Tech Hubs Program Overview

May 2023

Tech Hubs Program Vision

strengthen U.S. economic and national security through place-based investments in geographically diverse regions across the country with a concentration of assets, resources, and capacity aligned with the potential to become globally competitive, within approximately ten years, in the technologies and industries of the future—and **for those industries, companies, and the good jobs they create, to start, grow, and remain in the U.S.**

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Program Structure

Phase 1
NOFO Published May 12; Deadline to Apply Is August 15

Designation: EDA expects to designate 20+ regions as Tech Hubs; Designees invited to apply to Phase 2.

Strategy Development: EDA expects to award approximately a total of $15 million; each grant approx. $500k.

Phase 2
NOFO Expected to Publish Fall 2023

Strategy Implementation: EDA expects to make awards to approximately 5-10 consortia, with each consortium receiving an approximate total of $50-75 million across multiple component projects.

Designated Tech Hubs
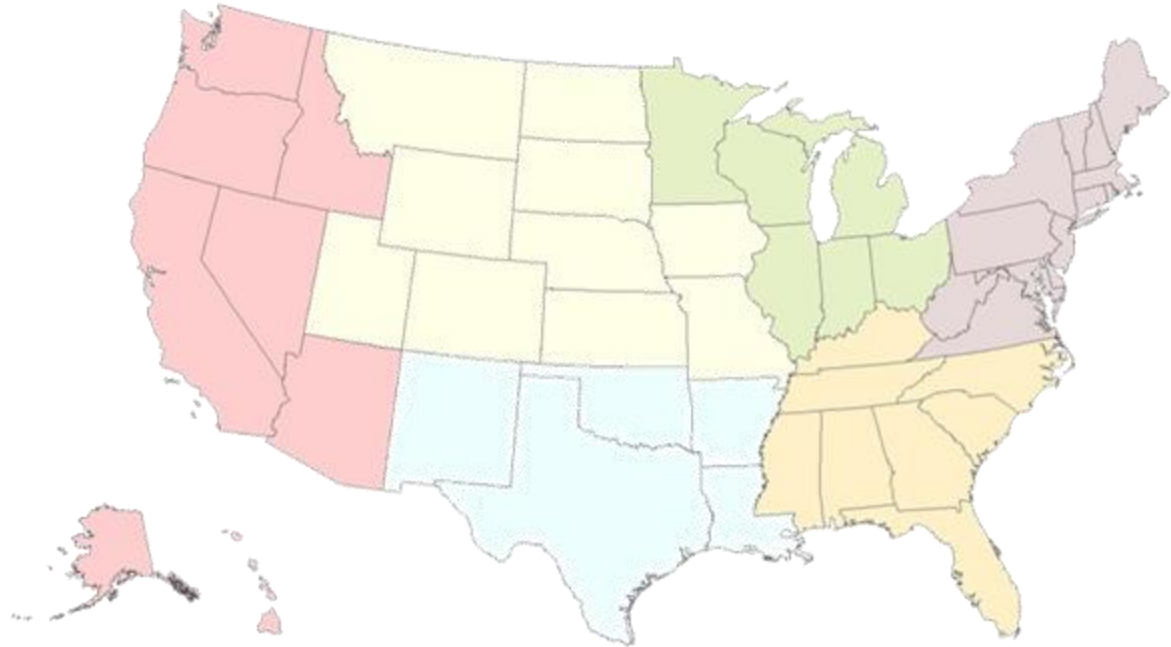
designation

min 20 designees

3+ in each of EDA's 6 regions

⅓ + benefit small & rural

⅓ + EPSCoR

1+ HQed in low pop. State

2+ benefit underserved communities

What is the Tech Hubs Program?

- The Regional Technology and Innovation Hubs ("Tech Hubs") Program is a **new statutory authority** that allows EDA to design and implement **new programs**:

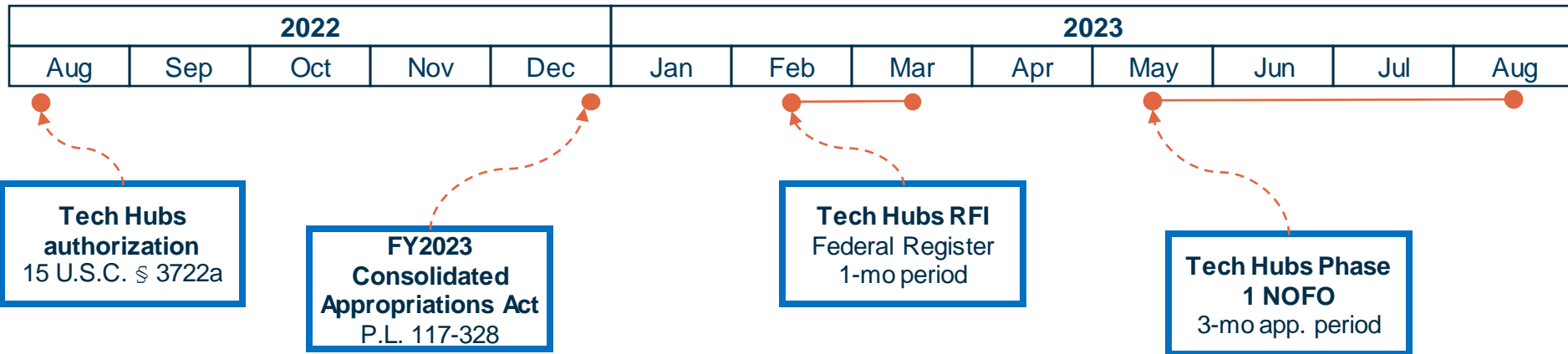| PWEDA 42 U.S.C. § 3121 *et seq.*	Trade Adjustment Assistance 19 U.S.C. § 2341 *et seq.*	Regional Innovation Grants 15 U.S.C. § 3722
STEM Apprenticeships 15 U.S.C. § 3723	Regional Technology & Innovation Hubs 15 U.S.C. § 3722a	Recompete Pilot 15 U.S.C. § 3722b

How did we get here?

- The Tech Hubs Program was authorized as part of the CHIPS and Science Act of 2022 and EDA received $500 million in appropriations in the FY 2023 Omnibus. EDA solicited public feedback via an RFI in February/March 2023 and is releasing the Phase 1 NOFO on May 12:

2022					2023							
Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug

Tech Hubs authorization
15 U.S.C. § 3722a

FY2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act
P.L. 117-328

Tech Hubs RFI
Federal Register
1-mo period

Tech Hubs Phase 1 NOFO
3-mo app. period

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Appropriation vs. Authorization

What we've been appropriated (i.e., the funding EDA can deploy for Tech Hubs *as of now*)

$500 million

The program's authorization level (i.e., the current maximum funding *over the full life of the program*)

$10 billion

Eligible Organizations

Only Consortia Are Eligible

Each consortium _must_ (by statute) include
- an institute of higher ed
- a subnational **or** tribal gov
- relevant industry **or** firms
- econ dev orgs **or** similar
- labor **or** workforce training orgs

Each consortium _may_ (by statute) include
- econ. dev. districts or similar
- orgs ↑ underserved pops in sci, tech, innovation, and entrepreneurship
- venture development orgs
- employee ownerships, financial insts., investment funds, CDFIs, MDIs, etc.
- K-12 & career/tech education schools
- national labs
- federal labs
- manufacturing extension centers
- Manufacturing USA institutes
- transportation planning orgs
- cooperative extension services
- orgs repping underserved communities in economic development
- NSF Engines award winners

There must be **strong alignment** and a **shared strategic vision** among all consortium members.

Focus on the **quality of the partnerships** and their relevance to the consortium's strategy, not on the quantity of participating members.

EDA **encourages** participation of two or more firms and of a labor organization in a consortium

Each consortium must identify a **lead member**

Applicants must have a clear plan to identify a **Regional Innovation Officer** (RIO)

Regional Nexus

Tech Hubs build on concentrations of existing innovation assets, resources, and capacities aligned with the potential for global competitiveness and a clear market opportunity in a core technology area.

- Applicants should identify their chosen geography—one or more MSAs, μSAs, or a similar area—in their applications.
- However applicants define their regions, relevant and tightly interconnected assets, capital, R&D, labor markets, and infrastructure are critical.
- Applicants should consider their chosen geographies as the nexus of their Tech Hubs, but they may include assets or members outside those chosen geographies—e.g., in nonmetro rural areas or in partnerships with geographically distant but tightly mission-aligned organizations—that support the respective consortium's strategy and benefit the Hub.

Phase 1: Applications

Consortia Apply for _One or Both_ of Designation and Strat. Dev. Grants

Designation

Consortia submit their Case for Designation, centered on the seven Designation evaluation criteria, explaining the potential of the region to emerge over the next decade as a self-sustainable, globally competitive region in its selected core technology area.

Only applicants Designated at the conclusion of Phase 1 will be permitted to apply for Implementation Grants under the Phase 2 NOFO.

Strategy Development Grants

Consortia submit their Strategy Development Narrative and Budget, centered on the three Strategy Development Grant evaluation criteria, proposing activities to prepare to apply for an Implementation Grant or for Designation in a future competition.

Consortia identify their geography, the consortium's selected core technology area, and the Designation geographic constraints that the consortium meets.

Phase 1: Application Structure

Consortia Apply for _One or Both_ of Designation and Strat. Dev. Grants

Designation Only	**Designation & Strategy Development Grant**	**Strategy Development Grant Only**
"Our region is ready to apply for Implementation funding and does not need a Strategy Development Grant to further organize."	"Our region is close to ready to apply for Implementation funding, and additional resources would strengthen our coordination, planning, and Phase 2 application development."	"Our region has relevant assets, resources, capacity, and/or potential, but we need to do significantly more coordination and planning to be ready for implementation funding. We do not wish to apply for Implementation funding this year."

