

## **Research and National Technical Assistance Programs**

### **Overview:**

The Research and National Technical Assistance Program (RNTA) works to fulfill EDA’s mission through research and technical assistance projects that promote competitiveness and innovation in economic development in distressed regions throughout the United States and its territories. RNTA awards are national in scope, interest, and impact, and are facilitated by EDA Headquarters in Washington, DC through the Performance and National Programs Division (PNPD).

RNTA program consists of two separate programs funded through the same Notice of Funding Opportunity: The **Research and Evaluation (R&E)** and **National Technical Assistance (NTA) Programs**. The **R&E** Program provides funding to projects focused on using cutting-edge research to develop tools, recommendations, and resources that shape economic development policies and inform economic development decision-making. It also encompasses program evaluations to discover and assess the impact of previously funded projects. The **NTA** Program includes, but is not limited to, outreach, training, information dissemination, and other activities that are beneficial to the economic development community nationwide. It is similar to EDA’s Local Technical Assistance projects but scaled to a national level.

### **Where does my Proposed Project fit within RNTA?**

(Please note these are examples of possible investments and are not meant to limit the range of potential projects)

<b>Research and Evaluation</b>	<b>National Technical Assistance</b>
R&E Investments are awarded to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research and evaluation of topics to improve the understanding of economic development principles, strategies, and concepts</li> <li>• Evaluation of economic development programs, policies, and strategies</li> <li>• Development of innovative economic development tools, recommendations, or resources</li> </ul>	NTA Investments are awarded to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Projects that seek to solve problems related to economic development goals</li> <li>• Formulate and implement economic development programs to increase regional and national capacity</li> <li>• Disseminate information about effective programs, projects, and techniques that alleviate conditions of economic distress and promote economic development</li> <li>• Assess, market, and establish business clusters and associations</li> </ul>

### **A Competitive RNTA Project Application Demonstrates:**

- Support one or more of EDA’s [Investment Priorities](#)
- A need or demand within the economic development sphere
- Potential usefulness for local, regional, and state economic development practitioners
- Soundness and completeness of analytical demonstration of methodology and means of dissemination
- Value of proposed project in relation to funding amount



### Funding Details:

- For Fiscal Years 2018-2020, funding for the Research and Evaluation (R&E) Program totaled \$1.5 million annually and funding for the National Technical Assistance (NTA) Program totaled \$1.0 million annually.
- EDA anticipates a twelve (12) to eighteen (18) month project period subject to availability of funds, EDA policy, and satisfactory performance.
- Funding is awarded through Grants or Cooperative Agreements. Cooperative Agreements differ from Grants because they require “substantial involvement” on behalf of EDA.
- Applications are accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis.
- For more funding information, please reference the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) section on our website here: <https://eda.gov/programs/rnta/>.

### Application Process:

The RNTA Program employs a two-step application process: (1) the Concept Proposal and (2) the Full Application. **EDA will only review Full Applications submitted by applicants who submitted a Concept Proposal. Any Full Application received from an applicant who did not submit a Concept Proposal will be deemed ineligible and not considered for funding.**

1. Review the current [NOFO](#). Prior to preparing a Full Application, potential applicants must submit a Concept Proposal to [rnta@eda.gov](mailto:rnta@eda.gov). The RNTA Team recommends potential applicants utilize the [RNTA Project Concept Proposal and Budget Templates](#) to develop their Concept Proposal.
2. EDA staff will review the Concept Proposal and provide feedback to the potential applicant by providing a letter with a recommendation of “encourage” or “discourage” to develop a Full Application. Regardless of this recommendation, any potential applicant who has submitted a Concept Proposal can develop a full application and will be given full and fair consideration.
3. The applicant will submit the Full Application through Grants.gov ([www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov)).
4. EDA Staff will conduct an eligibility and technical completeness review (“Technical Review”) of the Full Application. If the project encompasses all necessary documentation, it will proceed to an Investment Review Committee (IRC). If the project does not include all necessary documentation, the applicant will be notified of application deficiencies.
5. During the IRC, a committee of at least three (3) federal employees will evaluate the application and recommend a Funding Decision.
6. After the IRC, the recommendation will be sent to the Grants Officer, who has the authority to accept or reject the IRC’s recommended Funding Decision.
7. Applicant is notified of Funding Decision.

### Current & Previously Funded Projects:

#### R&E:

Project Title	Grantee(s)	Summary of Project Goals
<a href="#">StatsAmerica</a>	The Trustees of Indiana University	An online platform that was created to provide actionable, timely, economic development data to support economic development ecosystems and local officials, nationwide.
“Understanding Impact: EDA Evaluation”	Urban Institute	This project will first conduct a program evaluation of infrastructure and non-infrastructure EDA grants from 2010 – 2019. Using the knowledge from this evaluation, Urban



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		Institute will produce a series of policy briefs highlighting important findings and develop an immersive narrative microsite that supports EDA's mission.
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**NTA:**

Project Title	Grantee(s)	Summary of Project Goals
<a href="#"><u>Community Best Practices in Response to Nuclear Power Plant Closures</u></a>	Smart Power, Inc.	This project provided technical assistance to Nuclear Closure Community (NCC) stakeholders across the country to increase their capacity for economic recovery after Nuclear Power Plant closures. It resulted in the development of a lessons learned and best practices report and a new educational website for stakeholders.
<a href="#"><u>National Technical Assistance for Revolving Loan Fund Operators (RLF)</u></a>	Council of Development Finance Agencies (CDFA)	This project created an RLF Program training, online learning resources, development of an effective program measurement tools and a network of RLF operators.
<a href="#"><u>Stronger CEDS, Stronger Regions:</u></a>	National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Research Foundation	This project developed an online resource and training archive for developing Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS) including reports, case studies, videos, webinars, and presentation materials on planning, developing, and implementing CEDS.

**Previously Funded Tools and Resources:** <https://www.eda.gov/tools/index.htm>

**Contact:**

For any comments, questions, or concerns, please contact: [rnta@eda.gov](mailto:rnta@eda.gov)

