

ANNOUNCEMENT OF FEDERAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **Federal Agency Name:** Economic Development Administration (“EDA”), Department of Commerce
- **Funding Opportunity Title:** *Second Supplemental Appropriations Disaster Relief Opportunity* under the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009, Pub. L. No. 110-329, 122 Stat. 3574 (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 and Date:** Initial announcement of federal funding opportunity (“FFO”). Effective date: January 9, 2009.
- **Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number:** 11.307, Economic Adjustment Assistance
- **Application Submissions:** Applications are accepted on a continuing basis and processed as received. Applications may be submitted electronically in accordance with the instructions provided at www.grants.gov or mailed to the applicable EDA regional office listed in section VII. of this FFO in paper (hard copy) format.
- **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 Second 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 hurricanes, floods and other natural disasters during 2008 and covered by a major disaster declaration under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.

FULL ANNOUNCEMENT TEXT

I. Funding Opportunity Description

A. Opportunity Objectives and Description

Through this Second Supplemental Appropriations Disaster Relief Opportunity, EDA intends to award investments for expenses related to disaster relief, long-term recovery, and restoration of infrastructure related to the consequences of hurricanes, floods and other natural disasters of 2008 for which the President declared a major disaster under title IV of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. § 5121 *et seq.*) (the “Stafford Act”). 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.

Through this competitive solicitation, EDA seeks to fund planning (i.e., strategy grants) and implementation investments that generate new employment opportunities for regions suffering economic distress in the form of high unemployment, underemployment, low per capita incomes, and outmigration due to the 2008 natural disasters. 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 hurricanes, floods and other natural disasters of 2008. EDA’s economic development activities encourage business growth and increased business establishment, retention and expansion, and help create jobs. Post-disaster recovery activities that do not contribute directly to these goals (such as flood mapping, levee public works or housing) are entirely necessary to the recovery effort and may lead indirectly to economic development. However, those types of activities are funded by other federal agencies and are therefore not within the province of the funding opportunities provided in this FFO. EDA’s statutory mandate, as applied to post-disaster assistance, is to help formulate and implement economic recovery strategies to restore, replace and expand economic activity in disaster-impacted regions and prioritize projects that will diversify the economic base and lead to a stronger, more globally competitive and disaster-resilient regional economy. By maintaining its focus on economic development, EDA fulfills its mission to lead the federal economic development agenda by promoting innovation and competitiveness, preparing American regions for growth and success in the worldwide economy.

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. Applications for rebuilding damaged infrastructure that are not demonstrably supported by a long-term plan ordinarily will not be viewed as competitive. EDA will evaluate and select applications according to the criteria set forth in section V. of this FFO.

In addition to soliciting applications for all eligible types of Economic Adjustment projects, EDA specifically encourages submission of applications for the following types of projects under the Economic Adjustment Assistance program:

State-based “Mother Grants”

States most severely impacted by the 2008 disasters may submit applications to fund “mother grants” to assist States to recover from the disasters. The major distinction between a “mother grant” award and EDA’s traditional award is that the amount distributed at one time to a State may be larger than the usual EDA award, with the intent that funds will be distributed expeditiously to respond to the needs of disaster-affected regions and communities. States may directly expend mother grant funds or may redistribute the funds in the form of sub-grants to other eligible recipients for disaster-related individual projects pursuant to an EDA-approved scope of work for the mother grant project. *See* section 217 of PWEDA (42 U.S.C. § 3154c). Each State mother grant recipient will have three years from the date of execution of its mother grant award to expend or redistribute as sub-grants the funds obligated pursuant to the investment. Funds not expended or redistributed prior to the end of the three-year period will be de-obligated and re-obligated pursuant to the terms of the award. States applying for mother grants are required to demonstrate quantitatively and qualitatively the connection between the amount of their proposed mother grant and the extent of damage suffered and needs established within the State’s affected areas, including such factors as the scale of damage suffered, the existence of contiguous affected areas, historical frequency of disaster occurrence and the size of affected population. States also are encouraged to list specific projects, if known; that they believe would be suitable candidates for EDA funding. Each sub-grant redistributed by the State to a region subject to a disaster declaration (*see* section III.B of this FFO) will be subject to the final approval of EDA in its sole discretion prior to the issuance of the sub-grant and no disbursement will be made under the grant for any sub-grant for which until EDA has not provided its final approval. Each State’s mother grant award documents will contain a provision prohibiting the disbursement of any EDA funds to any sub-grant unless EDA has received and approved the budget and proposal for that sub-grant project. In addition, each sub-grant redistributed by the State to a region subject to a disaster declaration (*see* section III.B of this FFO) will be required to comply with all EDA requirements throughout the life of each sub-grant project as though it were invested directly by EDA. EDA will review amounts budgeted for administration, including amounts proposed for the use of consultants, carefully for reasonableness and conformity with the applicable cost principles. When a State determines that it will expend mother grant funds directly for a project, rather than through redistribution as a sub-grant, similar requirements in terms of final approval, budgeting, and compliance with EDA requirements will apply.

