



# *Regional Innovation Strategies Program*

*the Office of INNOVATION and ENTREPRENEURSHIP*

*22 May 2017*

INNOVATION. REGIONAL COLLABORATION. JOB CREATION.



**ERIC SMITH**

*Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Innovation and Entrepreneurship*

[esmith@eda.gov](mailto:esmith@eda.gov)



*The* **REGIONAL INNOVATION STRATEGIES (RIS) PROGRAM**

*was authorized through the America COMPETES  
Reauthorization Act of 2010, as amended by the  
Revitalize American Manufacturing and Innovation Act  
of 2014 (15 U.S.C. § 3722)*

*and aims to* **SPUR INNOVATION CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES IN  
REGIONS ACROSS THE NATION.**



3 funding rounds awarded  
626 applicants  
\$245m+ Federal request  
\$290m+ committed local match



98 grants  
35 states + 1 territory  
\$85m+ under management  
promising leading indicators



*In this 2017 round, the Regional Innovation Strategies program will award up to **\$17 MILLION** in Federal funding through the **I6 CHALLENGE** and **SEED FUND SUPPORT** grant competition.*

*Applications are due*  
**FRIDAY, JUNE 23RD, AT 11:59PM EASTERN TIME.**



## **I6 CHALLENGE**

*Funding to build regional capacity to translate ideas and inventions into products, services, companies, and jobs*

The i6 Challenge provides funding **to programs** that offer a range of programs and services **that support innovation-based, high-growth entrepreneurship and startup acceleration** through services such as technology advisements, market evaluation, business planning, mentorship, and access to early-stage capital.



## **SEED FUND SUPPORT (SFS) GRANT COMPETITION**

*Funding to increase availability of and access to regional risk capital for early-stage companies*

The SFS Grants Competition provides funding for **technical assistance**, **operational costs**, **marketing**, and **outreach** related to the planning, formation, launch, or expansion of cluster-based seed capital funds that deploy capital in innovation-based startups with a potential for high growth.

These funds must be equity-based (thus, e.g., revolving loan funds do not qualify).

Grant funds (including both Federal and matching funds) **CANNOT** be used to capitalize the fund.



## **16 CHALLENGE**

*\$500k federal funds cap; min. 50% match required*  
*3 year project period*

## **SEED FUND SUPPORT (SFS) GRANT COMPETITION**

*\$300k federal funds cap; min. 50% match required*  
*3 year project period*





**ANDRIA FISANICH**

*Program Analyst, Office of Innovation and Entrepreneurship*

[afisanich@eda.gov](mailto:afisanich@eda.gov)



