

ANNOUNCEMENT OF FEDERAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **Federal Agency Name:** Economic Development Administration (EDA), U.S. Department of Commerce
- **Federal Funding Opportunity Title:** *Mapping Regional Innovation Clusters Project* competition under EDA's Research and Evaluation Program under section 207 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. § 3147), as amended
- **Announcement Type and Date:** Initial announcement of federal funding opportunity (FFO) dated May 19, 2010.
- **Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number:** 11.312, Economic Development—Research and Evaluation
- **Dates:** To be considered timely, a completed application, regardless of the format in which it is submitted, must be either: (a) transmitted and time-stamped at www.grants.gov no later than June 21, 2010, at 5:00 pm Eastern Time; or (b) received by the EDA representative listed in section VII. of this announcement no later than June 21, 2010 at 5:00 pm Eastern Time. Any application transmitted or received, as the case may be, after June 21, 2010 at 5:00 pm Eastern Time will be considered non-responsive and will not be considered for funding. Because this announcement solicits applications for a single research project and it is anticipated that one award will be made, EDA expects to notify the applicant selected for investment assistance under this FFO by September 15, 2010.
- **Application Submissions:** Applicants are encouraged to submit applications electronically through www.grants.gov or via email. Applications may be submitted electronically via www.grants.gov or via email to Hillary Sherman-Zelenka at Hsherman@eda.doc.gov. Alternatively, paper (hardcopy) applications may be submitted by hand-delivery, overnight delivery or postal mail to Hillary Sherman-Zelenka, Program Analyst, Economic Development Administration, Room 7009, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20230. See section IV.D. of this announcement for submission requirements.
- **Federal Funding Opportunity Description:** Pursuant to the Research and Evaluation program, EDA seeks applications to develop, implement, and disseminate information that will enable policymakers and practitioners to more effectively understand the regional innovation clusters that drive the national economy and how regional assets and innovation inputs help shape these clusters at the local level.

FULL ANNOUNCEMENT TEXT

I. Federal Funding Opportunity Description

A. What is the purpose of the Research and Evaluation Program?

The Economic Development Administration's (EDA) mission is to lead the federal economic development agenda by promoting innovation and competitiveness, preparing American regions for growth and success in the worldwide economy. Through its Research and Evaluation program, EDA works towards fulfilling its mission by funding research and technical assistance projects to promote competitiveness and innovation in distressed rural and urban regions throughout the United States and its territories. By working in conjunction with its research partners, EDA will help States, local governments, and community-based organizations to achieve their highest economic potential.

All submissions under this competitive solicitation should propose methodologically rigorous, peer-review quality, and practitioner-accessible interpretations, digests, and tools.

B. What is the project description?

1. Background: The Need for a Regional Innovation Cluster Map

Recent shifts in the global landscape are profoundly impacting regions across the United States. Communities across the nation, both urban and rural, are facing the intensifying pressures of globalization. For instance, the deployment of high-speed communications, adoption of liberalized trade policies, and innovations in transportation infrastructure have heightened the mobility of goods, labor and knowledge.

These transformations warrant dramatic shifts in the role of economic development professionals. While in the past some development specialists could focus exclusively on the "buffalo hunt" (i.e., seek to attract large employers to their region) and conceive strategies in narrow, jurisdictional terms, today these practices are no longer effective and development specialists must engage in thoughtful analysis of regional assets to create comprehensive strategies that are capable of successfully promoting regional prosperity.

Clusters – and specifically regional innovation clusters – represent an important concept for development practitioners aiming to promote the prosperity of their region. Introduced into the common lexicon by Michael E. Porter's foundational work,¹ clusters are generally recognized to represent the economic efficiencies that exist when industries and their suppliers co-locate. In the twenty years since Porter's first work on the subject, numerous researchers have examined the benefits and opportunities that they afford. In particular, recent work has focused on regional innovation clusters and how they can be employed to create jobs, spur business creation, and promote long-term economic prosperity.²

¹ Michael E. Porter, *The Competitive Advantage of Nations* (New York, NY: Free Press, 1990).

² Jonathan Sallet, Ed Paisley, and Justin Masterman, *The Geography of Innovation: The Federal Government and the Growth of Regional Innovation Clusters* (Science Progress, 2009).