Universities and Research Institution Grants

Universities, other accredited institutions of higher education, and qualified non-profit research institutions may submit applications to fund a full range of methodologically rigorous peer-review quality research proposals and other activities appropriate to a multi-disciplinary approach to developing disaster-resilient regional economies in areas affected by the 2008 natural disasters (*see* section III.B. below). Examples of such activities include the development and construction of business incubators for enterprises with a disaster-resilience orientation, facilities for the conduct of commercialized disaster-resilience research, the development of regional disaster-resilient economic development strategies, and the design and development of disaster-resilient infrastructure architecture. The scope of work of any proposed project must tie directly to the development of a disaster-resilient economy in an area affected by the 2008 natural disasters (*see* section III.B below). Institutions applying for these investments are required to demonstrate the connection between the amount of their proposed investment and the extent of damage suffered and needs established within their service region's areas due to the 2008 natural disasters, including such factors as the scale of damage suffered, the existence of contiguous affected areas, historical frequency of disaster occurrence, and the size of the affected population.

Regional Strategy Grants for Disaster Resilience

Eligible applicants may apply to one or more EDA regional office to undertake the strategic development and implementation of disaster-resilient regional economies in areas affected by the 2008 natural disasters (*see* section III.B. below).. These regional, multi-State projects would integrate existing State-based strategic redevelopment campaigns into an overarching approach involving private sector-specific groups, collaboration between or among State governments within a defined region, and other cross-cutting interests. Such projects would map, evaluate and integrate existing regional assets such as communication, intermodal facility, port, aviation, highway, healthcare, energy, education, ecosystem natural defense and other critical infrastructure systems, all to promote the competitiveness of the region for the next twenty years, increasing its resilience and sustainability in the face of future disasters. EDA will evaluate applications based on the following four criteria, each of which shall be weighted at 12.5% and combined shall comprise 50% of an application's score. The evaluation criteria set forth in section V.B below of this FFO shall be weighed at 10% each and shall provide the remaining 50% of an application's score.

- (a) Experience in disaster redevelopment work (12.5%);
- (b) Prior and existing work with cross-cutting private sector interests (12.5%);
- (c) Prior and existing work with governments at the State and local levels (12.5%);
and
- (d) Presentation of a list of robust benchmarks, milestones and deliverables incorporated into the scope of work (12.5%).

EDA anticipates that applicants would consist of economic development organizations of national or significant regional scope. Applicants may form consortia to undertake the work;

however, one entity must assume principal responsibility for undertaking, completing, and reporting on, the work, and all consortium members must be EDA eligible applicants. Applicants may define a multi-State region within their scope of work that falls within the service area of more than one EDA regional office. In this event, the applicant shall submit its application to each EDA regional office whose service area includes a State within the applicant's defined region (example: an application whose proposed region includes Iowa and Indiana would be submitted to both of EDA's Denver and Chicago regional offices). The evaluation panel for such applications will consist of senior career officials in equal numbers from each of the relevant EDA regional offices, and the Regional Directors from those offices will serve jointly as Selecting Officials. In the event that the Regional Directors cannot agree on a selection, then the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Regional Affairs (or such official who is acting in that position) shall be the Selecting Official, and shall also decide who will serve as the Grants Officer for the project. Successful applicants will be required to complete their scope of work within no more than a two-year timeframe, unless the applicant specifies a longer timeframe in its application and EDA and the recipient agree to same in the award document. Applicants must place their proposal in the context of other disaster resiliency efforts being funded by the States and Federal Government, to avoid unwarranted duplication of effort.

