



U.S. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

## Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership

The Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP) is a new Administration-wide initiative that will accelerate the resurgence of manufacturing and help cultivate an environment for businesses to create well-paying manufacturing jobs in regions across the country. The IMCP is designed to reward communities that demonstrate best practices in attracting and expanding manufacturing by using long-term planning that integrates targeted investments in workforce training, infrastructure, research, and other key assets.

The IMCP is being initiated in FY 2013 as the Economic Development Administration (EDA), Department of Agriculture, Small Business Administration and Environmental Protection Agency each provide funding for regional implementation-ready strategy grants. The agencies will allocate funding through existing programs to advance this critical national priority. Strategies developed by these grants, will enhance regions' efforts to compete for future proposed large scale IMCP grants (50 to 100 times the size of the implementation strategy grants). These grants will be given to communities with the best strategies for attracting and expanding private investment in the manufacturing sector and increasing international trade and exports. IMCP partner agencies will coordinate funding across agencies in order to leverage complementary activities while also preventing duplication of efforts.

### Competitive Consideration of EDA Funded Implementation Strategies

To implement its portion of the IMCP initiative in FY 2013, EDA intends to allocate up to \$4 million to support the development of approximately 20-25 regional implementation-ready strategies distributed evenly amongst EDA's six Regional Offices. EDA funds will be made available through the existing Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Programs Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) (per section 209 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965, as amended (42 U.S.C. § 3149.) (PWEDA)). Each grant award is expected to be up to \$200,000.

Successful projects will be regional in scope and focus on manufacturing sectors that demonstrate comparative advantages in the marketplace. Competitive applications should emphasize public-private and higher education collaboration. In addition, they will target investments that help stakeholders within a region to collaborate and build on existing regional assets to create a supportive regional economic ecosystem for business investment and innovation, increased international trade and exports, the creation of good jobs, and improved quality of life. Note, regions are geographic areas, which need not be contiguous or defined by political boundaries, that are capable of undertaking self-sustained economic development.

For the first phase of IMCP in FY 2013, applicants should focus on identifying targeted industries and specific public investments that will enhance the attractiveness of regions to private investment. Special attention should be given to the role of small and medium sized manufacturing firms. Please see section IV.B. of the EDA Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Programs (EDAP) FFO for detailed information on the content and form of application submissions. As outlined in section IV.B.3. of the EDAP FFO, all applicants are required to submit a project narrative. Inclusion of the following information will assist reviewers in understanding how a proposed project aligns with the goals of IMCP:

- (1) *A detailed assessment of the local industrial ecosystem as it currently exists, what is missing and a path to development that could make a region uniquely competitive. The assessment could address how a strategy*



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will capitalize on—intermediaries of various types, industry specialization and competitiveness in international investment and trade, workforce development and manufacturing extension programs, site availability, research centers, industrial consortia, transportation networks, energy projects to reduce business operational costs, and alliances to bolster supply chain networks and support small businesses.

- (2) *Plans for leveraging the region's existing assets*, comparative advantages and addressing what is missing in order to build on or develop public private partnerships and local manufacturing capabilities to create globally competitive, sustainable jobs. These plans should include how the strategy will sustain the ecosystem long after the Federal award. If the region has or is developing an economic development strategy, an export plan, or a plan for regional growth and revitalization, that plan and the way in which manufacturing will factor into the success of that plan should be described.
- (3) *How funds from this award would be employed* to directly fund one or several aspects of the plan described and #2. Allowable activities under the grants may include, but are not limited to:
  - A regional strategy that expands, strengthens, enhances and advances manufacturing in a specific industry, with a particular focus on the attraction of significant private sector investment in manufacturing communities and global competitiveness. This could be based on the manufacturing and private sector investment attraction objectives included in a current comprehensive economic development strategy, or other regional strategy, and further refine the strategy by developing specific action plans, partnerships, networks, that are critical to the development of a manufacturing ecosystem;
  - A regional action/implementation initiative that fulfills the manufacturing and private sector investment attraction objectives of an already existing regional economic development strategy. This may include specific non-construction implementation initiatives that benefit the region's manufacturing ecosystem; or,
  - A combination of the above.

Failure to provide this information will not preclude applications from being considered for funding under the EDAP FFO.

**The deadline for applications is June 13, 2013.** To apply for this funding, please follow instructions included within the EDAP FFO which can be found on [grants.gov](http://grants.gov):

<http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=dDQ5RBXHTGsg52NhG5pn1RyZI2G0yqc667ccjwYDKf1K3sTCsJcK!774167503?opId=208353&mode=VIEW>

For additional information, please contact your EDA state representative identified at:  
<http://www.eda.gov/contacts.htm>.

### **EDA's Mission**

EDA's mission is to lead the Federal economic development agenda by promoting regional and national innovation, collaboration and competitiveness, and preparing American regions for growth and success in the worldwide economy. In implementing this mission, EDA advances economic growth by assisting communities and regions experiencing high unemployment and low per capita income to foster an environment conducive to economic growth and job creation.

