

Frequently Asked Questions About the 2022 Build to Scale (B2S) Program

Updated May 26, 2022

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1. ELIGIBILITY

a. Who is eligible to apply for funding?

The following entities are eligible B2S Program grant recipients:

1. a State;
2. an Indian tribe;
3. a city or other political subdivision of a State;
4. an entity that—
 - a. is—
 - i. a nonprofit organization,
 - ii. an institution of higher education,
 - iii. a public-private partnership,
 - iv. a science or research park,
 - v. a Federal laboratory,
 - vi. a venture development organization, or
 - vii. an economic development organization or similar entity that is focused primarily on improving science, technology, innovation, or entrepreneurship; 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).

EDA has promulgated [regulations](#) that provide additional guidance on eligibility.¹

For-profit entities that are demonstrably institutions of higher education, parties to public-private partnerships, science or research parks, Federal laboratories, or economic development organizations or similar entities are eligible for funding; however, EDA strongly encourages for-profit entities to read these FAQs and the 2022 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) carefully, and to contact their EDA Economic Development Representative (EDR) early in the application process. EDR contact information is available at <https://eda.gov/contact/>; see question 9(a) of this document or section G of the [NOFO](#) for more information about federal awarding agency contacts. Note that EDA is NOT authorized to provide grants to individuals under this Program.

b. Are there other requirements that I need to know and that will impact these awards?

Yes, EDA award recipients must comply with the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards at 2 CFR part 200 (“Uniform Guidance”), the Department of Commerce Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions, and the Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements. In addition, recipients must comply with applicable requirements of all other Federal laws, executive orders, regulations, and policies governing the B2S program. These include but are not limited to laws prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, disability, age, religion, or sex.

¹ 13 CFR §§ 312.3 and 312.6.

c. In order to apply as a nonprofit organization must I be legally organized as a 501(c)(3)?

No; however, because EDA has adopted the definition of nonprofit organization as set forth in the Uniform Guidance, any entity applying as a nonprofit must provide information that the organization is: (1) operated primarily for scientific, educational, service, charitable, or similar purposes in the public interest; (2) not organized primarily for profit; and (3) uses its net proceeds to maintain, improve, or expand the operations of the organization.²

d. What is a public-private partnership and what documents should I submit to EDA to demonstrate my eligibility?

EDA defines a public-private partnership as a relationship formalized by contractual agreement between a public agency and a private-sector entity that reasonably defines the terms of collaboration in the delivery and financing of a public project.³ EDA will typically review agreements for items such as the purpose and objectives of the partnership, the binding/contractual nature of the relationship, the duties and responsibilities of each party, and the duration of the agreement. The scope of the relationship documented in the agreement may be limited to the proposal set forth in a given partnership's grant application or may encompass a broader program, initiative, or other set of activities or goals. In most cases, a letter of support from a public entity alone, without additional documentation demonstrating a formal, binding relationship between the parties, will be found insufficient to establish eligibility under this entity category.

EDA reserves the right to request additional information from applicants to establish eligibility, as necessary. Applicants that have further questions concerning these documentation requirements should contact their EDA EDR; see question 9(a) of this document or section G of the [NOFO](#) for more information about federal awarding agency contacts.

e. How should organizations apply under a public-private partnership?

Organizations that plan to apply to as a public-private partnership (PPP) may submit their applications in one of four ways:

1. The private entity that is party to the PPP applies on behalf of the PPP that includes the contractual agreement establishing the PPP, and that clearly documents the roles and responsibilities of each member of the PPP.
2. The public entity that is party to the PPP applies on behalf of the PPP that includes the contractual agreement establishing the PPP, and that clearly documents the roles and responsibilities of each member of the PPP.
3. The PPP applies as a single entity if:
 - a. the PPP is an established entity, independent of the parties to the PPP and with its own organizational structure and clearly defined management team; and
 - b. the application includes the contractual agreement establishing the PPP, and clearly documents the roles and responsibilities of each member of the PPP.