This competitive solicitation is for the Second Supplemental Appropriations Disaster Relief Opportunity only. Please access the separate FFO announcement posted at www.grants.gov on October 1, 2008, for information regarding the first Supplemental Appropriations Disaster Relief Opportunity.¹ Please access the separate FFO announcement posted at www.grants.gov on October 1, 2008 for information regarding funding priorities, application and selection processes, time frames, and evaluation criteria for EDA's regular Economic Development Assistance Program investments, which are funded under Division A of the FY 2009 Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009, Pub. L. No. 110-329, 122 Stat. 3574 (2008). 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>. Please note that EDA funds may not be used directly or indirectly to reimburse any attorneys' or consultants' fees incurred in connection with obtaining investment assistance under this FFO. *See* 13 C.F.R. § 302.10.

¹ Pursuant to the 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), at 122 Stat. 2348.

II. Award Information

A. Funding Availability

Under the appropriations act signed into law on September 30, 2008,² EDA received \$400,000,000 as a supplemental appropriation for disaster assistance (the “Second Disaster Appropriation”). The law mandates that the funds must be used in regions covered by a major disaster declaration under the Stafford Act, as a result of “hurricanes, floods and other natural disasters occurring during 2008.” For purposes of this competitive solicitation, EDA interprets “occurring during 2008” to mean disaster declarations starting January 1, 2008 for incident periods occurring through December 31, 2008.

EDA is allocating funds for the Second Supplemental Appropriations Disaster Relief Opportunity from the Second 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 Second Disaster Appropriation is provided “[p]ursuant 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 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 will allocate the \$400 million appropriation provided in the Second Disaster Appropriation among the six regional offices using a formula consisting of six elements weighted according to their perceived impact on recovery efforts. These variables include:

- (i) The affected population in a regional office’s geographic service area as a percentage of the total affected population;
- (ii) The inverse per capita income in a regional office’s geographic service area as a percentage of the national total;
- (iii) The unemployment rate in a regional office’s geographic service area as a percentage of the national total;
- (iv) The number of Federal Emergency Management Agency (“FEMA”) public assistance (“PA”) eligible counties in a regional office’s geographic service area as a percentage of the total number of these nationwide;

² Division B of the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2009, Pub. L. No. 110-329, 122 Stat. 3574 (2008), at 122 Stat. 3588.

- (v) The number of FEMA-designated counties experiencing disasters that were subsequently amended by FEMA in each region as a percentage of the total number of these nationwide; and
- (vi) The number of National Response Center (“NRC”) environmental damage incidents resulting from natural occurrences in each region as a percentage of the total number of these nationwide.

The percentage of the inverse of the per capita income variable and unemployment variable provides a measure of regional distress, a traditional EDA criteria for economic development funding. The population variable provides an estimate for the extent of the disaster impact. These variables represent a combined 15% of the allocation formula. The percentage of disaster declarations in an EDA region estimates the severity of a disaster, while the percentage of FEMA amendments estimates the complexity of the storm and recovery efforts. These two variables represent a combined 60% of the allocation formula. The percentage of environmental damage incidents in each region due to disasters estimates the complexity and cost of rebuilding after a storm. This variable represents 25% of the allocation formula. *See* section VII of this FFO for information regarding the States served by each EDA regional office.

