



Regional Innovation Strategies Program

the Office of INNOVATION and ENTREPRENEURSHIP

14 June 2018

INNOVATION. REGIONAL COLLABORATION. JOB CREATION.



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The **REGIONAL INNOVATION STRATEGIES (RIS) PROGRAM**

*was authorized through the America COMPETES
Reauthorization Act of 2010, as amended by the
Revitalize American Manufacturing and Innovation Act
of 2014 (15 U.S.C. § 3722)*

and aims to **SPUR INNOVATION CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES IN
REGIONS ACROSS THE NATION.**



4 funding rounds awarded
843 applicants
\$331m+ Federal request
\$398m+ committed local match



140 grants
40 states + 1 territory
\$125m+ under management
promising leading indicators



*In this 2018 round, EDA's **Regional Innovation Strategies program** will award up to **\$21 MILLION** in Federal funding through the **I6 CHALLENGE** and **SEED FUND SUPPORT** grant competitions.*

Applications are due
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 29TH, AT 11:59PM EASTERN TIME.



DESIRED OUTCOMES

i6 CHALLENGE is designed to increase entrepreneurship that is driven by innovations, ideas, intellectual property (IP), and applied research through the process of technology commercialization and that results in new businesses, accelerated paths to export, increased FDI, and new jobs.



DESIRED ACTIVITIES

i6 CHALLENGE funds a range of programs and services that support innovation-based, high-growth entrepreneurship and startup acceleration through services such as technology advisements, market evaluation, business planning, mentorship, and access to early-stage capital.

Grant funds (including both Federal and matching funds) CANNOT be given directly to startups.



DESIRED OUTCOMES

SFS is designed to increase availability of and access to regional risk capital for early-stage companies.



DESIRED ACTIVITIES

SFS grant provides funding for technical assistance, operational costs, marketing, and outreach related to the planning, formation, launch, or expansion of cluster-based seed capital funds that deploy capital in innovation-based startups with a potential for high growth. These funds must be equity-based (thus, e.g., revolving loan funds do not qualify).

Grant funds (including both Federal and matching funds) CANNOT be used to capitalize the fund.



I6 CHALLENGE - \$16 MILLION

\$750k federal funds cap; min. 1:1 match required
3 year project period

SEED FUND SUPPORT (SFS) GRANT COMPETITION - \$5 MILLION

\$300k federal funds cap; min. 1:1 match required
3 year project period





*Applicants' projects must not discriminate on the basis of
race, color, national origin, disability, age, religion, or sex.*