² 13 CFR § 312.3.

³ 13 CFR § 312.3.

If the public and private partners are equally involved in the management and/or carrying out of the grant, then the entities of the PPP should submit as co-applicants. The application should include the contractual agreement establishing the PPP, and clearly document the roles and responsibilities of each member of the PPP. See question 1(d) of this document for additional guidance on establishing a PPP through a formalized contractual agreement.

Note that regardless of the approach taken to submitting an application, each party to the PPP will be considered jointly and severally liable for fulfilling the terms of the award, including post-award grant reporting and all documentation requirements.

f. What is an economic development organization (EDO) and what documents should I submit to EDA to demonstrate my eligibility?

EDA defines an EDO as an organization focused primarily on improving science, technology, innovation, or entrepreneurship with a primary purpose to support the economic development of a community or region. In order to demonstrate eligibility status under this category, EDA will look to the organization's Articles of Incorporation, Charter, Resolutions, Bylaws, and/or other documents that may be relevant to establish the primary purpose of the organization. Applicants are encouraged to submit all relevant documentation to EDA for evaluation. EDA reserves the right to request additional information from applicants to establish eligibility, as necessary. If applicants have further questions concerning these documentation requirements, they should contact their EDA EDR; see question 9(a) of this document or section G of the [NOFO](#) for more information about federal awarding agency contacts.

g. What is a venture development organization (VDO) and what documents should I submit to EDA to demonstrate my eligibility?

A VDO is a State or nonprofit organization that contributes to regional or sector-based economic prosperity by providing services for the purposes of accelerating the commercialization of research.⁴

h. Is an Alaska Native Village or Regional Corporation an eligible recipient under the Build to Scale Program?

Yes, Alaska Native Villages or Regional Corporations (as defined in or established under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act) are eligible for awards under the B2S Program.

i. What is a *Federal laboratory* and what documents should I submit to EDA to demonstrate eligibility?

To begin, many Federal laboratories are eligible to apply under the B2S Program as a nonprofit organization or an institution of higher education. EDA strongly encourages such entities to apply under the B2S Program using those entity types.

To demonstrate eligibility as a Federal laboratory, an entity must include with its B2S application documentation that substantiates that the entity is a Federal laboratory. This may include the entity's

⁴ 15 U.S.C. § 3722(a)(4).

articles of incorporation, bylaws, certificate of good standing, and authorizing statute and/or contract to operate a Federal laboratory.

EDA retains the discretion to determine whether an entity is eligible as a Federal laboratory for purposes of the B2S Program. In making this determination, EDA will review the documentation listed above. EDA often looks to the definition of “laboratory” at 15 U.S.C. § 3710a(d)(2), but EDA has not officially adopted that language as the definition of “Federal laboratory” for the B2S Program. Instead, EDA makes a case-by-case determination as to whether an entity is eligible as a Federal laboratory under the B2S Program.

Like all B2S Program applicants, an entity that wishes to apply as a Federal laboratory should verify, prior to applying, that the entity is authorized to receive federal grants and is also authorized to perform the scope of work of a B2S grant. The method to verify this will vary by entity, but often includes reviewing the entity’s articles of incorporation and, if applicable, government contract to operate a Federal laboratory.

Lastly, a Federal laboratory should pay special attention to the general rule that federal funds may not be used as matching share under the B2S Program, discussed in section C.2. of the NOFO. While there are some exceptions (including federal grants made available under a federal statute that authorizes use of funds as match for other federal grant programs), funds appropriated by Congress to operate a Federal laboratory will generally not be allowable as matching share. This includes in-kind matching share funded with federal monies. A Federal laboratory wishing to use federal funds as matching share must include with its B2S application documentation that verifies the funds may be used as matching share under a federal grant; however, EDA retains discretion in determining whether any such funds may be used as matching share under a B2S award.

j. My organization has not yet formed, or we have formed, but the organization is not yet registered in the System for Award Management (SAM.gov) or on Grants.gov. May the organization still apply for a grant under this NOFO?

