction to within its jurisdiction in competition with other U.S. jurisdictions for those same jobs. If EDA determines that its assistance was used for those purposes, EDA retains the right to pursue appropriate enforcement action in accord with the terms and conditions of the Award, including suspension of disbursements and termination of the award for convenience or cause, which may include the establishment of a debt requiring the Recipient to reimburse EDA.

For purposes of ensuring that EDA assistance will not be used merely to transfer jobs from one location in the United States to another, each applicant must inform EDA of all employers that constitute primary beneficiaries of the project assisted by EDA. EDA will consider an employer to be a "primary beneficiary" if: (i) the employer is specifically named in the application as benefitting from the project, and the applicant estimates that the employer will create or save 100 or more permanent jobs as a result of the investment assistance (if the jobs in question were originally located in a smaller community, EDA may extend this policy to the relocation of 50 or more jobs); or (ii) the employer is or will be located in an EDA-assisted building, port, facility, or industrial, commercial, or business park constructed or improved in whole or in part with investment assistance prior to EDA's final disbursement of funds.

12. NOFO Changes Communicated on Grants.gov

EDA may make changes or additions to this NOFO. All changes will be communicated on Grants.gov. It is recommended that applicants set up a Grants.gov account and subscribe to this funding opportunity ("EDA-B2S-2027") in order to be notified of any updates or changes. DOC or EDA may cancel, modify, or withdraw this NOFO at any time. EDA is not obligated to make any Federal award or commitment as a result of this announcement.

13. Audit Requirements

Single or program-specific audits shall be performed in accordance with the requirements contained in the OMB Uniform Guidance (see 2 CFR part 200, Subpart F, "Audit Requirements"). The OMB Uniform Guidance requires any non-Federal entity (*e.g.*, nonprofit organizations, including nonprofit institutions of higher education and hospitals; States; local governments; and Indian tribes) that expends Federal awards of $1,000,000 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 OMB Uniform Guidance. Applicants are reminded that EDA or the DOC's Office of Inspector General (OIG) also may conduct an audit of an award at any time.

14. Office of Inspector General Rights and Responsibilities

The DOC OIG seeks to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Department's programs, including deterring and detecting fraud, waste, abuse and mismanagement. The OIG accomplishes this mission primarily through investigations, audits, and inspections of Department activities, including grants, cooperative agreements, loans, and contracts.

a. Disclosures

Recipients of financial assistance originating from the U.S. Department of Commerce, including EDA, shall timely disclose, in writing, to the OIG and awarding agency, whenever, in connection with the

award, performance, or closeout of this grant or sub-award thereunder, the recipient has credible evidence that a principal, employee, agent, or sub-recipient has committed:

1. A violation of Federal criminal law involving fraud, conflict of interest, bribery, or gratuity violations found in Title 18 of the United States Code; or
2. A violation of the civil False Claims Act (31 U.S.C. §§ 3729-3733).

b. Reporting Waste, Fraud, and Abuse

The OIG maintains a hotline to receive allegations of fraud, waste, or abuse. To report such allegations, please visit https://www.oig.doc.gov/Pages/Hotline.aspx. Upon request, the OIG will take appropriate measures to protect the identity of any individual who reports misconduct, as authorized by the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended. Reports to the OIG may also be made anonymously.

c. Whistleblower Protection

Recipients, sub-recipients, and employees working on this grant award will be subject to the whistleblower rights and remedies established under 41 U.S.C. § 4712.

An employee of a recipient or sub-recipient may not be discharged, demoted, or otherwise discriminated against as a reprisal for disclosing information that the employee reasonably believes is evidence of: gross mismanagement of a Federal contract or award; a gross waste of Federal funds; an abuse of authority (*i.e.*, an arbitrary and capricious exercise of authority that is inconsistent with the mission of EDA or the U.S. Department of Commerce or the successful performance of a contract or grant awarded by EDA or the Department) relating to a Federal contract or award; a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety; or a violation of a law, rule, or regulation related to a Federal contract (including the competition for or negotiation of a contract) or grant.

The recipient or sub-recipient shall inform its employees and contractors, in writing, in the predominant language of the workforce or organization, of employee whistleblower rights and protections under 41 U.S.C. § 4712, as described above and at https://www.oig.doc.gov/whistleblower/protection-program/.

15. Certifications Required by Annual Appropriations Acts for Corporations and for Awards over $5 Million

As discussed in D.1.e.i. at p. 11, all applicants are required to be registered in SAM before applying under this NOFO. SAM requires registering entities to certify compliance with all limitations imposed by annual appropriation acts. For corporations, this certification includes that the corporation:

a. Was not convicted of a felony criminal violation under a Federal law within the preceding 24 months, unless a Federal agency has considered suspension or debarment of the corporation and made a determination that this further action is not necessary to protect the interests of the Government; and/or
b. Does not have any unpaid Federal tax liability that has been assessed, for which all judicial and administrative remedies have been exhausted or have lapsed, and that is not being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement with the authority responsible for collecting the tax liability, unless a Federal agency has considered suspension or debarment of the corporation and made a determination that this further action is not necessary to protect the interests of the Government.