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Phase 1 Evaluation Criteria

Designation

Technology-based potential of the region for global competitiveness

Role of the private sector

Regional coordination & partnerships

Equity & diversity

Composition & capacity of the regional workforce

Innovative "lab-to-market" approaches

Impact on economic and national security of the entire United States

Strategy Development

The extent to which the project will strengthen engagement of and collaboration among regional stakeholders (private, public, and non-profit entities, etc.), whether or not members of the consortium

The consortium's organizational and leadership capacity, including its financial and management capacity

The project's potential to increase the capacity of the region to achieve the Designation criteria

Key Technology Focus Areas (KFTAs)

Artificial intelligence, machine learning, autonomy, and related advances

High performance computing, semiconductors, and advanced computer hardware and software

Quantum information science and technology

Robotics, automation, and advanced manufacturing

Natural and anthropogenic disaster prevention or mitigation

Advanced communications technology and immersive technology

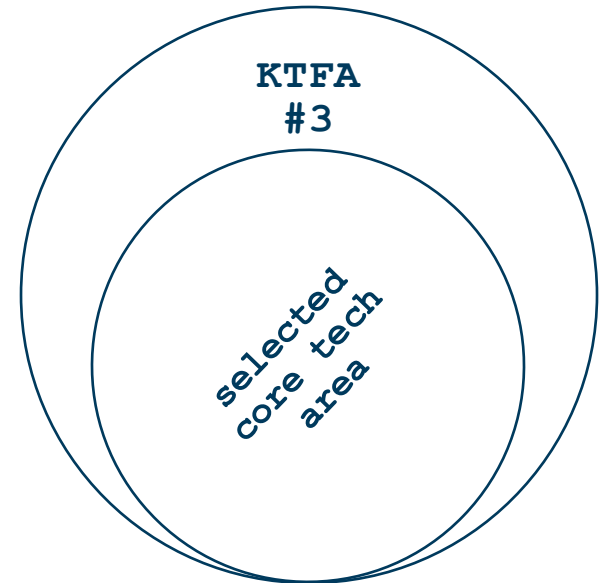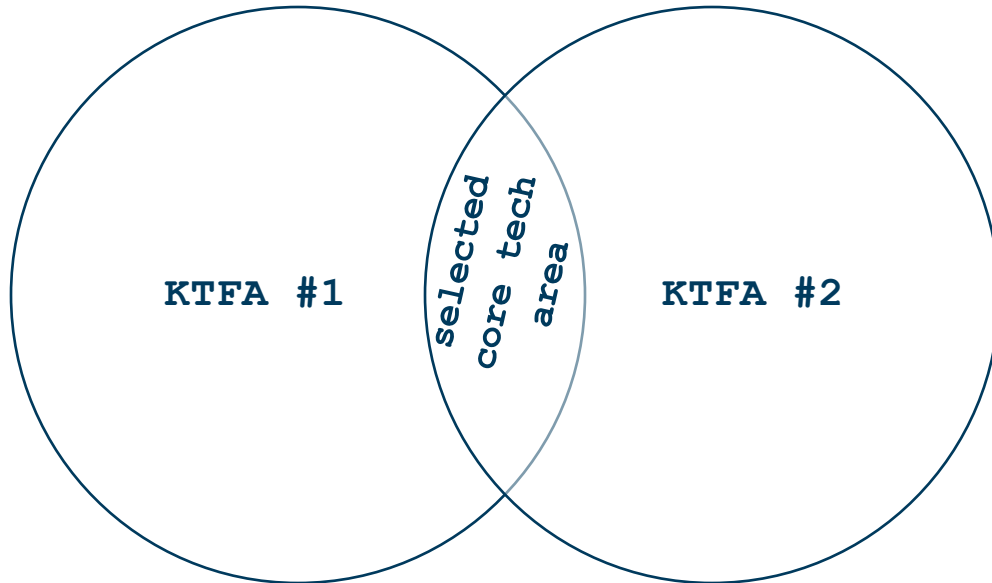Biotechnology, medical technology, genomics, and synthetic biology

Data storage, data management, distributed ledger technologies, and cybersecurity, including biometrics

Adv energy and industrial efficiency tech (e.g., batteries, advanced nuclear tech) including for the purposes of electric generation

Adv materials science, including composites 2D materials, other next-generation materials, and related manufacturing technologies

KFTAs & Hub's Core Tech Areas

- A consortium must select and clearly identify its selected core technology area within or at the intersection of one or more KTFAs

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Questions?

Reach out to the Tech Hubs Program Office at **techhubs@eda.gov**.

Visit the Tech Hubs website at **http://www.eda.gov/techhubs**.

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