In order to be considered for funding, applicants must submit a complete application by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on June 13, 2022 (which includes demonstrating SAM registration and applicant eligibility and which requires Grants.gov registration). EDA strongly encourages applicants who are in the process of forming or have formed but are not yet registered on Grants.gov to do so as soon as possible. Full application registration requirements include obtaining a unique entity identifier and an active registration in SAM.gov, a process that can take weeks. For further details, see section D.8 of the [NOFO](#).

k. Are previous B2S or Regional Innovation Strategies (RIS) Program grantees with active grants eligible for the Build to Scale program?

Organizations that, as of November 1, 2022, have not completed award activities under a previously awarded grant for the Venture Challenge, Industry Challenge, or i6 Challenge (the predecessor to the Venture Challenge) are not eligible for a 2022 Venture Challenge grant. Correspondingly, organizations that, as of November 1, 2022, have not completed award activities under a previously awarded grant for the Capital Challenge or Seed Fund Support (the predecessor to the Capital Challenge) are not eligible for a 2022 Capital Challenge grant. Organizations with an active award may apply under the other Challenge (Venture or Capital) that differs from their current award. For example, a current Seed Fund Support recipient could apply for funding under the Venture Challenge.

Notwithstanding the above, B2S or RIS grantees operating within the period of performance of a B2S or RIS Program award under a prior year's competition may apply for a grant under the corresponding challenge if the organization applies as part of a separate and distinct entity or group of entities, such as a public-private partnership or a consortium, so long as that separate and distinct entity or group of entities is not itself operating completing award activities of an active B2S or RIS program award under the corresponding challenge.

I. What does it mean to have completed all award activities under a previously awarded B2S or RIS grant, and what documentation is required to show that these activities have been completed?

Organizations that are current recipients of a previous B2S or RIS award may be eligible to apply under the corresponding Challenge if award activities will be completed before November 1, 2022. If the current award has an end date prior to November 1, 2022, then no additional documentation is required. If the current award has an end date on or after November 1, 2022, then the organization must include with its B2S application a project timeline or similar documentation that would allow EDA to reasonably conclude that award activities will end before November 1, 2022. Applicants may reach out to oe@eda.gov with any questions related to their eligibility status.

m. What distress criteria must be met to be eligible for this funding?

Unlike most of EDA's other programs which are authorized under the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965,⁵ the B2S Program is authorized under section 27 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (Section 27).⁶ Section 27 does not require applicants to meet specific regional distress criteria to be eligible for award under the B2S Program.

n. Will any previous grants that EDA awarded to my organization affect my organization's competitiveness for under the B2S Program?

No, unless your organization has an active B2S or RIS grant (see question 1(i) of this document). However, the Grants Officer may take into consideration past performance on previous awards when selecting applications for award.

o. For the purposes of the B2S Program, what is a consortium?

A consortium is two or more eligible entities jointly applying for an award as co-applicants.

p. If a university system has branch campuses, each with their own Unique Entity Identifier, can campuses submit unique applications, or would they all be considered submissions from the university?

Applicants must have their own Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) to be considered a distinct applicant. As long as an individual UEI is provided for each application, applications can be submitted for different branch campuses.

⁵ 42 U.S.C. § 3121, et seq.

⁶ 15 U.S.C. § 3722.

q. What is a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI), and do I need one to apply?

As of April 4th, the federal government stopped requiring entities to have a DUNS number to apply for funding. This number has been replaced by the Unique Entity Identifier (UEI), which is now required in Grants.gov, for each application. Additional guidance on the implications of this transition on submitting grant applications is provided here: <https://www.grants.gov/forms/planned-uei-updates.html>.

r. According to the list of eligible applicants, my project must be supported by a State or a political subdivision of a State. What is a political subdivision of a State? How should I demonstrate the support of a State or a political subdivision of a State?