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**APPLICATION
SUBMISSION**

**TECHNICAL
REVIEW**

**MERIT
REVIEW**

SELECTION

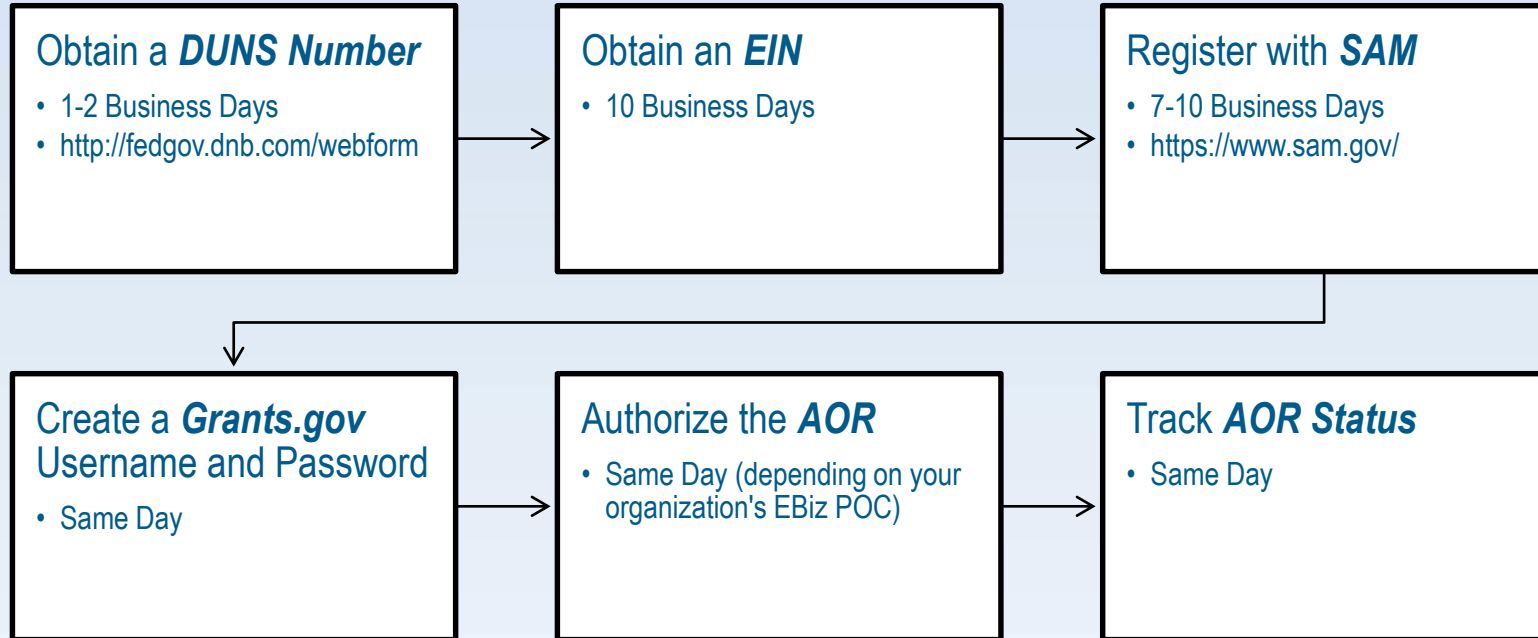


APPLICATION SUBMISSION DEADLINE—Wednesday, August 29th

TECHNICAL REVIEW—*eligibility & completeness*

MERIT REVIEW—*evaluation criteria*

SELECTION & AWARD—*scoring & portfolio balance*



This process may require **23 OR MORE BUSINESS DAYS** to complete.



1. A **State**;
2. An **Indian tribe**;
3. A **city** or **other political subdivision of a State**;
4. An entity that—
 - a. is a **nonprofit organization**, an **institution of higher education**, a **public-private partnership**, a **science or research park**, a **Federal laboratory**, or an **economic development organization or similar entity**; and
 - b. has an application that is **supported by a State or a political subdivision** of a State; or
5. A **consortium** of any of the entities described in subparagraphs (1) through (4).¹

NOTE: Entities operating within the performance period of a previously-awarded RIS or i6 are **not** eligible for award under that same grant program (e.g., a 2017 i6 recipient is ineligible for 2018 i6 grant but may be eligible for an SFS grant).

Individuals are **NOT** eligible for funding.

¹ 15 U.S.C. § 3722(b)(3).



Matching shares (whether cash or in-kind) must:

1. **BE COMMITTED** to the project for the period of performance,
2. **BE AVAILABLE** as needed, and
3. **NOT BE CONDITIONED OR ENCUMBERED** in any way that may preclude its use consistent with the requirements of EDA investment assistance.

Applications should include signed Commitment Letters for all matching funds from **ALL SOURCES** (i.e. applicant, co-applicants or third party organizations).



Applications must include the following documents:

| Part A: Project Design and Substance |
|---|
| Project Narrative |
| Budget Narrative and Staffing Plan |
| Matching Share Commitment Letters |
| State/Local Government Support |
| Part B: Forms and Supporting Documentation |
| SF-424 (Application for Federal Assistance) |
| SF-424A (Budget Information Non-Construction Programs) |
| SF-424B (Assurances Non-Construction Programs) |
| CD-511 (Certification Regarding Lobbying) |
| SF-LLL (Disclosure of Lobbying Activities) |
| State Single-Point-of-Contact (SPOC)/Executive Order 12372 Compliance Documentation |
| Organizational Documentation |
| Indirect Cost Rate (ICR) Documentation |



DON'T GET KNOCKED OUT BY A TECHNICAL MISTAKE!