PERCENTAGE AND FUNDING ALLOCATIONS PER REGIONAL OFFICE:

Atlanta Regional Office	– 14.38% or \$57.5 million
Austin Regional Office	– 33.58% or \$134.3 million
Chicago Regional Office	– 15.00% or \$60.0 million
Denver Regional Office	– 26.14% or \$104.6 million
Philadelphia Regional Office	– 6.93% or \$27.7 million
Seattle Regional Office	– 3.96% or \$15.8 million

At a later date, EDA may adjust this 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 Second 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 Second Supplemental Appropriations Disaster Relief Opportunity, EDA will consider applications 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. Eligible Regions Based On Disaster Declarations

Pursuant to the Second Disaster Appropriation, regional eligibility is predicated upon the Presidential declarations of disaster areas 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 issued by FEMA as eligible for ‘public assistance’ or ‘individual and public assistance’ due to declared disasters, as listed below.

As of December 31, 2008,³ FEMA has issued the following disaster declarations starting January 1, 2008 for incident periods occurring through December 31, 2008:

- (1) Alabama: 2 counties out of 67 counties designated under FEMA-1789-DR; 1797-DR;
- (2) Alaska: 4 counties out of 27 counties designated under FEMA-1796-DR;
- (3) Arkansas: 69 counties out of 75 counties designated under FEMA-1744-DR; 1751-DR; 1758-DR; 1793-DR; 1804-DR;

³ Due to the requirement to submit a companion notice to the *Federal Register*, the *Federal Register* notice reflected disaster declarations as of December 31, 2008. Additional declarations for weather incidents occurring in December 2008 were issued on January 5, 2009, affecting the states of Hawaii, Massachusetts and New Hampshire (FEMA-1812-DR, 1813-DR, and 1814-DR).

- (4) California: 4 counties out of 58 counties designated under FEMA-1810-DR;
- (5) Florida: 45 counties out of 67 counties designated under FEMA-1785-DR; 1806-DR;
- (6) Georgia: 16 counties out of 159 counties designated under FEMA-1750-DR; 1761-DR;
- (7) Hawaii: 4 counties out of 5 counties designated under FEMA-1743-DR; 1814-DR;
- (8) Idaho: 2 counties out of 44 counties designated under FEMA-1781-DR;
- (9) Illinois: 31 counties out of 102 counties designated under 1771-DR; 1800-DR;
- (10) Indiana: 60 counties out of 92 counties designated under FEMA-1740-DR; 1766-DR; 1795-DR;
- (11) Iowa: 85 counties out of 99 counties designated under FEMA-1737-DR; 1763-DR;
- (12) Kansas: 84 counties out of 105 counties designated under FEMA-1741-DR; 1776-DR; 1808-DR;
- (13) Kentucky: 52 counties out of 120 counties designated under FEMA-1746-DR; 1757-DR; 1802-DR;
- (14) Louisiana: 64 counties out of 64 counties designated under FEMA-1786-DR; 1792-DR;
- (15) Maine: 10 counties out of 16 counties designated under FEMA-1755-DR; 1788-DR;
- (16) Massachusetts: 5 counties out of 14 counties designated under FEMA-1813-DR;
- (17) Michigan: 12 counties out of 83 counties designated under FEMA-1777-DR;
- (18) Minnesota: 6 counties out of 87 counties designated under FEMA-1772-DR;
- (19) Mississippi: 22 county out of 82 counties designated under FEMA-1764-DR; 1794-DR;
- (20) Missouri: 107 counties out of 115 counties designated under FEMA-1742-DR; 1748-DR; 1749-DR; 1760-DR; 1773-DR; 1809-DR;
- (21) Montana: 4 counties out of 56 counties designated under FEMA-1767-DR;
- (22) Nebraska: 63 counties out of 93 counties designated under FEMA-1739-DR; 1765-DR; 1770-DR; 1779-DR;
- (23) Nevada: 1 county out of 17 counties designated under FEMA-1738-DR;
- (24) New Hampshire: 10 counties out of 10 counties designated under FEMA-1782-DR; 1787-DR; 1799-DR; 1812-DR;
- (25) New Mexico: 2 counties out of 33 counties designated under FEMA-1783-DR;
- (26) North Carolina: 3 counties out of 100 counties designated under FEMA-1801-DR;
- (27) Ohio: 33 counties out of 88 counties designated under FEMA-1805-DR;

