

Key Notice of Funding of Funding (NOFO) Information

U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC) U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) FY 2025 Regional Technology and Innovation Hub Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) (FY 25 Tech Hubs NOFO)	
Grants.gov Opportunity Number	EDA-TECHHUBS-2025
Assistance Listing Number (ALN)	11.039, Regional Technology and Innovation Hubs Program
Effective Date	September 19, 2025
Key Dates	<p>This is a two-stage competition.</p> <p>The deadline to submit a Preliminary Application under Stage I is <u>4:59 p.m. Eastern Time on November 7, 2025.</u></p> <p>The deadline to submit a Comprehensive Application under Stage II is <u>4:59 p.m. Eastern Time on February 18, 2026.</u></p> <p>Applications received after either of these deadlines will not be reviewed or considered.</p>
Funding Instrument	Grant or cooperative agreement. In most cases, assistance will be in the form of a grant.
Funding Details	<p>Approximately \$220,000,000</p> <p>Through this NOFO, EDA will make awards to already designated Tech Hubs for implementation of selected component projects. EDA will select anywhere from zero to approximately five component projects per Tech Hub. See section B of this NOFO for additional details on funding.</p> <p>Through this NOFO, EDA will not be making any new Tech Hub designations.</p>
Program Overview	The Tech Hubs Program seeks to strengthen U.S. economic competitiveness and national security through place-based investments in regions with the assets, resources, capacity, and potential to become globally competitive in the technologies and industries of the future within approximately 10 years, and for those industries, companies, and the jobs they create to start, grow, and remain in the United States.
Cost Sharing and Matching	FY 25 Tech Hubs Implementation Awards will fund, at maximum, 90% of the eligible costs under this NOFO. See section C.4 of this NOFO for additional details on match requirements.
Eligible Projects	EDA can provide funding to support a wide range of non-construction and construction activities, broadly organized into workforce development, business and entrepreneur development, technology development and maturation, infrastructure (construction), and governance. See section C.2 of this NOFO for additional details on eligible projects.
Eligible Applicants	<p>Only 19 applicants are eligible to apply to this FY 25 Tech Hubs NOFO. These are Tech Hub consortia which were: designated in October 2023 as Tech Hubs, have received Consortium Accelerator Awards (CAAs), and have not received any other EDA Tech Hubs Implementation funds. See section C.1 of this NOFO for additional details on eligible applicants.</p> <p>Pursuant to section 28(c) of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. § 3722a(c)), only consortia are eligible to apply to the Tech Hubs Program. An eligible consortium must include one or more of each of the following: (i) institutions of</p>

	<p>higher education; (ii) State, territorial, local, or Tribal governments or other political subdivisions of a State, or a consortium thereof; (iii) industry groups or firms in relevant technology, innovation or manufacturing sectors; (iv) economic development organizations or similar entities focused primarily on improving science, technology, innovation, entrepreneurship, or access to capital; and (v) labor organizations or workforce training organizations. See section A.3.I of this NOFO for additional requirements related to consortia.</p> <p>Under this NOFO, EDA is not authorized to provide grants or cooperative agreements to individuals. Requests from individuals will not be considered for funding.</p>
Review and Selection Process	<p>This is a two-stage competition. After Stage I, Tech Hubs and their proposed component project portfolios will undergo a technical and merit review based on the merit criteria outlined in section E.1. EDA will notify applicants of the component projects it determines will advance to Stage II. A consortium may have all, some, or none of its proposed projects advance to Stage II.</p> <p>After Stage II, EDA will convene an investment review committee (IRC) to evaluate the merits of each application based on the extent to which the application meets program specific award and application requirements set forth in section E.1.</p> <p>Thereafter, the Selecting Official will make selections in accordance with the selection criteria set forth in section E.3.I.</p>
Award Project Period	<p>EDA anticipates awards will typically have a period of performance of 24 to 60 months. See section C.5 of this NOFO for additional details on project periods of performance.</p>
How to Apply	<p>Applications will only be accepted electronically through the Economic Development Grants Experience (EDGE) at https://sfgrants.eda.gov/s/. See section D.1.I of this NOFO for limited exceptions.</p>
Informational Webinar	<p>EDA plans to conduct an informational webinar for this NOFO. Regional Innovation Officers (RIOs) leading the 19 eligible Tech Hubs will be provided with invitations to this webinar.</p>
Award Notification	<p>Subject to the availability of funding, EDA will notify successful applicants of their awards electronically. See section F.1 of this NOFO for more information on award notification.</p>
Agency Contacts	<p>For questions concerning this NOFO, including requests for technical assistance with application requirements, please contact the Tech Hubs inbox at EDA via this email address: TechHubs@eda.gov.</p>

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A.	PROGRAM DESCRIPTION	5
1.	Program Information.....	5
2.	Statutory Authorities.....	6
3.	Background.....	6
4.	Competition Structure.....	8
B.	FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION	27
1.	What Funding is Available?	27
2.	What Funding Caps Exist for Different Types of Eligible Component Projects?	28
3.	What Type of Funding Instrument Will Be Used to Make Awards?.....	28
C.	ELIGIBILITY AND OTHER PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.....	29
1.	What entities are eligible to apply for Implementation Awards under this NOFO?	29
2.	What Activities are Eligible for Implementation Awards?	29
3.	What Activities are Ineligible for Implementation Awards?	31
4.	What is the Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement?.....	31
5.	How Long Should a Project's Period of Performance Be?.....	32
D.	APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION	32
1.	Obtaining an Application and Electronic Submission through EDGE	32
2.	Summary of Required Files per Competition Stage	33
3.	Submission Dates and Times	35
4.	Verification of Submission.....	35
5.	Other Submission Requirements.....	35
6.	EDGE Systems Issues	35
E.	APPLICATION REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESSES	36
1.	Merit Criteria	36
2.	Review Processes	40
3.	Selection Official's Decision.....	42
4.	Review of Responsibility/Qualification Information in SAM.gov	43
F.	FEDERAL AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION	43
1.	Federal Award Notice	43
2.	Administrative and National Policy Requirements	44
3.	Reporting.....	44
G.	FEDERAL AWARDED AGENCY CONTACT	45
H.	OTHER INFORMATION.....	45

1.	Right to Use Information	45
2.	Disclosure of Information	46
3.	Freedom of Information Act Disclosure	46
4.	Subrecipients vs. Contractors	46
5.	Notice of Government-Wide Procurement Restriction	46
6.	Past Performance and Non-Compliance with Award Provisions	47
7.	Certifications Required by Annual Appropriations Act for Corporations and for Awards over \$5 Million	47
8.	Required Use of American Iron, Steel, Manufactured Products, and Construction Materials and Compliance with Davis-Bacon	47
9.	Environmental and Historic Preservation Requirements	48
10.	EDA's Non-Relocation Policy	49
11.	NOFO Changes Communicated on Grants.gov	49
12.	Audit Requirements	49
13.	Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006	49
14.	Requirements for Recipients with More than \$10 Million in Federal-wide Funding	50
15.	Fraud Awareness Training	50
16.	Office of Inspector General Rights and Responsibilities	50
17.	Termination	51
I.	APPENDICES	52
	APPENDIX A: Component Project Examples	52
	APPENDIX B: Taxpayer Bargain- Contribution to the U.S. Taxpayer Guidance	54
	APPENDIX C: Investment Commitment Examples	55
	APPENDIX D: Policy Commitment Examples	56
	APPENDIX E: Talent and Hiring Commitment Examples	57
	APPENDIX F: SF-424A Guidance	58
	APPENDIX G: Stage II Component Project Scope of Work Template for Non-Construction Projects	60
	APPENDIX H: Stage II Component Project Scope of Work Template for Construction Projects	62

FULL ANNOUNCEMENT TEXT

A. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

1. Program Information

The Regional Technology and Innovation Hub (Tech Hubs) Program will serve as a key investment in this Administration's America First agenda—strengthening our nation's economic competitiveness and national security by ensuring that the industries of tomorrow are built, grown, and led right here in the United States.

Through strategic, local investments, the Tech Hubs Program unleashes the potential of American regions with the assets, talent, and capacity to become global leaders in critical technologies within the next decade. These investments will fuel U.S. manufacturing, accelerate the commercialization of cutting-edge research, enhance the nation's warfighting capabilities, and ensure that high-quality, high-paying jobs return to and remain on American soil.

In line with President Trump's commitment to usher in a Golden Age of American Innovation, the Tech Hubs Program will accelerate lasting economic growth in key technology sectors—positioning the United States to outcompete foreign adversaries, secure domestic supply chains, and lead the world in critical and emerging technologies for generations to come.

The Tech Hubs Program is not intended to fund basic and fundamental research. Instead, the Tech Hubs Program is intended to advance American capacities to commercialize, deploy, manufacture, and deliver future-focused technologies at scale. Further, this competition is designed to deviate from the status quo of federal grant competitions by requiring applicants to demonstrate that any funded project is a bargain for the American taxpayer.

All projects funded under the Tech Hubs Program should increase the speed and effectiveness with which industry and other partner organizations transition technologies upward from Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs) six through nine.¹ The focus of these implementation projects should be on five key areas: workforce development, business and entrepreneurship development, technology maturation, infrastructure (construction), and governance (see section C.2 of this NOFO for more details on eligible project activities).²

The FY 25 Tech Hubs competition will be administered in two stages:

- I. In Stage I, eligible Tech Hub consortia will have the opportunity to submit a Preliminary Application (see section A.4.I of this NOFO for more details on content requirements). EDA will evaluate submitted materials based on the merit criteria outlined in section E.1 and will notify applicants of the component projects it determines have the greatest potential and may advance to Stage II. A consortium may have all, some, or none of its proposed projects advance to Stage II.
- II. In Stage II, invited consortia will submit Comprehensive Application Packages for each of the projects selected in Stage I by EDA to proceed and will present their overall Tech Hub vision through a formal pitch. The Comprehensive Application Packages will be evaluated on a project-by-project basis. See section E.2.III of this NOFO for more details on the evaluation process for this stage of the competition.

¹ Different objectives and technology domains require different TRL definitions, but most TRL scales have nine levels. See, *e.g.*, U.S. Gov't Accountability Off., Technology Readiness Assessment Guide, GAO-20-48G, App. IV at 115-21 (Jan. 2020), available at <https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-20-48g.pdf>. Because this program seeks to advance technologies across a broad array of domains, EDA is not selecting specific TRL definitions but is adopting the common nine-level structure.

² 15 U.S.C. § 3722a(f)(2).

Implementation Awards selected as a result of this competition will drive a broad spectrum of non-construction and construction activities that support the acceleration of the Tech Hub's technology commercialization efforts.

By enabling regions to demonstrate, deploy, and commercialize groundbreaking technology products and services, Implementation Awards will play a pivotal role in transforming local economies into dynamic, globally competitive Tech Hubs. Each region's unique strengths and needs will guide the selection of activities, ensuring that investments are tailored to catalyze lasting economic growth in the region's chosen technology sectors while supporting the country's national security and economic competitiveness goals.

Applicants will need to prove that their strategies are closely tied to the mission of the Tech Hubs Program, ensuring that federal funds are used efficiently and effectively at the lowest cost and greatest benefit to taxpayers. Tech Hubs must galvanize private sector participation and leadership with the goal of increasing their investment. This NOFO also places considerable emphasis on private sector buy-in and investment as a critical indicator of Tech Hub and component project viability. This is about more than just funding; it is about making smart, strategic, and targeted investments that will accelerate the U.S.'s economic growth and technological dominance on the world stage.

2. Statutory Authorities

The statutory authority for this program is section 28 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980, amended (15 U.S.C. § 3722a).

3. Background

This FY 25 Tech Hubs NOFO builds on past Tech Hubs competitions. In May 2023, EDA released the first Tech Hubs Phase 1 NOFO, receiving 198 applications from consortia across the country seeking a Tech Hubs designation. The Tech Hubs designation is a strong signal that a region's assets, resources, and capabilities position it for transformative investment to become globally competitive in a core technology within a decade. In October 2023, EDA designated 31 Tech Hubs and released the Phase 2 NOFO for Implementation funding, open only to designated Tech Hubs.

In February 2024, all 31 designated Tech Hubs³ submitted their Phase 2 applications requesting \$2 billion across 183 proposed projects, supported by matching funds from industry, state and local government, and other partners. In July 2024, EDA awarded \$504 million to 52 projects across 12 designated Tech Hubs, while the remaining 19 Tech Hubs received Consortium Accelerator Awards (CAAs) of \$500,000 each to strengthen their consortia and pursue future investments.

I. What constitutes a Tech Hub consortium?

Tech Hubs are defined as contiguous regions with a concentration of assets, capital, research and development (R&D), a labor market, and infrastructure strongly relevant to the Tech Hub's selected core technology area, the Tech Hub's identified market opportunity, and the Tech Hub's potential to become globally competitive in that area within a decade, led by coordinated consortia of public, private, and academic partners. As defined in the statute, each consortium *must* include at least one of each of the following entity types:

- (1) Institutions of higher education, which may include Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Tribal Colleges or Universities, and Minority-Serving Institutions;

³ "The Hub Designees." <https://www.eda.gov/funding/programs/regional-technology-and-innovation-hubs/2023>. Note that Tech Hubs without implementation funding (indicated on this list without a star) are eligible to compete for this competition.

- (2) State, territorial, local, or Tribal governments or other political subdivisions of a State, including State and local agencies, or a consortium thereof;
- (3) Industry groups or firms in relevant technology, innovation, or manufacturing sectors;
- (4) Economic development organizations or similar entities that are focused primarily on improving science, technology, innovation, entrepreneurship, or access to capital; and
- (5) Labor organizations or workforce training organizations, which may include State and local workforce development boards.⁴

Consortium membership may have changed since the Tech Hubs' initial designation and/or the last application for implementation funding; however, all consortia must continue to include the five required member types.

While Tech Hubs may include members and partnerships outside their geography, a substantial majority of the benefits (*e.g.*, job creation and retention, worker placements, capital formation and deployment, firm creation and growth) expected to result from EDA funding should accrue within each Tech Hub's region. Applicants should retain their designated Tech Hub geography for their FY 25 Tech Hubs NOFO application. If an applicant is interested in updating their designated Tech Hub geography, the applicant must proactively contact EDA for further consultation and approval. Altering the existing geography for the sake of expanding it would not necessarily make the application more competitive.

Each consortium has already identified one organization to serve as the Lead Consortium Member. The Lead Consortium Member has committed to serve as EDA's main point of contact for the Tech Hub and the principal coordinator for the consortium. This Lead Consortium Member also employs or oversees the Regional Innovation Officer (RIO), who leads the Tech Hub's overall innovation agenda / strategy and is accountable for clear and effective governance of the consortium. EDA expects the RIOs to spend the majority of their working time coordinating and leading the Tech Hubs.

EDA has no formal requirements regarding Tech Hubs' consortium structure. Consortia may choose to create a new legal entity to serve as Lead Consortium Member, use MOUs, or employ an informal structure. However, EDA does expect that consortium members are actively collaborating and will continue to align on their Tech Hubs strategy as coordinated by the Lead Consortium Member and RIO.

As part of this FY 25 Tech Hubs NOFO, EDA is asking consortia to propose a portfolio of approximately 2 - 5 component projects. If awarded, these component projects would each be led by a Component Project Lead Organization, which will be direct grantees of EDA, receiving and signing their own award(s) for their respective component project(s). Awarded Component Project Lead Organizations will be responsible for managing their project's administration and finances, regular reporting on project progress, and coordinating with consortium leadership, other Component Project Lead Organizations, and their own project's subrecipients, if any. For

⁴ By statute, consortia *may* also include one or more of: (1) Economic development entities with relevant expertise, including a district organization; (2) Organizations that contribute to increasing the participation of underserved populations in science, technology, innovation, and entrepreneurship; (3) Venture development organizations; (4) Organizations that promote local economic stability, high-wage domestic jobs, and broad-based economic opportunities, such as employee ownership membership associations and State or local employee ownerships and cooperative development centers, financial institutions and investment funds, including community development financial institutions and minority depository institutions; (5) Elementary schools and secondary schools, including area career and technical education schools; (6) National Laboratories; (7) Federal laboratories; (8) Manufacturing extension centers; (9) Manufacturing USA Institutes; (10) Transportation planning organizations; (11) A cooperative extension services; (12) Organizations that represent the perspectives of underserved communities in economic development initiatives; and (13) Institutions receiving an award under the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Regional Innovation Engines Program. 15 U.S.C. § 3722a(c)(2).

construction projects, the owner of the property being built on or improved must be a direct grantee of EDA and may do so as a Component Project Lead Organization or as a Component Project Co-Recipient. Consortium members can be the Component Project Lead for multiple component projects, but those organizations must demonstrate to EDA their capacity to manage each of those component projects individually as well as the multiple component projects jointly.

