

ANNOUNCEMENT OF FEDERAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **Federal Agency Name:** Economic Development Administration (“EDA”), Department of Commerce
- **Funding Opportunity Title:** Supplemental Appropriations Disaster Relief Opportunity pursuant to Act of June 30, 2008, Pub. L. No. 110-252, 122 Stat. 2323 (2008) -- Availability of Funds under section 703 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965, as amended (42 U.S.C. § 3233)
- **Announcement Type:** Initial Announcement of Federal Funding Opportunity (“FFO”)

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 11.307, Economic Adjustment Assistance

- **Dates:** Proposals (also known as pre-applications) are accepted on a continuing basis and applications are invited and processed as received. Generally, up to two months are required for EDA to reach a final decision after receipt of a complete application that meets all requirements.
- **Proposal Submissions:** As set forth in section IV. of this FFO, proposals or applications (as appropriate) must be submitted to the applicable EDA regional office. *See* section VII. for a list of EDA’s regional offices.
- **Funding Opportunity Description:** Pursuant to section 703 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965, as amended, EDA announces general policies and application procedures for the Supplemental Appropriations Disaster Relief Opportunity. This investment assistance will help devise long-term economic redevelopment strategies and carry out implementation activities and public works projects to address economic development challenges in regions impacted by the Midwest storms and floods and other recent natural disasters.

FULL ANNOUNCEMENT TEXT

I. Funding Opportunity Description

A. Opportunity Objectives and Description

Through this Supplemental Appropriations Disaster Relief Opportunity, EDA intends to award investments in regions experiencing severe economic distress as a result of the flooding, storms or tornadoes in the Midwest and other recent natural disasters. Pursuant to this announcement, EDA solicits applications for Economic Adjustment Assistance investments under the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965, as amended (“PWEDA”). Through the Economic Adjustment Assistance program (CFDA No. 11.307), selected applicants will utilize EDA’s flexible set of program tools to develop and implement on a regional basis long-term economic redevelopment strategies for the recently disaster-impacted regions in the United States.

The Economic Adjustment Assistance program can provide a wide range of technical, planning and infrastructure assistance. This program is designed to respond adaptively to pressing economic recovery issues and is well suited to help address the challenges faced by the regions affected by the Midwest storms and floods and other recent natural disasters. Assistance can support development of a strategy to alleviate economic dislocation caused by the disaster (that is, a strategy grant) or support project implementation (an implementation grant), such as infrastructure improvements.

EDA recognizes that urgent infrastructure rebuilding needs exist throughout the regions affected by recent natural disasters. In addition, tensions often arise in the wake of a disaster between advocates of immediate infrastructure rebuilding and advocates of rebuilding infrastructure pursuant to a long-term redevelopment strategy. In EDA’s experience with post-disaster recovery, the most effective long-term infrastructure rebuilding efforts are based on a long-term development or redevelopment strategy, established either before or after the disaster. For this reason, EDA encourages the submission of applications geared to the development and implementation of long-term, regionally-based, collaborative economic redevelopment strategies. In addition, EDA will regard applications for infrastructure that are substantively supported by such a strategy as more competitive and worthy of funding than applications for infrastructure that are not so supported. Applications for rebuilding damaged infrastructure that are not demonstrably supported by a long-term plan will not be viewed as competitive. EDA will evaluate and select applications according to the criteria set forth in section V. of this announcement.

This competitive solicitation is for the Supplemental Appropriations Disaster Relief Opportunity only. Please access the separate FFO announcement posted at www.grants.gov on February 21, 2008 for information regarding funding priorities, application and selection processes, time frames, and evaluation criteria for EDA’s regular Economic Adjustment Assistance and Public Works investments, which are funded under the FY 2008 Consolidated

Appropriations Act.¹ Additional information may be found at EDA's Internet website at www.eda.gov.

B. Statutory Authority for EDA's Program under this Announcement

The statutory authority for the Economic Adjustment Assistance Program is section 209 (42 U.S.C. § 3149) of PWEDA.

Unless otherwise provided in this FFO, applicant eligibility, program objectives and priorities, application procedures, evaluation criteria, selection procedures, and other requirements for all programs are set forth in EDA's regulations (codified at 13 C.F.R. chapter III). EDA's regulations and PWEDA are available at <http://www.eda.gov/InvestmentsGrants/Lawsreg.xml>.

