Informational Webinar

October 2020
MEET THE TEAM

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The Office of Innovation and Entrepreneurship (OIE) aims to empower communities so that entrepreneurs can launch companies, scale technologies and create the jobs of tomorrow.
EDA was awarded $1.5 Billion of CARES Act Funding

EDA works directly with communities to build capacity for economic development through:

• Planning and Technical Assistance
• Capitalization and Recapitalization of Revolving Loan Funds (RLFs), which provide access to capital for businesses
• Construction of infrastructure and other economic development projects
• Innovation grants

The SPRINT Challenge is awarded under the Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) program and authorized through the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (PWEDA).
$25 Million for the SPRINT Challenge

The FY2020 SPRINT Challenge aims to enable regional innovation economies to rapidly address the economic, health, and safety risks caused by the coronavirus pandemic through entrepreneurship and innovation.
Funding Opportunity

Up to:

• $500,000 over a 12-month period of performance

OR

• $750,000 over an 18-month period of performance

Application due December 3, 2020 @ 11:59 pm EST
Eligible Entities

- District Organization of an EDA-Designated Economic Development District
- Public or Private Non-profit organizations or association
  Acting in cooperation with officials of a political subdivision of a State
- Institution of higher education
  Or a consortium of institutions of higher education
- State, county, city, or other political subdivision of a State
  Including a special purpose unit of a State or Local Government engaged in economic or infrastructure development activities, or a consortium of political subdivisions
- Indian Tribe
  Or a consortium of Indian Tribes

NOFO Section C.1
Entrepreneurial Support

SPRINT CHALLENGE

Support Organizations

Entrepreneurs

Individuals

Scalable Startup Companies
**Match Requirements**

Matching shares (20%) can be **cash or in-kind**, but must:

1. **Be Committed** to the project for the period of performance
2. **Be available** as needed
3. **Not be conditioned or encumbered** in any way that may preclude its use consistent with the requirements of EDA investment assistance

NOFO Section C.3
EDA may establish a maximum investment rate of up to 100% for projects for:

- Indian Tribes
- Projects where the Assistant Secretary determines the applicant has exhausted its effective taxing or borrowing capacity

NEITHER FEDERAL NOR MATCHING SHARE FUNDS CAN BE INVESTED IN STARTUPS OR OTHER COMPANIES, whether through equity, debt, or hybrid mechanisms.

NOFO Section C.3
Four main focus areas:

- Biotechnology, Health Security & Supply Chain
- Regional, National, & Government Connectivity
- Access to Capital
- Entrepreneurship Support
1. Biotechnology, Health Security, & Supply Chain Innovation

Promote innovation and commercialization of technologies and supply chain resources

• Repurposing of existing small to medium manufacturing facilities and maker spaces to expedite production of essential shortages, such as medical devices, ancillary supplies (needles and syringes), PPE including respiratory protective devices (N95)

• Connecting scientific, research, and governmental assets with entrepreneurs and technologists to provide insight and expedite regulatory approval and bring products to market quickly, particularly in bioscience development (e.g., vaccines, therapeutic drugs, discovery programs, etc.) and/or medical devices, diagnostics, and ancillary supplies
2. Entrepreneurship Support

Promote entrepreneurialism to help diversify regional economies so they are more resilient to economic shocks.

- Pivoting business models to virtual and remote programming through the use of collaborative, digital platforms to continue convening and supporting entrepreneurs through mentorship, partnership development, and matching of technical talent and/or businesses with resources and opportunities.

- Equipping entrepreneurs and researchers with the knowledge and resources to strongly protect their IP, pivot their business models to address anticipated conditions, build teams, enter markets, and scale businesses.

NOFO Section A.3
3. Regional, National, & Government Connectivity

Promote general regional, national, and government connectivity to address the shortages of entrepreneurship and innovation resources.

- Forging new and reinforcing existing relationships among regional and national stakeholders, to include partnerships with manufacturing groups and product development

- Hosting special events to showcase inventions, research, technologies, and/or entrepreneurs to promote the exchange of ideas that leads to new collaborations

- Engaging local business associations and governments to ensure that high growth entrepreneurs and companies are more fully integrated into the local business community
4. Access to Capital

Promote access to capital to address urgent capital needs entrepreneurs and startups are facing during the economic crisis.