II. What technologies are considered key focus areas of the Tech Hubs Program?

In applying for a Tech Hubs designation, consortia were required to clearly identify a selected core technology area within or at the intersection of one or more of the key technology focus areas (KTFAs) listed below:

- (1) Artificial intelligence, machine learning, autonomy, and related advances;
- (2) High performance computing, semiconductors, and advanced computer hardware and software;
- (3) Quantum information science and technology;
- (4) Robotics, automation, and advanced manufacturing;
- (5) Natural and anthropogenic disaster prevention or mitigation;
- (6) Advanced communications technology and immersive technology;
- (7) Biotechnology, medical technology, genomics, and synthetic biology;
- (8) Data storage, data management, distributed ledger technologies, and cybersecurity, including biometrics;
- (9) Advanced energy and industrial efficiency technologies, such as batteries and advanced nuclear technologies, including but not limited to for the purposes of electric generation (consistent with 42 U.S.C. § 1874); and
- (10) Advanced materials science, including composites 2D materials, other next-generation materials, and related manufacturing technologies.

This list is drawn from 42 U.S.C. § 19107, as directed by the Tech Hubs statute.⁵ See 15 U.S.C. § 3722a(h)(1), (4)-(7). Tech Hubs should retain the core technology area selected as part of designation. Applicants of the FY 25 Tech Hubs competition may refine or elaborate on their approach to their selected core technology area via their application materials. If an applicant is interested in updating their designated Tech Hub core technology area, the applicant must proactively contact EDA for further consultation and approval.

4. Competition Structure

This competition is designed to fund several Tech Hubs and their selected component projects via Implementation Awards. Accordingly, applicants should propose a portfolio of tightly aligned component projects that include all or a subset of the broad categories of eligible activities (workforce development, business and entrepreneur development, technology development and maturation, related infrastructure (construction) activities, and governance projects).⁶ Applicants may submit similar component projects as were submitted under the previous Tech Hubs competition, modified to reflect the new requirements of this NOFO, or applicants may submit entirely new projects.

These component projects will either be non-construction or construction in nature. Generally, when there is proposed disturbance to existing physical conditions, EDA will consider that effort to be a construction project.⁷

⁵ The National Science Foundation is required to review and update this list annually. For the purposes this FY 25 Tech Hubs NOFO, EDA is relying on the initial list enacted by Congress at 42 U.S.C. § 19107(c).

⁶ 15 U.S.C. § 3722a(f)(2).

⁷ Applicants may want to propose an “equipment only” project. These projects may be classified as construction or non-construction depending on the amount and nature of installation work required. Applicants should consult with EDA to confirm what application documentation will be required for submission.

Depending on whether the proposed component projects are non-construction or construction, EDA will require different application materials.⁸ See section D.2 of this NOFO for more information on application requirements.

EDA will assess component projects on both an individual basis and as a proposed portfolio to address the Tech Hub's current gaps related to technology development, market, regulations, access to capital, workforce, and other factors hindering commercialization and scale up. Therefore, component projects should be coordinated to create impact greater than the sum of their parts.

The FY 25 Tech Hubs NOFO will be administered in two stages to reduce burden on applicants and to more efficiently evaluate and select component projects to fund via Implementation Awards. The two-stage competition will be conducted as follows.

In Stage I, eligible consortia will have the opportunity to submit a Preliminary Application Package for EDA's review. The following items are required for the Preliminary Application Package, as explained in more detail below in section A.4.I:

- SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance (1 per Tech Hub)
- Overarching Hub Narrative (1 per Tech Hub, 12 page limit)
- Match Letters (as needed)
- Commitment Letters (5 letter limit, 3 page limit per letter)
- Component Project Narratives (1 per component project, 8 page limit per narrative)
- Component Project Budget Narratives (1 per component project)

EDA will evaluate submitted materials based on the merit criteria outlined in section E.1. EDA will notify applicants of the component projects it determines have the greatest potential and thus can advance to Stage II. A consortium may have all, some, or none of its proposed projects advance to Stage II.

In Stage II, invited consortia will submit comprehensive application packages for the selected projects and will be asked to present their overall Tech Hub vision and potential through a formal, recorded pitch. Stage II materials include, as explained in more detail below in section A.4.II:

- Comprehensive Application Package (1 per component project)
 - *See package details in section A.4.II.a*
- Pitch Deck (1 per Tech Hub)
- Recorded Presentation of the Pitch (1 per Tech Hub)

EDA will provide more detail on the pitch deck and the recorded presentation of the pitch, along with how applicants should submit these two files when applicants are notified of projects that will advance to Stage II. EDA will then review these materials as part of the evaluation and selection process discussed below in section E.2.III.

I. Stage I: Preliminary Application Package

Stage I provides eligible applicants an opportunity to update their original Tech Hubs application, recognizing that changes to the consortium, technology, market, and more may have occurred since then. Applicants will propose component projects that are designed to advance the Tech Hub's updated strategy.

⁸ Note that non-construction projects that depend on separate construction activities may require additional EDA review, even if the construction is funded outside of EDA.

(a) SF-424 (Application for Federal Assistance)

The SF-424 is a standard form used across government funding programs, accessed through EDA's EDGE. The SF-424 details high-level information on the applicant—in this case, the Lead Consortium Member. Because the SF-424 in Stage I is drafted at the overarching level, the Lead Consortium Member should fill out Box 18 "Estimated Funding" by summing up the federal requests across all component projects and entering that overarching request value in 'Federal' and then summing up all the match dollars associated with the Tech Hub's application and entering that overarching match value in 'Other.' The other fields in Box 18 should be left blank.

(b) Overarching Hub Narrative

The Overarching Hub Narrative, not to exceed 12 pages, should demonstrate how EDA funding for component projects, alongside matching funds and other commitments, will advance the commercialization and scaled deployment of a technology of significance to economic and national security, so that the Tech Hub will become globally competitive in 10 years.

The narrative should include both near-term actions to be accomplished in the first year of the award and a longer-term strategy to maintain, grow, and evolve capacity to translate innovation into regional economic growth and to strengthen overall national security. The narrative should build on the consortium's strategy from its FY 23 Phase 1 application for designation but also stand on its own for readers unfamiliar with that application.

The Lead Consortium Member should submit the Overarching Hub Narrative, but the document should represent the collective vision of the entire consortium.

Specifically, the Overarching Hub Narrative should contain the following elements:

(1) Executive Summary (no more than 300 words)

- The name of the Tech Hub;
- The Lead Consortium Member and proposed Component Project Lead Organizations;
- The Tech Hub's geography; and
- The selected core technology area, its current state, and how the Tech Hub's proposed component projects will advance it, making the Tech Hub globally competitive in 10 years and delivering benefits for the American taxpayer.

(2) Consortium Geography and Composition

- The Tech Hub's geography; and
- The core consortium members, including but not limited to the five statutorily required entities, and a short description of the role these members play in the consortium.

(3) Technology Overview and Tech-Related Assets

- The technology the Tech Hub aims to commercialize and scale, including its current state technology readiness level (TRL) and its key supply chain inputs (written in plain language);
- How the problem your technology addresses is currently being solved in the market, why the Tech Hub's solution offers a superior approach, and why now is the right time for its adoption;
- The technology's current and potential impact on the country's national security and economic competitiveness;
- The technology assets in the Tech Hub region relevant to the Tech Hub's focus;
- Other public and private sector investments related to the Tech Hub's goals; and

- A table listing up to five examples of specific end products – along with the TRLs (6-9) and uses of those products – that the Tech Hub intends to commercialize and scale, organized according to the template below.

	End Product	TRL	Use
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

(4) Explanation of the Technology Commercialization Gap(s)

- The challenges/hurdles preventing or slowing technology commercialization and scaled deployment within the regional ecosystem and for the technology at large, including technological, supply chain, market, capital, regulatory, workforce, or other problems; and
- An argument for why any individual entity cannot address these gaps alone, and why federal funding is necessary to solve it, rather than private, state, or local funding.

(5) Current Status of the Tech Hub

- The consortium’s relevant activities and progress between the Tech Hub’s designation and the FY 25 Tech Hubs NOFO application submission, including EDA-funded and non-EDA-funded activities;
- Changes affecting the Tech Hub’s commercialization strategy and activities, including updates to consortium membership; technological advancements; manufacturing capacity; industry collaborations; workforce and employment opportunities; private, state or local investments; and international, national, or regional policies; and
- A short description of any other federal funds that have been secured for, or have been requested to support, any portion of the projects for which an EDA investment is proposed, which specifically addresses how those funds would be spent differently from and complement the proposed component projects.

(6) Description of Proposed Component Projects

- For each of the 2 – 5 proposed component projects, provide the following information:
 - Component project name;
 - Which of the following categories the project falls under: workforce development, business and entrepreneurship development, technology maturation, infrastructure (construction), or governance;
 - The Component Project Lead Organization and other key implementing entities;
 - Description of the project;
 - The timeline for implementation; and
 - How the component project contributes to the overall success of the Tech Hub, and how it complements and reinforces other component projects;
- Describe how the collection of component projects will complementarily lead to the Tech Hub overcoming the commercialization gap within a 10-year timeframe; and

- A table listing total proposed project cost and match, organized according to the template below:

	Component Project Name	Project Type	Federal Request	Match	Total Cost
1					
2					
3					
	TOTAL				

(7) Governance Structure and Long-Term Viability Plan

- The makeup of the Tech Hub's leadership team, including its Regional Innovation Officer (RIO);
- The entities that support the management, coordination, and promotion of the Tech Hub;
- A short description of the value proposition the Tech Hub represents to industry partners, and how the Tech Hub plans to continue to engage industry;
- The framework, agreements, and mechanisms the consortium uses to govern its activities, coordinate its critical assets, measure progress, build evidence, continuously improve, and become self-sustainable without federal funds; and
- How the Tech Hub will evolve and sustain after federal funds have been spent.

(8) Outputs and Outcomes

- Each Tech Hub should establish a clearly structured evaluation framework demonstrating how component projects and Tech Hub activities will collectively lead to the Tech Hub being globally competitive within 10 years;
- EDA expects this information to be detailed in a table, similar to the one below:

Baseline	Tech Hub Outputs (by the end of the Period of Performance)	Intermediate Outcomes (within 5 years)	Long-term Outcomes (within 10 years)	Overarching Tech Hub Goal(s)
What is the current starting point or baseline?	What are the key deliverables resulting from Tech Hub activities?	What measurable results demonstrate early progress?	What measurable results clearly demonstrate the Tech Hub is achieving its goal(s)?	What broader goal(s) do the long-term outcomes contribute to? How will the Tech Hub know if global competitiveness was achieved within 10 years?
<i>[Current global market share is 1%, representing \$100M in annual revenue]</i>	<i>[50 regional firms directly supported with funding; at least 3 partnerships established]</i>	<i>[Businesses secure \$500M in new investment within 3 years; 5 products generate revenue]</i>	<i>[Achieve \$1 billion annual regional revenue by 2030; establish sustained annual revenue growth of 10-15% per year]</i>	<i>[Achieve at least 10% global market share in annual revenue by 2035]</i>

- This framework must:
 - Be anchored in the metrics and measures outlined in EDA's Regional Economic Development Data Collection Instrument,⁹ adapting them as necessary to reflect the Tech Hub's specific industry, technology, and context;
 - Document current status of the Tech Hub, including clear explanations of assumptions or calculations used to determine the baseline;
 - Identify specific outputs—measurable deliverables directly resulting from Hub-supported activities that advance the Tech Hub's goal(s), and outcomes—measurable changes gained by the outputs;
 - Articulate clear linkages showing how early-stage outputs will lead to intermediate outcomes and ultimately demonstrate meaningful progress toward the Tech Hub's global competitiveness goal;
 - Clearly define global competitiveness in the context of the Tech Hub's targeted technology or industry, specifying measurable indicators or benchmarks that signify success; and
 - Provide a clear rationale detailing how identified outcomes will measure whether and to what extent the region achieves global competitiveness within 10 years.

(9) Taxpayer Bargain

Describe how the Tech Hub's success will benefit Americans. Be sure to address each of the following:

- *Contribution to the Region:* How the Tech Hub's success will increase the economic prosperity of the Tech Hub's region, create and retain jobs in the private sector for citizens, and strengthen the region's culture and capacity for innovation, which might include strengthened partnerships, updated infrastructure, or other interventions.
- *Contribution to U.S. Economic Competitiveness:* How the Tech Hub's success will contribute to America's leadership in the global economy; what the primary markets are for this technology, where the places trained workers can contribute to this technology area are located, who the primary global competitors are, and how this investment will create a competitive edge for America.
- *Contribution to U.S. National Security:* How the Tech Hub's success will address national security priorities, which may include considerations for strengthening and reshoring/onshoring America's domestic supply chain resiliency; bolstering warfighting capabilities; attracting, developing, and retaining world-class talent; and beyond.
- *Contribution to the U.S. Taxpayer:* If funded, how the Tech Hub, particularly its for-profit members, will share benefits and gains with America's taxpayers, and how this investment is a bargain for the American taxpayer. As part of this section, the applicant should describe the monetary benefits that the Tech Hub will share with the taxpayer if these projects are funded and the Tech Hub is successful (see Appendix B for examples).

(10) Overview of Match Funding

- Applications require at least 10 percent match funding across the Tech Hub's overall budget (when summing all component project budgets).

⁹ Link to EDA's Regional Economic Development Data Collection Instrument:
<https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAOMBHistory?ombControlNumber=0610-0113>.

- Match Funding must support at least one component project but does **not** need to support all component projects.¹⁰ If an applicant is proposing a governance component project, EDA prefers that a large portion of match funding is allocated to that component project. This illustrates that non-federal funders are committed to the long-term viability of the Tech Hub.
- To summarize match sources, this section should be organized as a table according to the template below.
- See section A.4.I.c for requirements on match letters, which should corroborate the summary of match funding in this section.

Match Funding Source	Cash or In-Kind?	Dollar Value of Match	Valuation Justification (If In-Kind)	Supports Which Component Project(s)
[Organization Name]	[In-Kind]	[\$500,000]	[100% of Employee A at \$150,000 annual salary; 100% of Employee B, C, and D at \$100,000 annual salary; 25% of Employee E at \$200,000 annual salary]	[Component Project 1]
TOTAL MATCH:				

(11) Overview of Commitments:

Commitments are actions taken by regional leaders and stakeholders that will improve the Tech Hub's commercialization and competitiveness potential by complementing and further leveraging potential EDA funding. Commitments should demonstrate concrete and specific actions that directly support the Tech Hub's strategic goals. See section A.4.I.d for more details on commitments or Appendices C, D, and E for commitment examples.

In the 2024 Phase 2 funding competition, Tech Hubs were asked to compile commitments aligned with their application. Though many of those commitments were contingent on receiving federal funds, many Tech Hubs were still able to actualize a portion of those prior commitments. For the purposes of this NOFO, 'prior commitments' refers to those commitments that were submitted as part of the Tech Hubs Phase 2 application and have been executed, are currently in progress, or are being actively implemented.¹¹

Prior Commitments

- To summarize the Tech Hub's performance on those *prior* commitments, include a table according to the template below, reporting up to five of the Tech Hub's prior commitments.
 - The "Source" column should identify the sector that the committing organization belongs to: Federal Government, State government, local government, nonprofit, private for-profit, philanthropy, or institution of higher education.

¹⁰ Note that if a component project with a substantial portion of the required match is not selected to advance to Stage II, the Tech Hub may need to reallocate match to those component projects that are advanced to Stage II or secure new match.

¹¹ EDA understands that some Tech Hubs also submitted commitments as part of a prior EDA application. For the purposes of this *Prior Commitments* table, only include commitments that were submitted as part of the Tech Hub's Phase 2 application and have been executed, are currently in progress, or are actively being implemented.

- The “Type” column should indicate what type of commitment is being provided: Investment (cash), Investment (in-kind), Policy, or Talent & Hiring.
- The “Realized Outputs & Outcomes” column should include a brief description of the benefit or impact of the prior commitment.

Committing Organization	Source	Type	Value (if applicable)	Description	Realized Outputs and Outcomes
[XYZ Corp.]	[Private Sector]	[Investment (cash)]	[\$1,000,000]	[XYZ Corp. built a new \$1,000,000 production line.]	[Via this investment, XYZ Corp. doubled its manufacturing capacity to produce Widget X. This new line now employs 20 employees.]

