



POWER 2016 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)



This Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document has been prepared to accompany the official announcement of POWER 2016 grant funding availability on March 17, 2016 (“POWER 2016”). Interested applicants are encouraged to refer to both the funding announcement (<https://www.eda.gov/power/files/2016/funds-announcement.pdf>) and this FAQ for detailed information about POWER 2016 topics, including applicant eligibility, eligible program activities, and application preparation and submission procedures.

The questions and answers summarized in this document are organized by general topic area. Please refer to the table of contents, below.

NOTE: *This FAQ may be updated occasionally as new, additional questions are received.*

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A. POWER 2016 Funding Availability

1. Which Federal Agencies are funding POWER 2016 grants? What is the total amount of available funding?

POWER 2016 grant funds are available through both the **Economic Development Administration (EDA)** and the **Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)**:

- EDA: **\$19.6 Million**
- ARC: **\$45 Million**

B. POWER Eligibility Criteria

1. Where can POWER 2016 funds be used?

ARC: ARC POWER 2016 funds will support projects in coal-impacted communities that are located in, or that benefit a portion of, the Appalachian Region (www.arc.gov/counties). To be eligible for ARC POWER 2016 funding, communities must use data to demonstrate how their economy has been adversely affected by the decline in the coal sector. ARC encourages POWER applicants to design projects which are multi-county or multi-state, reflecting the regional economy or labor shed.

EDA: Applicants must propose a project located in or substantially benefitting a region that meets EDA distress criteria. Please see section III.A and B on pages 8 – 12 of the **FY16 EDAP FFO** (<http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=279842>).

NOTE: In all cases, and regardless of the funding source or sources for which an applicant applies, eligible POWER 2016 projects must be located within and targeted to communities or regions that have been impacted, or can reasonably demonstrate that they will be impacted, by coal mining or coal power plant employment loss, or employment loss in relevant supply chain industries¹.

¹ Examples of supply chain industries include, but are not necessarily limited to, manufacturers of mining equipment and parts for coal-fired power plants and transportation companies that carry coal.

2. What activities are eligible for ARC/EDA POWER 2016 funding?²

ARC: FY16 ARC POWER 2016 grants can support: economic workforce development efforts in the Appalachian Region that diversify the commercial and industrial base of local and regional economies; create jobs in new and/or existing industries; attract new sources of job-creating investments into coal-impacted communities and provide workforce services and trainings.

ARC's POWER Grant funding priorities include implementation projects that are designed to:

- Build a competitive workforce;
- Enhance access to, and use of, broadband services;
- Foster entrepreneurial activities;
- Develop industry clusters in communities.

EDA: POWER 2016 grants will be made under EDA's Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) program.

EDA can award POWER 2016 funds to support a variety of economic development and diversification projects, including, but not limited to:

- Activities that will result in the creation of new businesses and jobs in a variety of industry sectors;
- Implementing local and regional job creation and economic diversification strategies targeted towards affected workers and businesses;
- Cultivation of local and regional entrepreneurship;
- Strengthening or developing existing or emerging industry clusters;
- Development of business incubator programs;
- Facilitating access to private capital investment;
- Facilitating and promoting market access for goods and services created and manufactured by businesses in the impacted community/region; and
- Developing economic diversification strategies.

² Please note that through POWER 2016, both EDA and ARC encourage the submission of applications for implementation projects. To be eligible for an EDA POWER 2016 project implementation grant, the project must be consistent with the region's current EDA-accepted Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) or equivalent EDA-accepted regional economic development strategy that meets EDA's CEDS or strategy requirements.

EDA POWER 2016 grants can also be used to support strategic planning projects. Contact your regional EDA POWER Program representative (see Section E, below) for additional information about EDA strategic planning resources. Communities and other jurisdictions within the Appalachian region may request strategic planning assistance directly from ARC. The ARC FFO for planning and technical assistance is available online at the following link: <http://www.arc.gov/POWER>. In addition, ARC reserves the right to issue additional FFOs and information highlighting other federal funding sources targeted towards specific market and/or services related to the POWER Initiative and this FFO.

3. What entities are eligible to apply for a POWER grant?

Each agency’s applicant eligibility requirements are summarized in the following table. ARC POWER grant application submissions will have only one lead applicant that serves as the fiscal agent of the entire grant proposal. EDA will accept grant application submissions from a single eligible applicant or a group of eligible co-applicants, as described below. If an application includes co-applicants, the application should clearly detail how the co-applicants will work together and which portions of the scope of work will be completed by each co-applicant.

