# Recompete Pilot Program

Phase 1 Program Overview

# Agenda

- Program Vision
- Eligibility Criteria
- Program Structure

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# Recompete Pilot Program Vision

**The Recompete Pilot Program will invest $200 million in distressed communities across the country.** The program targets areas where prime-age (25-54 years) employment significantly trails the national average.

The funding – deployed through a two-phase competition – will provide communities both strategy development planning grants and large, flexible, implementation awards.

# Recompete Pilot Program Principles

| | |
|---|---|
| **Create, and connect people to, good jobs** | Invest in programs and organizations that have a clear understanding of local conditions and pathways to create and connect people with good jobs |
| **Place-based regional development** | Local community leaders — public, private, civic, and labor — are best positioned to build their own economic future; meet communities where they are by providing a full array of investments, projects, and tools |
| **Focus on communities that have for too long been forgotten** | E.g., areas where prominent industries have declined or disappeared, that were physically separated by highway construction, or that have endured decades of disinvestment |
| **Equity and geographic diversity** | EDA's longstanding mission is to ensure that all communities have a path to economic prosperity – benefits of the program will be shared equitably and across diverse geographies |

# Appropriation vs. Authorization

What we've been appropriated (i.e., the funding EDA can deploy for the Recompete Pilot Program)

**$200 million**

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

**$1 billion**

# Agenda

- Program Goals
- Eligibility Criteria
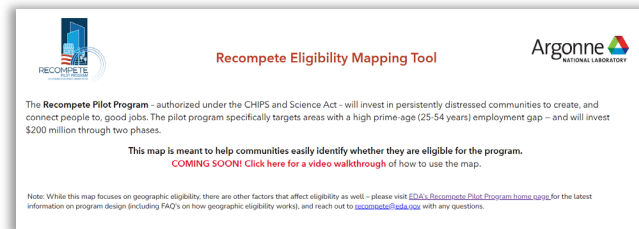- Program Structure

# Eligibility Criteria – Recipient Type

- Political subdivision of a state

- Tribal government

- U.S. territory

- District of Columbia

- Nonprofit organization working in cooperation with a political subdivision of a state

- Economic Development District

- Consortium of any of the above

No specific type of eligible entity is any more or less competitive than other types of eligible entities – some applicants may choose to submit as one entity while others may be a coalition.

# Eligibility Criteria – Eligible Area (1/3)

- Recompete Pilot Program investments must be located in an Eligible Area, as determined by PAEG and other statutory requirements

- Applicants should use the **Recompete Eligibility Mapping Tool (Mapping Tool)** to identify these

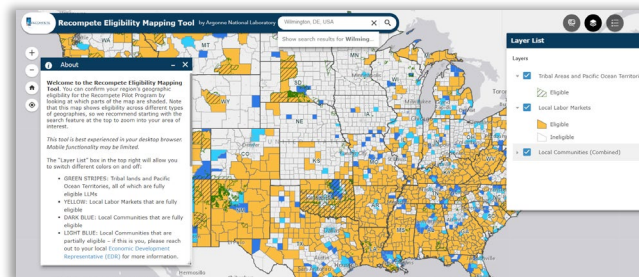- https://disgeoportal.egs.anl.gov/Recompete/

# Eligibility Criteria – Eligible Area (2/3)

- The shaded regions on the map represent **Eligible Service Areas** for the Recompete Pilot Program

- **"Service Area"** is defined as the specific area(s) that an applicant chooses to focus their proposed interventions on:

  - Will **directly benefit** through the Recompete Pilot Program, if the applicant is awarded

  - Must be located **within** an eligible area on the map

  - May **cover all or a subset** of the relevant eligible area

Note that in this competition, EDA is targeting geographies where a high prime-age employment gap exists because meaningful employment is not available and/or barriers keep people out of the workforce, not places where demographic trends lead to high PAEG (e.g., high numbers of financially secure early retirees or people pursuing higher education).

# Eligibility Criteria – Eligible Area (3/3)

The Mapping Tool shows two types of eligible geographic areas. **Note that no specific type is any more or less competitive than others** (i.e., Local Labor Markets vs. Local Communities).

## 1. Local Labor Market (LLM)

*In Yellow/Green on the map*

Fully eligible (PAEG at least 2.5%):

- **Metropolitan Statistical Areas**
- **Micropolitan Statistical Areas**
- **Commuting Zones**
- **Tribal lands**

*\*All Tribal lands and Pacific Ocean Territories are eligible*

## 2. Local Community (LC)

An area served by a general-purpose unit of **local government (e.g., counties, municipalities)** located within, but not fully covering, an ineligible LLM and either:

- *In Dark Blue:* The **entire area** served by the unit of local government is eligible; OR
- *In Light Blue:* A **subset of Census tracts within the area** is eligible, but the full area served by the unit of local government is not. In this instance, the applicant's service area must be contained within the identified Census tracts.