- Implementing and supporting innovative investment models to increase access to capital for businesses across the capital spectrum (debt, equity, hybrid, & philanthropic funding)

- Addressing critical gaps and shortcomings in the financing landscape, to include launching hybrid financing mechanisms that remove barriers for startups

- Developing platforms or tools to allow for virtual due diligence to expedite fundraising
Application Checklist

- Check eligibility requirements; SF - 424
- CEDS alignment
- Project Narrative
- Budget Narrative; SF - 424A
- Required attachments -
  - Commitment Letters to show Match
- Applicant-Specific Details -
  - CD-511; SF -LLL; SPOC; Bylaws, etc.
Project Narrative

- Executive Summary
- Location and Regions served
- Proposed Project Description
- Scope of Work
- Project Timeline
- Evidence-based anticipated impacts (outputs and outcomes)
- Address Recovery and Resilience
- Fund information
Budget Narrative

- Description of intended use of funds for each line item
- Corresponding budget category
- Federal share allocation per line item
- Matching non-Federal share allocations

Staffing Plan:
- Identify and describe personnel and roles
- % of time devoted to the project
- Total amount charged
  - Federal share vs. Non-Federal share

Suggested page length: 4 pages
Evaluation Criteria

Each section is weighted equally (10 points each)

Project rapidly addresses the economic, health, and safety risks caused by the pandemic

Encourages participation from an inclusive group of regional stakeholders including newly formed entities, rival existing participants, and underrepresented or unconnected populations and organizations, including those in Opportunity Zones and across socioeconomic or geographic categories

Supported by and connected to local and regional partners, to provide a holistic and strategic approach to the region's entrepreneurship and innovation-related challenges and needs
Evaluation Criteria

Each section is weighted equally (10 points each)

- **Assets & Infrastructure**: Whether the project has access to or will leverage assets and infrastructure such as technology infrastructure, innovation pipelines, and sources of early-stage capital.
- **Resilience & Recovery**: The extent to which the project is likely to assist with economic resilience (including business continuity and preparedness) and long-term recovery from economic shocks due to the pandemic.
- **Feasibility**: The ability to execute the proposed project successfully, including if the proposed project’s budget and narrative reasonably and realistically correspond to costs & activities.
Application Process Overview

**APPLICATION PERIOD OPENS**
October 14, 2020

**APPLICATION PERIOD CLOSES**
December 3, 2020 @ 11:59pm ET

**REVIEW AND SCORING**
December 2020 – February 2021

**LIVE WEBINAR**
October 28, 2020 @ 2:00pm ET

**APPLICATION PERIOD CLOSES**
December 3, 2020 @ 11:59pm ET

**AWARD ANNOUNCEMENTS**
Spring 2021
Live Webinar

October 28, 2020 at 2:00 pm ET

Registration link on the SPRINT Challenge website:
www.eda.gov/ole/sprint
Important Reminders

Application Deadline:
December 3, 2020 @ 11:59 pm EST

Website: eda.gov/oie/sprint
Email: oie@eda.gov
Frequently Asked Questions
My entity is a current EDA award recipient or has received other CARES Act funding. Is my entity eligible for funding under the SPRINT Challenge?

Applicants that are current recipients of EDA awards and/or other CARES Act funding are generally eligible to apply for funding under the SPRINT Challenge. Proposed project activities and outcomes from prior EDA awards and CARES Act funding must be distinct and separate from the project submitted for the SPRINT Challenge. Put differently, awards made under the SPRINT Challenge cannot fund project costs that are charged to other federal funding.
Will I be more competitive if I focus on one specific program focus area (of the 4 named earlier) over another?

No. EDA will not limit awards by type of project or focus area. All applications will be evaluated on the six evaluation criteria in section E.1 of the SPRINT Challenge notice of funding opportunity (NOFO). EDA encourages applicants to be thoughtful about the needs of their communities and the unique assets of their communities that can be leveraged to address economic injury from the pandemic through innovation & entrepreneurship.
We are working hard to identify the best type of match for a strong proposal. What recommendations do you have? Do you prefer cash or in-kind?

The nature of matching share funds is not a factor in the competitiveness of a project. This means that EDA will not find applications more or less competitive based on whether matching share funds are provided as cash, in-kind contributions, or a combination of the two. The best types of matching share contributions are those that most effectively advance the proposed project.
My organization has a national footprint. Will I be competitive?

Applicants should seek to support entrepreneurship and accelerate company growth in their community, region, or combination of regions. Please note that applicants must align with their region’s current Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) or equivalent EDA-accepted regional economic development strategy that meets EDA’s CEDS or strategy requirements. Additionally, non-profit applicants will be required to work in conjunction with the officials of a political subdivision of a state.
What can I use this funding for?

Funds awarded under the SPRINT Challenge must support programming and operations. It cannot be used for construction, direct investment in a startup company (or any hybrid investment model), or individuals.

NOFO Section D.4
Contact Us

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