



# Fact Sheet

## “Build Back Better Regional Challenge” Finalists

The U.S. Department of Commerce’s Economic Development Administration (EDA) selected 60 finalists for the \$1 billion [Build Back Better Regional Challenge](#). This once-in-a-generation funding opportunity aims to strengthen bottom-up, middle-out growth in communities nationwide by leveraging local assets and encouraging collaboration.

The Build Back Better Regional Challenge will help regional economies not just recover from the pandemic, but – in some cases – overcome decades of economic distress.

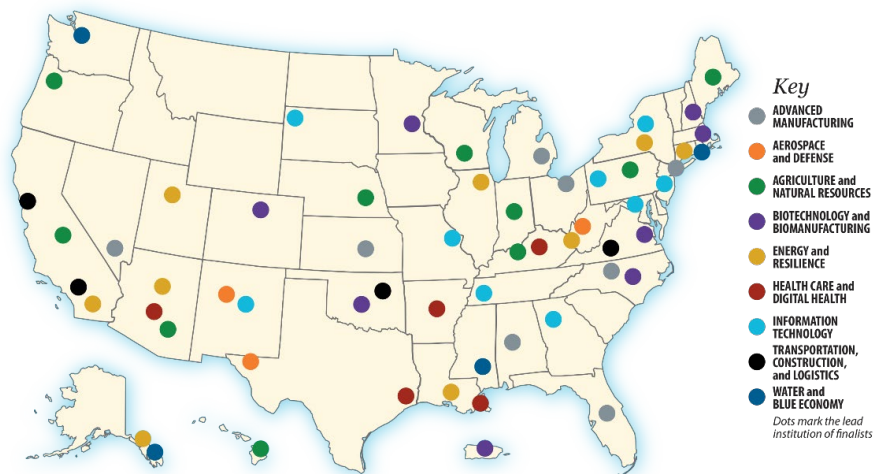
Finalists – regional coalitions of partnering entities – will now work to further craft their ambitious and regionally unique plans to submit for Phase 2. Ultimately, EDA will award 20-30 regional coalitions between \$25 and \$100 million each to invest in the future of their regional economy.

The Challenge is part of a suite of [American Rescue Plan](#) programs developed by EDA to equitably distribute its \$3 billion allocation to assist communities nationwide in their efforts to build back better by accelerating economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic and building local economies that will be resilient to future economic shocks.

EDA has dedicated \$100 million of the Build Back Better Regional Challenge to coal communities as part of its [Coal Communities Commitment](#). Overall, EDA will allocate \$300 million of its \$3 billion American Rescue Plan appropriation to support coal communities as they recover from the pandemic to help create new jobs and opportunities, including through the creation or expansion of a new industry sector.

### A SNAPSHOT OF FINALISTS

The list of 60 finalists and their supporting documents can be viewed [here](#). The map above shows location of the lead agency for each finalist.



## **BUILDING EQUITY**

- Finalists include lead applicants from 42 states and one territory and cover a total of 46 states and territories, a cross section of the United States including rural communities, coastal towns and major metros.
- Finalists in 12 coal and 15 Indigenous communities will lay the groundwork to transform their regions, to export-oriented industries such as clean energy, advanced manufacturing, transportation and logistics and aerospace that bring new investments, resources, and jobs.
- Over half of the lead applicants for finalists are either first time EDA recipients or have not received an award in the last three years – creating new pathways for communities across the country to access federal resources and build back better.

## **BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS**

- 580 companies, philanthropic foundations, industry associations and labor unions will partner with the finalists to address needs to create new jobs and broad-based economic prosperity.
- 170 institutions of higher education, including universities, community colleges, and HBCUs, will work with finalists to identify new training and career pathways in high-growth, opportunity-rich industries.
- The finalist regions have built strong and inclusive coalitions of public, private, university, and philanthropic leaders to tackle some of the nation’s most pressing economic challenges.

## **BUILDING GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS**

- Finalists will build upon existing assets and develop new capabilities within 9 industries including Advanced Manufacturing (8), Aerospace & Defense (3), Agriculture & Natural Resources (10), Biotechnology & Biomanufacturing (8), Energy & Resilience (9), Health Care & Digital Health (5), Information Technology (9), Transportation, Construction & Logistics (4), and Water & Blue Economy (4).
- Finalist regions have identified partnerships with over a hundred research universities and national labs to leverage over \$30 billion in federal research and development to define and drive the global industries of tomorrow.
- A third of finalists are growing the competitiveness of their local manufacturing and agriculture sectors, which nationally account for over \$1 trillion in exports or eight percent of total U.S. exports.

For more information about the Build Back Better Regional Challenge, please visit [www.eda.gov/Build-Back-Better](http://www.eda.gov/Build-Back-Better).

For more information about Economic Development Administration’s 6 American Rescue Plan Programs, collectively called Investing in America’s Communities, please click [here](#).

###