New Commitments

- This competition also asks Tech Hubs to detail up to five *new* commitments made to the Tech Hub since the last Tech Hubs application submission (post February 2024).
- This list of new commitments may include commitments made as part of a prior EDA application, or may include any other commitments made to the Tech Hub since the last Tech Hubs application submission.
- To summarize these new commitments, include a table according to the template below detailing only up to five of the Tech Hub’s most meaningful new commitments (as determined by the applicant team itself) from government, academia, philanthropy, nonprofit or private-sector entities.
 - The “Source” column should identify the sector that the committing organization belongs to: Federal Government, State government, local government, nonprofit, private for-profit, philanthropy, or institution of higher education.
 - The “Type” column should indicate what type of commitment is being provided: Investment (cash), Investment (in-kind), Policy, or Talent & Hiring.
 - The “Associated Component Project(s)” column should indicate if this commitment specifically supports one or two component projects. If the commitment is more general, write “Tech Hub-Wide.”
 - The “Implementation Plan” column should include an overview of how the commitment will be implemented, including start and end dates and responsible parties.
 - The “Anticipated Outputs & Outcomes” column should include a brief description of the benefit or intended impact of the commitment.

Committing Organization	Source	Type	Value (if applicable)	Associated Component Project(s)	Description	Implementation Plan	Anticipated Outputs & Outcomes
[XYZ Corp.]	[Private Sector]	[Investment (cash)]	[\$1,000,000]	[Component Project Name]	[XYZ Corp. has committed to building a new \$1,000,000	[XYZ Corp. will start the project on Jan 1, 2026. The line will be operational	[Via this investment, XYZ Corp. will double its manufacturing capacity to

					<i>production line.]</i>	<i>by Jan 1, 2027.]</i>	<i>produce Widget X. This new line will employ 20 employees.]</i>

(c) Match Letter(s)

Applicants must corroborate the required 10% match in their overall budget through signed match letters. Match values indicated in these letters must align with the values described in the SF-424, Overarching Hub Narrative, and in the Component Project Budget Narratives.

If an applicant is proposing a governance component project, EDA prefers that a large portion of match funding be allocated to that component project. This illustrates that non-federal funders are committed to the long-term viability of the Tech Hub. If a component project with a substantial portion of the required match is not selected to move on to Stage II, the Tech Hub may need to reallocate match to those component projects that are advanced to Stage II or secure new match.

Match funding letters should be submitted as separate documents from commitment letters. For example, if XYZ State Legislature intends to provide the Tech Hub with matching funds and other commitments, the XYZ State Legislature should provide two separate letters: one for matching funds and one for commitments.

Each Match Letter must:

- Be submitted as a separate PDF file with a clear naming structure;
- Be from the entity making the contribution (*e.g.*, from the applicant or from the third-party match source). Applicants cannot pledge match that is contributed/donated by a third-party entity unless a match letter is signed by an authorized representative of the matching fund source. Authorized representatives must have the authority to execute documents and to obligate and expend funds on behalf of their respective organizations;
- State whether the contribution is via cash, loans, bonds, or in-kind;
 - If in-kind, provide a valuation¹² and description for each element of in-kind contributions. Match letters that simply state an in-kind match amount without a description and itemized valuation will be deemed insufficient; and
 - In-kind match must consist of contributions directly related to the proposed project, such as personnel, equipment, or space. EDA will fairly evaluate all in-kind contributions, which must be eligible project costs and which must meet applicable federal cost principles and uniform administrative requirements.
- Demonstrate to the satisfaction of EDA, or state directly, that the match being provided (regardless of kind and source) is unencumbered, unrestricted, and committed at the time of award; and

¹² For example, if an entity is proposing to provide in-kind match by supporting personnel expenses to the project, EDA would want to see a valuation of that contribution using the staff member's annual salary multiplied by the percentage of time the staff member would be working on the project, multiplied by the number of years they would be working on the project.

- Confirm that the contribution is from a non-federal source or from a federal source that is explicitly authorized by statute to be used as matching share.

Additional documentation may be requested by EDA to substantiate the availability of the matching funds. For example, if bonds are contemplated as match, counsel opinion of the applicant's bonding authority and eligibility of the bonds for use as match, along with full disclosure of the type of bonds and the schedule of the applicant's intended bond issue, are required.

Note that a provider of matching share, including an entity providing cash or in-kind contributions, may **not** serve as a *contractor* under the same award, and may **not** be paid with award funds to provide goods or services to the award recipient.¹³

Note that, consistent with 2 CFR § 200.306, not all sources of federal funding may be allowed as match, and applicants must raise any questions about federal funding being used as match as early as possible with the POC listed in section G.

(d) Commitment Letters

Commitments are actions taken by regional leaders and stakeholders that will improve the Tech Hub's commercialization and competitiveness potential by complementing and further leveraging potential EDA funding. Commitments are public demonstrations of regional collaboration and industry intent to fully execute on the Tech Hub's proposed activities. EDA values these commitments because they provide additional validation of the Tech Hub's strategy to address commercialization gaps. See Appendices C, D, and E for commitment examples.

Commitments should demonstrate concrete and specific actions that directly support the Tech Hub's strategic goals. As commitments are usually ancillary to EDA projects, and not actually part of the EDA projects themselves, commitments are generally not subject to federal requirements.¹⁴

- **Investment commitments** may be direct (cash) or indirect (in-kind). As feasible, investment commitments should include an accurate and quantifiable value. Investment commitments should also not only describe how and when funds are delivered but the benefit or result achieved from the investment.
 - **Investment (cash) commitments** may include, but are not limited to, direct contributions to a component project (not already counted as match), new upgrades to existing facilities, or a newly established fund for small businesses.
 - **Investment (in-kind) commitments** examples may include employee staff time, consulting services, or use of lab space or software.
- **Policy commitments** may be regulatory or programmatic. Examples may include, but are not limited to, reduction in regulatory requirements to improve technology transfer or new collaborations that reduce time to market. Policy commitments are not required to provide a quantifiable value but should detail the problem or issue addressed and the intended result or benefit.
- **Talent and hiring commitments** should be as specific as possible, outlining the roles to be filled (or trained or interviewed for), the number of positions, expected wages, and the anticipated hiring timeline.

¹³ Note that subrecipients may provide matching share. For additional information on the differences between contractors and subrecipients, see section H4, 2 CFR 200.1, and 2 CFR 200.331.

¹⁴ In some specific instances where an entity commits to co-invest in the same construction project as the EDA-funded project, federal requirements may be applicable.

As part of this NOFO, EDA requires that each Tech Hub provide up to five letters detailing *new* commitments made to the Tech Hub since the last Tech Hubs funding competition (post February 2024). While each Tech Hub applicant can and likely should collect more than five commitments, EDA is requiring each Tech Hub to only include up to five new commitments, backed by commitment letters, in its application.

Commitment letters must include the name and signature of the party responsible. All letters should be collated and submitted as a single pdf.

Quality new commitments will have the following characteristics:

- **Meaningful:** Commitments should clearly articulate how the proposed action will improve the competitiveness of a Tech Hub and specify how it addresses a longstanding gap, reduces a critical barrier, or contributes to solving a significant problem. The commitments' goals should be ambitious and achievable.
- **New:** Commitments should relate to activities that would otherwise not necessarily happen if not for the Tech Hub's effort. They should be strategically aligned with the Tech Hub's proposed activities and demonstrate how new, expanded, or improved outcomes will be achieved.
- **Timely:** Commitments should be timebound and clearly outline a strategy for timely implementation and specify responsible parties.
- **Targeted:** Commitments should be specific and have clear, well-defined inputs and objectives.
- **Measurable:** Commitments should have a measurable outcome and impact. Metrics of success should be collected early and on a regular basis to signal accountability.

(e) Component Project Narratives

A Component Project Narrative document, not to exceed eight pages, is required for each proposed component project. The Lead Consortium Member should submit the Component Project Narratives for the Stage I Preliminary Application Package, but the Lead Consortium Member does not need to be the entity 'leading' any component project.

The Component Project Narratives should contain the following elements:

(1) Executive Summary of Component Project (no more than 300 words)

- Component project name;
- Component Project Lead Organization;
- Location of the project or expected service area;
- A description of the key challenge that the project is intended to address;
- A description of the proposed project and a timeline of the core component activity(s);
- A description of how the component project will advance the overall Tech Hub's objectives, contribute to making the Tech Hub globally competitive, and deliver benefits for the American taxpayer; and
- Expected component project outputs and outcomes.

(2) Project-Specific Challenge

- A description of the specific technology commercialization or scaling challenge or gap that the component project is intended to address. This could be related to technology development, market access, capital access, infrastructure, workforce, regulations, or other factors; and
- A description of why this challenge or gap needs to be addressed using federal funds, rather than by the private sector, state, or local funders.

(3) Project-Specific Solution

- An overview of the component project, including key activities;
- A description of why this approach is the best solution available for addressing the key challenge(s) described above;
- A description of the organizations and partners involved in the project and their roles;
- A description of existing assets within the Tech Hub that will be leveraged by the project; and
- A description of how the component project will interact and synergize with the other Tech Hub components and advance the overall Tech Hub's objectives.

(4) Project-Specific Outputs and Outcomes

Each component project must establish a well-defined evaluation framework demonstrating how project-specific activities will achieve outcomes in 5 years and contribute to the Tech Hub achieving global competitiveness in 10 years, as depicted in the below chart.

Baseline	Component Project Outputs (by the end of the Period of Performance)	Intermediate Outcomes (within 5 years)	Long-term Outcomes (within 10 years)	Component Goal(s)	Contribution to Tech Hub Outcomes
What is the project's current starting point?	What specific, measurable deliverables will result directly from your project's activities?	What measurable results demonstrate early progress toward achieving goal(s)?	What sustained results or impacts will demonstrate substantial progress toward your project's intended goal(s)?	How will you define and measure success for your component project overall?	What is the contribution to broader Tech Hub and regional outcomes?
<i>Firms currently attract only ~\$20M annually in private investment.</i>	<i>TA and investment support provided to 30 firms.</i>	<i>Firms secure \$200M+ in new investments; 5+ firms launch revenue-generating products.</i>	<i>Firms achieve cumulative revenue growth over \$500M; 8+ firms expand globally.</i>	<i>Firms attract substantial private investment (\$500M+) to accelerate growth.</i>	<i>Supports Tech Hub's goal of reaching \$1B annual revenue and 10% global market share by boosting firm investment-readiness and growth.</i>

At the component level, this framework must:

- Align metrics closely with the EDA’s Regional Economic Development Data Collection Instrument,¹⁵ adapting them where needed to reflect the specific focus, scope, and context of the component;
- Document the current baseline or starting point of the component project, including clear explanations of assumptions or calculations used;
- Identify measurable outputs, defined as direct deliverables resulting from component activities (*e.g.*, number of individuals trained);
- Describe anticipated outcomes, defined as the changes made or benefits gained by the outputs (*e.g.*, increased wage growth);
- Illustrate how outputs lead directly to intermediate outcomes, which in turn drive progress toward achieving the component’s long-term goal(s); and
- Clearly explain how the outcomes generated at the component level will directly contribute to and support broader Hub-level and regional outcomes, ultimately advancing the Tech Hub toward global competitiveness.

(5) Project-Specific Long-Term Viability or Sunsetting Plan

- A description of how the component project fits into the Tech Hub’s plans for long-term sustainability;
- If the project aims to continue in perpetuity or for the foreseeable future, describe how it will evolve and sustain after federal funds have been spent. Include anticipated challenges, potential barriers, and a forecast of post-award period operations; and
- If the project’s activities are intended to end after achieving a certain goal, describe the ramp-down and sunseting and what, if any, new follow-on activities are expected or necessary.

(6) Taxpayer Bargain

- *Contribution to the Region:* How will this component project’s success increase the economic prosperity of the Tech Hub’s region?
- *Contribution to U.S. Economic Competitiveness:* How will this component project’s success contribute to America’s leadership in the global economy?
- *Contribution to U.S. National Security:* How will this component project’s success address national security priorities?
- *Contributions to the U.S. Taxpayer:* How will this component project’s success – particularly those led by for-profit consortium members – share benefits and gains with America’s taxpayers? How is this investment a bargain for the American taxpayer?

(f) Component Project Budget Narratives

There is **no** overarching Tech Hub-wide budget narrative required.

Instead, applicants must submit a budget narrative file for each component project, which details the costs of key expenses within that proposed project. Applicants are allowed to submit this budget information in any format, but EDA provides templates for both construction and non-construction projects which applicants are highly encouraged to use.¹⁶

¹⁵ Link to EDA’s Regional Economic Development Data Collection Instrument:
<https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAOMBHistory?ombControlNumber=0610-0113>.

¹⁶ These templates, along with other program-specific resources, can be found on the Tech Hubs webpage at www.eda.gov/techhubs.

All Component Project Budget Narratives (construction and non-construction) should be clear and comprehensive, justifying why each budget line is necessary and supportive of the overall component project. Each budget line should reflect a separate expense; in other words, do not combine multiple contracts or pieces of equipment on the same line. Equipment line items should be described in the Budget Narrative and should include: the model or description, unit price, quantity, estimated useful life, and entity/street address where equipment will be located. Awardees will have an opportunity to finalize their equipment list before awards are signed.

Further, if the project is utilizing match funding Component Project Budget Narratives should delineate between costs covered by proposed federal funds and costs covered by match funding. Match funding must be categorized appropriately within the budget – for example, in-kind funding should be assigned as personnel costs, equipment costs, supply costs, subrecipient costs, etc. while cash match should be spread across all cost categories.

For non-construction projects, there are eight cost categories eligible for EDA funding, as illustrated on the SF-424A:

- Personnel;
- Fringe;
- Travel;
- Equipment;
- Supplies;
- Contracts & Subawards;
- Construction;
- Other; and
- Indirect costs.

The construction cost category, while appearing on the template and the SF-424A, must remain blank.

If the applicant intends to claim fringe costs, they must include a breakdown of fringe costs in the Budget Narrative.

As part of this NOFO, applicants may claim indirect costs to help pay for organizational overhead of non-construction projects. If the applicant wishes to claim other than the 15 percent de minimis rate, the applicant will need to provide a copy of their Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) in Stage II of the competition, as discussed below in section A.4.II.a.10. Indirect costs are only available for non-construction projects.

Lastly, Non-Construction Project Budget Narratives must include a proposed staffing plan which lists the project roles which would be paid for using project funds from the lead recipient organization along with the responsibilities aligned to those roles. EDA's template for non-construction projects includes a Staffing Plan tab.

For construction projects, there are twelve cost categories eligible for EDA funding, as illustrated on the SF-424C form:

- Administrative and legal expenses;
- Land, structures, rights-of-way, appraisals, etc.;
- Relocation expenses and payments;
- Architectural and engineering fees;

- Other architectural and engineering fees;
- Project inspection fees;
- Site work;
- Demolition and removal;
- Construction;
- Equipment;
- Miscellaneous; and
- Contingencies.

Applicants may **not** claim indirect costs on construction projects.

During Stage II of the competition, selected construction projects will be required to submit more comprehensive application materials, including the ED-900C, which includes the submission of a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER). The PER may take significant time to complete. Therefore, applicants may want to start a draft of the ED-900C and the PER during Stage I.¹⁷ Construction New Project Budget Narratives do **not** require a staffing plan.

II. Stage II: Comprehensive Application Packages, Pitch Deck, and Recording

EDA will evaluate submitted Stage I materials based on the merit criteria outlined in section E.1 and will notify applicants of the component projects it determines have the greatest potential based on that review and are permitted to advance to Stage II. A consortium may have all, some, or none of its proposed projects advance to Stage II. In addition, EDA may provide applicants with feedback on how they might strengthen their Stage II materials.

In Stage II, invited consortia will submit comprehensive application packages for each of the selected projects. In addition, Tech Hubs will be required to submit one Hub-wide Pitch Deck and a recording of that Pitch Deck.

(a) Comprehensive Application Package

The comprehensive application package builds on the preliminary application package with the addition of other content and forms.

Note that some of the submission requirements depend on whether the proposed component project is a construction project or a non-construction project—indicated where applicable, below.

(1) SF-424 (Application for Federal Assistance) (one per proposed project*)

The SF-424 is a standard form used across government funding programs, accessed through EDA's EDGE. The SF-424 details high-level information on the applicant. In Stage II, the SF-424 should contain project-specific details on estimated funding and match amounts in Box 18.

*If there is a co-applicant leading this project, the co-applicant will need to submit an additional SF-424 to be uploaded to EDGE as a PDF attachment. Box 18 should have the exact same values on both forms.

¹⁷ Expenses related to the development of a PER could be considered 'pre-award expenses.' Applicants should understand that pre-award expenses are the responsibility of the applicant and not eligible for reimbursement using award funds from this competition.