Unlike traditional clusters, regional innovation clusters represent not only the economic efficiencies that exist from the co-location of similar industries and suppliers, but also consist of the active networks of synergistic organizations that engage with various businesses within a particular industry sector, the regional assets that exist within the geographic region, and the nodes that are critical for supporting the innovation work of the industry sector, such as R&D centers, venture capitalists, universities and colleges, national labs, and networks of entrepreneurs.

While the body of literature defining regional innovation clusters and discussing their impact on communities is prolific among academics, policy analysts, and national development organizations, this information has not been adequately translated and disseminated into an accessible and persuasive format to the people charged with promoting local economic prosperity.

Recognizing this discontinuity, EDA, pursuant to its Research and Evaluation program, solicits applications for an economic development research project aimed at developing a replicable method for identifying and mapping regional innovation clusters, providing resources on best practices, and providing recommendations on metrics for the evaluation of regional innovation clusters.

2. Proposed Study

Clusters – and specifically regional innovation clusters (RICs) – hold much promise for assisting local economic development specialists in developing comprehensive economic development strategies that can create jobs, spur business creation, and promote long-term economic prosperity. Unfortunately, while RICs have been widely discussed among policy circles, information on how to identify or support RICs has not been made widely available to front-line practitioners. To rectify this, EDA solicits applications from qualified researchers to accomplish the following:

a. Solicit Input from Practitioners and Policymakers

Applicants should include a process for soliciting input from practitioners and policymakers on how they anticipate using the regional innovation clusters map and mapping tool. Applicants are encouraged to seek input from a diverse spectrum of users, and should ensure that inputs from individuals in both urban and rural geographies are sought.

b. Develop a Method for Identifying Regional Innovation Clusters

Applicants should propose a method for identifying regional innovation clusters across the U.S. EDA envisions a method that allows users to glean information not only on their industrial and/or occupational clusters, but also on the competitive strengths (assets) of their region, and the region's innovation potential. Applicants are strongly encouraged to build upon previous cluster, asset mapping, and innovation work.

While there are a wide variety of methods for identifying clusters, most are based on assessing the density of industries in a given region using location quotients of the industry NAICS codes (i.e., the density of industries in a region compared to the national density of industries). Occupational clusters, which are based on Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) codes generated by the U.S. Department of Labor, offer another perspective for viewing the density of the skill-sets of a regional population. EDA recognizes the intrinsic value such methods afford, but believes that they sometimes offer a limited snapshot through which to view local economies. Further, EDA recognizes that much of today's cluster work utilizes location quotients without taking into account the historical trajectory of growth or decline. EDA anticipates selecting a proposal that articulates ways to incorporate the use of location quotients as a foundation, but that also utilizes cluster analysis, trend analysis, and forecasting to inform the method for identifying regional innovation clusters and developing a related mapping tool.

A wide body of literature exists on what inputs are critical to support innovation. This work should be considered as part of the development of the method for identifying regional innovation clusters. EDA has funded two projects focused on innovation: (i) Indiana Business Research Center's Innovation Index (available at <http://www.statsamerica.org/innovation/index.html>), and (ii) West Virginia University's State Innovation Map (available at <http://rrigis.rri.wvu.edu/>). Applicants are strongly encouraged to leverage the work produced from these previous EDA investments. EDA recognizes the value such innovation tools afford, but also understands that their applicability would be much greater if tied to the clusters and competitive strengths of a region. EDA anticipates funding a proposal that offers a method for integrating innovation inputs and activities with data on a region's competitive assets and clusters.

An extensive body of literature discusses how clusters and innovation depend upon the underlying assets of a region.³ EDA expects to fund a proposal that recognizes the inherent link among clusters, innovation, and regional assets and proposes a method for identifying regional innovation clusters that considers these inputs in developing the method.

c. Develop a National Map of Regional Innovation Clusters

Applicants should indicate how they will utilize the method outlined in paragraph (b) above to create a national map of regional innovation clusters. This map should provide policymakers a macro perspective of what regional innovation clusters are driving the national economy and where they are located. The map should serve as a medium that allows users to identify emerging and existing regional innovation clusters and should provide key characteristics of each of the regional innovation clusters identified. Applicants should include information on how frequently this map will be updated, if appropriate.

d. Create an Interactive Mapping Tool

Applications should include information on how the applicant will utilize the method developed in paragraph (b) above to develop a regional innovation cluster mapping tool. EDA

³ Council on Competitiveness, *Illuminate: Asset Mapping Roadmap: A Guide to Assessing Regional Development Resources* (2007).

envision a tool that allows users to search at the lowest geography level possible in order to determine what regional innovation clusters are located in or nearby their region. The tool should display the relevant geographically referenced cluster information to assist practitioners in visualizing and understanding cluster data in ways that reveal relationships, patterns, and trends.