A political subdivision of a state is a unit of government created by and under the authority of a state, such as a county or city. To demonstrate the support of a State or a political subdivision of a State, an applicant may include a letter from executive branch officials (e.g. State governors, State cabinet members, mayors, or other municipal executives) and State and local legislators (e.g. State legislators, city councilpersons). Note that applicants that are a State, Indian tribe, city or other political subdivision of a State, or an institution of higher education that is 100% publicly controlled, need not demonstrate the support of a State or a political subdivision of a State.

2. CO-APPLICANTS, CONTRACTORS, AND SUB-AWARDEES**a. Are co-applicants allowed? Must we designate a lead applicant for our application?**

Co-applicants ARE allowed. However, in the event of an award, one of the recipients will need to serve as the fiscal agent for the grant and distribute funds to the co-recipient(s). It is not possible for more than one recipient to draw down award funds. It is not necessary to designate a lead applicant at the time of application.

b. How do you determine whether an entity is a co-applicant? What forms are co-applicants required to submit?

If another entity will be partnered with the lead applicant in managing and implementing the scope of work of an award, then that entity may be considered a co-applicant. For assistance identifying co-applicants, please reach out to your EDA EDR; see question 9(a) of this document or section G of the [NOFO](#) for more information about federal awarding agency contacts. Co-applicants are generally required to submit the same forms that the primary applicant must submit.

See section D.2 and Appendix B of the [NOFO](#) for specific application requirements and a comprehensive checklist of the documents required for all co-applicants. All co-applicants must meet the eligibility requirements described above.

c. What differentiates a contractor from a co-applicant?

Co-applicants jointly manage and implement the scope of work of an award. In contrast, contractors provide goods and services for the applicant's or co-applicants' use in performing the scope of work of an award. For more information on determining whether a third-party is a contractor, see 2 CFR § 200.331 (Subrecipient and contractor determinations).

Contracts must be procured in accordance with the procurement standards at 2 CFR §§ 200.317-327 of the Uniform Guidance (discussed above in question 1(b)).

d. What differentiates a sub-awardee from a co-applicant?

Co-applicants jointly manage and implement the scope of work of an award. In contrast, sub-awardees carry out a portion of project activities on behalf of the applicant or co-applicant(s). For more information on determining whether a third-party is a sub-awardee, see 2 CFR § 200.331 (Subrecipient and contractor determinations).

3. APPLICATION MATERIALS AND SUBMISSION PROCESS

a. Are applicants required to submit a separate application for the Venture Challenge and Capital Challenge?

Applicants may apply to either or both challenges under the B2S Program. If your organization wishes to apply to more than one challenge under the NOFO, you must submit a separate application for each challenge.

b. Are applicants limited to submitting one application per challenge?

Yes, applicants are generally limited to submitting one application per challenge. However, an entity may also submit an application to the same challenge as part of a separate and distinct entity or group of entities, such as a public-private partnership or a consortium, although that separate and distinct entity or group of entities may not itself submit more than one application per challenge.

c. Since all applications must be submitted through Grants.gov, what should I do in the case of technical issues with submitting my application?

Grants.gov is not managed by EDA. In the case of technical difficulties with applying through Grants.gov, EDA recommends reaching out to the Grants.gov help desk. The help desk can be reached via email at support@grants.gov or via phone at 1-800-518-4726 (US) and 1-606-545-5035 (International).

4. FUNDING AND BUDGET

a. The NOFO discusses a maximum amount for an EDA grant, but can applicants apply for less than that amount?

Yes, an applicant can apply for less than the maximum amount stated in the NOFO. EDA encourages applicants to develop compelling proposals that efficiently use federal dollars.

b. Are grant amounts allotted by year or for the entire project period?

The maximum federal grant amounts under Build to Scale awards are as follows: up to \$2,000,000 for Venture Challenge at the Scale level, up to \$750,000 for Venture Challenge at the Build level, up to \$750,000 for Capital Challenge at the Deploy level, and up to \$300,000 for the Capital Challenge at the Form level. These funding levels are based on the entire project period, not per year.

c. The NOFO indicates that applicants must include a budget narrative, but the required SF-424A Budget Information Non-Construction Programs form seems to cover that information. Are those the same?