(2) Component Project Narratives (one per proposed component project; 8-page limit per project narrative)

Applicants should edit and submit their revised Component Project Narratives incorporating feedback that EDA may provide. Applicants will not be penalized for retaining content from Stage I, as long as they address EDA requests. Project Narratives should not exceed eight single-sided, single-spaced 8.5x11-inch pages, with a minimum 12-point font and 1-inch margins. If more than eight pages of a Project Narrative are submitted, only the first eight pages will be reviewed.

(3) Component Project Budget Narratives (one per proposed component project)

Applicants should edit and submit their revised Component Project Budget Narratives incorporating feedback that EDA may provide. Applicants will not be penalized for retaining content from Stage I, as long as they address EDA requests.

(4) Scopes of Work (one per proposed component project; 3-page limit per component project)

Applicants should submit proposed Scopes of Work in the format of the templates provided in Appendices G and H. These documents will delineate each project's integral activities, timelines, responsible entities/staff, and critical dependencies. Note that applicants will have a chance to finalize scopes of work if awarded funds.

(5) SF-424A (Budget Information—Non-Construction Programs) or SF-424C (Budget Information—Construction Programs)

Applicants must fill out and submit a SF-424A (for non-construction component projects) or SF-424C (for construction projects) in EDGE. Dollar values represented on these forms must align with the dollar values described in the Component Project Budget Narrative.

(6) Match Letter(s) (per applicable project)

For component projects that utilize match funding, match letters must be submitted into their respective component project application files in EDGE. The match letter requirements discussed in section A.4.I.c above remain the same for Stage II. The value of that match must align with the value specified on the Component Project Budget Narrative and the SF-424A or the SF-424C. In cases where no changes have been made to the value of the match funding and where that match funding is being utilized, applicants could re-submit letters from Stage I.

(7) CD-511 (Certification Regarding Lobbying) (one per proposed project*)

The CD-511 form is used to certify whether the Component Project Lead engages in lobbying activities. While submission of this signed form is required, applicants may write "not applicable" on the form to indicate that their organization does not engage in lobbying activities.

*If there is a co-applicant leading this project, the co-applicant will need to submit an additional CD-511.

(8) SF-LLL (Disclosure of Lobbying Activities) (one per proposed project*)

The SF-LLL form is used to disclose whether the project lead has reportable lobbying activities. While submission of this signed form is required, applicants may write "not applicable" on the form to indicate that their organization does not have reportable lobbying activities.

*If there is a co-applicant leading this project, the co-applicant will need to submit an additional SF-LLL.

(9) Intergovernmental Review (SPOC Documentation)

EDA applications are subject to the requirements of Executive Order (EO) 12372, “Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs,” if a State has adopted a process under EO 12372 to review and coordinate proposed federal financial assistance and direct federal development (commonly referred to as the “single point of contact review process”).

All applicants must give States and local governments a reasonable opportunity to review and comment on the proposed project, including review and comment from area-wide planning organizations in metropolitan areas. To find out more about a State’s process under EO 12372, applicants may contact their State’s Single Point of Contact (SPOC). Names and addresses of some States’ SPOCs are listed at <https://www.ojp.gov/IntergovernmentalReviewSPOCList.pdf>.

Based on the applicant’s State, EDA requires the following documentation:

State does not participate	No documentation required—check Box 19(c) on the SF-424.
State participates; this grant program not subject to review	Documentation (e.g., a State executive order, a letter from the SPOC) showing that this grant program is not subject to review—provide the documentation as an attachment to the application and check Box 19(b).

An applicant seeking funding for a construction grant that is not a state, Indian tribe, or general purpose local governmental authority must afford the appropriate general purpose local governmental authority in the project region a minimum of 15 days to review and comment on the proposed project and provide with its application a statement of its efforts to seek comments and either (i) a copy of the comments received and a statement of any actions to address those comments or (ii) a statement that no comments were received.

(10) Indirect Cost Rate Documentation (if applicable)

As noted in EDA’s General Terms and Conditions for Construction Projects (Construction GT&Cs) (see section F.2.II, below), indirect costs are generally **not** applicable to construction awards.

All EDA applicants may choose to claim the 15 percent de minimis indirect cost rate for non-construction projects.

If indirect costs are included in the budget, the applicant must include documentation to support the indirect cost rate they are using (unless claiming the 15 percent de minimis indirect cost rate, discussed below). The applicant must submit a copy of its current, approved, and negotiated indirect cost rate agreement (NICRA). The maximum dollar amount of allocable indirect costs for which EDA will reimburse a recipient will be the lesser of the (i) line-item amount for the federal share of indirect costs contained in the EDA-approved budget for the award, or (ii) federal share of the total allocable indirect costs of the award based on either (a) the indirect cost rate approved by EDA (or applicable cognizant federal agency), provided that the cost rate is current at the time the costs were incurred and provided that the rate is approved on or before the award end date, or (b) other acceptable documentation as indicated below.

If the applicant does not have a current or pending NICRA, it may propose indirect costs in its budget; however, the applicant must prepare and submit an allocation plan and rate proposal for approval within ninety calendar days from the award start date (unless claiming the 15 percent de minimis indirect cost rate, discussed below). See 2 CFR part 200 Apps. III, IV, V, VI, VII and the EDA webpage on Indirect costs (<https://www.eda.gov/resources/indirect-costs>) for additional guidance. The applicant should include a statement in its Budget Narrative that it does not have a current or pending NICRA and will submit an allocation plan and rate proposal to EDA or the applicant’s cognizant federal agency for approval.

In accordance with 2 CFR § 200.414(f), an applicant that does not have a current negotiated or provisional NICRA, may elect to charge a de minimis rate of 15 percent of modified total direct costs (subject to the exceptions of 2 CFR § 200.414(f)). No documentation is required to justify the 15 percent de minimis indirect cost rate; however, an applicant electing to charge a de minimis rate of 15 percent must include a statement in its Budget Narrative that it does not have a current negotiated (including provisional) rate and is electing to charge the de minimis rate.

If the applicant is a state or local unit of government that receives less than \$35 million in direct federal funding per year it may submit any of the following:

- a NICRA;
- a Certificate of Indirect Costs from the Department of the Interior (DOI) or EDA (See: <https://www.eda.gov/sites/default/files/filebase/archives/2021/files/tools/grantee-forms/Certificate-of-Indirect-Costs-template.pdf>);
- an acknowledgment received from EDA and a Certificate of Indirect Costs in the form prescribed at 2 CFR part 200, app. VII; or
- a Cost Allocation Plan approved by a federal agency (note that cost allocation plans or indirect cost rates approved by state agencies are not acceptable).

(11) Organizational/Nonprofit Documentation (if applicable)

If the Component Project Lead submitting the component project application is a nonprofit organization that is not an institution of higher education, the applicant must submit:

- a copy of the entity's articles of incorporation;
- a copy of the entity's bylaws; and
- a current certificate of good standing from within the last six months.¹⁸

(12) SF-328 (Certificate Pertaining to Foreign Interests) (one per proposed project*)

Pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 3722a(g) Tech Hubs must report any existing investment from a Foreign Entity of Concern (FEOC) and must report any new investments from FEOCs throughout the performance and reporting periods of the award.¹⁹

Therefore, Component Project Leads must submit SF-328 forms clarifying any relationships those entities may have with foreign entities.

Additional information, beyond the scope of the SF-328, may be required in due diligence to further identify and, if necessary, mitigate potential risks to national security.

*If there is a co-applicant leading this project, the co-applicant will need to submit an additional SF-328.

¹⁸ Certificates of Good Standing can usually be obtained from your state's Secretary of State office or equivalent.

¹⁹ FEOCs are entities that are owned by, controlled by, or subject to the jurisdiction or direction of a foreign country of concern as defined in 10 U.S.C. § 4872(f)(2). See 15 C.F.R. Part 231. Foreign entities outside this category may be members of Tech Hubs consortia. Moreover, EDA will not approve any applications where an FEOC—whether or not a member of the applicant Tech Hub—poses an undue risk to a project or U.S. national security interests, through access to information, likelihood of transfer of expertise or knowledge, or other mechanisms involving the applicant. EDA will make this determination in coordination with other Federal Departments and agencies and other relevant entities.

(13) Construction-Specific Documentation Required for Each Component Project

(i) SF-424D (Assurances—Construction Programs) (one per proposed project*)

This form is for the applicant to provide basic assurances as required by federal law and sign.

*If there is a co-applicant leading this project, the co-applicant will need to submit an additional SF-424D as a pdf upload.

(ii) ED-900B (Beneficiary Information Form) from each beneficiary, as applicable

Each beneficiary which would create or save 15 or more permanent jobs because of this project should complete this form. This form details the estimated impact from this project on those beneficiaries.

(iii) ED-900C (EDA Application Supplement for Construction Programs) and supporting documentation, e.g., Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) (one per proposed project)

The ED-900C is an application document which asks the applicant to provide information about the purpose of the project, including but not limited to title requirements, rights-of-way, liens, etc. The PER is required with submission of the ED-900C.²⁰ The PER may be attached within the ED-900C or submitted as a separate attachment. The PER template may be found here: https://www.eda.gov/sites/default/files/2023-11/06_Preliminary-Engineering-Report-Requirements-and-Guidance.docx

(iv) ED-900E (Calculation of Estimated Relocation and Land Acquisition Expenses) (one per proposed project)

EDA projects typically do not include relocation and land acquisition expenses. EDA still requires its applicants to complete this form and confirm that the project will **not** cause the displacement of families, businesses, or farms.

(v) Environmental Narrative (one per proposed project)

Environmental documentation is required that will enable EDA to comply with its National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) responsibilities. A narrative outline that details required components may be accessed in EDA's website at https://www.eda.gov/sites/default/files/2025-03/Environmental-Narrative-Template-and-Application-Certification-Clause_2025.docx. Documentation should reflect whether the component project is categorically excludable or should be a draft environmental assessment or environmental impact statement. Applicants should consult with the POC in section G of this NOFO to ensure the appropriate documentation is prepared.

(vi) Certification Clause (one per proposed project*)

This is the Appendix A to the Environmental Narrative noted above. This certifies that the applicant has performed due diligence to ensure that the environmental information related to the project site is accurate with respect to any potential toxic or hazardous substances.

*If there is a co-applicant leading this project, the co-applicant will need to submit an additional Certification Clause.

²⁰ Expenses related to the development of a PER could be considered 'pre-award expenses.' Applicants should understand that pre-award expenses are the responsibility of the applicant and not eligible for reimbursement using award funds from this competition. Some pre-award costs may be considered eligible expenses on other already awarded Tech Hub grants (Strategy Development Grants or Consortium Accelerator Awards). Applicants looking to use funding from these grants for pre-award costs should consult and receive approval from EDA prior to incurring these costs.

(vii) Map of Project Site (one per proposed project)

The map, which is typically included in the PER but can be submitted separately, should clearly illustrate project site details (*i.e.*, if the proposed project is to build a new facility, the map should show the exact location of the facility with nearby roadways and other geographic details).

(b) Pitch Deck and Recording

Consortia selected to advance to Stage II will also be asked to submit a pitch deck and a recording of their pitch for their Tech Hub and their selected component projects. These materials should clearly communicate the Tech Hub’s vision, approach, and capacity to deliver results, along with how this investment will benefit the taxpayer—similar to how one would present to a professional investor or funding committee.

Full instructions will be provided to Tech Hubs that advance to Stage II. The following offers a high-level view of what to expect.

(1) Pitch Deck

The pitch deck should present a clear, compelling case for why implementation funding for the selected project(s) is essential to accelerating the Tech Hub and scaling its technology trajectory. The structure will resemble a standard venture or growth funding pitch.

(2) Recorded Presentation

In addition to the Pitch Deck, applicants must submit a recorded pitch. This video recording should serve as a compelling narrative, bringing the essential elements of the deck to life. The recorded pitch should clearly convey the problem the consortium is solving, why the solution matters, and how the team is positioned to lead this effort successfully.

While the recorded presentation does not need to cover every detail from the deck, it should align with the core themes in the deck, highlighting the opportunity, the technology, the path to impact, and why this investment represents a strategic return for the country.

Recorded Presentations will be used during the evaluation and selection process, as described below in section E.2.III. Recorded Presentations will **not** be evaluated for production quality.

B. FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION

1. What Funding is Available?

Congress appropriated up to \$220 million to EDA to carry out the Tech Hubs Program through a loan from the Treasury of the United States to be reimbursed with proceeds from a future spectrum auction.²¹

²¹ In the event that additional funds are appropriated to the EDA Tech Hubs Program in FY 2025, FY 2026, or additional proceeds from an electromagnetic spectrum auction authorized by the Servicemember Quality of Life Improvement and National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2025 are made available to EDA, EDA may allocate additional funding to this competition using this NOFO. Further, EDA commits to notifying prospective applicants of the further use of this NOFO for awarding additional funds and allowing for a period where applicants can update application materials.

If an applicant is awarded funding, neither DOC nor EDA is under any obligation to provide any future funding in connection with that award or to make any future award(s). Amendments or renewals of an award to increase funding or to extend the period of performance are at the sole discretion of DOC and EDA.

The publication of this announcement does not obligate DOC or EDA to award any specific grant or cooperative agreement or to obligate all or any part of available funds. The granting of any award is subject to the availability of funds at the time of award as well as to DOC priorities at the time of award. Neither DOC nor EDA will be held responsible for application preparation costs.

Depending on demand under this NOFO, EDA may exercise its discretion to adjust the total amount available under this NOFO to ensure funds are used to maximum effect. Similarly, EDA may exercise its discretion to extend and add additional funding to existing Consortium Accelerator Awards.

2. What Funding Caps Exist for Different Types of Eligible Component Projects?

Under the FY 25 Tech Hubs NOFO, EDA anticipates selecting anywhere from zero to approximately five component projects per Tech Hub. Total federal funding amounts per Tech Hub and per component project, however, will vary depending on the nature of the projects, the location of the Tech Hub, and the selected core technology area.

To provide applicants with greater clarity and direction on EDA’s expectations for federal share levels, the table below outlines federal share caps for the five different types of eligible component projects.

Type of Component Project	Federal Share Cap
Workforce Development	Up to \$15 million
Business and Entrepreneur Development	Up to \$15 million
Technology Development and Maturation	Up to \$20 million
Infrastructure (Construction)	Up to \$20 million
Governance	Up to \$1 million

EDA may deviate from these caps, including by funding projects greater than \$20 million, in cases of exceptional need and/or exceptional potential impact.

As a note, EDA understands that governance activities are essential to the effective management of an innovation ecosystem, and that Tech Hubs will likely need in excess of \$1,000,000 to design and manage a strong governance operation. As a result, governance activities are good candidates to be funded by match funds (in-kind or cash). This would illustrate that non-federal funders are committed to the long-term viability of the Tech Hub.

3. What Type of Funding Instrument Will Be Used to Make Awards?

Subject to the availability of funds, EDA may award grants or cooperative agreements to eligible applicants for Implementation Awards. EDA anticipates awarding a majority of the funds under this NOFO as grants. EDA will award a cooperative agreement on a case-by-case basis if substantial agency involvement is required. For a cooperative agreement, the nature of EDA’s “substantial involvement” (to be included in the terms and conditions of the award) will generally be collaboration between EDA and the recipient on the scope of work, including administering subawards to other consortium members. However, other possible examples of EDA’s “substantial involvement” may include but is not limited to: (i) authority to halt immediately an activity if detailed performance specifications are not met; (ii) stipulation that the recipient must meet or adhere to

specific procedural requirements before subsequent stages of a project may continue; and (iii) operational involvement and monitoring during the project to ensure compliance with statutory requirements.

C. ELIGIBILITY AND OTHER PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

1. What entities are eligible to apply for Implementation Awards under this NOFO?

Thirty-one regional technology ecosystems were designated as Tech Hubs in October 2023 by EDA via a previous Tech Hubs competition. Of those 31, 19 have received Consortium Accelerator Awards (CAAs) and have **not** yet received any other EDA Tech Hubs Implementation funds. Those 19 Tech Hubs are eligible to apply to this FY 25 Tech Hubs NOFO.

2. What Activities are Eligible for Implementation Awards?

Through this program, EDA can provide funding to support a wide range of non-construction and construction activities, broadly organized into workforce development, business and entrepreneur development, technology development and maturation, and infrastructure-related activities, as well as governance activities.²² Consortia should propose a coherent, interconnected portfolio of projects across these (or a subset of these) five categories that complement each other and other commitments. Below is a non-exhaustive list of eligible activities.

