

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**Economic Development Administration****[Docket No. 991215339-3057-05]****RIN 0610-ZA14****Economic Development Assistance Programs—Availability of Funds Under the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965, as Amended and the Trade Act of 1974, as Amended****AGENCY:** Economic Development Administration (EDA), Department of Commerce (DOC).**ACTION:** Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA).

SUMMARY: The role of government is to create conditions in which jobs are created, and in which people can find work. The Economic Development Administration (EDA) announces general policies and application procedures for investments that will help our partners across the nation (States, regions and communities) create wealth and minimize poverty by promoting a favorable business environment to attract private capital investment and higher-skill, higher-wage jobs through world-class capacity building, planning, infrastructure, research grants, business assistance, and strategic initiatives. EDA will fulfill this mission by promoting progressive domestic business policies and growth, and by assisting states, local governments, and community-based organizations in achieving their highest economic potential.

DATES: Unless otherwise noted below, proposals are accepted on a continuing basis and applications are invited and processed as received. Normally, two months are required for a final decision after the receipt of a completed application invited by EDA that meets all requirements.

ADDRESSES: Addresses for EDA's six regional offices and Washington, DC, office are provided in part XVI. Addresses for Economic Development Representatives (EDRs) are listed under each regional office.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For national technical assistance, research, and trade adjustment assistance investments, please contact the appropriate program office as shown in parts X, XII, and XIII, respectively. For community and regional economic development investments, contact EDA's regional office or the EDR for your area as shown in part XVI.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. Funding Availability**

Funding appropriated under Pub. L. 108-07 is available for economic development assistance programs authorized by the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965, as amended (Pub. L. 89-136, 42 U.S.C. 3121, *et seq.* and as further amended by Pub. L. 105-393), and for trade adjustment assistance authorized under title II, chapters 3 and 5 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. 2341-2355; 2391) (Trade Act), and as further amended by Pub. L. 107-210. Funds in the amount of \$288,115,000 have been appropriated for FY 2003 and shall remain available until expended.

EDA receives and processes requests for funding on an ongoing basis, and has begun processing requests under the FY 2003 appropriation. New requests submitted that require approval during this fiscal year will face substantial competition. EDA will focus on outcomes such as value-added employment and private sector investment.

II. Authority

The authority for programs listed below in parts VIII through XII is the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965, as amended (Pub. L. 89-136, 42 U.S.C. 3121, *et seq.*), and as further amended by Pub. L. 105-393. The authority for the program listed in part XIII is title II, chapters 3 and 5 of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended by Pub. L. 93-618, 98-120, 98-369, 99-272, 99-514, 100-418, 103-66, 105-277, and 107-210 (19 U.S.C. 2341-2391) (Trade Act).

III. Eligibility

Eligible recipients of EDA financial assistance are defined at 13 CFR 300.2 and eligible applicants are specified at 13 CFR 301.1. An "area" is an eligible recipient and is defined at 13 CFR 301.2. One category of the areas eligible for financial assistance are those areas meeting the "special needs" criteria. The special needs criteria are published each year by this notice and are provided at part XV.

IV. Proposal Format

Preapplication proposals must be submitted on EDA's Preapplication for Federal Assistance, Form ED-900P. This form contains both questions and a narrative statement. The narrative statement need not exceed four pages. The narrative statement must address the following topics in the order listed:

1. Project Area.
2. Project Description.
3. Proponent's Capability.
4. Problem.

5. Project Impact.
 6. Project Beneficiaries.
 7. Civil Rights Issues.
 8. Funding.
 9. Identity of Sources of Non-EDA Funding.
 10. Title/Ownership/Operation and Maintenance (Construction Projects).
 11. Environmental Issues.
- Proposals for Public Works and Economic Development Facilities assistance and Economic Adjustment assistance must also include Form ED-900P, Exhibit A, Area Eligibility for Grants under 13 CFR parts 305 (Public Works) and 308 (Economic Adjustment) and the necessary documentation and narrative statement.
- Proposals for University Center funding must also include the additional information set forth in part X.
- Proposals for projects on which EDA is requested to fund more than 50 percent of project costs may be required to include Form ED-900P, Exhibit B, EDA Grant Rate Determination, and the necessary documentation and narrative statement.

An original and two copies must be submitted to the appropriate Economic Development Representative or regional office.

Unless otherwise provided herein, eligibility, program objectives, application procedures, selection process, evaluation criteria, and other requirements for all programs are set forth in EDA regulations at 13 CFR chapter III, and applicants must address those requirements. The Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements contained in the **Federal Register** notice of October 1, 2001 (66 FR 49917), as amended by the **Federal Register** notice published on October 30, 2002 (67 FR 66109), is incorporated by reference into this notice and is available on EDA's Web site (www.eda.doc.gov).

For Public Works (13 CFR part 305) and Economic Adjustment Investments (13 CFR part 308) (CFDA No. 11.300 and 11.307 respectively), EDA reviews area eligibility at the time an application is invited and again at the time an application is received. This review is based on the most recent Federal data available for the area where the project will be located or where the substantial direct benefits will be received. If no Federal data is available to determine eligibility, an applicant must submit to EDA the most recent data available for the area through the government of the State in which the area is located, *i.e.*, conducted by or at the direction of the State government. Other data may be