OPTIONAL Pre-Submission Technical Review

- Submit a copy of your application via email and receive feedback on technical aspects of your application before the deadline.
- Contact your EDA Regional Office RIS POC.
- RIS POCs will attempt to provide pre-submission technical reviews within two weeks of receipt.

OPTIONAL Checklists

- Use the relevant checklist on Appendix D (pgs. 40-41) of the NOFA to complete your own technical review and ensure you are submitting all the required documents.

| Document Checklist for Nonprofit Organization, Institution of Higher Education, Public-Private Partnership, Science or Research Park, Federal Laboratory, and Economic Development of Similar Organization Applicants/Co-Applicants. | | | | |
|--|---|-------------|-------------|------|
| Document | Title/Description/Requirements | Checklist | | |
| Project Narrative | See Section D.2.ii.a (p. 12) | Application | | |
| Budget Narrative and Staffing Plan | See Section D.2.ii.b (p. 13) | Application | | |
| Matching Share Commitment Letters | See Section D.2.ii.c (p. 14) | Source 1 | Source 2 | etc. |
| State/Local Government Support | See Section D.2.ii.d (p. 14) | Application | | |
| Form SF-424 | Application for Federal Assistance | Applicant 1 | Applicant 2 | etc. |
| Form SF-424A | Budget Information-Non-Construction Programs | Application | | |
| Form SF-424B | Assurances-Non-Construction Programs | Applicant 1 | Applicant 2 | etc. |
| Form CD-511 | Certification Regarding Lobbying | Applicant 1 | Applicant 2 | etc. |
| Form SF-LLL | Disclosure of Lobbying Activities | Applicant 1 | Applicant 2 | etc. |
| SPOC/EO 12372 Compliance Documentation | See Section D.2.iii.b.1 (p. 15) and https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/SPOC-req-2013.pdf . | State 1 | State 2 | etc. |
| Organizational Documentation | E.g., certificates of good standing, articles of incorporation, bylaws, establishing authorities; see Section D.2.iii.b.2 (p. 15) | Applicant 1 | Applicant 2 | etc. |
| Indirect Cost Rate (ICR) Agreement | See Section D.2.iii.b.3 (p. 16) | Applicant 1 | Applicant 2 | etc. |



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A competitive application will **address the following elements** in their project narrative:

- A clear and concise narrative that includes a compelling justification for the project.
- A clearly defined regional economic gap.
- The roles of each applicant, co-applicant and key personnel
- Key milestone dates
- Scope of work
- Justification of the long-term potential economic impact of the project (including metrics)

Project Narratives should **not exceed the 10 page-limit.**



A competitive application will **address the following elements** in their budget narrative and staffing plan:

- Clearly identify and justify how funds in each line item of the budget will be used to support the project.
- A staffing plan that lists all positions that would be charged to the award.
- Each line item should tie to its relevant commitment letter.
- Budget line items should include and distinguish between both federal and matching share.
- Budget categories should match the SF-424A.
- Itemized valuations for any in-kind matching funds.