I. Eligible Workforce Development Activities:

Workforce development projects must be aligned to [America's Talent Strategy: Building the Workforce for the Golden Age](#). As such, EDA is seeking applications that prioritize industry-driven strategies, worker mobility, integrated systems, accountability, and flexibility and innovation. Eligible activities include:

- Employer engagement, including through the establishment or expansion of sector partnerships, to align labor supply and demand, identify credentials that are valued in the labor market, address regional sectoral workforce shortages, integrate system-wide challenges, secure interview and hiring commitments, and place trainees into well-paid jobs.²³
- Development and refinement of competency models to ensure that training programs are responsive to employer and industry needs.
- Registered Apprenticeships, other earn-and-learn programs, career and technical education programs, and other programs through which participants receive stackable, industry-recognized credentials to align education and training programs to career pathways.
- The design, implementation, or expansion of industry-driven programs that train and place both new and incumbent workers into great, high-paying jobs and increase worker mobility (e.g., technology-based solutions to enhance career navigation and mobility, competency-based assessments, etc.).²⁴
- Training for teachers or instructors tied to demonstrated employer and regional needs, including through the provision of professional development and the integration of efforts across the state and local workforce training systems.

²² 15 U.S.C. § 3722a(f)(2).

²³ 15 U.S.C. § 3722a(f)(2)(A).

²⁴ Proposed job training programs should be very clear on exactly what job roles the training programs will prepare participants for, along with skillsets required and career trajectories. Applicants should use data, including labor market information, to justify forthcoming job needs.

- The design and development of a workforce training data collection process to rigorously track participant outcomes to guarantee programs demonstrate success in connecting Americans with high-wage jobs.
- Innovative outreach, recruitment, and retention strategies which seek to increase program effectiveness (e.g., partnership with community organizations, employers, and faith-based groups to build trust, raise awareness, and offer supportive services that help individuals enter, persist in, and complete training programs).
- Development of flexible hiring practices, such as skills-based hiring, and educational practices, such as issuance of credit for prior learning, that leverage the talents of existing workers and reduce barriers for applicants from all communities, including those without four-year degrees.
- Deployment of efforts that prioritize AI literacy and other skills necessary to prepare Americans and regions for the impact artificial intelligence will have on local economies and labor markets.

II. Eligible Business and Entrepreneur Development Activities:

- Training for entrepreneurs to start or scale their businesses
- Design and deployment of an access-to-capital program for new or growing businesses
- Development of mentorship networks for entrepreneurs²⁵
- Development of supplier-buyer relationships to assist businesses in tapping into new supply chain opportunities
- Activities that enable companies of all ages, sizes, and levels of maturity to evolve and grow

III. Eligible Technology Development and Maturation Activities:

- Activities that facilitate technology and knowledge transfer, provision facilities to test and mature technologies, and deploy technologies in the field
- Efforts to deepen customer-supplier relationships and integrate stakeholder input—across workers, suppliers, and customers—into technology design and deployment
- Activities that enhance processes for scaled manufacturing within the Tech Hub region

IV. Eligible Infrastructure (Construction) Activities:

- Construction of facilities and/or site connectivity infrastructure necessary for projects in the three categories described above²⁶
- Elements that produce high-quality infrastructure, avert disruptive and costly delays, and promote efficiency

V. Eligible Governance Activities:

- Personnel support for management, coordination, and promotion of the Tech Hub
- Contracts for technical assistance to Tech Hub consortium members (e.g., business attraction, data analysis)
- Hub-wide performance and evaluation activities, including platform development
- Contracts for web services, cybersecurity services, and other risk management activities

²⁵ 15 U.S.C. § 3722a(f)(2)(B).

²⁶ 15 U.S.C. § 3722a(f)(2)(D).

- Travel for Tech Hub-related activities, including to EDA-sponsored Tech Hubs convenings or industry-specific convenings
- Leases for convening space, proportionate to the amount of lease time the project will use

3. What Activities are Ineligible for Implementation Awards?

Some activities are generally ineligible under this NOFO, including:

- Pre-award project costs and application preparation costs under this NOFO
- Profits or management fees in excess of costs, unless statutorily authorized
- Duplication of EDA-funded SOW activities and related costs (applicants must prove to EDA through timelines or proposed scopes that duplication is not occurring)
- Funds to make financial equity or hybrid investments
- Capitalization of a venture fund or other activities to take equity stakes in companies
- Projects that do not have a clear and direct nexus with any of the five broad categories of eligible activities
- Prize competitions, as defined in [15 U.S.C. § 3719](#)
- Wage subsidies to employers for ongoing employment or on-the-job training
- Cloud service credits to transfer to other entities
- Payments to contractors who will provide match funds to the Tech Hub

Note that projects that are ineligible for funding may be part of the overall Tech Hub strategy and communicated through a financial or policy commitment. Applicants that are unsure whether a proposed project is eligible under this NOFO should consult the EDA Point of Contact (POC) listed in section G.

4. What is the Cost Sharing or Matching Requirement?

Because all FY 25 Tech Hubs Implementation Awards made under this NOFO will be for the Tech Hubs' initial performance period, such grants may be awarded with a maximum 90% federal grant rate. See 15 U.S.C. § 3722a(f)(5)(A).

For example, with \$50,000,000 in total funding (across all component projects within a Tech Hub) this means that the federal amount would be \$45,000,000 and the local match requirement would be \$5,000,000, which can be distributed differently across component projects as long as the overall match rate is at least 10 percent.²⁷ If the eligible consortium is led by a Tribal government, the federal share may be awarded at a maximum 100% rate.

As discussed above in section A.4.I.c, if an applicant is proposing a governance component project, EDA prefers that a large portion of match funding is allocated to that component project. This illustrates non-federal funders are committed to long-term viability of the Tech Hub.

Applicants will be expected to demonstrate the sources of local match (see section A.4.I.c) in the application materials. See 15 U.S.C. § 3722a(f)(5).

²⁷ Note that if a component project with a substantial portion of the required match is not selected to advance to Stage II, the Tech Hub may need to reallocate match to those component projects that are advanced to Stage II or secure new match.

5. How Long Should a Project's Period of Performance Be?

The period of performance for an FY 25 Tech Hubs NOFO Implementation Award may vary depending on the proposed scope of work. EDA expects that most projects will range from 24 to 60 months and that all projects will proceed efficiently and expeditiously. EDA expects to announce Stage II awardees in the Spring of 2026, with the period of performance starting soon after. EDA recommends that applicants choose a start date no earlier than May 1, 2026. The Tech Hubs team will confirm the appropriate start date as part of due diligence or negotiations prior to any award.

Recipients of Tech Hubs funding will be expected to make progress on their awards expeditiously, illustrating that project activities have begun and are progressing toward agreed-upon milestones. Recipients which fail to make progress on their awards will be at risk of termination. See section H.17 for more information on Termination.

D. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Under each stage of this competition, an applicant must submit a complete application package, via the two stages detailed in sections A.4.I and A.4.II of this NOFO to be considered for funding. EDA may request additional documentation or information from the applicant to make an eligibility determination. EDA also may, in its sole discretion, continue reviewing any application with minor defects or errors, while the applicant supplies the missing information. EDA will reject any documentation of eligibility that the agency determines is inaccurate or incomplete, which may cause the application to be rejected. Please see section E of this NOFO for more information on the award criteria and the review and selection process.

1. Obtaining an Application and Electronic Submission through EDGE

Under each stage of this competition, an applicant must obtain, complete, and submit an application electronically through EDA's Economic Development Grants Experience (EDGE) at sfgrants.eda.gov. EDA will not accept paper, facsimile, or email transmissions of applications except as provided below. In order to obtain and submit an application through EDGE, an applicant must register for an EDGE account at sfgrants.eda.gov. As part of the registration process, you will register one Authorized Representative for your organization, however, multiple points of contact may be registered or added by the applicant to the application workspace to view or work on completing the application. The Authorized Representative will be the only official with the authority to submit applications.

I. Alternatives to Electronic Submission

To accommodate an applicant's accessibility requirements, a paper version of this application may be obtained by contacting the appropriate POC listed in section G of this NOFO. Or if an applicant is otherwise unable to submit an application through EDGE for reasons beyond the control of the applicant, EDA, in its sole discretion, may pre-approve in writing submission via an alternate method (e.g., email).

II. Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and System for Award Management (SAM)

Applicants are required to: (i) be registered in SAM; (ii) provide a valid unique entity identifier (UEI) in the application; (iii) make certain certifications available (see also sections H.7 and H.14 of this NOFO); and (iv) continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which they have an active federal award, or an application or plan under consideration by a federal awarding agency. EDA may not

make a federal award to an applicant until the applicant has complied with all applicable UEI and SAM requirements and, if an applicant has not fully complied with the requirements by the time the EDA is ready to make an award, EDA may determine that the applicant is not qualified. Recipients will be subject to reporting requirements, as identified in OMB guidance published at 2 CFR parts 25 and 170. All subrecipients must have a UEI before any subawards are made. Subrecipients do not require an active registration with SAM.gov.

Applicants should note that this process can be lengthy, requires interaction with multiple organizations (e.g., [SAM.gov](https://sam.gov)), and requires confirmation at each step. Applicant organizations that have not previously completed any of these steps may require three to four weeks to accomplish these tasks. EDA strongly encourages prospective applicants to begin the pre-submission process as early as possible in the application period.

2. Summary of Required Files per Competition Stage

Submission requirements differ for Stage I and Stage II, as outlined in sections A.4.I and A.4.II above and summarized in the table below

All narratives must use a minimum 12-point font and 1-inch margins. Tables, figures, and captions therein may use a reasonably-sized smaller font. Reference pages or appendices are not necessary. If an applicant chooses to include an appendix or reference page, it must fit within specified page limits. Applicants may include hyperlinks to websites, though EDA does not guarantee that reviewers will click into the links.

Stage I Required Files

The Lead Consortium Member should submit overarching Tech Hub documents as one application in EDGE.

The Lead Consortium Member should also collect and collate project-specific documents (Project Narratives and Budget Narratives) from the Component Project Leads to submit all together in Stage I.

Summary of Required Stage I Documentation

Documentation	Submitter	Submission Method
SF-424 (Application for Federal Assistance)	Lead Consortium Member	EDGE
Overarching Hub Narrative (1 per Tech Hub, 12 page limit)	Lead Consortium Member	EDGE
Match Letters (as needed)	Lead Consortium Member	EDGE
Commitment Letters (5 letter limit, 3 page limit per letter)	Lead Consortium Member	EDGE
Component Project Narratives (1 per component project, 8 page limit each)	Lead Consortium Member	EDGE
Component Project Budget Narratives (1 per component project)	Lead Consortium Member	EDGE

Stage II Required Files

The Lead Consortium Member should submit pitch files through Kiteworks. Additional guidance will be provided during Stage II.

Each Component Project Lead Organization should submit all other Stage II files as new and separate project-specific applications in EDGE.

Summary of Required Stage II Documentation (Non-Construction vs Construction Projects)

Documentation	Submitter	Submission Method	Non-Construction	Construction
SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance*	Component Project Lead	EDGE	X	X
Component Project Narrative (8 page limit each)	Component Project Lead	EDGE	X	X
Component Project Budget Narrative	Component Project Lead	EDGE	X	X
Scope of Work (3 page limit each)	Component Project Lead	EDGE	X	X
SF-424A, Budget Information—Non-Construction Programs	Component Project Lead	EDGE	X	<i>n/a</i>
SF-424C, Budget Information—Construction Programs	Component Project Lead	EDGE	<i>n/a</i>	X
Match Letter(s) (if applicable)	Component Project Lead	EDGE	X	X
CD-511, Certification Regarding Lobbying*	Component Project Lead	EDGE	X	X
SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities*	Component Project Lead	EDGE	X	X
Intergovernmental Review (SPOC Documentation) (if applicable)	Component Project Lead	EDGE	X	X
Indirect Cost Rate Documentation (if applicable)	Component Project Lead	EDGE	X	<i>n/a</i>
Organizational/Nonprofit Documentation (if applicable)	Component Project Lead	EDGE	X	X
SF-328, Certificate Pertaining to Foreign Interests*	Component Project Lead	EDGE	X	X
SF-424D, Assurances—Construction Programs*	Component Project Lead	EDGE	<i>n/a</i>	X
ED-900B, Beneficiary Information Form from each beneficiary, as applicable	Component Project Lead	EDGE	<i>n/a</i>	X
ED-900C, EDA Application Supplement for Construction Programs and supporting documentation, <i>e.g.</i> , Preliminary Engineering Report (PER).	Component Project Lead	EDGE	<i>n/a</i>	X
ED-900E, Calculation of Estimated Relocation and Land Acquisition Expenses	Component Project Lead	EDGE	<i>n/a</i>	X
Environmental Narrative	Component Project Lead	EDGE	<i>n/a</i>	X
Certification Clause*	Component Project Lead	EDGE	<i>n/a</i>	X
Map of Project Site	Component Project Lead	EDGE	<i>n/a</i>	X
Pitch Deck	Lead Consortium Member	Kiteworks	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>
Recorded Presentation	Lead Consortium Member	Kiteworks	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>

* indicates application materials that require an additional submission for co-recipients

3. Submission Dates and Times

This is a two-stage competition. The deadline to submit a Preliminary Application Package under Stage I is **4:59 p.m. Eastern Time on November 7, 2025.**

At that point, EDA will conduct a review of all Stage I application materials. After a reasonable amount of time conducting thorough reviews, EDA will announce which Tech Hubs and which projects will advance to Stage II.

The deadline to submit a Comprehensive Application Package under Stage II is **4:59 p.m. Eastern Time on February 18, 2026.**

Applications received after these deadlines will not be reviewed or considered.

EDA may amend, cancel, or withdraw the FY 25 Tech Hubs NOFO at any time. All changes will be communicated via Grants.gov.

4. Verification of Submission

Applicants should save and print written proof of an electronic submission made through EDGE. Applicants, specifically the Authorized Representative submitting the application and materials, will receive a time and date stamped email from EDGE confirming the submission and receipt of the application and other required documents.

Applicants should save and print both the confirmation screen provided on EDGE after the applicant has submitted an application and the confirmation email sent when the application has been successfully submitted.

It is the applicant's responsibility to verify that its submission was timely received and submitted successfully through EDGE. To see the date your application was submitted, log in to EDGE and click on the Submitted Application section from the Home Page.

If you experience a systems issue with EDGE, see section D.6 below for instructions.

5. Other Submission Requirements

After EDA reviews an application, EDA may contact the applicant to request additional documentation to clarify or substantiate submitted application materials, depending on the type of project proposed. Examples of additional documentation may include, but are not limited to, title verification, documentation of the value of in-kind contributions, evidence that all funding is available and committed to the project, proof of eligibility (*e.g.*, organizational documentation such as articles of incorporation, bylaws, and a current certificate of good standing), or documentation required for environmental or legal compliance. This additional documentation will be required to ensure that the proposed project complies with all applicable rules and regulations prior to EDA's issuance of an award. EDA will provide applicants a reasonable amount of time to provide any additional documentation. Failure to provide complete and accurate supporting documentation in a timely manner when requested by EDA may result in the denial of an application.

6. EDGE Systems Issues

If you experience a systems issue with EDGE (*i.e.*, a technical problem or glitch with the platform) that you believe threatens your ability to complete a submission, please (i) print any error message received; (ii) email

the EDGE help desk at GrantHDSupport@eda.gov; and (iii) contact EDA using the contact information in section G of this NOFO. Please be sure to track your issue using a case number given to you by the help desk.

Please note that problems with an applicant’s computer system or equipment are **not** considered systems issues. Similarly, the following are **not** considered systems issues: an applicant’s failure to, *e.g.*, (i) complete the required registration, (ii) ensure that a registered Authorized Representative submits the application, or (iii) notice receipt of an email message from EDGE. An EDGE issue is an issue occurring in connection with the operations of the website itself, such as the temporary loss of service due to unexpected volume of traffic or failure of information technology systems, both of which are highly unlikely. In the event of a confirmed systems issue, EDA reserves the right to accept an application in an alternate format.

Applicants should go to sfgrants.eda.gov and click on the Resources page for assistance in navigating EDGE and for a list of useful resources.

E. APPLICATION REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESSES

The review and selection process for this competition is designed to be robust, transparent, and efficient. In Stage I, EDA will screen submitted materials to verify that all required forms are complete through the Technical Review process, and all required documentation is included. Once properly screened, all Tech Hubs and their component projects will be evaluated against the merit criteria developed specifically for this competition. EDA will then use the merit criteria scores (at both the Hub-level and component project-level) along with the selection factors, described in section E.3.I, to make decisions on which Tech Hubs and component projects will advance to Stage II.

Then, in Stage II, an Investment Review Committee (IRC) will be utilized to develop a recommended award portfolio using the same merit criteria and selection factors. Lastly, the Selection Official, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce or his/her delegatee, will make a final selection on funding. All of these processes and steps are described in additional detail below.