No, the Budget Narrative and the SF-424A (Budget Information Non-Construction Programs) are separate and distinct required documents. The SF-424A identifies the totals per budget line item. The budget narrative identifies and justifies how the funds in each budget line item will be used to support the proposed project and links each line item to its relevant commitment letter or funding source. Budget narrative line items and whole budget totals should mathematically match the total project costs listed in the appropriate totals fields of the SF-424A and question 18, line g (“TOTAL”) of the SF-424. Applicants are strongly encouraged to review the “Application and Submission Information” (section D) in the [NOFO](#) for further information. Applicants are encouraged to use the optional Budget and Staffing plan template on EDA’s website at <https://www.eda.gov/oie/buildtoscale/>.

d. What can be considered in-kind contributions?

In-kind contributions provided by the applicant may be used to meet the required non-Federal share of the total project costs. In-kind contributions are non-cash contributions directly related to the proposed project, and typically include items such as space, equipment, or services. Itemized valuations for all in-kind contributions must be included in the Budget Narrative. All in-kind contributions must be eligible project costs and be valued in accordance with the Cost Principles at 2 CFR 200, subpart E.

e. Are there guidelines for the valuation of in-kind matching share?

To allow EDA to verify the value of in-kind matching share, applicants must provide an explanation of how in-kind matching share is valued and calculated and/or provide supporting documentation. In-kind matching share must be valued pursuant to the provisions of the Uniform Guidance, including 2 CFR §§ 200.306 and 200.434.

f. Can the B2S Program fund construction projects?

Construction activities are not allowable, except in limited circumstances related to equipment installation. For the purposes of an award made pursuant to this NOFO, construction includes any activity that disturbs the ground or modifies a structure. The purchase of equipment and equipment-related modifications or renovations of a facility are allowable, but only to the extent that such equipment and any related modifications or renovations are used to support another eligible activity under the award.⁷

g. How do you determine allowable expenses that can be charged to the award?

Allowable costs incurred are subject to 2 CFR 200, subpart E. If applicants have questions concerning whether a particular cost is allowable, they should contact their EDR; see question 9(a) of this document or section G of the [NOFO](#) for more information about federal awarding agency contacts.

Some additional costs are not allowable under any Build to Scale award, whether a Venture or Capital Challenge award. These include certain of the following costs: construction, equity investments & loans, subsidies to participant firms, advertising & marketing, internships & wages/stipends, and cloud service

⁷ See 13 CFR § 312.7(a)(9) and (b)(3).

credits. Such costs may not be charged to the federal share or to the matching share of a Build to Scale award. See Section D.7 of the [NOFO](#) for more information on each of these costs.

h. Is there a limitation on the amount of indirect costs I may claim?

In general, indirect costs are allowed based on the rate approved by an organizations cognizant federal agency. EDA requires copies of applicants' currently approved indirect cost rate agreement, if any, at the time of application. However, indirect cost rate requirements vary by type of organization and whether an entity has a current approved indirect cost rate agreement. Applicants that are new to the Federal grant process or do not have a current indirect cost rate are encouraged to discuss indirect cost rates with their designated EDA EDR; see question 9(a) of this document or section G of the [NOFO](#) for more information about federal awarding agency contacts.

i. What is the minimum matching share required?

Applicants must provide a minimum of one-to-one (i.e. 50 percent of the total project budget) in matching share under both challenges. Applicants must demonstrate that this matching share (cash, in-kind, or a combination of cash and in-kind contributions) is available as needed, unencumbered, and committed to the project. Applicants should also consider the nature and source of the matching share, as funds from Federal sources often cannot be considered as matching funds for other Federal projects. The budget narrative, SF-424A, and commitment letters should clearly and consistently document the total project budget and should delineate and substantiate matching share, both cash and in-kind, including appropriate valuations.

j. What is required for a Commitment Letter?