- (28) Oklahoma: 51 counties out of 77 counties designated under FEMA-1752-DR; 1754-DR; 1756-DR; 1775-DR; 1803-DR;
- (29) Puerto Rico: 25 municipios out of 78 municipios designated under FEMA-1798-DR;
- (30) South Dakota: 29 counties out of 66 counties designated under FEMA-1759-DR; 1774-DR; 1811-DR;
- (31) Tennessee: 16 counties out of 95 counties designated under FEMA-1745-DR;
- (32) Texas: 45 counties out of 254 counties designated under FEMA-1780-DR; 1791-DR;
- (33) Vermont: 9 counties out of 102 counties designated under FEMA-1778-DR; 1784-DR; 1790-DR;
- (34) Virgin Islands: 2 counties out of 3 counties designated under FEMA-1807-DR;
- (35) West Virginia: 15 counties out of 55 counties designated under FEMA-1769-DR; and
- (36) Wisconsin: 30 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 at least seventy-five (75) percent of the eligible cost of such assistance. Any remaining portion 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 increase the investment rate up to a maximum of one hundred (100) percent. EDA will be particularly inclined to fund regional strategy grants 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 fully describe and define 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.

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. Application Packages

On October 1, 2008, EDA published a notice in the *Federal Register* (73 FR 57049) to introduce its new, streamlined *Application for Investment Assistance* (Form ED-900), which consolidates all EDA-specific requirements into a single application form. EDA will continue to require additional government-wide federal grant assistance forms from the Standard Form (SF) 424 family and certain Department of Commerce (CD) forms as part of the application package. These forms had been embedded in EDA's previous suite of EDA-specific forms (the *Pre-Application for Investment Assistance* (Form ED-900P), the *Application for Investment Assistance* (Form ED-900A), and the program-specific components to Form ED-900A), all of which have been superseded by the new Form ED-900. The specific SF forms required with the Form ED-900 depend on whether the applicant seeks construction or non-construction assistance. The following will assist applicants in determining which forms are required for a complete application. Please see section IV.B. below for information on obtaining application packages.

1. Application Package for Construction Assistance

Applicants seeking assistance for a project *with* construction components are required to complete and submit the following:

- Form ED-900 (*Application for Investment Assistance*)
- Form SF-424 (*Application for Federal Assistance*)
- Form SF-424C (*Budget Information—Construction Programs*)
- Form SF-424D (*Assurances—Construction Programs*)
- Form CD-511 (*Certification Regarding Lobbying*)

2. Application Package for Non-Construction Assistance

Applicants seeking assistance for a project *without* construction components are required to complete and submit the following forms:

- Form ED-900 (*Application for Investment Assistance*)
- Form SF-424 (*Application for Federal Assistance*)
- Form SF-424A (*Budget Information—Non-Construction Programs*)
- Form SF-424B (*Assurances—Non-Construction Programs*)
- Form CD-511 (*Certification Regarding Lobbying*)

In addition, applicants for both construction and non-construction assistance may be required to submit to an individual background screening using the form titled *Applicant for Funding Assistance* (Form CD-346) and to provide certain lobbying information using the form titled *Disclosure of Lobbying Activities* (Form SF-LLL). The new Form ED-900 provides detailed guidance to help the applicant assess whether Forms CD-346 and SF-LLL are required and how to access them.

B. Obtaining Application Packages

Applicants eligible for assistance under this announcement may request paper (hardcopy) application packages by contacting the applicable EDA regional office servicing your geographic area listed in section VII. of this FFO.

Alternatively, applicants may obtain the application packages electronically. All above-noted forms in both application packages are available at either www.grants.gov or www.eda.gov/InvestmentsGrants/Application.xml.

