



U.S. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

The Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization (POWER) Initiative

The Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization (POWER) Initiative is a new interagency effort to assist communities negatively impacted by changes in the coal industry and power sector. Booming natural gas production, declining costs for renewable energy, increases in energy efficiency, flattening electricity demand, and updated clean air standards are changing the way electricity is generated and used across the country. These industry shifts are impacting workers and communities who have relied on the coal economy¹ as a source of good jobs and economic prosperity.

Competitive Consideration of EDA Funded Strategies

Effective planning creates a road map which practitioners and policymakers can use to identify and take the actionable steps necessary to realize their desired economic vision. This is central to the bottom-up strategy of working with local communities to help them meet goals set and achieved locally with support from EDA. EDA intends to allocate up to \$3 million to support the development of targeted economic and workforce development strategies, feasibility studies, impact assessments, and other strategic planning efforts. EDA short-term planning funds will be made available through the Planning and Local Technical Assistance Program Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) (per sections 203 (42 U.S.C. § 3143) and 207 (42 U.S.C. § 3147) of PWEDA, respectively). Each grant award is expected to fund planning projects up to \$100,000.

Communities eligible for these planning funds are those that have been impacted, or can reasonably demonstrate that they will be impacted, by coal mining and coal power plant employment loss (or layoffs in the manufacturing or transportation logistics supply chains of either).

Successful applications will enable affected communities to develop detailed strategies to; diversify their economies, create jobs in new or existing industries, attract new sources of job-creating investment, and/or how to provide a range of workforce services that result in industry-recognized credentials for high-quality, in-demand jobs. Successful applications may also include projects that explore the feasibility of specific economic development diversification projects, entrepreneurship promotion, or assessments to provide community stakeholders key asset and impact information from which to conduct future strategic planning.

Please see the Planning Program and Local Technical Assistance Program FFO (link to FFO below) for detailed information on the content and form of application submissions. As outlined in section A of the ED-900, all applicants are required to submit a project description. Inclusion of the following information will assist reviewers in understanding how a proposed project aligns with the goals of POWER:

- (1) *Relevance to Coal Economy Impacts.* Applications should clearly demonstrate changes in the coal economy which have negatively affected the area that planning program funds would be used to assist for economic

¹ "Coal economy" is a term that reflects the complete supply and demand cycle of coal. This includes, but is not limited to; coal mining, coal-fired power plants, and related transportation, logistics, and manufacturing.



recovery/diversification. Applicants are encouraged to provide data (median income, coal mine closures, etc.) from federal sources such as Census or the DOE mine closure data (<http://www.msha.gov/OpenGovernmentData/OGIMSHA.asp>). All sources of information, however, will be considered as part of the application. Please note that regions are geographic areas, which need not be contiguous or defined by political boundaries, and that are capable of undertaking self-sustained economic development.

- (2) *Demonstration of strong regional economic and workforce development coalitions.* A regional strategy that integrates input from, and shares ownership, with a broad range of local economic partners (e.g., EDOs, workforce development boards, private businesses, NGOs, etc) is more likely to present a sustainable and achievable plan for long-term economic growth, job creation, and a skilled workforce that meets employer demand. Applications should demonstrate a strong commitment to participation by these economic partners and other local stakeholders in the preparation of a strategic plan, as well an outline of how those partners will continue to be engaged in the future.
- (3) *Process for integrating existing CEDS or strategic plan.* Planning funds may be used for developing targeted economic development strategies, feasibility studies, impact assessments, asset mapping, and other relevant strategic planning efforts. Applicants should explain how additional planning funds will strengthen and integrate pre-existing CEDS or CEDS-equivalent strategic plans where they are already in place.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. To apply for this funding, please follow instructions included within the Planning and Local Technical Assistance FFO which can be found on: <http://www.grants.gov/view-opportunity.html?oppld=189193>

Along with other controlling law, POWER Planning Grant Awards will be governed by the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements as set forth in 2 C.F.R. part 200, which superseded OMB Circular A-21 (Cost Principles), OMB Circular A-133, as well as 15 C.F.R. Parts 14 and 24 on December 26, 2014.

For additional information, please contact your EDA state representative identified at:
<http://www.eda.gov/contacts.htm>.

EDA's Mission

EDA's mission is to lead the Federal economic development agenda by promoting regional and national innovation, collaboration and competitiveness, and preparing American regions for growth and success in the worldwide economy. In implementing this mission, EDA advances economic growth by assisting communities and regions experiencing high unemployment and low per capita income to foster an environment conducive to economic growth and job creation.



Instructions for Applicants:

- Download the Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) and application package from <http://www.grants.gov/view-opportunity.html?oppld=189193>.
- In completing the ED-900 form, be sure to select "Short Term Planning" on page 9. Proceed in completing sections A,C, E, G, and Exhibit C.
- In section A.1, include a description of the economic impacts experienced in the region and how they've been impacted by changes to the coal economy. It is important here to provide a clear description to convey the context within which the project will have an impact on coal economy-reliant communities.
- In section A.3.B, include descriptions of how existing planning efforts (e.g. CEDS, diversification plans, redevelopment strategies, downtown revitalization plans, etc.) are expected to be integrated to help meet the economic development needs of the region. There should be descriptions of how the proposed project is complementary with those existing planning efforts to further the CEDS and economic development progress in the region.
- In section A.3.C, include a description of the economic conditions in the community, the nature and extent to which it is dependent on the coal economy, and the regional impact of these dependencies.
- In section A.4, include descriptions of the leverage of existing regional assets and how they'll be integrated into the project. In those descriptions, provide the context of the economic development coalitions the applicant will seek to engage and integrate efforts with to further the intended outcomes of the project.

Consultation with Regional Office

As with all EDA funding opportunities prospective applicants are strongly encouraged to contact their applicable EDA Regional Office representatives to discuss their intentions with the project so to further refine project scope and intended outcomes. Prospective applicants can find the contact information for EDA Regional Office staff at: <http://www.eda.gov/contact/>