Additionally, EDA envisions a tool that allows users to identify key regional assets and innovation information through layers that are easily added or removed. Finally, EDA expects the mapping tool to have features that allow users to print reports which highlight regional assets and project the future trajectory of regional innovation clusters in the region.

e. Feature Case Studies of Effective Regional Innovation Clusters

Applicants should propose how they will identify case studies of best practices in core areas of regional innovation clusters, and how this information will be made available to practitioners. EDA encourages applicants to consider creative use of social media to chronicle best practices. Case studies should encompass experiences from both rural and urban areas.

f. Develop Toolkit for Regions

EDA recognizes that the regional innovation clusters map described in paragraph (c) above will likely not cover all geographies. However, EDA also recognizes that every region has unique assets that can be leveraged to help grow a regional innovation cluster. Applicants should propose how they will leverage the data generated from the mapping tool described in paragraph (d) and the case studies produced in paragraph (e) to create a toolkit that practitioners can use to leverage their existing assets to grow or link to a regional innovation cluster.

g. Identify Metrics for Success of Evaluating Regional Innovation Clusters

Applicants should propose recommendations for evaluating regional innovation clusters at the local, State, and national levels and in urban and rural regions. Metrics should be based on best practices and should offer both process and outcome measures that can be assessed in the short-term, mid-term, and long-term.

h. Identify Sustainability of Project

EDA prefers projects that have a nexus to other work undertaken by the research entity, and will give preference to applicants that offer a solid plan for sustainability (i.e., maintenance and update) of project after EDA funding is completed.

3. Scope of Work: What are the project tasks?

All items produced under the scope of work for this project will be posted on or linked to EDA's website at www.eda.gov. EDA expects the successful applicant to provide the following:

- a. A summary of the feedback provided by policymakers and practitioners on how they envision using the regional innovation cluster map and the key features that they feel should be incorporated;
- b. A well-researched and comprehensive method for identifying regional innovation clusters that considers data on a region's underlying assets, their clusters, and their innovation potential;
- c. A national map highlighting the regional innovation clusters that are driving the national economy and their respective geographic locations and key characteristics;
- d. A regional innovation cluster mapping tool that allows users to identify relevant data on regional innovation clusters, innovation inputs, and regional assets in their local geography;
- e. A specified number of case studies that feature core aspects of what makes a regional innovation cluster successful;
- f. Metrics for evaluating regional innovation clusters that can inform both local practitioners and national policymakers; and
- g. A sustainability plan that will outline how this project will continue after EDA funding assistance concludes.

Any information disseminated to the public under this announcement is subject to the Information Quality Act (Pub. L. No. 106-554). Applicants are required to comply with the Information Quality Guidelines issued by EDA pursuant to the Information Quality Act, which are designed to ensure and maximize the quality, objectivity, utility, and integrity of information disseminated by EDA. These guidelines can be found on EDA's website at www.eda.gov.

4. What is the anticipated project period and completion timeframe?

EDA anticipates a three-year project period with funding in one-year increments, subject to the availability of funds, EDA policy, and satisfactory performance under the award. Applicants should ensure that their proposal and budget clearly specify how they will complete the scope of work, which consists of the tasks outlined above, compose the resulting report and web tools, and present the report and web tools to EDA senior management, within this timeframe. A typical research project period begins with an initial meeting between the recipient and EDA staff to discuss project scope and to ensure that all parties are in agreement as to project terms. After the initial meeting, the recipient generally submits a final work plan to EDA staff for review and approval. Since an award made under this competitive solicitation is envisioned as a cooperative agreement, EDA will have substantial involvement throughout the project period. Progress and financial reports, and project work will be submitted to EDA based on the dates agreed to during the initial meeting and as outlined in the award special terms and conditions.

Typically, the recipient submits a draft research report to EDA at least 90 days before the end of the project period for EDA's review. If the draft research report is approved, EDA will approve publication of a final research report, and the recipient will brief EDA senior management on research methods and report results.