II. Award Information

A. Funding Availability

Under the FY 2008 disaster supplemental appropriations act², EDA received \$100,000,000 as a supplemental appropriation for disaster assistance (the "Disaster Appropriation"). Although the impetus for this appropriation was the storms and flooding experienced this year in the Midwest region of the United States, the law mandates that the funds must be used in regions covered by a major disaster declaration under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. § 5121 *et seq.*) (the "Stafford Act"), "as a result of recent natural disasters." For purposes of this competitive solicitation, EDA interprets "recent" to mean disaster declarations starting January 1, 2008 for incident periods occurring through June 30, 2008, the date of enactment of the Disaster Appropriation.

EDA will allocate funds for the Supplemental Appropriations Disaster Relief Opportunity from the Disaster Appropriation among its six regional offices, located in Atlanta, Austin, Chicago, Denver, Philadelphia and Seattle. The funds are provided for the necessary expenses related to the following three activities: (i) disaster relief; (ii) long-term recovery; and (iii) restoration of infrastructure.

B. EDA Regional Office Allocations

The Disaster Appropriation is provided "pursuant to section 703 of PWEDA," which in turn provides that such funds must be used to carry out paragraph (c)(2) of section 209 of PWEDA, under EDA's Economic Adjustment Assistance program (42 U.S.C. §§ 3149 and 3233). Section 209(c)(2) of PWEDA states that assistance may include assistance provided for activities identified by communities, the economies of which are injured by "disasters or emergencies, in areas with respect to which a major disaster or emergency has been declared

¹ Pub. L. No. 110-161, 121 Stat. 1844 (2007).

² Act of June 30, 2008, Pub. L. No. 110-252, 122 Stat. 2323 (2008) (providing for appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veteran Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes).

under the [Act], for post-disaster economic recovery.” Subsection (b) of section 703 of PWEDA provides that the federal share of the cost of activities funded with amounts made available may be up to one hundred (100) percent.

EDA’s will allocate the Disaster Appropriation among the six regional offices using a formula consisting of two equally weighted elements:

- (i) The number of Federal Emergency Management Agency (“FEMA”) public assistance (“PA”) declared counties in a regional office’s geographic service area as a percentage of the total number of FEMA-PA-declared counties nationwide; and
- (ii) The population of FEMA-PA-declared counties in a regional office’s geographic service area as a percentage of the total population of that region.

See section VII. of this announcement for information regarding the States served by each EDA regional office.

APPROXIMATE ALLOCATION PER REGIONAL OFFICE:

Atlanta Regional Office	– \$ 8.8
Austin Regional Office	– \$13.8
Chicago Regional Office	– \$21.4
Denver Regional Office	– \$52.6
Philadelphia Regional Office	– \$ 2.3
Seattle Regional Office	– \$ 1.0

At a later date, EDA may adjust the allocation to the regional offices, based on its experience in administering the supplemental appropriation to ensure funds are used to maximum effect, or to adjust to unforeseen changes in recovery efforts.

C. Type of Funding Instrument

Subject to the availability of funds, EDA may enter into grants with eligible applicants in order to provide funding for eligible investment activities under the Supplemental Appropriations Disaster Relief Opportunity.

D. Project Periods

Under the Economic Adjustment Assistance program, project periods are dependent on the nature of the project for which the grant for the project is awarded. Typically, strategy grants may range from twelve (12) to eighteen (18) months with extensions given on a case-by-case basis. Implementation grants generally are expected to range from thirty-six (36) to sixty (60) months. EDA will work closely with the recipient to accommodate their projected timelines.

III. Eligibility Information

A. Eligible Applicants

Pursuant to PWEDA, eligible applicants for and eligible recipients of EDA investment assistance under this announcement include a(n): (i) District Organization; (ii) Indian Tribe or a consortium of Indian Tribes; (iii) State, 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; (iv) institution of higher education or a consortium of institutions of higher education; or (v) public or private non-profit organization or association acting in cooperation with officials of a political subdivision of a State. *See* section 3 of PWEDA (42 U.S.C. § 3122) and 13 C.F.R. § 300.3.

EDA is not authorized to provide grants directly to individuals or to for-profit entities seeking to start or expand a private business. Such requests may be referred to State or local agencies, or to non-profit economic development organizations.