Applicants must submit commitment letters or equivalent documents for all matching funds (whether cash or in-kind) from all sources (i.e., any applicant, any co-applicants, and any other sources of matching funds) that are SIGNED BY AN AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE of the contributing organization. (Authorized representatives must have the authority to execute documents and to obligate and expend funds on behalf of their respective organizations.)

Each matching share commitment letter must:

1. state whether the contribution is cash or in-kind;
2. if in-kind, provide a valuation for in-kind contributions;
3. state whether the contribution is from a non-federal source or from a federal source that is explicitly authorized by statute to be used as matching share; and
4. state that, at the time of award, the matching share
 - a. is committed to the project,
 - b. will be available as needed, and
 - c. is neither conditioned nor encumbered in any way that would preclude its use consistent with the requirements of EDA investment assistance.

k. Does EDA allow program income to be considered matching share or an addition to the award?

Because EDA requires that matching share must be available as needed, unencumbered, and committed at the time of award, EDA does not allow program income to be considered as matching share (i.e., matching share cannot consist of funds that may be collected at a future date).

l. What costs are unallowable under this competition?

Allowable costs incurred are subject to 2 CFR 200, subpart E. Section D.7. of the NOFO describes how certain costs pertaining to construction, equity investments & loans, subsidies to participant firms, advertising & marketing costs, internships & wages/stipends, and cloud service credits are not allowed to be charged to the federal share or to the matching share of a Build to Scale award.

m. Regarding the 1:1 matching share minimum: we have members donate on a yearly basis to gain access to our recommendations and events. Would this qualify as match under this program?

EDA requires matching funds to be committed, available, and unencumbered. This means that realized donations would qualify, but unrealized donations would not.

n. May funds from other federal financial assistance awards serve as matching funds under this program?

Funds from other federal financial assistance awards can serve as matching share funds **only if authorized by statute**, which may be determined by EDA's reasonable interpretation of the statute. Identify the authorizing statute in the matching funds commitment letter when you submit your application. If you are interested in using other federal award funds as a source of matching funds, please contact OIE at oiie@eda.gov to determine the eligibility of these funds.

o. Can we use Department of the Treasury State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFR Funds) as matching funds for a Build to Scale application?

Yes, subject to the following limitations: Only the portion of an applicant's SLFR Funds that is available for "the provision of government services" may be used as match on an EDA award. That amount is determined in accordance with Treasury's recently published regulations and is based on a state or locality's reduction in revenue due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. The portion of SLFR Funds that is not available for the provision of government services may not be used as match. Applicants should direct questions regarding calculating the government services portion of their SLFR Funds to the Treasury; EDA cannot assist with that calculation.

All applicants seeking to apply SLFR Funds to the local share must certify in their match letter to EDA that (1) there are sufficient government services funds available and (2) the pledged funds are committed to the EDA project. Applicants must also agree that if SLFR Funds subsequently become unavailable for any reason that they will replace those funds with other allowable sources of local match. Please note that under Treasury's regulations, all SLFR Funds must be obligated by December 31, 2024 and expended by December 31, 2026.

p. May providers of matching share serve as contractors under an award?

As provided in section C.2. of the NOFO, a provider of matching share, including an entity providing cash or in-kind contributions, may not serve as a contractor under an award for which it provides matching share. Thus, an entity providing matching share may not be paid with award funds to provide goods or services to the award recipient.

q. May unrecovered indirect costs count towards the required matching share?

In accordance with 2 CFR 200.306(c), unrecovered indirect costs may only be applied toward the matching share with EDA's prior approval, and therefore applicants seeking to apply unrecovered indirect costs to the matching share should seek EDA's guidance early in the application process.

r. Are matching funds subject to grant usage restrictions?

Non-Federal matching funds are governed by the same requirements as Federal/EDA funds, including the requirements outlined in question 1(b).⁸

s. Our matching funds are coming from a source that approves funding on an annual basis. Are we able to indicate on the commitment letter that funding will be approved annually? If so, what sort of documentation should be provided to show that the funding is available?