For financial assistance awards in excess of $5 million, this certification includes that the entity:

a. To the best of its knowledge and belief, has filed all Federal tax returns required during the three years preceding the certification;

b. Has not been convicted of a criminal offense under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and/or

c. Has not been notified, more than 90 days prior to certification, of any unpaid Federal tax assessment for which the liability remains unsatisfied, unless the assessment is the subject of an installment agreement or offer in compromise that has been approved by the Internal Revenue Service and is not in default, or the assessment is the subject of a non-frivolous administrative or judicial proceeding

16. Termination

In accordance with 2 CFR § 200.340(a), Federal award termination provisions, a Federal award may be terminated in part or in its entirety as follows:

a. For noncompliance by the recipient or subrecipient. DOC or the pass-through entity may terminate a Federal award in part or its entirety if the recipient or subrecipient fails to comply with the terms and conditions of this Federal award, including a failure of the recipient to report subawards on SAM.gov pursuant to the award term required by part 170.

b. For convenience of DOC or the pass-through entity. DOC or the pass-through entity, to the extent authorized by law, may terminate a Federal award in part or its entirety if DOC or the pass-through entity determines that a termination is in the interest of DOC or the pass-through entity, including if a Federal award no longer effectuates the program goals, agency priorities, or the national interest.[18]

c. By mutual agreement of the parties. DOC or the pass-through entity may terminate a Federal award in part or its entirety with the consent of the recipient or subrecipient, in which case the two parties must agree upon the termination conditions. These conditions include the effective date of the termination and, in the case of partial termination, the portion to be terminated.

d. Upon notification by the recipient. The recipient or subrecipient may terminate a Federal award in part or its entirety upon sending DOC or the pass-through entity a written notification of the reasons for such termination, the effective date, and, in the case of partial termination, the portion to be terminated. However, if DOC or the pass-through entity determines that the remaining portion of this Federal award will not accomplish the purposes for which this Federal award was made, DOC or the pass-through entity may terminate this Federal award in its entirety.

e. Pursuant to additional terms and conditions. DOC or the pass-through entity, to the extent authorized by law, may terminate a Federal award in part or its entirety pursuant to any additional termination provisions included in the terms and conditions of the Federal award.

f. Based on national interest. DOC or the pass-through entity, to the extent authorized by law, may terminate a Federal discretionary award in part or its entirety for

[18] Agreements entered into in furtherance of international trade agreements or those awarded by the Department of Commerce under Title XCIX of the Willam M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021(Public Law 116-283), the CHIPS Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-167), or division F of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58), and non-discretionary grants, are excepted from the award term at A.07.b, Termination for Convenience. See Executive Order 14332, Improving Oversight of Federal Grantmaking.

foreign assistance if DOC or the pass-through entity determines the award no longer advances the national interest.

17. Fraud Awareness Training

Consistent with 2 CFR part 200, in signing a financial assistance award, recipient personnel responsible for managing the recipient's finances and overseeing any subrecipients, contractors, or subcontractors, will be required to complete a training PowerPoint entitled "Compliance with EDA Program Requirements" and return the signed certificate of training completion to EDA as instructed by the agency. EDA staff will provide the PowerPoint after the decision to make an award is made. Further, recipient will be required to monitor award activities for common fraud schemes and report suspicious activity to EDA and the Office of Inspector General.

18. Build America, Buy America Requirements

Applicants acquiring equipment which requires construction installation may be required to comply with the Build America, Buy America (BABA) Act as set forth in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. As required under BABA, none of the funds provided under any award in this program may be used for a project for infrastructure unless:

1. all iron and steel used in the project are produced in the United States–this means all manufacturing processes, from the initial melting stage through the application of coatings, occurred in the United States;

2. all manufactured products used in the project are produced in the United States—this means the manufactured product was manufactured in the United States; and the cost of the components of the manufactured product that are mined, produced, or manufactured in the United States is greater than 55 percent of the total cost of all components of the manufactured product, unless another standard for determining the minimum amount of domestic content of the manufactured product has been established under applicable law or regulation; and

3. all construction materials are manufactured in the United States—this means that all manufacturing processes for the construction material occurred in the United States. BABA only applies to articles, materials, and supplies that are consumed in, incorporated into, or affixed to an infrastructure project. As such, these BABA requirements do not apply to tools, equipment, and supplies, such as temporary scaffolding, brought to the construction site and removed at or before the completion of the infrastructure project. Nor does BABA apply to equipment and furnishings, such as movable chairs, desks, and portable computer equipment, that are used at or within the finished infrastructure project but are not an integral part of the structure or permanently affixed to the infrastructure project.

When necessary, recipients may apply for, and EDA may grant, a waiver from these requirements. EDA will notify the recipient of the process for requesting a waiver from these requirements upon request. A request to waive the application of BABA must be in writing. Waiver requests are subject to public comment periods of no less than 15 days and must be reviewed by the U.S. Made in America Office. Further detail on BABA and the waiver process is described at https://www.madeinamerica.gov.

19. Executive Order 14173: Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity

Pursuant to Executive Order 14173, 90 FR 8633 (Jan. 21, 2025), Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity, each recipient that accepts a U.S. Department of Commerce financial assistance award: (1) agrees that compliance in all respects with all applicable Federal anti-discrimination laws is material to the government's payment decisions for purposes of section

3729(b)(4) of Title 31 United States Code; and (2) certifies to the Department that it does not operate any programs promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion that violate any applicable Federal anti-discrimination laws.