**APPLICATION  
SUBMISSION**

**TECHNICAL  
REVIEW**

**MERIT  
REVIEW**

**SELECTION**

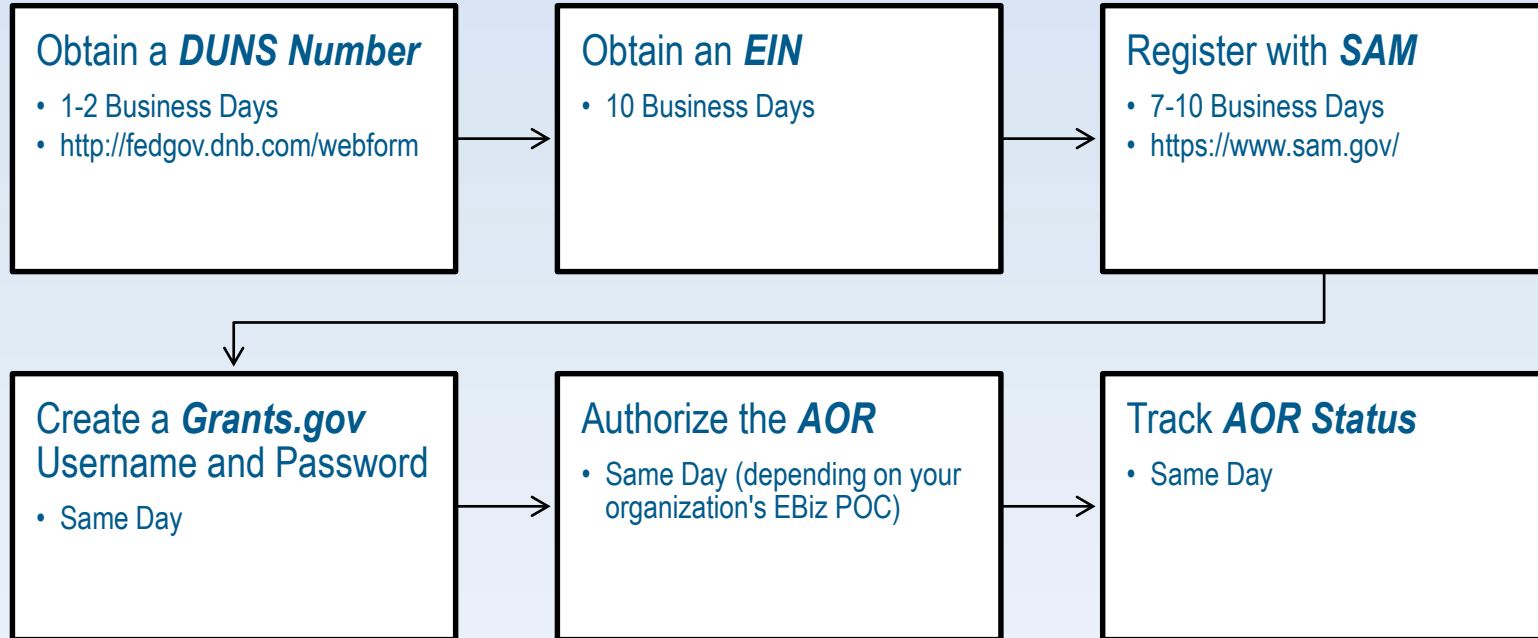


**APPLICATION SUBMISSION DEADLINE—*Friday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>***

**TECHNICAL REVIEW—*eligibility & completeness***

**MERIT REVIEW—*evaluation criteria***

**SELECTION & AWARD—*scoring & portfolio balance***



This process may require **23 OR MORE BUSINESS DAYS** to complete.



## Applications must include the following documents:

- SF-424 Application\*
- SF-424A Budget
- SF-424B Assurances\*
- Project Narrative
- Budget Narrative with Staffing Plan
- CD-511 & SF-LLL\*
- Commitment Letters
- Comments from the Clearinghouse, if applicable
- Organizational Status Documentation\*\*
- Demonstration of Government Support/Resolution Letters\*\*\*
- Current Indirect Cost Rate, if applicable

\* Required from each applicant or co-applicants

\*\* Required from each applicant or co-applicant and only applies to the following entities: Nonprofit Organizations, Institutions of Higher Education, Public-Private Partnerships, Science or Research Parks, Federal Laboratories, Economic Development or Similar Organizations

\*\*\* Required for applications made by the following entities: Nonprofit Organizations, Institutions of Higher Education, Public-Private Partnerships, Science or Research Parks, Federal Laboratories, Economic Development or Similar Organizations



## Don't get knocked out by a TECHNICAL MISTAKE!

### OPTIONAL Pre-Submission Technical Review

- Submit a copy of your application via email and receive feedback on technical aspects of your application before the deadline.
- Contact your EDA Regional Office RIS POC.
- RIS POCs will attempt to provide pre-submission technical reviews within two weeks of receipt.

### OPTIONAL Checklists

- Use the relevant checklist on Appendix D (pgs. 35-36) of the NOFA to complete your own technical review and ensure you are submitting all the required documents.

Document Checklist for Nonprofit Organizations, Institutions of Higher Education, Public-Private Partnerships, Science or Research Parks, Federal Laboratories, Economic Development or Similar Organizations		Checklist for Applicants/Co-Applicants, as Applicable		
Document	Title/Description/Requirements	Applicant 1	Applicant 2	etc.
Form SF-424 (with UEI/DUNS®)	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			
Form SF-LLL	Disclosure of Lobbying Activities			
Project Narrative	See Section D.2.ii (p. 9) of this NOFA			
Budget Narrative with Staffing Plan	See Section D.2.iii (p. 10) of this NOFA			
Commitment Letters or Equivalents	See Section D.2.i (p. 8) of this NOFA			
Comments from the State Clearinghouse	See <a href="https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/omb/grants_spoc">https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/omb/grants_spoc</a>			
Organizational Status Documentation	E.g., certificates of good standing, articles of incorporation, bylaws, establishing authorities; see Section D.2.i (p. 9) of this NOFA			
Demonstration of Government Support	See Section D.2.i (p. 9) of this NOFA			
Indirect Cost Rate (ICR) Agreement	See Section D.2.iv (p. 11) of this NOFA			