Applicant Eligibility

Eligible Applicants: EDA EDAP	Eligible Applicants: ARC
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. District Organization;2. Indian Tribe or a consortium of Indian Tribes;3. State, county, 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;4. Institution of higher education or a consortium of institutions of higher education;5. Public or private non-profit organization or association acting in cooperation with officials of a political subdivision of a State.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Local Development Districts;2. Indian Tribe or a consortium of Indian Tribes;3. State, county, 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; or4. Institution of higher education or a consortium of institutions of higher education;5. Public or private non-profit organization or association.

4. My organization received a previous ARC and/or EDA grant within the past 12-24 months (which in some cases may have included a FY15 POWER grant); will this affect our eligibility for a POWER 2016 grant?

No, previous recipients of an ARC and/or EDA grant, including an FY15 POWER grant, may be eligible to apply for, and potentially receive, a POWER 2016 grant.

5. Can POWER awards be used to finance construction activities?

Yes, construction activities are eligible for POWER 2016 grants and may be awarded by ARC and/or EDA.

C. POWER Application Procedures: Pre-Applications / Proposals and Complete Applications

1. What are the steps I need to follow to apply for a POWER 2016 grant?

POWER 2016 grants will be awarded through a **two-phase process**:

Phase 1, Project Pre-Application/Proposal: Applicants must first submit a project pre-application/proposal for **review and consideration**. As set out in section E.1 of the POWER announcement, program staff from EDA and ARC will review POWER 2016 pre-applications/proposals according to each agency's respective regulations, policies, and procedures.

- **Electronic Submissions:** Applicants for both ARC and/or EDA funding can submit pre-applications/proposals electronically via the POWER Initiative Pre-Application/Proposal Portal available at <http://power.arc.gov>.
- **Hard Copy Submissions:** Applicants that choose to submit hard copies of their POWER 2016 pre-applications/proposals must include **one original** and **two copies** of the complete application package (including **all required signatures**, as applicable).
 - Hard copies submitted to EDA must be mailed with delivery confirmation that indicates the application package has been received in the applicable EDA regional office and/or in the ARC office in Washington, DC, as applicable.
 - Hard copies submitted to ARC must be mailed with delivery confirmation that indicates the application package has been received in the ARC office in Washington, DC.

Upon review by EDA and/or ARC, applicants that have submitted pre-applications/proposals that are deemed to be responsive to the POWER 2016 funding announcement will be invited to submit a complete application.

Phase 2, Complete Project Applications: Applicants that are asked to submit complete applications to ARC and/or EDA will have the following submission options:

- **Electronic Submissions:**
 - Applicants that are asked to apply **solely to EDA** or to **both EDA and ARC** for a POWER 2016 grant can submit their applications electronically via Grants.gov (www.grants.gov).
 - Applicants that are asked to apply **solely to ARC** for a POWER 2016 grant can submit their application packages electronically to ARC through the POWER Initiative Online Portal at the following link: <http://power.arc.gov>.

- **Hard Copy Submissions:**
 - Applicants that choose to submit hard copies of their complete POWER 2016 applications must include **one original** and **two copies** of the complete application package (including **all required signatures**, as applicable).
 - Hard copies submitted to EDA must be mailed with delivery confirmation that indicates the application package has been received in the applicable EDA regional office and/or in the ARC office in Washington, DC, as applicable.
 - Hard copies submitted to ARC must be mailed with delivery confirmation that indicates the application package has been received in the ARC office in Washington, DC.

2. How can I obtain a pre-application/proposal and/or a complete application package?

Electronic Copies:

Applicants may access the POWER 2016 **pre-application/proposal package** (“POWER 2016 Pre-Application”) electronically online at the following link: <http://power.arc.gov>.

Hard Copies:

Applicants may obtain the appropriate **pre-application/proposal** and/or **complete application** package(s) electronically at www.grants.gov (Grants.gov) using Funding Opportunity Number **EDAP2016**.

Eligible applicants may also request a paper/hard copy of both a pre-application/proposal package and a complete application package by contacting the applicant’s ARC or regional EDA representative.

NOTE: Both EDA and ARC strongly encourage applicants to electronically submit their pre-applications/proposals via the ARC online portal (<http://power.arc.gov>).

However, paper submissions will be accepted if mailed according to the information provided above and provided under the POWER 2016 funding announcement.

3. Are all **electronic pre-application/proposals** required to be submitted through the ARC online portal (<http://power.arc.gov>), regardless of the project’s location? What if I am only interested in applying for EDA POWER 2016 funds?

Yes, all **electronic pre-application/proposal submissions** need to be made through the POWER Portal, regardless of where the applicant and/or project are geographically located. ARC and EDA both have access to this system.