See section IV.F. of this FFO for paper or electronic submission requirements. See section V.A. of this FFO for information regarding evaluation and selection procedures.

C. Content and Form of the Form ED-900

The applicant is advised to read carefully the instructions contained in this FFO and in all forms contained in the appropriate application package. It is the sole responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the appropriate application package is complete and received by EDA.

The new Form ED-900 is divided into lettered sections that correspond to specific EDA program components that address all of EDA’s statutory and regulatory requirements. Based on program type, the Form ED-900 details the sections and exhibits that the applicant must complete. However, because this competitive solicitation seeks Economic Adjustment Assistance applications only, an applicant only need complete certain sections as detailed in the table below.

EDA Program	Required Form ED-900 Sections
Economic Adjustment	Complete Sections A, B, and K and Exhibit C. Also complete Section M and Exhibits A, D, and E if request has construction components, and Section N if request has only design/engineering requirements. Complete Section E if request has no construction components.

D. 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.

E. 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.

F. Application Submission Requirements

The content of applications is the same for paper submissions as it is for electronic submissions. EDA will not accept facsimile transmissions of applications.

1. Paper Submissions

Under this competitive solicitation, an applicant for EDA investment assistance may submit a completed paper application to the applicable EDA regional office listed in section VII. of this announcement. The applicant should download and print copies of the application package appropriate to the type of assistance sought, whether construction or non-construction, as detailed above in section IV.A. of this FFO. All components of the appropriate application package may be accessed and downloaded at either www.grants.gov or www.eda.gov/InvestmentsGrants/Application.xml. If an applicant is required to submit either Form CD-346 or Form SF-LLL, the Form ED-900 provides detailed guidance on accessing both forms.

Applicants that wish to obtain all forms in a screen-fillable format must download a complete application package from http://www.grants.gov/applicants/apply_for_grants.jsp. While all required application forms are available on EDA’s website at www.eda.gov/InvestmentsGrants/Application.xml, only the Forms ED-900 and CD-346 are screen-fillable. Required forms from the Standard Form (SF) 424 family are *not* screen-fillable on EDA’s website, and the applicant will have to print these forms and complete them manually or with a typewriter.

The applicant must submit one original and two copies of the appropriate completed application package 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, applicants who submit paper submissions are advised to use guaranteed overnight delivery services.

2. Electronic Submissions

Applicants are encouraged to submit applications electronically in accordance with the instructions provided at www.grants.gov. The preferred file format for electronic attachments is portable document format (PDF); however, EDA will accept electronic files in Microsoft Word, WordPerfect, or Microsoft 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 [Frequently Asked Questions](#), try consulting the [Applicant's 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. (Eastern Time) (except for federal holidays).

V. Application Review Information

A. Evaluation and Selection Procedures

EDA's six regional offices conduct all application review for EDA's Economic Adjustment Assistance investments. Each application is circulated by a project officer within the applicable regional office for review and comments. When the necessary input and information are obtained, the application is considered by the regional office's investment review committee (IRC), which is comprised of regional office staff. The IRC discusses the application 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 application 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.

To limit the burden on the applicant, EDA requests additional documentation only if EDA determines that the applicant's project merits further consideration. The Form ED-900 provides detailed guidance on documentation, information, and other materials that will be requested if, and only if, EDA selects the project for further consideration. EDA will inform the applicant if its application has been selected for further consideration or if the application has not been selected for funding.

B. Evaluation Criteria

EDA will select investment applications 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. EDA will give additional favorable consideration to applications for: a) State-based mother grants; b) university and other research institution grants; and c) regional strategy grants for disaster resilience, each as described in section I.A above. All applications 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 applications 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 applicant 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 application fully meets these requirements, applicants 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 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 District Organizations, 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 distressed 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

Applicants will be notified if their applications are selected for further consideration. Unsuccessful applicants will be notified that their applications were not recommended for funding. Unsuccessful applications will be retained in the EDA regional office in accordance with EDA's record retention schedule.

If the application is selected for funding, 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 Second 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) 730-3002
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) 597-4603

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