For the Supplemental Appropriations Disaster Relief Opportunity, EDA will consider proposals submitted by eligible applicants located in or acting on behalf of the disaster-affected regions, including one or more institutions of higher education; one or more of the States, cities or other units of local government; and economic development organizations, including but not limited to regional multi-jurisdictional District Organizations and public or private non-profit organizations working in cooperation with private for-profit organizations, local businesses and industry leaders.

B. Economic Distress Criteria

Pursuant to the Disaster Appropriation, regional eligibility is predicated upon the Presidential declarations of disaster areas and/or disaster declarations issued by FEMA. EDA will determine if the region qualifies for investment assistance under the Economic Adjustment Assistance program pursuant to such Presidential declarations of disaster areas and/or the FEMA designations of areas as eligible for public assistance or individual and public assistance due to declared disasters, as listed below.

As of the date of this publication, FEMA has issued the following disaster declarations starting January 1, 2008 for incident periods occurring through June 30, 2008:

- (1) Arkansas: 60 counties out of 75 counties designated under FEMA-1744-DR, 1751-DR, 1758-DR;
- (2) Georgia: 16 counties out of 159 counties designated under FEMA-1750-DR, 1761-DR;
- (3) Hawaii: 3 counties out of 5 counties designated under FEMA-1743-DR;
- (4) Idaho: 2 counties out of 44 counties designated under FEMA-1781-DR;
- (5) Illinois: 23 counties out of 102 counties designated under FEMA-1747-DR, 1771-DR;

- (6) Indiana: 60 counties out of 92 counties designated under FEMA-1740-DR, 1766-DR;
- (7) Iowa: 83 counties out of 99 counties designated under FEMA-1737-DR, 1763-DR;
- (8) Kansas: 81 counties out of 105 counties designated under FEMA-1741-DR, 1776-DR;
- (9) Kentucky: 32 counties out of 120 counties designated under FEMA-1746-DR, 1757-DR;
- (10) Maine: 7 counties out of 16 counties designated under FEMA-1755-DR;
- (11) Michigan: 11 counties out of 83 counties designated under FEMA-1777-DR;
- (12) Minnesota: 6 counties out of 87 counties designated under FEMA-1772-DR;
- (13) Mississippi: 1 county out of 82 counties designated under FEMA-1753-DR, 1764-DR;
- (14) Missouri: 96 counties out of 115 counties designated under FEMA-1742-DR, 1748-DR, 1749-DR, 1760-DR, 1773-DR;
- (15) Montana: 4 counties out of 56 counties designated under FEMA-1767-DR;
- (16) Nebraska: 63 counties out of 93 counties designated under FEMA-1739-DR, 1765-DR, 1770-DR, 1779-DR;
- (17) Nevada: 1 county out of 17 counties designated under FEMA-1738-DR;
- (18) Oklahoma: 50 counties out of 77 counties designated under FEMA-1752-DR, 1754-DR, 1756-DR, 1775-DR;
- (19) South Dakota: 29 counties out of 66 counties designated under FEMA-1759-DR, 1774-DR;
- (20) Tennessee: 16 counties out of 95 counties designated under FEMA-1745-DR;
- (21) Vermont: 2 counties out of 102 counties designated under FEMA-1778-DR;
- (22) West Virginia: 15 counties out of 55 counties designated under FEMA-1769-DR; and
- (23) Wisconsin: 29 counties out of 72 counties designated under FEMA-1768-DR.

In accordance with 13 C.F.R. parts 301 and 307, EDA will review project eligibility at the time the application for investment assistance is received in the regional office. Project eligibility is a threshold consideration. EDA will determine where to invest the supplemental appropriation in accord with the criteria set out in section V. below.

C. Cost Sharing or Matching Share Requirement

As stated in section III.B., regional eligibility under this announcement is predicated upon the Presidential declarations of disaster areas under the Stafford Act. Similar to the cost-sharing required under that Act, EDA expects to fund seventy-five (75) percent of the eligible cost of such assistance. The remaining twenty-five (25) percent must be borne by the recipient or provided to the recipient by a third party as a contribution for the purposes of and subject to the terms of the award. In accordance with statutory authority under section 703 of PWEDA (42 U.S.C. § 3233), EDA may, in certain instances, increase the investment rate up to a maximum of one hundred (100) percent. EDA will be particularly inclined to fund the regional strategy grants (as mentioned in section I.A. above) at an investment rate of one hundred (100) percent. In determining whether to increase the federal share above seventy-five (75) percent, EDA will

consider whether the applicant has exhausted its effective taxing or borrowing capacity, or other indicia of dire need. Therefore, the applicant must include a narrative that fully describes and defines the “region” in which the proposed project will be located, and is responsible for demonstrating to EDA, by providing statistics and other appropriate information, the nature and level of economic distress in the region. *See* section IV.B.1. for more information regarding the project narrative.