1. Merit Criteria

EDA expects any Tech Hub capable of becoming a globally competitive technology hub to be able to address the merit criteria listed below. The criteria serve as a strategic planning framework and form the basis of a useful exercise even for those that do not receive implementation funding in this competition.

The overarching application will be evaluated using the ‘Hub-Wide Criteria’ while each component project will be evaluated using ‘Component Project-Specific Criteria.’

Hub-Wide Criteria

Criteria	Points Values (50 points possible)
Challenge, Technology, and Impact	20 points
Tech Hub Strength	10 points
Project Portfolio Strength	10 points
Taxpayer Bargain	10 points

Component Project-Specific Criteria

Criteria	Points Values (50 points possible)
Feasibility of Solution	20 points
Impact on the Tech Hub's Plan	15 points
Taxpayer Bargain	15 points

I. Hub-Wide Criteria

(a) Challenge, Technology, and Impact (20 points)

What Parts of the Application Relate to this Criteria? Overarching Hub Narrative sections (3) Technology Overview and Tech-Related Assets, (4) Explanation of the Commercialization Gap, (8) Outputs and Outcomes, and (9) Taxpayer Bargain.

How will this criteria be evaluated? This merit criterion will evaluate how well the Tech Hub articulates how the technology it seeks to commercialize will respond to a vital national security and/or economic competitiveness challenge. More specifically, the criterion will assess the following:

- The extent to which the Tech Hub articulates a national security and economic competitiveness challenge for the United States and the importance of that challenge;
- The extent to which the Tech Hub can clearly identify and explain the technology and associated products that it is seeking to commercialize;
- The extent to which the technology and associated products identified respond to a national security and economic competitiveness challenge;
- The extent to which the Tech Hub articulates the challenges to further commercializing and scaling the technology identified;
- The extent to which the Tech Hub articulates why their region, consortium, and proposed approach is best positioned to address the challenges to commercializing and scaling the technology identified;
- The extent to which the commercialization of this technology will grow and remain in the United States;
- The extent to which the technology is relevant and important to the future of the United States economy; and
- The extent to which the Tech Hub's plan and the commercialization of the Tech Hub's technology enhances the national security of the United States.

(b) Tech Hub Strength (10 points)

What Parts of the Application Relate to this Criteria? Overarching Hub Narrative sections (2) Consortium Geography and Composition, (5) Current Status of the Tech Hub, (7) Governance Structure and Long-Term Viability Plan, (10) Overview of Match Funding, and (11) Overview of Commitments.

How will this criteria be evaluated? This merit criterion will evaluate the strength of the Tech Hub's consortium by assessing performance to date and plans to improve membership, leadership, governance, and commitments into the future. More specifically, the criterion will assess the following:

Membership

- The strength of the consortium make-up, which must include all statutorily required entities and other necessary entities to effectively execute the plan;

- The strength of membership contributions to the Tech Hub; and
- The participation of private sector entities, including capital providers, in the consortium that are directly relevant to commercialization of the Tech Hub's technology.

Leadership

- The effectiveness and experience of the Tech Hub's leadership team—including the Regional Innovation Officer (RIO)—in commercializing technology and managing innovation-driven economic initiatives; and
- The Tech Hub's strategy to sustain a strong leadership team (for example, continuity plans in the event that a RIO or other critical team members transitions) and build future capacity even after the EDA period of performance.

Governance

- The way the Tech Hub coordinates and governs its consortium with defined roles and decision-making structures;
- The extent to which the Tech Hub is strengthening the region's culture and concentration of innovation through durable, close interconnections among its innovation and other critical assets; and
- The Tech Hub's strategy to sustain a coordinated consortium into the future.

Commitments

- The extent to which meaningful commitments previously made to the Tech Hub have been implemented and have enhanced the work of the Tech Hub;
- The extent to which new commitments are specific, timely, feasible, relevant to the Tech Hub's strategy, and have a high impact magnitude; and
- The extent to which commitments made to the Tech Hub (prior and new) further the Tech Hub's overarching strategy.

(c) Project Portfolio Strength (10 points)

What Parts of the Application Relate to this Criteria? Overarching Narrative sections (6) Description of Component Projects and (8) Outputs and Outcomes.

How will this criteria be evaluated? This merit criterion will evaluate the extent to which the Tech Hub's proposed projects and other aligned activities will lead to the advancement of the Tech Hub's commercialization goals in its 10-year horizon. The criterion will further measure the interconnectedness of the Tech Hub's proposed projects (including their outputs and outcomes), and the alignment of proposed projects with other Tech Hub aligned activities. More specifically, the criterion will assess the following:

- Demonstration from the private sector that demand exists for the Tech Hub's portfolio of proposed component projects;
- The clarity and extent to which the component projects are interconnected and will complement each other to advance the overall progress of the Tech Hub;
- The demonstration that the Tech Hub, in alignment with its proposed projects and other activities, has developed high-quality metrics to track progress on its global competitiveness within the 10-year horizon; and
- The extent to which the metrics the Tech Hub has proposed will effectuate the Tech Hub's commercialization goals within the 10-year horizon.

(d) Taxpayer Bargain (10 points)

What Parts of the Application Relate to this Criteria? Overarching Hub Narrative sections (8) Outputs and Outcomes and (9) Taxpayer Bargain and Commitment Letters.

How will this criteria be evaluated? This merit criterion will evaluate how well the Tech Hub benefits the United States and its taxpayers. More specifically, the criterion will assess the following:

Contribution to the Country

- The extent to which the Tech Hub’s plan increases the economic resilience and stability of the Tech Hub’s geography; and
- The extent to which the Tech Hub’s plan creates and retains jobs in the private sector for U.S. citizens.

Contribution to the U.S. Taxpayer

- The extent to which the Tech Hub’s proposal shares benefits and gains with the American taxpayer, particularly from its for-profit entities that commercialize this technology. In addition to articulating the potential for the Tech Hub to spark economic impacts, including business creation, job creation, or projected tax revenues, the applicant may articulate an additional return on investment that could be returned to or shared with the taxpayer in the event of realized revenue by a for-profit entity.

II. Component Project-Specific Criteria

Each component project will be scored individually based on:

(a) Feasibility of Solution (20 points)

What Parts of the Application Relate to this Criteria? *Focused on Component Project Narrative sections (3) Project-Specific Solution, (5) Project-Specific Long-Term Viability or Sunset Plan, as well as the Component Project Budget Narrative (section A.4.1.f).*

How will this criteria be evaluated? The merit criteria will evaluate the project’s likelihood of success. More specifically, the criterion will assess the following:

- The extent to which the project plan (*e.g.*, staffing plans, timelines, and goals, subawards, and benchmarks) is properly defined and realistic;
- The likelihood that the component lead and proposed subrecipients can successfully execute the proposed project to completion during the proposed period of performance;
- The proposed budget is reasonably crafted, for example, includes allowable costs, reasonable costs, and is completed consistent with requirements with minimal errors;
- The extent that the identified beneficiaries of the project are present and have expressed demand to utilize the project being proposed; and
- The strength and magnitude of the commitments to the project from for-profit, patient, first-loss, philanthropic, etc. entities on the project and their value add to the successful implementation of the project.

(b) Impact on the Tech Hub's Plan (15 points)

What Parts of the Application Relate to this Criteria? Component Project Narrative sections (2) *Project-Specific Challenge* and (4) *Project-Specific Outputs and Outcomes*.

How will this criteria be evaluated? This merit criteria will evaluate the extent to which the proposed project aligns with the Tech Hub's goals to commercialize a technology so that the Tech Hub is globally competitive in 10 years. More specifically, the criterion will assess the following:

- The extent to which the proposed goals for the component project are aligned with the Tech Hub Program goals;
- The extent to which the component project enhances the Tech Hub's strategy;
- The extent to which the component project increases the likelihood that the Tech Hub will be globally competitive in the technology in 10 years;
- The extent to which the component project directly impacts the challenges to commercialization and/or scaling of the technology; and
- The extent to which the component project produces a return on investment to the American taxpayer.

(c) Taxpayer Bargain (15 points)

What Parts of the Application Relate to this Criteria? *Focused on Component Project Narrative section (6) Project-Specific Taxpayer Bargain and Commitment Letters (section A.4.I.d).*

How will this criteria be evaluated? This merit criteria will assess the extent to which EDA's investment is needed to support this component project. More specifically, the criterion will assess the following:

- The extent to which the component project generates benefits and gains for the American taxpayer, particularly by its for-profit entities that commercialize this technology;
- The extent to which consortium members commit future investments to the Tech Hub upon successful award and/or implementation of the project; and
- The extent to which an EDA investment in this project is necessary, and that another entity—for example, a for-profit entity—could not or would not make this investment or a more substantial investment in this project on its own.

2. Review Processes

EDA's review process is designed to be robust, comprehensive, and fair. The evaluation will assess Tech Hubs and their component project proposals.

I. Technical Review

EDA will screen submitted application materials to verify that all required forms are complete, and all required documentation is included.

Applications that do not contain all elements listed in section A.I will not be reviewed, with limited exceptions where non-substantive missing information or forms can be supplied after original submission.

EDA, in its sole discretion, may continue the review process for applications with non-substantive issues that may be easily rectified or cured. EDA reserves the right to seek clarification in writing from applicants whose application packages are being reviewed.

II. Merit Review

For all consortia that submit Stage I materials and pass EDA's Technical Review, a panel of at least three professionally and technically qualified merit reviewers will be appointed to evaluate the materials using the respective merit criteria as described above in section E.1. For example, the overarching application will be evaluated using the 'Hub-wide Criteria' while each component project will be evaluated using 'Component Project-Specific Criteria.'

In this Stage I Merit Review process, EDA may use statistical methods to normalize the scoring. EDA will then sort the resultant scores from the overarching Tech Hub applications into tiers of similarly scored applications and sort the resultant scores from each component project application into tiers of similarly scored applications. This sorting, along with consideration of the selection factors, will help EDA to determine which Tech Hubs and component projects have the greatest potential, and thus, will be invited to submit revised applications in Stage II. EDA may also advance Tech Hubs and component projects that are necessary to preserve the Selecting Official's ability to implement a selection factor described below in section E.3.I.

EDA will notify the Tech Hub RIO and the relevant Component Project Lead Organizations of any component projects that progress to Stage II. There may be cases where a Tech Hub scores high on the overarching merit criteria, but no component project scores well. In that example, the Tech Hub would not advance to Stage II.²⁸

EDA expects in some cases to consult and provide feedback to RIOs or Component Project Lead Organizations with guidance on the scope and nature of certain component projects after Stage I. Applicants will then develop and submit Stage II materials.

III. IRC Deliberation

For all consortia that submit Stage II materials, those comprehensive application packages will be reviewed by EDA program staff to once again ensure application completeness. Once confident in an application's completeness, program staff will evaluate updates to the Stage II applications and prepare Stage II application packages, and will present the pitches created by the Tech Hubs to the Investment Review Committee (IRC).

The IRC will be composed of at least three professionally and technically qualified members who will be responsible for making a formal recommendation on selection and funding levels to the Selection Official. The IRC will review and deliberate on the applications collectively using the same merit criteria listed above in section E.1 along with the selection factors listed below in section E.3.I. EDA may, in its discretion and including at the IRC's request, consult experts outside of EDA on the merits of proposed component projects to assist the IRC in its deliberation.

EDA may reach out to applicants for clarifications on any submitted application materials throughout this process.

The IRC will present the Selection Official with a recommended portfolio of applications and how to apply the selection factors discussed in section E.3.I below.

EDA's final decision on whether to fund a project in Stage II is dependent upon the ability of the applicant to provide sufficient documentation of the project's compliance with applicable rules and regulations.

²⁸ Individual component projects not funded as part of this competition may be funded under another EDA NOFO.

IV. Due Diligence

If a Tech Hub has a component project recommended for funding, the applicant may still have to complete additional due diligence requirements. After an application has been reviewed and evaluated, EDA may request that the applicant submit additional documents and information to EDA or re-submit application materials based on EDA requests.

In the case of construction projects, such additional due diligence may include:

- i. Title verification (*e.g.*, proof of project ownership);
- ii. Documentation of matching funds; and
- iii. Documentation required for environmental or legal compliance. This may include, but is not limited to: 404 Clean Water Act permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and accompanying environmental documentation (environmental assessment or environmental impact statement), Phase I and Phase II environmental assessments, state environmental assessment documentation (for compliance with state environmental statutes such as the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) or the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)), archeological and biological surveys, and proof of coordination with resource agencies.

If the applicant provides the requested information and supporting documentation in a timely fashion and EDA determines the project is fully compliant with applicable rules and regulations, the application will be forwarded to the Selection Official for a final decision. Applicants that do not provide the additional information and supporting documentation in a timely fashion or who are deemed **not** to be in compliance with applicable rules and regulations will receive notification that their application was not successful.

V. Risk Mitigation Review

Each applicant selected for federal funding under this notice must demonstrate effort to consider and address physical and cyber security and privacy risks relevant to the type and scale of their project. Tech Hubs eligible for this NOFO have already submitted Risk Mitigation Plans to EDA. EDA may require awardees of this competition to update their Risk Mitigation Plans before receiving funds, as stipulated by an award condition.

3. Selection Official's Decision

Stage II component project applications recommended for funding and also deemed fully compliant with applicable rules and regulations, will be forwarded for final selection review and approval by the Selection Official. The Selection Official will select a portfolio of Implementation Awards to fund based on the recommendations of the IRC and the selection factors listed below. The Selection Official will make a final funding decision in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, or his/her delegee. The final portfolio may differ from the recommendations of the IRC to ensure the selection factors below are adequately met.

The Selection Official will prepare a final list of recommendations for funding and document the rationale for its selections.

I. Selection Factors

- i. The extent to which the application meets the overall objectives of section 28 of Stevenson-Wydler (15 U.S.C. § 3722a(h));
- ii. The extent to which the application contributes to America by advancing national security and economic competitiveness interests;

- iii. The extent to which the application contributes to the American taxpayer by sharing realized financial gains from for-profit entities that commercialize this technology with the American taxpayer (see Appendix B for examples);
- iv. The extent to which the application will ensure that growth in its technology, innovation, and advanced manufacturing sectors produces opportunities across the identified region and its populations;
- v. The feasibility of the applicant's overall strategy and of its component projects, individually and in combination;
- vi. The likelihood that the funded component projects can be sustained over the long-run once federal support ends;
- vii. The applicant's performance under previous federal financial assistance awards, including whether the grantee submitted required performance reports and data;
- viii. Balance in the portfolio across geographies, populations, and technologies, including but not limited to the maturity of those technologies;
- ix. The extent to which the application will significantly benefit small and rural communities;
- x. The availability of program funding; and
- xi. Consideration for Tech Hub applicants and their component projects that were announced as receiving Implementation Awards on January 14, 2025.

4. Review of Responsibility/Qualification Information in SAM.gov

EDA, prior to making a Federal award with a total amount of federal share greater than the simplified acquisition threshold, is required to review and consider any information about the applicant that is in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through SAM (formerly FAPIIS). See 41 U.S.C. § 2313.

Each applicant, at its option, may review information in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through SAM and comment on any information about itself that a federal awarding agency previously entered and is currently in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through SAM. EDA will consider any comments by the applicant, in addition to the other information in the designated integrity and performance system, in making a judgment about the applicant's integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under federal awards when completing the review of risk posed by applicants as described in 2 CFR § 200.206.

F. FEDERAL AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

1. Federal Award Notice

If an applicant successfully and timely completes all due diligence requirements and the application is selected for funding, EDA will notify the successful applicant in writing. This notice is **not** an authorization to begin incurring eligible costs. In general, this means that the applicant should not begin work before the award is signed by EDA and accepted by the applicant's authorized representative, as discussed below. Any costs incurred for work begun by the applicant in advance of signature by EDA and acceptance by the applicant's authorized representative are at the sole risk of the applicant and may not be reimbursed by EDA.

The EDA Grants Officer will issue the award (Notice of Award), which is the authorizing financial assistance award document and includes Specific Award Conditions and the DOC Financial Assistance General Terms and Conditions (DOC GT&Cs, as described in section F.2.II, below) and specific award conditions.

By accepting the Notice of Award, the applicant agrees to comply with all award provisions. EDA will provide the Notice of Award to the applicant's authorized representative through EDGE. The applicant's authorized representative must review and accept the Notice of Award without modification by selecting "accept" in EDGE and EDA expects such acceptance will occur expeditiously, preferably within 30 calendar days of the date of receipt. **Failure to accept the notice of award may be considered grounds for appropriate enforcement action pursuant to 2 CFR § 200.339 ("[Remedies for noncompliance](#)"), including award termination.**

If an applicant is awarded funding, neither DOC nor EDA is under any obligation to provide any additional future funding in connection with that award or to make any future award(s). Amendment or renewal of an award to increase funding or to extend the period of performance is at the discretion of DOC and EDA.

