

RESOURCE GUIDE



Through this Fiscal Year 2024 Good Jobs Challenge Notice of Funding Opportunity (FY24 Good Jobs Challenge NOFO), EDA will support regional workforce training systems in designing and implementing activities for established sectoral partnerships that place program participants in good jobs and advance industries in the federal key technology focus areas. \$25 million will be awarded through this FY24 Good Jobs Challenge NOFO. EDA anticipates awarding approximately between 5-8 grantees with awards ranging from \$1 million to \$8 million.

In advance of the application deadline on **September 27, 2024**, EDA continues to provide resources and technical assistance for applicants to enhance their proposals. View a recording of our FY24 Good Jobs Challenge NOFO Stakeholder Overview [here](#). To further support applicants' final preparations, EDA is offering the following compilation of resources and strategies at [EDA.gov](#).



MERIT REVIEW CRITERIA

- Strength of Sectoral Partnership (15 points)
- Strength of Employer Partnerships (10 points)
- Readiness of Sectoral Partnership (15 points)
- Regional Needs & Alignment (15 points)
- Tech Hubs Benefit of Designation (5 points)
- Project Impact and Feasibility (20 points)
- Regional Investment and Sustainability (10 points)
- Equity (15 points)



"BEFORE YOU SUBMIT": TIPS TO KEEP IN MIND

- Have you reviewed key definitions used in the FY 24 Good Jobs Challenge NOFO? (See NOFO pages 4-5)
- Have you reviewed in detail the 8 merit review criteria and 13 Selection Factors in the FY24 Good Jobs Challenge Notice of Funding Opportunity? (See NOFO pages 43-47)

Based on the requirements of the NOFO, including the merit criteria, are you considering the following questions:

Sectoral Partnerships (See NOFO pages 27-28)

- Have you identified all your relevant stakeholders in your backbone organization and their role in the project?
- Have you explained how the backbone organization will meet the characteristics of an effective backbone organization?
- Have you included letters from sectoral partnership members that articulate their role and support in the sectoral partnership?

Sectoral Partnerships — Worker Voice (See NOFO page 28)

- Have you described how your sectoral partnership and its stakeholders represent and include the interests of members of the sectoral partnership (workers, employers, worker-serving organizations, workforce development entities, labor unions, and community organizations)?

Employer Commitments (see NOFO page 28)

- Have you described your employer partnerships and commitments?
- Have you made sure your employer commitment letters:
 - Are addressed from the employer;
 - Show the number of committed job placements at the time of application; and
 - Describe how the jobs align with the Good Jobs Principles?

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APPLICATION DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 27, 2024



Regional Impacts—Key Technology Focus Area (KTFA) (See NOFO page 29)

- Have you clearly identified **at least one** KTFA that your proposed project is seeking to advance?
- Have you explained how the sectoral partnership advances the identified KTFA?

Regional Impacts—Geography & Distress Criteria (See NOFO pages 24, 29, and 37)

- Have you identified the proposed primary service area(s) by county or counties? *Note counties should be identified by both name and 5-digit FIPS codes.
- Have you included data that demonstrates that the project service area meets the distress criteria? Note that meeting the distress criteria is an eligibility requirement.

Regional Impacts—Alignment (See NOFO page 29)

- Have you clearly described how the project aligns with the region's CEDS, existing workforce development efforts in the region, and the EDA's Investment priorities including the equity priority?

Regional Impacts—Project Benefits (See NOFO page 45)

- Have you described how the project benefits workers subject to any technology, energy or trade shocks in the region?

Project Description (See NOFO page 29-30)

- Have you identified whether your project proposal is for program/training design AND implementation—or just implementation?
- Note proposals **MUST** include implementation; they cannot just be for program/training design.

Funding Request & Program Design and Implementation (See NOFO page 30)

- Have you provided an estimated funding request for your project?
- Do the proposed budget project costs align with your project description?

Projected Impacts (See NOFO page 31)

- Have you provided the required projected analysis of the project's impact which must include projected number of individuals enrolled, trained, and placed into good jobs?
- Be sure to include why you believe that these projections are ambitious yet achievable.

Alignment to Good Jobs Principles (See NOFO page 31)

- Have you clearly identified the targeted jobs served by the sectoral partnership?
- Have you described how each of those jobs meets the Good Jobs Principles for pay and benefits and at least one other Good Jobs Principle?

Ensuring Participant Access & Success (See NOFO page 32-33)

- Have you identified barriers to worker participation and a plan for how you will mitigate the impact of those barriers with the use of wraparound supports?
- Have you described how you will continuously reevaluate offerings of wraparound supports to ensure participant success?
- For target groups identified, have you described how recruitment, training, and support activities will be differentiated to support the unique needs of those groups?

Note: This is a non-exhaustive list and meant to be used as a helpful reference. This document does not replace or supersede the contents outlined in the NOFO. Refer to the NOFO section D.2.b.i. on pages 27-32 for a complete list of questions to address in the project narrative.

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HELPFUL RESOURCES

- CEDS Resource Library
- EDA Investment Priorities
- FY 2024 Applicant Planning Resources (FAQ, webinars, fact sheets)
- Implementing the WorkAdvance Model Lessons for Practitioners
- The Workforce Playbook
- Workforce Realigned: How New Partnerships Are Advancing Economic Mobility
- Data for Equity
- Tools for Building Employer-Educator Partnerships, U.S. Department of Education, Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education
- The Federal Resources Playbook for Registered Apprenticeships
- Talent Pipeline Management: A New Approach to Closing the Skills Gap, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation
- Partnership Tools
- Business and Community College Partnerships
- Employer Playbook: Best Practices and Tools to Recruit Technology Talent from Nontraditional Sources
- Work-and-Learn in Action: Successful Strategies for Employers



APPLICATION SUBMISSION ASSISTANCE

START EARLY

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. Ensure that your organization and any required individuals are registered with required systems as soon as possible. Before submitting an application under this NOFO, each applicant must register its organization with EDGE. (See NOFO pages 25-26 for more details.)

REGISTER FOR SAM

SAM registration is required. Backbone organizations should begin registration in SAM before the application deadline. SAM registration must be complete before EDA may make an award under this NOFO. To enable the use of a universal identifier and to enhance the quality of information available to the public as required by the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006, applicants are required to: (i) be registered in SAM before submitting an application; (ii) provide a valid unique entity identifier in the application; (iii) make certain certifications (see also section H.7 of the NOFO), 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.

MEET THE APPLICATION DEADLINE

The deadline for application submission is **4:59 pm Eastern Time on September 27, 2024**. Proposals or applications received after the deadline will not be reviewed or considered.

GOT EDGE 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 oe@eda.gov.

NEED ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE?

Reach out to our team at GoodJobsChallenge@eda.gov.

Note: This document contains examples, links, and resources created and maintained by non-Federal public and private organizations. This content is provided for the applicant's convenience and should only be used at the applicant's discretion. EDA does not control or guarantee the accuracy, timeliness, or completeness of this outside information. The inclusion of links to these materials is not intended to represent or be an endorsement by EDA of any views expressed.



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