EDA requires matching funds to be committed, available, and unencumbered at the time of application. Therefore, only funds that have been committed at the time of application can count towards match. Because funding levels and allocations can change by year, funding that would be approved annually (rather than at the time of application) would not count towards match.

t. Is a budget template available and am I required to use it?

An optional budget template is provided at <https://www.eda.gov/oie/buildtoscale/> under "RESOURCES". Applicants are not required to use the budget template.

u. Can EDA funds be used for a prize competition among program participants?

No, prizes and stipends given directly to program participants are not an allowable use of B2S program funds.

5. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON USE OF AWARD FUNDS

a. Can a B2S Program grant capitalize a lending program or a seed fund?

EDA funds awarded under either B2S Program challenge cannot be used to capitalize a lending program or a seed fund (i.e., EDA funds and matching funds cannot be used to invest in startups or any other companies). The technical assistance and operational costs funded by EDA can jumpstart the creation or expansion of a seed fund by funding operations to raise capital for a fund, to market the fund to potential startups and investors, and to educate potential seed fund investors.

⁸ See Subpart E of the Uniform Guidance.

b. May award funds be transferred to companies served under an award?

Awards made under either challenge may only fund operational and programmatic costs related to developing and supporting regional innovation initiatives. Award funds may not be transferred directly to companies (i.e., startups and individuals) being served by the applicant organization, and award funds may not be used to subsidize such companies' expenses that are unrelated to program activities, including general operating expenses.

6. APPLICATIONS

a. How are applications reviewed?

Applications will be reviewed based on the process and evaluation criteria outlined in section E of the [NOFO](#).

b. When is the deadline for submission and where do I submit the application?

Applications should be submitted electronically via www.grants.gov (Grants.gov) and must be received by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on Monday, June 13, 2022.

EDA will not accept paper, facsimile or email transmissions of applications for this program except as provided in the NOFO. Applications received after the applicable closing date and time will not be considered for funding

c. Where can I access the most up-to-date State Single Point-of-Contact (SPOC) list related to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs"?

The most recent list is available at <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/SPOC-4-13-20.pdf>. Note that "States that are not listed on [the Intergovernmental Review (SPOC List)] page have chosen not to participate in the intergovernmental review process, and therefore do not have a SPOC. If you are located within a State that does not have a SPOC, you may send application materials directly to a Federal awarding agency."

d. How many letters of support from State or a political subdivision of a State are necessary if I'm applying as part of a consortium?

Generally, only one letter will be necessary so long as the letter demonstrates that the applicant's or co-applicant's application is supported by a State or a political subdivision of a State (e.g., a county or a municipality) that encompasses all or a substantial portion of the region served by the project.

7. AWARD NOTIFICATION

a. When and how will applicants be notified of application results?

All applicants should expect to receive grant award notification approximately 90-120 days from the application close data set forth in the [NOFO](#). OIE will notify applicants via email using the email addresses provided for the authorized representative and application point-of-contact on the SF-424 form.

8. INFORMATIONAL WEBINAR

a. Will EDA conduct an informational webinar?

EDA has conducted two webinars for prospective applicants to the FY 2022 Build to Scale program. Recordings of both an informational webinar and a Frequently Asked Questions webinar are now available at <https://www.eda.gov/oie/buildtoscale/> under “RESOURCES.”

EDA will be posting one additional webinar on Frequently Asked Questions. It will be added to the website above by May 31, 2022.

9. CONTACT US

a. What is the easiest way to contact EDA with questions during the application process?

Please note, to support a fair, national competition, EDA cannot provide strategic advice, or partnership development support during the competition, and must limit support efforts to administrative and technical concerns about the competition and application process.

EDA encourages communities to start with their respective EDR listed at <https://eda.gov/contact/>, but during the competition phase immediate responses may be challenging to provide due to the higher volume of inquiries. If you require immediate support, or have unique technical questions, please contact the program office by email at oie@eda.gov.