C. Program authority

The authority for the Research and Evaluation program is section 207 (42 U.S.C. § 3147) of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965, as amended (PWEDA), and 13 C.F.R. part 306, subpart A. EDA's regulations, which will govern an award made under this announcement, are codified at 13 C.F.R. chapter III. The regulations and PWEDA are accessible at <http://www.eda.gov/InvestmentsGrants/Lawsreg.xml>.

II. Award Information

A. How much funding is available?

Funding appropriated under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2010 (Pub. L. No. 111-117, 123 Stat. 3034 at 3114 (2009)) is available for the economic development assistance programs authorized by PWEDA and for the Trade Adjustment Assistance for Firms Program under the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (19 U.S.C. § 2341 *et seq.*). Funds in the amount of \$255,000,000 have been appropriated for FY 2010 and shall remain available until expended.

For the Research and Evaluation Program, EDA is allocating \$1,500,000 in FY 2010. EDA anticipates that the mapping regional innovation clusters award or awards made under this announcement will involve a multi-year project period, with total funding for this research effort reaching up to \$1,000,000 for each year. Funding beyond the first year for the grant award shall be contingent on satisfactory performance, availability of appropriations, and EDA priorities.

B. What is the type of funding instrument?

Subject to the availability of funds, EDA anticipates that an award made under this competitive solicitation will be in the form of a cooperative agreement.

III. Eligibility Information

A. Who is eligible to apply under this announcement?

Pursuant to PWEDA, eligible applicants for and recipients of EDA investment assistance include a District Organization; an Indian Tribe or a consortium of Indian Tribes; a State; a 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; an institution of higher education or a consortium of institutions of higher education; and a public or private non-profit organization or association. For-profit, private-sector entities also are eligible for investment assistance under the Research and Evaluation program to carry out specific research or for other purposes set forth in section 207 of PWEDA (42 U.S.C. § 3147) and 13 C.F.R. § 306.1. *See also* 42 U.S.C. § 3122.

B. What is the cost sharing or matching share requirement?

Generally, the amount of the EDA grant may not exceed 50 percent of the total cost of the project. However, a project may receive an additional amount that shall not exceed 30 percent, based on the relative needs of the region in which the project will be located, as determined by EDA. *See* section 204(a) of PWEDA (42 U.S.C. § 3144(a)) and 13 C.F.R. § 301.4(b)(1). Under this announcement, the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development (Assistant Secretary) also has the discretion to establish a maximum EDA investment rate of up to 100 percent where the project (a) merits and is not otherwise feasible without an increase to the EDA investment rate; or (b) will be of no or only incidental benefit to the recipient. *See* section 204(c)(3) of PWEDA (42 U.S.C. § 3144) and 13 C.F.R. § 301.4(b)(4).

EDA will consider the nature of the contribution (cash or in-kind), the amount of any matching share funds, and fairly assess any in-kind contributions in evaluating the cost to the Government and the feasibility of the project budget (*see* section V. below). While cash contributions are preferred, in-kind contributions, fairly evaluated by EDA, may provide the non-federal share of the total project cost. *See* section 204(b) of PWEDA (42 U.S.C. § 3144). In-kind contributions, which may include assumptions of debt and contributions of space, equipment, and services, are eligible to be included as part of the non-federal share of eligible project costs if they 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 entire 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 Requirements

A. How do I obtain an application package?

Application packages may be obtained electronically at www.grants.gov. Alternatively, applicants may request a paper (hardcopy) application package by contacting the designated point of contact listed in section VII. of this FFO.

B. What is the content and form of application submissions?

The content of a completed application package is the same for paper submissions as it is for electronic submissions. EDA will not accept facsimile transmissions of applications. Applicants seeking assistance under this announcement must complete and submit the following application package:

1. Form ED-900 (*Application for Investment Assistance*)
2. Form SF-424 (*Application for Federal Assistance*)
3. Form SF-424A (*Budget Information—Non-Construction Programs*)
4. Form SF-424B (*Assurances—Non-Construction Programs*)

5. Form CD-511 (*Certification Regarding Lobbying*)

In addition, applicants 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 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.

The Form ED-900 is divided into lettered sections that correspond to specific program components that address EDA’s statutory and regulatory requirements. The Form ED-900 details the sections and exhibits that must be completed based on program type. Because this announcement seeks Research and Evaluation Assistance applications only, an applicant needs to complete those sections of the Form ED-900 identified in the table below. Complete instructions are included in the Form ED-900.