1. A **State**;
2. An **Indian tribe**;
3. A **city** or **other political subdivision of a State**;
4. An entity that—
  - a. is a **nonprofit organization**, an **institution of higher education**, a **public-private partnership**, a **science or research park**, a **Federal laboratory**, or an **economic development organization or similar entity**; and
  - b. has an application that is **supported by a State or a political subdivision** of a State; or
5. A **consortium** of any of the entities described in subparagraphs (1) through (4).<sup>1</sup>

**NOTE:** Entities operating within the performance period of a previously-awarded RIS or i6 are **not** eligible for award under that same grant program (e.g., a 2015 i6 recipient is ineligible for 2016 i6 grant but may be eligible for an SFS grant).

Individuals are **NOT** eligible for funding.

<sup>1</sup> 15 U.S.C. § 3722(b)(3).



Matching shares (whether cash or in-kind) must

1. **BE COMMITTED** to the project for the period of performance,
2. **BE AVAILABLE** as needed, and
3. **NOT BE CONDITIONED OR ENCUMBERED** in any way that may preclude its use consistent with the requirements of EDA investment assistance.

Applicants must provide signed Commitment Letters for all matching shares.





**ERIC SMITH**

*Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Innovation and Entrepreneurship*

[Esmith@eda.gov](mailto:Esmith@eda.gov)



A competitive application will **address the following elements** in their project narrative:

- A clear and concise narrative that includes a compelling justification for the project.
- A clearly defined regional economic gap.
- The roles of each applicant, co-applicant and key personnel
- Key milestone dates
- Scope of work
- Justification of the long-term potential economic impact of the project (including metrics)

Project Narratives should **not exceed the 10 page-limit.**



A competitive application will address the following elements in their budget narrative:

- Clearly identify and justify how funds in each line item of the budget will be used to support the project.
- Include a staffing plan that lists all positions that would be charged to the award.
- Each line item should tie to its relevant commitment letter.
- Budget line items should include and distinguish between both federal and matching share.
- Budget categories should match the SF-424A.
- Include itemized valuations for any in-kind matching funds.

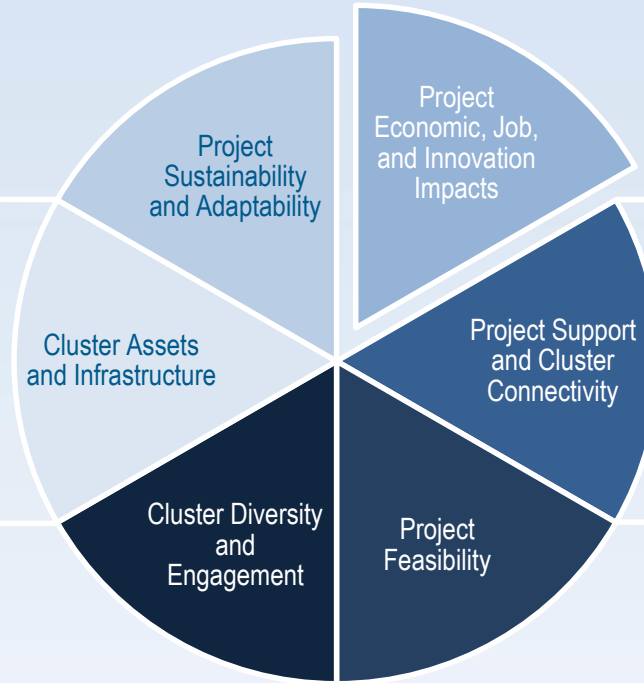
Budget Narratives should not exceed the 4 page-limit.



What is the likelihood that the participants in the regional innovation cluster will be able to sustain activities once grant funds under this subsection have been expended?