# Why Local "Communities" and "Labor Markets"?

Different communities need different investments to address joblessness. The local community and labor markets eligibility is meant to ensure the Recompete program addresses different local workforce needs.

| 1. Local Labor Market | 2. Local Community |
|---|---|
| ■ One or more counties that account for most daily commutes by workers.<br><br>■ Often a lack of good jobs across the entire region, creating the need **to create jobs**. | ■ A smaller area—neighborhood, city, county, etc.—within a larger labor market that is doing relatively well overall.<br><br>■ Residents within the eligible lack access to good jobs in the broader region, creating the need to **connect workers to jobs**. |

**The LC/LLM distinction is a general typology; each community has its own needs and should create their own strategy and investment portfolio based on those unique needs.**

# Recompete Plans: Sample Implementation Projects

EDA expects Implementation Grants will fund two general economic development intervention approaches (or a mix of both). **To address a high PAEG, regions might:**

| 1. Create Jobs, for example: | 2. Connect Workers to Jobs, for example: |
|---|---|
| ▪ **Critical enabling infrastructure** (e.g., brownfield redevelopment, workforce training centers near workers) | ▪ **Sector-specific workforce training** (e.g., a sectoral partnership, Registered Apprenticeship/pre-apprenticeship, community college programs) |
| ▪ **Anchor institution partnerships** (e.g., anchor firms, ports, community colleges, universities) | ▪ **Consistent and reliable transportation,** usually by providing access to existing transport |
| ▪ **Sector-specific support and training for high-demand local sectors and jobs** (e.g., a sectoral partnership) | ▪ **Wraparound or supportive services** (e.g., child/long-term care, onsite health services, transport assistance) |
| ▪ **Remote worker training and connection programs** (e.g., with employers outside a labor market) | ▪ **Other active labor market support** (e.g., community mentorship programs, job search assistance, post-placement success coaching) |
| ▪ **Wraparound or supportive services** (e.g., child/long-term care, onsite health services, transport assistance) | ▪ **Economic development capacity and leadership** (e.g., governance) |
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# Agenda

- Program Goals

- Eligibility Criteria

- Program Structure
  - Strategy Development Grants
  - Recompete Plan Approval
  - Application Requirements for All Applicants

# Program Structure – Two-Phase Competition

| | Application options | Total awarded | |
|---|---|---|---|
| <mark>**Phase 1**</mark><br><br><mark>**Jun 29 – Oct 5 at 11:59 pm ET**</mark> | **(1) Strategy Development Grant Only** (each $250-500K, up to $750K rarely)<br><br>**(2) Recompete Plan Approval Only** (no $, but invited to apply for Phase 2)<br><br>**(3) Both** (Strat. Dev. funding **_and_** invited to apply for Phase 2) | **$6-12M total** awarded in Strategy Development Grants and **20+ Recompete Plans** approved across all Phase 1 applicants | All applicants receiving Strat. Dev. Grants and / or Recompete Plan approval in Phase 1 will also receive additional technical assistance from EDA, in the period between Phase 1 and the Phase 2 NOFO deadline. |
| **Phase 2**<br><br>Launch this winter | **Implementation investment** proposal consisting of **3-8 complementary projects per region** (total investment on average $20-50M, per region) | **4-8 regions** awarded (out of 20+ Finalists) | |

# Program Structure – Phase 1 Application Options

Apply for (1) a Strategy Development Grant, (2) Recompete Plan Approval, or (3) both

| (1) Strategy Development Grant <u>Only</u> | (2) Recompete Plan Approval <u>Only</u> | (3) <u>Both</u> Strat. Dev. Grant <u>&</u> Recompete Plan Approval |
|---|---|---|
| "Our region has relevant ideas, leaders, and/or assets, 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 under the upcoming Phase 2 NOFO." | "Our region is ready to apply for Implementation funding and does not need additional resources to put together a strong Phase 2 application." | "Our region has an understanding of how to address low prime age employment and is close to being ready to apply for Implementation funding. Additional resources would strengthen our coordination, planning, and Phase 2 application development." |

# Strategy Development Grants

**Definition:** Funding to support a region's ability to further develop a Recompete Plan and carry out related predevelopment activities

**Each $250-500K and up to $750K in rare circumstances; in Phase 1, ~$6-12M total to be funded**

## Evaluation criteria:

1. Regional conditions assessment and preliminary idea of the assets and potential interventions needed (15 points);

2. Potential of proposed Strategy Development activities (15 points);

3. Organizational and leadership capacity (15 points); and

4. Efficient and appropriate project budget (15 points)

# Recompete Plans

**Definition:** A multi-year plan for reducing the region's Prime Age Employment Gap

**No funding associated, however applicants need an approved Recompete Plan to apply for implementation funding in Phase 2**

**Evaluation criteria:**

1. Understanding of regional conditions and needs (15 points);

2. Strength of strategy and quality of potential investments (15 points);

3. Equity, inclusivity, and diversity (15 points);

4. Regional assets (9 points);

5. Targeted geographic approach (9 points); and

6. Partnerships and potential commitments (9 points)

# Regional conditions and needs (15 points)

- How does persistent economic distress show up in your community, based on the PAEG and other qualitative / quantitative data?