While cash contributions are preferred, in-kind contributions, consisting of contributions of space, equipment, or services, or forgiveness or assumptions of debt, may provide the required non-federal share of the total project cost. *See* section 204(b) of PWEDA (42 U.S.C. § 3144). EDA will fairly evaluate all in-kind contributions, which must be eligible project costs and meet applicable federal cost principles and uniform administrative requirements. Funds from other federal financial assistance awards are considered matching share funds only if authorized by statute, which may be determined by EDA’s reasonable interpretation of the statute. *See* 13 C.F.R. § 300.3. The applicant must show that the matching share is committed to the project for the project period, will be available as needed and is not conditioned or encumbered in any way that precludes its use consistent with the requirements of EDA investment assistance. *See* 13 C.F.R. § 301.5.

IV. Application and Submission Information

A. Obtaining Pre-Application and Application Packages

For projects under this announcement, a pre-application on Form ED-900P normally is required. However, given the exigent circumstances that exist as a result of the Midwest storms and floods and other recent natural disasters, the EDA regional office may in some circumstances waive the pre-application requirement for applicants in those affected regions and allow those applicants to submit an application only on Form ED-900A (no pre-application). Therefore, please contact the appropriate EDA regional office listed in section VII. for instructions as to whether you need to complete a pre-application or an application. The regional office staff will provide application instructions.

Proponents are advised that in October 2008, EDA anticipates introducing a single-step application process that will obviate use of the current Forms ED-900P and ED-900A. At that time, EDA will publish new application procedures in line with the new single-step application in the *Federal Register* and will post information about those procedures at www.eda.gov.

All relevant forms may be accessed and downloaded as follows: (i) Forms ED-900P and ED-900A at www.eda.gov/InvestmentsGrants/Application.xml; (ii) Standard Forms (SF) at either www.grants.gov or at www.eda.gov/InvestmentsGrants/Application.xml; and (iii) Department of Commerce (CD) forms at http://ocio.os.doc.gov/ITPolicyandPrograms/Electronic_Forms/index.htm. *See* section IV.D. of this FFO for paper or electronic submission requirements and section V.A. for information regarding evaluation and selection procedures.

B. Content and Form of Application Process

Proponents are advised to carefully read the instructions contained in this FFO and in the pre-application and application forms. The requirements of the pre-application are different than the requirements of the application. It is the sole responsibility of the proponent to ensure that the pre-application or application (as appropriate) is complete and received by EDA.

1. Proposal Format

The regional office may advise the proponent to complete a pre-application on Form ED-900P. This form contains questions and requires a narrative statement that should not exceed four (4) pages. The project narrative statement must address the following topics in the order listed below:

- a. Project description.
- b. Geographic area in which project will be located.
- c. The regional nature and impact of the project.
- d. The means by which and the extent to which the project supports innovation.
- e. The means by which and the extent to which the project encourages entrepreneurship.
- f. Proponent's capability.
- g. Regional problem(s) or obstacle(s) addressed by the project, including statistics and other appropriate information demonstrating the nature and level of economic distress in the region.
- h. Project beneficiaries.
- i. Funding, including where appropriate a demonstration of dire need as discussed in section III.C. of this FFO.
- j. Identity of sources of local commitment and non-EDA funding.
- k. Title/ownership/operation and maintenance (construction projects).
- l. Environmental issues.

If the regional office directs a proponent to submit an application on Form ED-900A either initially because of a public exigency or following the evaluation of a pre-application, regional office staff will provide application instructions at that time.

The proposed project must be eligible on the date EDA receives the application. The disaster declarations based upon the disaster declarations issued by FEMA provide EDA with the requisite determination of eligibility under section 703 of PWEDA (42 U.S.C. § 3233). EDA will review applications on a case-by-case basis to determine the regional economic revitalization needs relative to the level of disaster presented by the facts and circumstances of a given case.