Will the participants in the regional innovation cluster have access to, or contribute to, a well-trained workforce, technology infrastructure, innovation pipelines, and sources of early-stage capital?

How will the existing participants in the regional innovation cluster encourage and solicit participation by all types of entities that might benefit from participation.



To what extent is the regional innovation cluster likely to stimulate innovation and have a positive impact on regional economic growth and development, including but not limited to the creation of new jobs?

Is the regional innovation cluster supported by the private sector, State and local governments, and other relevant stakeholders?

Do the operations and management capacities and experiences of the applicant organization(s) and its team demonstrate the ability to execute the proposed project successfully?



- **Start early!** Be clear in how the proposed project meets program objectives and evaluation criteria.
- Provide **data** to support your claims.
- Propose relevant **outcome metrics** and provide documentation and data that support how your project will achieve them.
- Demonstrate the **novel and innovative aspects** of your approach and be clear about your **unique value proposition**.
- Show how the project will be **sustained** after the grant period.
- Show strong **community support** and **commitment** to the project.



U.S. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

# CONTACT INFORMATION



**OIE HQ CONTACT:** [ois@eda.gov](mailto:ois@eda.gov), (202) 482-8001

Eric Paul Smith • Senior Policy Advisor • [esmith@eda.gov](mailto:esmith@eda.gov)

Andria Fisanich • Program Analyst • [afisanich@eda.gov](mailto:afisanich@eda.gov)

## ATLANTA REGIONAL OFFICE

Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee  
401 West Peachtree Street NW, Suite 1820, Atlanta, GA 30308  
Robin Cooley, [rcooley@eda.gov](mailto:rcooley@eda.gov), (803) 253-3640

## AUSTIN REGIONAL OFFICE

Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas  
903 San Jacinto Blvd., Suite 206, Austin, TX 78613  
Chris Rys, [crys@eda.gov](mailto:crys@eda.gov), (512) 381-8157

## CHICAGO REGIONAL OFFICE

Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin  
230 South Dearborn Street, Suite 3280, Chicago, IL 60604  
Greg Becker, [gbecker@eda.gov](mailto:gbecker@eda.gov), (312) 789-9765

## DENVER REGIONAL OFFICE

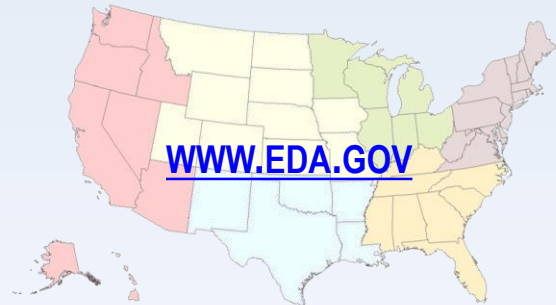
Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, North Dakota, Nebraska, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming  
1244 Speer Boulevard, Suite 431, Denver, CO 80204  
Zac Graves, [zgraves@eda.gov](mailto:zgraves@eda.gov), (303) 844-4092

## PHILADELPHIA REGIONAL OFFICE

Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands  
Robert N.C. Nix Federal Building, 900 Market Street, Room 602, Philadelphia, PA 19107  
Chivas Grannum, [cgrannum@eda.gov](mailto:cgrannum@eda.gov), (215) 597-8723

## SEATTLE REGIONAL OFFICE

Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Federated States of Micronesia, Rep. of Marshall Islands, Rep. of Palau  
915 Second Avenue, Room 1890, Seattle, WA 98174  
Brian Parker, [bparker2@eda.gov](mailto:bparker2@eda.gov), (206) 220-7675





## Link to the Application Package

<https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=293716>

## Grants.gov Funding Opportunity Number

EDA-HDQ-OIE-2017-2005260

## Application Submission Deadline

11:59 pm ET on **Friday, June 23, 2017**

## Link for Additional Information

<https://www.eda.gov/oie/ris/>



**Grants.gov Helpdesk**

(800) 518-4726, [support@grants.gov](mailto:support@grants.gov)

**Sam.gov Helpdesk**

(866) 606-8220

**i6 Challenge and SFS Examples: Past Recipients**

<https://www.eda.gov/oie/ris/>





**QUESTIONS?**