EDA will notify unsuccessful applicants in writing to the applicant's authorized representative. EDA will retain unsuccessful applications in accordance with EDA's record retention schedule.

2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

I. Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements

Recipients of an EDA award will be bound by the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance) as set forth in 2 CFR part 200.

II. DOC Financial Assistance General Terms and Conditions

Recipients of all non-construction EDA awards will be bound by the DOC GT&Cs applicable on the date of the award. The DOC GT&Cs may be accessed at the following website:

<https://edit.commerce.gov/index.php/oam/policy/financial-assistance-policy>.

Recipients of an EDA construction award will be bound by EDA's Construction GT&Cs. The Construction GT&Cs may be accessed at <https://www.eda.gov/grant-resources/find-grant-resources/grantee-guidance/construction-awards> under the header "Key Rules and Laws."

Recipients of DOC financial assistance are obligated to comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities, in federally assisted programs or activities. Recipients of federal financial assistance are obligated to comply with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in their federally assisted education or training programs or activities.

III. DOC Pre- Award Notification Requirements

DOC will apply the Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements effective December 26, 2014, 79 Fed. Reg. 78,390. The Pre-Award Notice may be accessed at the Government Printing Office (GPO) website at <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2014-12-30/pdf/2014-30297.pdf>.

3. Reporting

I. Project Finances and Performance Reporting

All recipients are required to submit financial and performance reports in accordance with the terms and conditions of the grant award, generally no less than semi-annually, in accordance with the terms and conditions of the grant award. All project progress and financial reports must be submitted to the assigned EDA members in an electronic format to be determined at the time of award.

II. Long-Term Outcomes Evaluation

EDA will require additional data on activities, outputs, and outcomes of the funded investment, in part to fulfill the requirements of the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA). EDA requires that recipients track their engagement on activities within the scope of work, with project beneficiaries, and with other project stakeholders. EDA further requires recipients to collect data, using surveys of beneficiaries or participants, if necessary, on the outputs and outcomes of project activities, such as jobs created/retained, private investment attracted, the number of new business partnerships formed, or the range of new capabilities acquired. EDA collects this information using a Tech Hubs Program-specific data collection instrument. EDA may also engage with external entities to perform third-party program evaluations, which will require cooperation between the grantee, organizations within their service area, and the evaluating institution(s). Note: costs related to data and evaluation are allowable. EDA may also, for research purposes linked to improving economic outcomes, choose to share data with other federal partners, including but not limited to statistical agencies.

G. FEDERAL AWARDING AGENCY CONTACT

For questions concerning this FY 25 Tech Hubs NOFO or for more information about EDA programs, you may contact techhubs@eda.gov. EDA's website at <http://www.eda.gov> provides additional information on EDA and its programs.

Individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, as well as individuals who have speech or communication disabilities may use a relay service to call the telephone numbers listed on or through the EDA's website. To learn more about how to make an accessible telephone call to any of the numbers shown in this document, visit the webpage for the [relay service of the Federal Communications Commission](https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/telecommunications-relay-service-trs), <https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/telecommunications-relay-service-trs>.

H. OTHER INFORMATION

1. Right to Use Information

The applicant acknowledges and understands that information and data contained in applications for financial assistance, as well as information and data contained in financial, performance, and other reports submitted by applicants, may be used by DOC in conducting reviews and evaluations of its financial assistance programs. For this purpose, applicant information and data may be accessed, reviewed, and evaluated by DOC employees, other federal employees, and also by federal agents and contractors, and/or by non-federal personnel, all of whom enter into appropriate conflict of interest and confidentiality agreements covering the use of such information. As may be provided in the terms and conditions of a specific financial assistance award, applicants are expected to support program reviews and evaluations by submitting required financial and performance information and data in an accurate and timely manner, and by cooperating with DOC and external program evaluators. In accordance with 2 CFR § 200.303(e), applicants are reminded that they must take reasonable measures to safeguard protected personally identifiable information and other confidential or sensitive personal or business information created or obtained in connection with a DOC financial assistance award.

2. Disclosure of Information

For the purpose of achieving rigorous program evaluations, all applications (including those not selected for funding) may be shared with EDA staff, outside parties contracted by EDA for the purposes of evaluation, and other federal agencies.

3. Freedom of Information Act Disclosure

EDA may publish any applications it receives, including any supporting documentation, on its website or through other means.

In addition, DOC regulations implementing the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552, are found at 15 CFR part 4, [Disclosure of Government Information](#). These regulations set forth rules for DOC regarding making requested materials, information, and records publicly available under the FOIA. Applications submitted in response to this NOFO may be subject to requests for release under the Act. In the event that an application contains information or data that the applicant deems to be confidential commercial information that should be exempt from disclosure under FOIA, that information should be identified, bracketed, and marked as Privileged, Confidential, Commercial, or Financial Information. In accordance with 15 CFR § 4.9, DOC will protect from disclosure confidential business information contained in financial assistance applications and other documentation provided by applicants to the extent permitted by law.

4. Subrecipients vs. Contractors

If a project requires or anticipates the payment of federal funds to third parties (such as partners, consultants, vendors, and/or service providers), it is the applicant's responsibility to determine whether a third party should be characterized as a subrecipient or a contractor. The characterization must be reflected in the terms of each agreement made with each third party. (See [2 CFR § 200.1](#) for definitions of contract, contractor, subaward, and subrecipient; see also 2 CFR § 200.331, [Subrecipient and contractor determinations](#).)

All subawards must receive EDA prior approval. If selected for award, and before initial disbursement of any funds by EDA for any costs incurred by a subrecipient, EDA may request documentation demonstrating that the subrecipient is an entity eligible to receive EDA assistance.

5. Notice of Government-Wide Procurement Restriction

The general rule for federal financial assistance is that contractors that develop draft specifications, requirements, statements of work, invitations for bids, or requests for proposals are prohibited from competing for the final procurement. In accordance with 2 CFR §§ 200.317 and 200.319, only states and Indian tribe recipients are expressly exempt from this prohibition; states and Indian Tribes must follow the same policies and procedures they use for procurements from their non-federal funds.

Local governments may also take advantage of the exemption in two narrow circumstances if they are required to follow

- the state's procurement rules in full and without exception, or
- a specific state procurement rule that creates an explicit conflict with the prohibition in 2 CFR § 200.319(b) (*i.e.*, there is a statute that requires or permits the local government to award the final procurement to the same contractor that developed the draft specifications).

Absent one of these two scenarios, the local government must comply with the prohibition. Applicants are encouraged to contact the applicable EDA representative listed in section G of this FY 25 Tech Hubs NOFO with any questions regarding application of this regulation.

6. Past Performance and Non-Compliance with Award Provisions

Unsatisfactory performance under prior federal awards may result in an application not being considered for funding. Failure to comply with any or all of the provisions of an award may have a negative impact on future funding by the DOC (or any of its operating units) may be considered grounds for any or all of the following actions: (1) establishing an account receivable; (2) withholding payments to the recipient under any DOC award(s); (3) changing the method of payment from advance to reimbursement only; (4) imposing other specific award conditions; (5) suspending any active DOC award(s); and (6) terminating any active DOC award(s).

7. Certifications Required by Annual Appropriations Act for Corporations and for Awards over \$5 Million

As discussed in section D.1.II, all applicants are required to be registered in SAM before applying under this NOFO. SAM requires registering entities to certify compliance with all limitations imposed by annual appropriation acts. For corporations, this certification includes that the corporation:

- (a) Was not convicted of a felony criminal violation under a federal law within the preceding 24 months, unless a federal agency has considered suspension or debarment of the corporation and made a determination that this further action is not necessary to protect the interests of the Government; and/or
- (b) Does not have any unpaid federal tax liability that has been assessed, for which all judicial and administrative remedies have been exhausted or have lapsed, and that is not being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement with the authority responsible for collecting the tax liability, unless a federal agency has considered suspension or debarment of the corporation and made a determination that this further action is not necessary to protect the interests of the Government.

For financial assistance awards in excess of \$5 million, this certification includes that the entity:

- (a) To the best of its knowledge and belief, has filed all federal tax returns required during the three years preceding the certification;
- (b) Has not been convicted of a criminal offense under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and/or
- (c) Has not been notified, more than 90 days prior to certification, of any unpaid federal tax assessment for which the liability remains unsatisfied, unless the assessment is the subject of an installment agreement or offer in compromise that has been approved by the Internal Revenue Service and is not in default, or the assessment is the subject of a non-frivolous administrative or judicial process.

8. Required Use of American Iron, Steel, Manufactured Products, and Construction Materials and Compliance with Davis-Bacon

All applicants for EDA infrastructure construction under this NOFO are required to comply with the Build America, Buy America (BABA) Act as set forth in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. As required under BABA, none of the funds provided under any award in this program may be used for a project for infrastructure unless:

1. all iron and steel used in the project are produced in the United States—this means all manufacturing processes, from the initial melting stage through the application of coatings, occurred in the United States;
2. all manufactured products used in the project are produced in the United States—this means the manufactured product was manufactured in the United States; and the cost of the components of the manufactured product that are mined, produced, or manufactured in the United States is greater than 55 percent of the total cost of all components of the manufactured product, unless another standard for determining the minimum amount of domestic content of the manufactured product has been established under applicable law or regulation; and
3. all construction materials are manufactured in the United States—this means that all manufacturing processes for the construction material occurred in the United States. BABA only applies to articles, materials, and supplies that are consumed in, incorporated into, or affixed to an infrastructure project. As such, these BABA requirements do not apply to tools, equipment, and supplies, such as temporary scaffolding, brought to the construction site and removed at or before the completion of the infrastructure project. Nor does BABA apply to equipment and furnishings, such as movable chairs, desks, and portable computer equipment, that are used at or within the finished infrastructure project but are not an integral part of the structure or permanently affixed to the infrastructure project.

When necessary, recipients may apply for, and EDA may grant, a waiver from these requirements. EDA will notify the recipient of the process for requesting a waiver from these requirements upon request. A request to waive the application of BABA must be in writing. Waiver requests are subject to public comment periods of no less than 15 days and must be reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget's Made in America Office. Further detail on BABA and the waiver process is described at <https://www.madeinamerica.gov>.

In addition, the Recipient and any subrecipients, must, comply and require each of its contractors and subcontractors employed in the completion of the Project to comply with the Davis-Bacon Act of 1931, as amended (40 U.S.C. §§ 3141–3144, 3146, 3147; 42 U.S.C. § 3212). The Davis-Bacon Act requires minimum wages for mechanics and laborers employed on Federal Government public works projects to be based on the wages that the Secretary of Labor determines to be prevailing for the corresponding classes of laborers and mechanics employed on projects of a character similar to the contract work in the civil subdivision of the State in which the Project is to be performed, or in the District of Columbia if the Project is to be performed there.

9. Environmental and Historic Preservation Requirements

All applicants for EDA construction assistance are required to provide adequate environmental information. Each application will be reviewed by EDA for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended. During the NEPA review process, applicants may be instructed to contact the designated State and/or Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO/THPO), provide approvals from other governmental agencies, or provide more detailed environmental information. EDA, after compliance with requirements for consultation with federally-recognized Indian Tribes, may require applicants to participate in Tribal consultation, as necessary. NEPA requires EDA to provide public notice of the availability of project-specific environmental documents, such as environmental impact statements, environmental assessments, findings of no significant impact, and records of decision, to the affected public.

For further guidance and information, applicants are encouraged to contact their state or territory's Economic Development Representative (EDR) for assistance. EDR contact information is available on EDA's website and organized according to regional office: <https://www.eda.gov/about/contact> (searchable by state).

10. EDA's Non-Relocation Policy

If an application is selected for award, the recipient will be required to adhere to a specific award condition relating to EDA's non-relocation policy as follows:

In signing this award of financial assistance, Recipient(s) attests that EDA funding is not intended by the Recipient to assist its efforts to induce the relocation of existing jobs within the U.S. that are located outside of its jurisdiction to within its jurisdiction in competition with other U.S. jurisdictions for those same jobs. In the event that EDA determines that its assistance was used for those purposes, EDA retains the right to pursue appropriate enforcement action in accord with 2 CFR §§ 200.339 through 200.343 and DOC General Terms and Conditions of the Award, including suspension of disbursements and termination of the award, which may include the establishment of a debt requiring the Recipient to reimburse EDA.

For purposes of ensuring that EDA assistance will not be used to merely transfer jobs from one location in the United States to another, each applicant must inform EDA of all employers that constitute primary beneficiaries of the project assisted by EDA. EDA will consider an employer to be a "primary beneficiary" if: (i) the employer is specifically named in the application as benefitting from the project, and the applicant estimates that the employer will create or save 100 or more permanent jobs as a result of the investment assistance (if the jobs in question were originally located in a smaller community, EDA may extend this policy to the relocation of 50 or more jobs); or (ii) the employer is or will be located in an EDA-assisted building, port, facility, or industrial, commercial, or business park constructed or improved in whole or in part with investment assistance prior to EDA's final disbursement of funds.

11. NOFO Changes Communicated on Grants.gov

EDA may make changes or additions to this NOFO. All changes will be communicated on Grants.gov. It is recommended that applicants set up a Grants.gov account and subscribe to this funding opportunity (EDA-TECHHUBS-2025) in order to be notified of any updates or changes. DOC or EDA may cancel, modify, or withdraw this NOFO at any time. EDA is not obligated to make any federal award or commitment as a result of this announcement.

12. Audit Requirements

Single or program-specific audits shall be performed in accordance with the requirements contained in the Uniform Guidance (see 2 CFR part 200, Subpart F, "[Audit Requirements](#)").

The Uniform Guidance requires any non-federal entity (e.g., nonprofit organizations, including nonprofit institutions of higher education and hospitals, states, local governments, and Indian Tribes) that expends federal awards of \$1,000,000 or more in the recipient's fiscal year to conduct a single or program-specific audit in accordance with the requirements set out in the OMB Uniform Guidance. Applicants are reminded that EDA or the DOC's Office of Inspector General (OIG) also may conduct an award audit at any time.

13. Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006

The Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 includes a requirement for awardees of applicable federal grants to report information about first-tier subawards and executive compensation under federal assistance awards issued in FY 2011 or later. All awardees of applicable grants and cooperative

agreements are required to report to the Federal Subaward Reporting System (FSRS) available at <https://sam.gov/fsrs> on all subawards over \$30,000. See 2 CFR part 170.

14. Requirements for Recipients with More than \$10 Million in Federal-wide Funding

As required by appendix XII to 2 CFR part 200, a recipient with more than \$10 million in federal-wide funding must maintain the currency of information reported to SAM that is made available in the designated integrity and performance system (formerly FAPIIS) about civil criminal, or administrative proceedings.

15. Fraud Awareness Training

Consistent with 2 CFR part 200, in signing a financial assistance award, Recipient personnel responsible for managing the Recipient's finances and overseeing any subrecipients, contractors, or subcontractors, will be required to complete the training PowerPoint entitled "Compliance with EDA Program Requirements" and return the signed Certificate of Training Completion to EDA as instructed by the Agency. Further, Recipient will be required to monitor award activities for common fraud schemes and report suspicious activity to EDA and the Office of Inspector General.

16. Office of Inspector General Rights and Responsibilities

The DOC Office of Inspector General (OIG) seeks to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of DOC's programs, including deterring and detecting fraud, waste, abuse and mismanagement. The OIG accomplishes this mission primarily through investigations, audits, and inspections of DOC activities, including grants, cooperative agreements, loans, and contracts.

I. Disclosures

Recipients of financial assistance originating from the U.S. DOC, including EDA, shall timely disclose, in writing, to the OIG and awarding agency, whenever, in connection with the award, performance, or closeout of this grant or subaward thereunder, the recipient has credible evidence that a principal, employee, agent, or subrecipient has committed:

- (i) A violation of federal criminal law involving fraud, conflict of interest, bribery, antitrust, or gratuity violations found in Title 18 or Title 15 of the United States Code; or
- (ii) A violation of the civil False Claims Act (31 U.S.C. §§ 3729-3733).

II. Reporting

The OIG maintains a hotline to receive allegations of fraud, waste, or abuse. To report such allegations, please visit <https://www.oig.doc.gov/Pages/Hotline.aspx>. Upon request, the OIG will take appropriate measures to protect the identity of any individual who reports misconduct, as authorized by the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended. Reports to the OIG may also be made anonymously.