2. Submission Dates

Proposals or applications (as appropriate) received after the date of posting of this announcement will be processed in accordance with the requirements set forth herein until

superseded by the terms of an FFO announcement posted on www.grants.gov and publication of the related notice and request for proposals and applications in the *Federal Register*.

3. Intergovernmental Review

Applications for EDA investment assistance are subject to the requirements of Executive Order (“EO”) 12372, “Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs.” To find out more about a State’s process under EO 12372, applicants may contact their State’s Single Point of Contact (“SPOC”). Names and addresses of some States’ SPOCs are listed on the Office of Management and Budget’s home page at www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/spoc.html.

C. Funding Restrictions

The uniform administrative requirements for Department of Commerce grants and cooperative agreements are codified at 15 C.F.R. parts 14 and 24, as applicable. Funds awarded cannot necessarily pay for all the costs that the recipient may incur in the course of carrying out the project. EDA allowable costs are determined by reference to the following Office of Management and Budget Circulars: Circular No. A-122 titled “*Cost Principles for Nonprofit Organizations*” (2 C.F.R. part 230); Circular No. A-21 titled “*Cost Principles for Education Institutions*” (2 C.F.R. part 220); and Circular No. A-87 titled “*Cost Principles for State, Local and Indian Tribal Governments*” (2 C.F.R. part 225). Generally, costs that are allowable include salaries, supplies and other expenses that are reasonable and necessary for completion of the project’s scope of work.

D. Pre-Application and Application Submission Requirements

The content of the pre-application or application (as appropriate) is the same for paper submissions as it is for electronic submissions. EDA will not accept facsimile transmissions of pre-applications or applications. Pre-applications or applications may be submitted either (i) in paper (hardcopy) format through the procedures provided below in this FFO, or (ii) electronically in accordance with the procedures provided on www.grants.gov.

1. Paper Submissions

Under this competitive solicitation, a proponent may submit a completed pre-application or application (as appropriate) to the applicable EDA regional office listed in section VII. of this announcement. A proponent advised by the regional office to complete a pre-application should download and print copies of the *Pre-Application for Investment Assistance* (Form ED-900P) and the *Application for Federal Assistance* (Form SF-424) at www.eda.gov/InvestmentsGrants/Application.xml, complete Parts I, II and III of Form ED-900P and Form SF-424, and attach the project narrative statement requested in section IV.B.1. of this FFO. The narrative statement should be clearly labeled to identify each addressed topic listed in section IV.B.1. A proponent advised to complete an application should follow the instructions provided by the regional office at the time it is so advised.

A proponent must submit one (1) original and two (2) copies of the completed pre-application or application (as appropriate) via postal mail, shipped overnight or hand-delivered to the applicable regional office, unless otherwise directed by EDA staff. Department of Commerce mail security measures may delay receipt of United States Postal Service mail for up to two weeks. Therefore, proponents who submit paper submissions are advised to use guaranteed overnight delivery services.

2. Electronic Submissions

Proponents may submit pre-applications or applications (as appropriate) electronically in accordance with the instructions provided by the EDA regional office and the instructions provided at http://www.grants.gov/applicants/apply_for_grants.jsp. The preferred file format for electronic attachments (e.g., the project narrative statement and exhibits to Form ED-900P) is portable document format (PDF); however, EDA will accept electronic files in Microsoft Word, WordPerfect, Lotus or Excel formats.

Applicants should access the following link for assistance in navigating www.grants.gov and for a list of useful resources: http://www.grants.gov/applicants/applicant_help.jsp. If you do not find an answer to your question under “Applicant FAQs” at http://www.grants.gov/applicants/applicant_faqs.jsp, try consulting the Applicant User Guide. If you still cannot find an answer to your question, contact www.grants.gov via email at support@grants.gov or telephone at 1-800-518-4726. The hours of operation for www.grants.gov are Monday-Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. (ET) (except for federal holidays).