- What conditions are contributing to your region's economic distress?

- What barriers to economic growth exist, especially those tied to the PAEG? Which of these are addressable?

- What are the different targeted populations in your service area, and how do your answers to the above change for any of these groups?

# Strategy and potential investments (15 points)

- What interventions are needed to address your region's persistent economic distress, based on your regional conditions and needs? Please identify 3-8 (preliminary) proposed projects.*

- Why did you prioritize these interventions for Recompete funding? In other words, why EDA funding, and why now?

- What research, experience, or other information informed your proposed interventions and their potential impact?

*Applicants may also use the **"High-Level Recompete Plan Budget Narrative"** template provided on the EDA website to articulate 3-8 proposed projects (does not count towards page limit).

# Equity, inclusivity, and diversity (15 points)

- How will benefits be shared equitably across all affected populations in the identified service area?

- How were underserved communities engaged in building this application and the Recompete Plan? How does your leadership team reflect diversity and inclusion?

- Are there organizations, stakeholders, or populations to engage that previously have not been involved in regional economic development efforts?

- What are your equity goals and how will you hold your team accountable to them?

# Regional assets (9 points)

- What regional assets – industries, leadership & partnerships natural assets, built infrastructure, educational institutions, and others – could contribute to your Recompete efforts?

- How do you plan on using these assets to alleviate persistent economic distress?

- Conversely, how might implementation funding further unlock the potential of your regional assets?

# Targeted geographic approach (9 points)

- What is the specific service area that will benefit from Recompete funding, and why was it selected?*

- What types of impact will Recompete funding have on the service area over the next 5 years? Over the next 10?

- Specifically, what types of jobs do you anticipate creating or placing people into, based on your knowledge of the service area and economic trends?

- How will you ensure economic benefits are accrued to the service area over time? How will they be retained?

*Applicants may also use the **"Eligible / Service Area List Template"** provided on the EDA website to describe the service area of focus (does not count towards page limit).

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# Partnerships and potential commitments (9 points)

- Which regional partners – community-based organizations, local government, state actors, philanthropies, private sector, unions, and others – are critical to the Recompete effort? Why are they uniquely situated to support this work?

- What types of potential commitments from them would move the needle on persistent economic distress in your region, based on your regional conditions and needs? *Recall – commitments can be both financial but also policy/practice-related or other types of contributions.*

- How are you designing partnerships such that they last through (and beyond) the duration of the grant?

- What potential resources can be leveraged?

# What is the Recompete Plan Coordinator (RPC)?

**EDA believes local champions and change agents are essential;** investments are only successful with the right leadership, including that which reflects the diverse populations they serve.

The RPC role is meant to coordinate across relevant entities to help ensure successful Recompete Plan implementation.

**For Phase 1, all applicants should provide a strategy for identifying the right leadership team for their community** – it is not expected that applicants at this stage have identified an RPC. Having an RPC or a plan to hire one will be a requirement for Phase 2.

**Specific role obligations can and should vary based on regional assets and needs** – sample thought starters include:

- Lead the development of regional priorities as related to Recompete

- Catalyze strong, lasting partnerships across the region – both building on existing partnerships and forging new ones

- If awarded implementation funding, oversee overall project progress, ensuring all efforts move forward in coordination with each other

- Identify follow-on funding strategies and opportunities to support long-term sustainability

# A final note on Potential Commitments

**EDA's investments are most effective when combined with local action** to change or reform policies, practices, and outcomes making it harder for people to access work.

Successful Phase 2 awardees will have **credible, specific, and timely commitments** to making such changes in their communities.

**Commitments should be:**

- **Driven by community needs:** Commitments should reflect a clear sense of the relevant stakeholders necessary for success

- **Bold and creative:** The Recompete Pilot Program is intended to allow maximum flexibility; applicants should think innovatively about the types of commitments their communities need

- **Quality over quantity:** EDA considers quality of commitments more than sheer volume

In Phase 1, applicants should begin thinking about commitments, though **fully developed and agreed upon commitments are not expected until Phase 2.**

For more best practices and examples, please keep an eye on EDA's Recompete website for additional resources coming soon.

# Interested in applying?

❑ **Read the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)**

❑ **Explore the Mapping Tool** for geographic eligibility

❑ **Access additional supporting materials** on the EDA Recompete Pilot Program website, such as:

  ❑ Frequently Asked Questions

  ❑ Supplemental Guides (e.g., Menu of Community Commitments)

  ❑ Application Templates (e.g., Application Checklist)

❑ **Stay tuned for an Application Walkthrough Webinar** later this summer

❑ **Sign up for EDA's Communications** to stay up to date

# Questions?

Reach out to the Recompete Program Office at **Recompete@eda.gov**

Visit the Recompete Pilot Program website at
**https://www.eda.gov/funding/programs/recompete-pilot-program**

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