III. Whistleblower Protection

Recipients, subrecipients, and employees working on this grant award will be subject to the whistleblower rights and remedies established under 41 U.S.C. § 4712.

An employee of a recipient or subrecipient may not be discharged, demoted, or otherwise discriminated against as a reprisal for disclosing information that the employee reasonably believes is evidence of: gross mismanagement of a federal contract or award; a gross waste of federal funds; an abuse of authority (*i.e.*, an arbitrary and capricious exercise of authority that is inconsistent with the mission of EDA or the U.S. DOC or the

successful performance of a contract or grant awarded by EDA or the U.S. DOC) relating to a federal contract or award; a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety; or a violation of a law, rule, or regulation related to a federal contract (including the competition for or negotiation of a contract) or grant.

The recipient or subrecipient shall inform its employees and contractors, in writing, in the predominant language of the workforce or organization, of employee whistleblower rights and protections under 41 U.S.C. § 4712, as described above and at [Whistleblower Protection Program - Office of Inspector General, U.S. DOC](#).

17. Termination

In accordance with 2 CFR § 200.340(a), this federal award may be terminated in part or in its entirety as follows:

- a. By DOC or the pass-through entity if the recipient or subrecipient fails to comply with the terms and conditions of this federal award;
- b. By DOC or the pass-through entity with the consent of the recipient or subrecipient, in which case the two parties must agree upon the termination conditions. These conditions include the effective date and, in the case of partial termination, the portion to be terminated;
- c. By the recipient or subrecipient upon sending DOC or the pass-through entity a written notification of the reasons for termination, the effective date, and, in the case of partial termination, the portion to be terminated. If DOC or the pass-through entity determines that the remaining portion of this federal award will not accomplish the purposes for which this federal award was made, DOC or the pass-through entity may terminate this federal award in its entirety.
- d. By DOC or the pass-through entity to the extent authorized by law, if the award no longer effectuates the program goals or agency priorities.

I. APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: Component Project Examples

This document describes examples of types of projects that would fit into the five eligible project categories as outlined in section C.2 of this NOFO.

Workforce Development

- A Registered Apprenticeship program, jointly designed with employers and other sector partners, through which workers obtain paid workforce experience and related technical instruction, with progressively increasing wages as they demonstrate mastery in critical skills (e.g., operating cutting-edge technologies)
- Partnerships with organizations that support employer adoption of hiring and employment practices that tap into the talents of existing workers and remove barriers to jobs, such as skills-based recruitment and hiring practices

Business and Entrepreneurship Development

- Operationalizing a new program to support lab-to-market activities through partnerships; examples of partners may include universities, accelerators, and national laboratories collaborating to commercialize new technology innovations
- A technology supply chain program that helps existing small manufacturers throughout the Tech Hub purchase the necessary equipment and hire workers that allow it to transition into domestic manufacturing in the supply chains of the consortium's selected core technology area (small businesses would have access to the demonstration facility to try out new machinery)

Technology Development and Maturation

- A "first of its kind", world-class demonstration facility or testbed that provides companies access to shared facilities to bring products and services in a consortium's selected core technology area to market faster
- A program that ensures workers collaborate directly in the demonstration of new technologies to inform the design of those technologies—as well as their validation, production, and delivery—with the perspective, experience, and input of workers

Infrastructure (Construction)

- The re-purposing of an existing site or facility (such as a former auto or coal plant or other brownfield), including by helping an existing business transition to new products or processes to promote the advance of the core technology
- The construction of a scaled facility enabling increased production of key supply chain inputs bolstering the rest of the industry's capacity and throughput

Governance

- An “Office of Regional Innovation” led by the new RIO to spearhead the entire regional industry’s development strategy, ensure industry engagement with labs and universities, and oversee well-staffed industry partnerships at the new demonstration facility
- A Hub-wide strategy to blend and braid multiple funding sources and programs to further support companies’ commercialization and deployment of products in the consortium’s selected core technology area

APPENDIX B: Taxpayer Bargain- Contribution to the U.S. Taxpayer Guidance

This document provides additional context on addressing the “Taxpayer Bargain” as first discussed in section A.4.1.b.9.

A taxpayer bargain is intended to illustrate how federal investment in a project will provide a ‘return’ – either quantitatively or qualitatively – to the American taxpayer.

As part of the taxpayer bargain, EDA is placing significant focus on how the proposed project would make a contribution to the U.S. taxpayer. Specifically, your application should address the following questions:

If funded, how the Tech Hub, particularly its for-profit members, will share benefits and gains with America’s taxpayers, and how is this investment a bargain for the American taxpayer? What are the monetary benefits that the Tech Hub will share with the taxpayer if these projects are funded and the Tech Hub is successful?

Note that this is different from generalized benefits or positive externalities generated from the implementation of the project.

Examples Include: ²⁹

- If a for-profit entity uses an EDA-supported business accelerator and generates revenue over a specific threshold from products commercialized, it returns a portion of those revenues to the taxpayer or re-invests that revenue in scaled future programming. This could also involve providing the government a warrant, which is a note that can be converted into shares or other equity in a company.
- A workforce development project provides job training and prioritizes and sets targets for identifying, training, and placing participants receiving SNAP, or other federal benefits into jobs that result in less dependency on federal assistance programs. The project sets training and placement goals to quantify the taxpayer dollars saved from reducing dependency on these programs.
- In a project to scale the commercialization of products where the federal government is a buyer, the applicant establishes discounted or negotiated rates for government procurement.
- An EDA-supported testbed facility requires fees from the companies that it supports; at the end of the period of performance, the grantee returns a portion of the collected user fees to EDA to return to the U.S. Treasury.
- EDA’s investments in testing facilities and workforce development attract foreign direct investments into the region from multinational companies expanding operations into the U.S. leading to supply chain expansion and increased domestic resilience.

²⁹ This list is non-exhaustive.

APPENDIX C: Investment Commitment Examples

This document outlines examples of different types of investment commitments as discussed in section A.4.1.d of this NOFO.

- Create innovation voucher programs that reduce the barrier for small- and medium-sized manufacturers to receive technical support (including but not limited to collaborative research programs, legal, engineering, capital, etc.) from researchers
- Incentivize partnerships with local firms and entrepreneurs within broader corporate relations strategies
- Increase access to and expand pools of capital, which could include endowment investments in local venture capital funds or directly in local startup companies; proof-of-concept funding to help technologies cross the valley of death; regional venture capital funds focused on regional companies; strong regional interfaces to national or global capital markets; or other funding mechanisms to support taking technologies from lab to market (note, however, that while EDA dollars can be used to administer and operate these initiatives, EDA dollars cannot be used to capitalize a fund or otherwise be used to invest in or serve as debt for funds or companies)
- Establish opportunities and venues for local design, creation, and testing of products and services, such as makerspaces and core facilities
- Offer grants to reduce the cost of novel manufacturing processes and experimentation and pilot production lines
- Provide local small- and medium-sized enterprises (and other employers) with assistance to access and utilize available Research and Development (R&D) and Capital Expenditure (CapEx) tax credits
- Create and sustain capital networks that crowd in and syndicate follow-on funding for local startups
- Incentivize venture capital and other funds to create local pools of capital that will invest in regional companies committed to domestic manufacturing and job creation
- Organize commitments of endowments and other sources of regional capital to invest in regional companies that are committed to domestic manufacturing
- Create funding pools at intermediary organizations that support researchers translating ideas from lab to market and develop companies, especially at research institutions

APPENDIX D: Policy Commitment Examples

This document outlines examples of different types of policy commitments as discussed in section A.4.1.d of this NOFO.

- Hub-wide standardization of licensing and technology transfer practices, including frameworks to pursue intellectual property protection among research institutions
- Tenure and other academic promotion rules that reward patenting, faculty-created companies, and other economic development outcomes (in lieu of only publications)
- Provide opportunities to share knowledge and practice entrepreneurial skills, such as grant and business plan competitions, communities of practice, or hackathons
- Coordination between regional entrepreneurship ecosystem organizations, including standardized outcome reporting
- Commitments, such as plans to remove regulatory barriers to housing, to better ensure housing availability, especially as the Tech Hub accelerates its growth
- Partnerships between research institutions and labor unions or organizations representing workers that incorporate groups of workers earlier and more intensively in the R&D and commercialization processes
- Change leave policies to encourage students and faculty to take entrepreneurial risks so that students can retain full-time student status while launching companies and so that faculty can take leave without risking their status, lab, or funding
- Incentivize entrepreneurship- and industry-focused faculty researchers and innovators to be a part of multiple institutions through joint appointments at local academic entities, labs, and private sector companies
- Create new leadership positions at public, private, and educational institutions specifically to accelerate technology-based global competitiveness (for instance, Innovation Officer roles)
- Leverage federal Enhanced Use Lease authorities (granted to DoD, NASA, and some national labs) to invite firms and non-federal entities onto federal R&D property
- Establish clear and flexible Conflict of Interest (COI) agreements (consistent with federal COI rules) among consortium members that do not stifle researchers from creating companies

APPENDIX E: Talent and Hiring Commitment Examples

This document outlines examples of different types of talent and hiring commitments as discussed in section A.4.1.d of this NOFO.

- Build local talent pipelines to increase the number of high-skilled workers and students retained in the Tech Hub as entrepreneurs and workers, which leverage strategies such as pre-apprenticeship and Registered Apprenticeship to support the recruitment and retention of workers
- Adopt hiring practices that identify and seek out the existing skills and talents of workers and remove barriers to jobs, regardless of credentials or degrees
- Interview at least 50 graduates of the Tech Hub's workforce development certificate training program per year for the next three years
- Commit to hiring 20 Registered Apprentices per year for the next five years
- Co-develop and run a Work-and-Learn program with the local community college where 25 students per year are hired conditionally and receive on-the-job training in addition to classroom time; upon graduation, students are hired on as full-time employees
- Hire 200 workers for roles such as welders and machinists over the next ten years with individual wages between \$50,000 and \$60,000

APPENDIX F: SF-424A Guidance

This document provides additional guidance on how to fill out the SF-424A, a requirement introduced in section A.II.a.5.

I. SECTION A – Budget Summary

This section captures your total funding request.

1. **Grant Program Function or Activity:** List the name of the federal program (e.g., “EDA Tech Hubs”). One row is fine.
2. **Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number:** Write the CFDA number listed in your NOFO (e.g., “11.039” for Tech Hubs).
3. **New Federal Funds Requested (e):** Enter how much money you’re asking from EDA.
4. **Non-Federal Funds (f):** Enter the total component project matching funds (cash or in-kind).
5. **Total:** The sum of federal and non-federal funds.

II. SECTION B – Budget Categories

Break your budget down by category.

1. **Columns (1–4):** Use column 1 for federal share, Column 2 for non-federal share.
2. **Rows (a–k):** These are budget categories. For example:
 - (a) Personnel: Salaries and wages of employees.
 - (b) Fringe Benefits: Costs like health insurance or retirement benefits.
 - (c) Travel: Costs for project-related travel.
 - (d) Equipment: Items costing \$10,000+ or as defined by your policy.
 - (e) Supplies: Office or program supplies. Includes software or digital items like subscriptions.
 - (f) Contractual: Costs for services by third parties. Includes subawards.
 - (g) Construction: Leave blank for non-construction projects.
 - (h) Other: Any eligible costs that don’t fit above. Includes participant support costs, marketing costs, etc.
 - (i) Total Direct Charges: Add up rows (a) through (h).
 - (j) Indirect Charges: Use your approved indirect cost rate, if applicable. Verify the direct cost base to which your indirect cost rate may be applied. This is often the [Modified Total Direct Cost \(MTDC\) as defined in 2 CFR 200.1](#).
 - (k) Totals: Add (i) and (j) for total requested per year.
3. **Column 5 – Totals:** Add up each row across all years.

III. SECTION C – Non-Federal Resources

Detail your match funds.

- List the source(s) of your non-federal match (e.g., state funds, private partners).

IV. SECTION D – Forecasted Cash Needs

Estimate your cash needs over the project's first year.

- Show how much federal cash you'll need each quarter of the first year.

V. SECTION E – Budget Estimates for Future Funding Periods

Estimate your cash needs for the entire project period.

- One row is fine. The first year should match the total for year one on line 15.

VI. SECTION F – Other Budget Information

- Explain any indirect costs.
- List any program income you expect (e.g., from fees or sales related to the project).

VII. Additional Reminders

- Your Budget Narrative should justify every number here.
- Be sure to distinguish between cash and in-kind contributions.
- The total from this form must match the SF-424 Box 18 and your budget narrative.

APPENDIX G: Stage II Component Project Scope of Work Template for Non-Construction Projects

This document represents a template for the Scope of Work, a requirement introduced in section A.II.a.3.

Scope of Work

Tech Hub Name: [Insert Name of Tech Hub]
Component Project Name: [Insert Name of Component Project]
Component Project Lead Organization: [Insert Name of Lead Organization]

Objective A: [Briefly state the primary objective of this component project.]

Activity 1: [Describe the specific activity that supports the objective.]

Timeline and Milestones:

- **Year/Quarter 1:** [Milestone/Deliverable]
- **Year/Quarter 2:** [Milestone/Deliverable]

[Continue as needed for the full performance period]

Target Metrics (Outputs and Outcomes):

- **Outputs:** [e.g., number of participants trained, partnerships established]
- **Outcomes:** [e.g., improved employment rates, higher earnings rates, increased commercialization activity]

Staffing

- **Lead Organization – Responsible Staff:** [List key personnel names, titles, and roles related to this activity.]
- **Subrecipients (if applicable):** [List partner organizations, with brief notes on their role in this activity.]

Critical Dependencies: [Identify key factors, partnerships, or resources that are necessary for successful execution.]

Activity 2: [Describe the specific activity that supports the objective.]

Timeline and Milestones:

- **Year/Quarter 1:** [Milestone/Deliverable]
- **Year/Quarter 2:** [Milestone/Deliverable]

[Continue as needed for the full performance period]

Target Metrics (Outputs and Outcomes):

- **Outputs:** [e.g., number of participants trained, partnerships established]
- **Outcomes:** [e.g., improved workforce readiness, increased commercialization activity]

Staffing

- **Lead Organization – Responsible Staff:** [List key personnel names, titles, and roles related to this activity.]

- **Subrecipients (if applicable):** [List partner organizations, with brief notes on their role in this activity.]

Critical Dependencies: [Identify key factors, partnerships, or resources that are necessary for successful execution.]

Objective B: [Briefly state the primary objective of this component project.]

Activity 1: [Describe the specific activity that supports the objective.]

Timeline and Milestones:

- **Year/Quarter 1:** [Milestone/Deliverable]
- **Year/Quarter 2:** [Milestone/Deliverable]

[Continue as needed for the full performance period]

Target Metrics (Outputs and Outcomes):

- **Outputs:** [e.g., number of participants trained, partnerships established]
- **Outcomes:** [e.g., improved employment rates, higher earnings rates, increased commercialization activity]

Staffing

- **Lead Organization – Responsible Staff:** [List key personnel names, titles, and roles related to this activity.]
- **Subrecipients (if applicable):** [List partner organizations, with brief notes on their role in this activity.]

Critical Dependencies: [Identify key factors, partnerships, or resources that are necessary for successful execution.]

Activity 2: [Describe the specific activity that supports the objective.]

Timeline and Milestones:

- **Year/Quarter 1:** [Milestone/Deliverable]
- **Year/Quarter 2:** [Milestone/Deliverable]

[Continue as needed for the full performance period]

Target Metrics (Outputs and Outcomes):

- **Outputs:** [e.g., number of participants trained, partnerships established]
- **Outcomes:** [e.g., improved employment rates, higher earnings rates, increased commercialization activity]

Staffing

- **Lead Organization – Responsible Staff:** [List key personnel names, titles, and roles related to this activity.]
- **Subrecipients (if applicable):** [List partner organizations, with brief notes on their role in this activity.]

Critical Dependencies: [Identify key factors, partnerships, or resources that are necessary for successful execution.]

APPENDIX H: Stage II Component Project Scope of Work Template for Construction Projects

This document represents a template for the Scope of Work, a requirement introduced in section A.II.a.3.

Scope of Work

Tech Hub Name: [Insert Name of Tech Hub]
Component Project Name: [Insert Name of Component Project]
Component Project Lead Organization: [Insert Name of Lead Organization]

This EDA Award supports the work described in the approved final scope of work, which is incorporated by reference into this Award, as the *Authorized Scope of Work*. All work on this project must be consistent with the *Authorized Scope of Work*, unless the Grants Officer has authorized a modification of the scope of work in writing through an award amendment.

[high-level paragraph description]

Construction for this project will include:

[several high-level bullet points]