

U.S. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

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2010 INNOVATION IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

ENTRY BROCHURE

Overview

The U.S. Economic Development Administration's (EDA) **2010 Innovation in Economic Development Awards** (formerly the EDA Excellence in Economic Development Awards) recognize innovative economic development projects or strategies of national significance. The awards are designed to showcase best practices and highlight outstanding results.

EDA is currently accepting entries for the 2010 Innovation in Economic Development Awards. The deadline for submitting an entry is **August 27, 2010**.

A selection panel, appointed by the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development, will evaluate the entries. Awards winners will be announced on **October 27, 2010**.

If you have any questions regarding the awards, please contact Lindsey Pangretic at lpangretic@eda.doc.gov or at (202) 482-2477.

Key Dates for EDA's 2010 Innovation in Economic Development Awards

August 27, 2010
October 27, 2010

Entry deadline
Winners announced

Entry Procedure

Entries may be submitted by any eligible organization or individual, excluding selection panel members. Applications are to be submitted electronically at: www.eda.gov/NewsEvents/application.xml.

All entries must be submitted in accordance with the instructions provided in the brochure. A bona fide representative of the entrant must certify the entry and must serve as their organization's official representative, unless EDA is advised otherwise. EDA will contact winners by phone and will post their names at www.eda.gov.

Entry Eligibility

Eligible entries include:

- Nonprofit organizations;
- Local, state and regional governments; and,
- Universities and colleges.

Entries may discuss:

- Specific projects of national importance; or,
- Cumulative activities of the nominee.

Individuals and for-profit institutions are not eligible.

ENTRY CATEGORIES

Entries may be submitted in only one of the following four categories:

1. Innovation in **Regional Innovation Clusters (RICs)**
The entry advances the development of geographic concentrations of firms and industries that do business regionally, across sectors.
2. Innovation in **Commercialization**
The entry promotes the commercialization of university research and technology, business incubators and research parks to foster job creation.
3. Innovation in **Global Export Promotion**
The entry successfully promotes American goods overseas and manufacturing revitalization, bolstering competitiveness abroad and creating higher-skill, higher-wage jobs.
4. Innovation in **Green Technology**
The entry promotes innovative strategies in the development of environmentally-friendly technology, projects, or partnerships that attract substantial private capital investment and create higher-skill, higher-wage jobs.

SELECTION CRITERIA

*Entries will be competitively evaluated on their ability to meet or exceed the following selection criteria and based on the program's ability to create jobs.**

1. The entry is market-based and results driven.

The entry capitalizes on a region's competitive strengths and positively moves a regional economic indicator, such as an increased number of higher-skill, higher-wage jobs, increased tax revenue or increased private sector investment.

2. The entry has strong organizational leadership.

The entry has strong leadership, excellent project management and includes a significant commitment of human resources talent to ensure the project's successful execution.

3. The entry advances productivity, innovation and entrepreneurship.

The entry embraces the principles of entrepreneurship, enhances regional clusters, and leverages and links technology innovators and local universities to the private sector to create the conditions for greater productivity, innovation and job creation.

4. The entry looks beyond the immediate economic horizon, anticipates economic changes and diversifies the local and regional economy.

The entry is 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 clusters or attracting new regional economic drivers.

5. The entry demonstrates a high degree of commitment by exhibiting:

High level of local government or nonprofit matching 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.

*Applicants will also be evaluated based on EDA's current investment priorities, which are available at: <http://www.eda.gov/InvestmentsGrants/InvestmentPriorities.xml>.

Selection Process

EDA employees will review each nomination received for completeness and adherence to competition rules. Each complete and eligible entry is forwarded to the selection panel to be competitively evaluated by at least three panelists according to the selection criteria provided. The top three nominations in each of the four award categories advance as finalists. Using the announced criteria, the selection panel ranks the finalists for consideration by the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development who will select the winners. If no finalist in an award category achieves the level of excellence contemplated in this award, the Assistant Secretary may decide not to make an award in that category.

EDA staff and selection panel members reserve the right to contact the representative certifying the entry in order to verify information submitted or to obtain additional information necessary to evaluate the entry. The representative is under no obligation to provide this information, but should recognize that failure to provide the information may lower the chances of the entry being selected as a finalist or as a winner.

Selection Panel

In any given year, the selection panel is composed of as many as 10 individuals selected by the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development in the following categories:

- three practitioners from the non-federal economic development community;
- two members from academe;
- two EDA representatives, and;
- three at-large members.

Selection panel members may not be employees, officers, consultants or contractors of any organization submitting an entry. In the event such a conflict of interest is discovered, either the selection panel member shall be removed from the selection process or the organization shall withdraw its entry. The Assistant Secretary may replace any selection panel member who resigns. The term of a selection panel member shall be one year.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PREPARING AND SUBMITTING AN ENTRY

- An entry may be submitted in only one of the four categories.
- An entry should address each of the five selection criteria and ability to create jobs, as well as meet EDA's current investment priorities. You may submit a statement totaling no more than five pages to discuss achievements in the five selection criteria.
- Please do not include any additional materials, such as promotional materials, annual reports or planning documents. These items will not be considered by the selection panel.
- An entry may include as many as three letters of support. To be considered by the selection panel, each support letter must be uploaded through the online application form.
- An entry may include as many as three electronic photographs. All photographs must be uploaded through the online application form.
- All entries must be sent via the electronic submission form at: www.eda.gov/NewsEvents/application.xml. Please do not submit more than one entry.
- You will receive an email notifying you that your application has been received.
- If you have any questions, email innovationawards@eda.doc.gov.

Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number. The OMB Approved Number for this Collection is 0610-0101 and expires 08/31/2011.

The information is used by EDA to recognize outstanding economic development activities of national importance and to determine which applicants that meet the preannounced criteria. No confidentiality for the information submitted is promised or provided except that which is exempt under 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(4) as confidential business information.

The public reporting burden for this collection is estimated to average 3 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to: Economic Development Administration, Herbert C. Hoover Building, Washington, D.C. 20230, and to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of the Office of Management and Budget, Washington, D.C. 20503.