



SPRINT CHALLENGE

Overview

The U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration's (EDA) efforts to support America's response to the coronavirus pandemic continues through the Scaling Pandemic Resilience Through Innovation and Technology (SPRINT) Challenge. [This \\$25 million national competition will enable organizations to rapidly address the economic, health, and safety risks caused by the coronavirus pandemic through entrepreneurship and innovation.](#)

The SPRINT Challenge will fund organizations that support the development, creation, or expansion of programs that accelerate technology-based economic development in pursuit of vibrant, innovative economies and economic growth, and respond to the challenges caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

Challenge Highlights

The applicant must clearly demonstrate how the proposed project will help communities, regions, or clusters across multiple regions "prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus" or respond to "economic injury as a result of coronavirus" through innovation and entrepreneurship.

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Who Should Apply?



State, County, Cities, Indian Tribe(s) or other political subdivisions of a state

Public or private non-profit organization or association
*must be acting in cooperation with officials of a political subdivision of a State



Institutes of Higher Education

EDA-authorized Economic Development District



The SPRINT Challenge does not directly fund individuals or startups. For a full list of eligible entities, please read the [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#).



Applicant organizations should articulate a clearly defined strategy to leverage grant funds to support one or more of the following focus areas to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus or future pandemics.

- Scaling innovative biotechnology, health security, and supply chain technologies and solutions to market;
- Increasing regional, national, and government connectivity across innovation clusters to support commercialization and entrepreneurship;
- Developing new and unique investment capital models to address the financial needs of entrepreneurs; and
- Developing and scaling innovative entrepreneurship support models to address the virtual and remote work environment of the pandemic.

Under the SPRINT Challenge applicants may request:

- Up to \$500,000 in Federal funds over a 12-month period of performance, or
- Up to \$750,000 over an 18-month period of performance

In regard to cost sharing or matching funds, EDA generally expects to fund up to 80% of eligible project costs.

Eligibility criteria under the SPRINT Challenge differs from other grant competitions hosted by the Office of Innovation and Entrepreneurship (OIE) because the SPRINT Challenge is powered by the CARES Act. The CARES Act provided EDA with \$1.5 billion to help communities prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus. For more information on the unique eligibility and qualification requirements for the SPRINT Challenge, please review the [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#).

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