4. Are applicants required to submit separate pre-applications/proposals to each agency (ARC and/or EDA)?

Yes, applicants are required to submit separate pre-applications/proposals to ARC and/or EDA, respectively. For example, any applicant that would like to secure POWER 2016 grant funding from both EDA and ARC is required to submit one pre-application/proposal to EDA, and another separate pre-application/proposal to ARC. In the pre-application/proposal to ARC, the applicant should clearly note that there is a related pre-application/proposal for the same overall project to EDA, and vice versa. All pre-application/proposal submissions will be reviewed and evaluated according to each agency's respective policies and procedures.

5. Will we need to work with any state or regional ARC and/or EDA staff to prepare my POWER 2016 pre-application/proposal and/or complete application?

Applicants applying for ARC POWER 2016 implementation grants are not required to work with a state or regional contact.

Applicants applying for EDA POWER 2016 grants are encouraged contact their EDA regional office with any questions or other requests for technical guidance pertaining to the preparation and submission of a POWER pre-application/proposal and/or complete application. Refer to the section entitled "Miscellaneous POWER Questions" (below) for EDA regional contact information.

6. Are costs directly associated with preparing a 2016 POWER grant pre-application/proposal and/or complete application eligible for reimbursement?

No, direct costs associated with the preparation of a POWER 2016 pre-application/proposal and/or complete application are not eligible for reimbursement.

7. When are POWER 2016 Grant pre-applications/proposals due?

POWER 2016 pre-applications/proposals will be accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis.

8. How will we know that our pre-application/proposal has been received? Will we be able to check the status of our pre-application/proposal?

Upon successfully completing a pre-application/proposal, <http://power.arc.gov> will generate a confirmation page with a pre-application number. Applicants can use this number to check the status of their pre-application/proposal.

9. What if we need to edit our pre-application/proposal after it has been submitted?

If you need to reopen your pre-application/ project proposal submission, contact POWER@arc.gov or POWER@eda.gov.

10. The POWER 2016 funding announcement describes average ranges of grant award amounts for both ARC and EDA POWER 2016 projects. Can applicants apply for amounts that are not within these ranges?

The POWER 2016 funding announcement establishes a general expectation to support large-scale economic development projects, along with average grant amounts within a certain dollar range that EDA and ARC anticipate awarding. However, these ranges do not represent hard-and-fast limits (either minimum or maximum) to the amount that an applicant is required to apply for. **Please note**, however, that **maximum** grant award amounts will typically be limited according to the standard agency policies and procedures of both ARC and EDA.

11. Does my pre-application/proposal need to include letters of support or letters demonstrating matching funds?

No, the pre-application/proposal does not require these letters. If you proceed to phase 2 of the POWER 2016 award process where a complete application is submitted, the letters and/or other documentation will be required.

12. Do POWER 2016 projects have a matching fund requirement?

Yes. All POWER 2016 grants require matching fund support, either cash or in-kind. Section H of the POWER 2016 funding announcement FFO outlines ARC's matching fund requirements. Section III.C of the FY 16 EDAP FFO outlines EDA's matching fund requirements.

13. How will ARC and/or EDA evaluate POWER 2016 pre-application/proposal submissions?

Program staff from EDA and ARC will review POWER project pre-applications/proposals according to the criteria outlined in the POWER 2016 2016 funding announcement.

D. POWER Application Selection and Award

1. How will applicants be notified if they are invited to submit a full application? How will final award notices be made?

ARC and EDA will notify applicants by email if they are selected to submit a complete application. Notifications of awards will be made in accordance with both funding agency's grant announcement procedures.

To ensure consistency and clarity of information, ARC and EDA will coordinate to transmit a joint notification to applicants whose projects are selected to receive awards from both agencies.

E. Miscellaneous POWER Questions

1. What is the easiest way to contact ARC and/or EDA with any questions relating to the POWER Initiative?

Any inquiries about the POWER Initiative and POWER 2016 grants can be emailed to either or both of the following accounts:

- ARC: POWER@arc.gov
- EDA: POWER@eda.gov

Questions specifically pertaining to EDA grant funds can also be directed to the following POWER points of contact (POC) in each EDA Regional Office:

EDA Regional Office	Regional POWER POC	Email	Phone Number
Atlanta	Pam Farmer	PFarmer@eda.gov	404-730-3026
Austin	Rick Sebenoler	RSebenoler@eda.gov	512-381-8155
Chicago	Robin Bush	RBush@eda.gov	312-789-9750
Denver	Jenny Benz	JBenz@eda.gov	303-844-5363
Philadelphia	Chivas Grannum	CGrannum@eda.gov	215-597-8723
Seattle	Brian Parker	BParker2@eda.gov	206-220-7675