The U.S. Economic Development Administration’s STEM Talent Challenge **aims to build STEM talent training systems to strengthen regional innovation economies.** The FY21 STEM Talent Challenge will deploy a total of $2 million in grants to organizations that are creating and implementing STEM talent development strategies that complement their region’s innovation economy.

Competition applicants may request up to $250,000 for implementation of a 24-month program.

The STEM Talent Challenge seeks applications for projects that use work-based learning models to expand regional STEM-capable workforce capacity and build the workforce of tomorrow.

Competitive projects should clearly align training activities with the talent needs of regional employers, leading to an increase in high-wage, high-growth employment opportunities with innovation-driven businesses and in industries of the future. Projects should clearly indicate how workers will be prepared for employment. Experimentation and innovation are encouraged.

Successful applicants will focus on the following three goals:

1. Utilize STEM work-based learning and training models
2. Increase regional innovation capacity
3. Promote diversity, equity and inclusion in STEM fields

For additional information, visit [www.eda.gov/oie/STEM](http://www.eda.gov/oie/STEM) or email oie@eda.gov.

**WHO SHOULD APPLY**

- Cities, counties, states, other political subdivisions of states, and Indian tribes
- Non-profit organizations
- Public-private partnerships
- Federal laboratories or science/research parks
- Institutions of higher education
- Economic Development Organizations
- A consortium of the aforementioned

**TIMELINE**

- **AUGUST 12, 2021** Notice of Funding Opportunity published
- **OCTOBER 12, 2021** Applications due
- **WINTER 2021** Awards announced
- **FEBRUARY 1, 2022** Anticipated start date