V. Proposal and Application Review Information

A. Evaluation and Selection Procedures

EDA’s six regional offices conduct all pre-application and application review for EDA’s Economic Adjustment Assistance investments. Each pre-application or application (as appropriate) is circulated by a project officer within the applicable regional office for review and comments. When the necessary input and information are obtained, the pre-application or application (as appropriate) is considered by the regional office’s investment review committee (IRC), which is comprised of regional office staff. The IRC discusses the pre-application or application (as appropriate) and evaluates it on two levels to (a) determine if it meets the program-specific award and application requirements provided in 13 C.F.R. §§ 307.2 and 307.4 for Economic Adjustment Assistance; and (b) evaluate each pre-application or application (as appropriate) using the general evaluation criteria set forth in 13 C.F.R. § 301.8. These general evaluation criteria also are listed below in section V.B.

If a proponent is selected to submit a formal application, the appropriate regional office will provide application materials and guidance in completing them. The proponent generally will have thirty (30) days to submit the completed application materials to the regional office. EDA staff will work with the proponent to resolve application deficiencies. EDA will notify the applicant if EDA accepts a completed application, and it is forwarded for final review and processing in accordance with EDA and Department of Commerce procedures.

B. Evaluation Criteria

EDA will select investment proposals or applications (as appropriate) competitively based on the investment policy guidelines identified in this section and funding priority considerations identified in section V.C. below. EDA will evaluate the extent to which a project embodies the maximum number of investment policy guidelines and funding priorities possible and strongly exemplifies at least one of each. All proposals or applications (as appropriate) will be competitively evaluated primarily on their ability to satisfy one (1) or more of the following investment policy guidelines, each of equivalent weight and which also are set forth in 13 C.F.R. § 301.8:

1. ***Be market-based and results driven.*** An EDA investment will capitalize on a region's competitive strengths and will positively move a regional economic indicator measured on EDA's Balanced Scorecard, such as: an increased number of higher-skill, higher-wage jobs; increased tax revenue; or increased private sector investment resulting from the EDA investment.
2. ***Have strong organizational leadership.*** An EDA investment will have strong leadership, relevant project management experience, and a significant commitment of human resources talent to ensure a project's successful execution.
3. ***Advance productivity, innovation and entrepreneurship.*** An EDA investment will embrace the principles of entrepreneurship, enhance regional industry clusters, and leverage and link technology innovators and local universities to the private sector to create the conditions for greater productivity, innovation, and job creation.
4. ***Look beyond the immediate economic horizon, anticipate economic changes, and diversify the local and regional economy.*** An EDA investment will be part of an overarching, long-term comprehensive economic development strategy that enhances a region's success in achieving a rising standard of living by supporting existing industry clusters, developing emerging new clusters, or attracting new regional economic drivers.
5. ***Demonstrate a high degree of local commitment by exhibiting:***
 - High levels of local government or non-profit matching share funds and private sector leverage;
 - Clear and unified leadership and support by local elected officials; and
 - Strong cooperation between the business sector, relevant regional partners and local, State and federal governments.

In addition to using the investment policy guidelines set forth above, EDA also will evaluate all strategy grant pre-applications or applications (as appropriate) based on the (i) quality of the proposed scope of work for the development, implementation, revision or replacement of a comprehensive economic development strategy (CEDS); and (ii) qualifications of the proponent to implement the goals and objectives resulting from the CEDS. See 13 C.F.R. § 303.3(a)(1) and (2). To ensure that the pre-application or application (as appropriate) fully meets these requirements, proponents should pay particular attention to 13 C.F.R. § 303.7(b), which sets forth specific technical requirements for the CEDS.

C. Funding Priorities

Although the Stafford Act declarations serve as a finding of regional economic distress for purposes of eligibility under this competitive solicitation, EDA will give priority to projects that will render the maximum amount of economic revitalization based on satisfaction of one or more of the following core criteria (investment proposals or applications that meet more than one core criterion will be given more favorable consideration):

1. ***Investments in support of long-term, coordinated and collaborative regional economic development approaches:***
 - Establish comprehensive regional economic development strategies that identify promising opportunities for long-term economic growth.
 - Exhibit demonstrable, committed multi-jurisdictional support from leaders across all sectors:
 - i. Public (e.g., mayors, city councils, county executives, senior state leadership);
 - ii. Institutional (e.g., institutions of higher learning);
 - iii. Non-profit (e.g., chambers of commerce, development organizations); and
 - iv. Private (e.g., leading regional businesses, significant regional industry associations).
 - Generate quantifiable positive economic outcomes.
 - Make a persuasive case that the project would not have occurred “but for” EDA’s investment assistance (e.g., a project in which EDA’s assistance represents a substantial share of the total public infrastructure investment and which are unlikely to attract public investment absent specific and discrete EDA involvement).