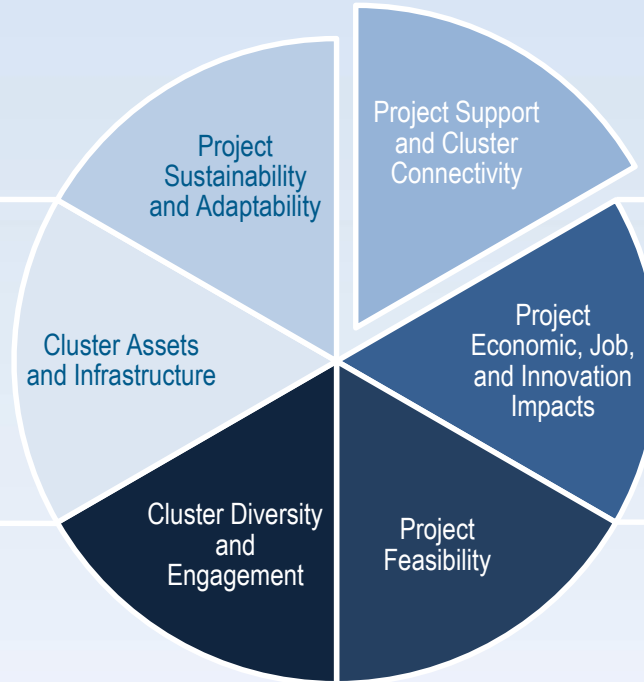
Budget Narratives and Staffing Plan should not exceed the 4 page-limit.



What is the likelihood that the participants in the regional innovation cluster will be able to sustain activities once grant funds under this subsection have been expended?

Will the participants in the regional innovation cluster have access to, or contribute to, a well-trained workforce, technology infrastructure, innovation pipelines, and sources of early-stage capital?

How will the existing participants in the regional innovation cluster encourage and solicit participation by all types of entities that might benefit from participation?



Is the regional innovation cluster supported by the private sector, State and local governments, and other relevant stakeholders?

To what extent is the regional innovation cluster likely to stimulate innovation and have a positive impact on regional economic growth and development, including but not limited to the jobs creation, innovative manufacturing expansion, export growth, and increased FDI?

Do the operations and management capacities and experiences of the applicant organization(s) and its team demonstrate the ability to execute the proposed project successfully?



EDA plans to announce awards late this calendar year.

In order to ensure you receive the notification, make sure you list the correct points of contact on the FORM SF-424 under Application POC, and Authorized Representative.



- **Start early!** Be clear in how the proposed project meets program objectives and evaluation criteria.
- Provide **data** to support your claims.
- Propose relevant **outcome metrics** and provide documentation and data that support how your project will achieve them.
- Demonstrate any novel and innovative aspects of your approach and be clear about your **value proposition**.
- Show how the project will be **sustained** after the grant period.
- Show strong **community support** and **commitment** to the project.



U.S. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

CONTACT INFORMATION



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Link to the Application Package

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=305799>

Grants.gov Funding Opportunity Number

EDA-HDQ-OIE-2018-2005523

Application Submission Deadline

11:59 pm ET on Wednesday, August 29, 2018

Link for Additional Information

<https://www.eda.gov/oie/ris/>



Grants.gov Helpdesk

(800) 518-4726; support@grants.gov

Sam.gov Helpdesk

(866) 606-8220

i6 Challenge Awards

<https://www.eda.gov/oie/ris/i6/>

SFS Awards

<https://www.eda.gov/oie/ris/seed/>



My organization is a for-profit entity, can I apply for a grant?

All categories of eligible entities are identified in the NOFO. Individual for-profit startups or businesses are not eligible, but EDA recognizes for-profit economic development organizations and science or research parks do exist and may benefit from leveraging RIS funding.

EDA strongly encourages any for-profit organizations that may identify as one of the eligible categories to refer to the examples provided in the NOFO, and then discuss their eligibility with their respective Regional POC or OIE.



How do you determine who the co-applicant is and what forms are they required to submit?

If the other entities in question will be partnered with the lead applicant in the management and/or carrying out of the grant, then that entity may be considered a co-applicant. For assistance identifying co-applicants, please reach out to your regional POC.



What if my organization plans to engage a third party that is not a co-applicant to perform a portion of the project activities? Is the third party considered a co-applicant?

If your organization intends to enter into an agreement with a third party to accomplish a portion of a project's activities, then the third party is not considered a co-applicant. Third parties must be retained pursuant to an open and free competitive process that is in compliance with the Uniform Guidance.



QUESTIONS?