EDA Program	Required Form ED-900 Sections
Research and Evaluation Assistance	Complete Sections A, C, and E and Exhibit B.

C. What are the page limitation requirements?

Applicants must observe the following page limitation requirements. To ensure adherence to these requirements, applicants that choose to complete the Form ED-900 electronically are advised to first compose their responses in a separate word processing program and then cut and paste the text into the Form ED-900.

If a response exceeds the field limit requirements of any form, including Form ED-900, the applicant is advised to include the response as an attachment to the application. The applicant should move “Attachments” to the “Optional Documents for Submission” box in the application package, clearly indicate in the form field that the information is included as an attachment (e.g., “see Attachment A.2.”), and upload the information as an electronic file.

1. Section A.2. of Form ED-900 requires applicants to submit a detailed description of the project scope of work. This description must not exceed ten pages typed in a minimum 11 point common typeface, with no less than 1” margins on all sides, inclusive of all diagrams, tables and any ancillary materials.
2. Section C.3. of Form ED-900 requests information on the qualifications and capacity of key project staff. These descriptions must not exceed two pages per individual, with an additional two pages allowed for a single summary description of all organizations or consultants named in the application.

D. Application submission format and deadline information

1. Electronic submissions

Applicants are encouraged to submit applications electronically in accordance with the instructions provided at www.grants.gov. The preferred electronic file format for attachments is portable document format (PDF); however, EDA will accept electronic files in Microsoft Word, WordPerfect, or Microsoft Excel.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to start early and not to wait until the approaching deadline before logging on and reviewing the application instructions at www.grants.gov. Applicants should save and print written proof of an electronic submission made at www.grants.gov. If problems occur, the applicant is advised to (a) print any error message received; and (b) call the www.grants.gov Contact Center at 1-800-518-4726 for assistance. The Contact Center is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (except for federal holidays). The following link lists useful resources: <http://www.grants.gov/help/help.jsp>. If you do not find an answer to your question under “Applicant FAQs,” try consulting the “Applicant User Guide” or contacting www.grants.gov via email at support@grants.gov or telephone at 1-800-518-4726.

Applicants also may email complete applications to Hillary Sherman-Zelenka at HSherman@eda.doc.gov. To take advantage of screen-fillable functionality, an applicant choosing this option must download the application package from www.grants.gov and use the “Save As” function to save the application package to the applicant’s computer.

2. Paper submissions

All components of the application package may be accessed at http://www.grants.gov/applicants/apply_for_grants.jsp. The applicant should download and print the complete application package. If an applicant is required to submit either Forms CD-346 or SF-LLL, the Form ED-900 provides detailed guidance on accessing both forms.

The applicant must submit one original and two copies of the completed application package via postal mail, shipped overnight, or hand-delivered to Hillary Sherman-Zelenka, Program Analyst, Economic Development Administration, Room 7009, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20230. Department of Commerce mail security measures may delay receipt of United States Postal Service mail for up to three weeks. Therefore, applicants who submit paper submissions are advised to use guaranteed overnight delivery services.

3. Submission deadline

To be considered timely, a completed application, regardless of the format in which it is submitted, must be either: (a) transmitted and time-stamped at www.grants.gov no later than June 21, 2010, at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time; or (b) received by the EDA representative listed in section VII. of this announcement no later than June 21, 2010, at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time. **Any**

application transmitted or received, as the case may be, after June 21, 2010 at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time will be considered non-responsive and will not be considered for funding.

Applicants are advised that they are solely responsible for ensuring that EDA receives complete, timely, and accurate applications. EDA will not accept any changes, additions, revisions, or deletions to applications after the closing date and time have passed. EDA may contact an applicant for additional clarifications regarding its application after final evaluations by the review panel.

V. Application Review Information

A. Evaluation criteria

To apply for an award under this announcement, an eligible applicant must submit a completed application package to EDA in accordance with section IV. of this FFO. Applications that do not meet all requirements or that exceed the page limitations set forth in section IV.C. of this announcement will be considered non-responsive and will not be considered by the review panel. A panel comprised of at least three EDA staff members, all of whom will be full-time federal employees, will be formed to review applications. The review panel will evaluate applications and rate and rank them using the following criteria of approximate equal weight:

1. Conformance with EDA's statutory and regulatory requirements, including the extent to which the proposed project satisfies the award requirements set out below and as provided in 13 C.F.R. § 306.2:
 - a. Strengthens the capacity of local, State, or national organizations and institutions to undertake and promote effective economic development programs targeted at distressed regions;
 - b. Benefits distressed regions; and
 - c. Demonstrates innovative approaches to stimulate economic development in distressed regions.
2. The degree to which an EDA investment will have strong organizational leadership, relevant project management experience, and a significant commitment of human resources talent to ensure the project's successful execution (*see* 13 C.F.R. § 301.8(b)). EDA recognizes that the project scope of work under this competitive solicitation requires diverse skills, and therefore will give preference to consortia of organizations.
3. The ability of the applicant to successfully implement the proposed project (*see* 13 C.F.R. § 301.8).
4. The feasibility of the budget presented.
5. The cost to the Federal Government.
6. The inclusion of a plan to distribute the research and project data to development practitioners through a project website that can be accessed free of charge.
7. The ability to complete key tasks within a timely manner.
8. The inclusion of a solid plan for sustaining the project after the EDA investment.

For purposes of this FFO, EDA will consider applications submitted only by applicants with the current capacity to undertake research that advances innovation in economic development practice or theory, and that has the potential for impact on a regional or national scale. See section 3 of PWEDA (42 U.S.C. § 3122) and 13 C.F.R. §§ 300.3 and 306.2.

B. Selection factors

The Assistant Secretary, as the Selecting Official, expects to fund the highest ranking application, as recommended by the review panel, submitted under this announcement. However, if EDA does not receive satisfactory applications, the Assistant Secretary may not make any selection. Depending on the quality of the applications received, the Assistant Secretary may select more than one application. Also, the Assistant Secretary may select an application out of rank order for the following reasons:

1. A determination that the selected application better meets the overall objectives of sections 2 and 207 of PWEDA (42 U.S.C. §§ 3121 and 3147);
2. The applicant's performance under previous awards; or
3. The availability of funds.

VI. Award Administration Information

A. Award notification

Because this announcement solicits applications for a single research project and it is anticipated that one award will be made, EDA expects to notify the applicant selected for investment assistance under this FFO by September 15, 2010. The successful applicant should expect to receive funding for the project within thirty days of EDA's notice of selection. Unsuccessful applicants will be notified that their applications were not selected for funding.

The Selecting Official will issue the grant award (Form CD-450, *Financial Assistance Award*), which is the authorizing financial assistance award document. By signing Form CD-450, the recipient agrees to comply with all award provisions. EDA will send the grant by an appropriate delivery method to the appropriate business office of the recipient's organization, and it must be signed and returned without modification by the recipient within 30 days of receipt.

B. Administrative and national policy requirements

Administrative and national policy requirements for all Department of Commerce awards are contained in the *Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements*, published in the *Federal Register* on February 11, 2008 (73 FR 7696). This notice may be accessed at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/retrieve.html>, making sure the radial button for the correct *Federal Register* volume is selected (in this instance, 2008 Federal Register, Vol. 73), entering the *Federal Register* page number provided in the previous sentence (7696), and clicking the "Submit" button.

C. Intergovernmental review

Applications for funding under this announcement are not subject to the requirements of Executive Order 12372, “*Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs.*”

D. Additional requirements

Certain EDA, Department of Commerce, and other award requirements are as follows:

1. All recipients of EDA investment assistance 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 duplicate (two originals) to the EDA Program Officer. *See* 13 C.F.R. § 302.16.
2. EDA expects that the mapping regional innovation clusters project will proceed efficiently and expeditiously. The anticipated project period and completion timeframe is described under section I.B. of this announcement. Preference is given to applicants who can complete key tasks a timely manner.
3. EDA has right of first review of any publications.
4. All materials, data, and reports created through this effort must be made available on a publically available website where they can be accessed at no cost, and EDA retains rights to disseminate and share all resources and IP created through this project with development professionals.
4. If an application is selected for funding, EDA has no obligation to provide any additional future funding in connection with an award. Renewal of an award to increase funding or extend the period of performance is at EDA’s sole discretion.
5. EDA is committed to a policy of non-discrimination in the administration of all its programs.

VII. Agency Contact

For additional information on the Research and Evaluation program or to obtain a paper application package for this announcement, please contact Hillary Sherman-Zelenka via email at HSherman@eda.doc.gov (preferred) or by telephone at (202) 482-3357. EDA’s website at www.eda.gov contains additional information on EDA and its programs.