2. ***Investments that support innovation and competitiveness:***
 - Develop and enhance the functioning and competitiveness of leading and emerging industry clusters in an economic region.
 - Advance technology transfer from research institutions to the commercial marketplace.
 - Bolster critical infrastructure (e.g., transportation, communications, specialized training) to prepare economic regions to compete in the world-wide marketplace.
 - Leverage local partnerships and other federal programs (e.g., Economic Development Districts, Trade Adjustment Assistance Centers, University Centers, the U.S. Department of Labor’s Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) initiative) that increase the project’s probability of success, as well as its probability of bringing substantial benefits to the distress community in which it is located.

3. ***Investments that encourage entrepreneurship:***
 - Cultivate a favorable entrepreneurial environment consistent with regional strategies.
 - Enable economic regions to identify innovative opportunities among growth-oriented small and medium-size enterprises.
 - Promote community and faith-based entrepreneurship programs aimed at improving economic performance in an economic region.
 - Link the economic benefits of the project to the distressed community in which it is located.

4. ***Support strategies that link regional economies with the global marketplace:***
 - Enable businesses and local governments to understand that ninety-five (95) percent of our potential customers do not live in the United States.
 - Enable businesses, local governments and key institutions (e.g., institutions of higher education) to understand and take advantage of the numerous free trade agreements.
 - Enable economic development professionals to develop and implement strategies that reflect the competitive environment of the 21st Century global marketplace.

VI. Award Administration Information

A. Award Notices

As described in section IV. of this announcement, proponents submitting a pre-application may be invited to submit a full application. This invitation is not, however, a guarantee that funding will be provided. Unsuccessful proponents will be notified by postal mail that their proposals were not recommended for funding. Unsuccessful proposals will be retained in the EDA regional office in accordance with EDA's record retention schedule.

The EDA Grants Officer will issue the grant award (Form CD-450), which is the authorizing financial assistance award document. By signing the Form CD-450, the recipient agrees to comply with all award provisions. EDA will provide the Form CD-450 by mail or overnight delivery to the appropriate business office of the recipient's organization. The recipient must sign and return the Form CD-450 without modification within thirty (30) days of receipt.

If an applicant is awarded funding, neither the Department of Commerce nor EDA is under any obligation to provide any additional future funding in connection with that award or to make any future award(s). Amendment or renewal of an award to increase funding or to extend the period of performance is at the discretion of the Department of Commerce and of EDA.

B. Reporting Requirements

All recipients are required to submit financial and performance (technical) reports in accordance with the terms and conditions of the grant award. All financial reports must be submitted in triplicate (one original and two copies) to the EDA program officer. *See* 13 C.F.R. § 302.16.

VII. Agency Contacts

As stated in section I.A. above, this competitive solicitation is for the Supplemental Appropriations Disaster Relief Opportunity only. If you have a project that will be located in one of the disaster-impacted regions declared under the Stafford Act, please contact the appropriate regional office listed below. EDA's Internet website at www.eda.gov provides additional information on EDA and its programs.

Atlanta Regional Office
401 West Peachtree Street, NW
Suite 1820
Atlanta, Georgia 30308
Telephone: (404) 730-3019
Serves: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee

Austin Regional Office
504 Lavaca Street, Suite 1100
Austin, Texas 78701
Telephone: (512) 381-8144
Serves: Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas

Chicago Regional Office
111 North Canal Street, Suite 855
Chicago, Illinois 60606
Telephone: (312) 353-7706
Serves: Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin and Muscatine and Scott counties in Iowa

Denver Regional Office
410 17th Street, Suite 250
Denver, Colorado 80202
Telephone: (303) 844-4714
Serves: Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming

Philadelphia Regional Office
Curtis Center
601 Walnut Street, Suite 140 South

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

Telephone: (215) 597-2811

Serves: Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, Virgin Islands and West Virginia

Seattle Regional Office

Jackson Federal Building, Room 1890

915 Second Avenue

Seattle, Washington 98174

Telephone: (206) 220-7660

Serves: Alaska, American Samoa, Arizona, California, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nevada, Northern Mariana Islands, Oregon, Republic of Palau and Washington