

Economic Development Administration

The mission of the Economic Development Administration (EDA) is to lead the federal economic development agenda by promoting innovation and competitiveness, preparing American regions for growth and success in the worldwide economy.

EDA funds projects that will significantly benefit areas experiencing or threatened with substantial economic distress. Distress may exist in a variety of forms, including, but not limited to high levels of unemployment, low income levels, substantial population loss, sudden major lay-offs or plant closures etc.

EDA advances economic growth by assisting communities and regions experiencing chronic high unemployment and low per capita income to create an environment that fosters innovation; promotes entrepreneurship, attracts increased private capital investment and supports long-term coordinated and collaborative regional economic development approaches.

EDA provides Public Works funds to empower distressed communities to revitalize, expand and up-grade their physical infrastructure to attract new industry, encourage business expansions, diversify local economies and generate or retain long-term, private sector jobs and investment. EDA also can provide financial assistance for technical assistance type projects that helps fill the knowledge and information gaps that may prevent leaders in the public and non-profit sectors in distressed areas from making optimal decisions on local economic development issues.

In fulfilling its mission; EDA is guided by the basic principle that distressed areas must be empowered to develop and implement their own economic development and revitalization strategies. All projects requesting EDA grant assistance must be included within and help implement the goals and strategies identified in the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for Northeastern Pennsylvania prepared by the NEPA-Alliance.

Attached are the EDA Investment Policy Guidelines and Funding Priorities. Funding requests will be competitively evaluated on their ability to meet or exceed these policies as well as other factors.

Appalachian Regional Commission

Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) funds leverage other federal, state and local dollars to fund a broad range of eligible activities.

The focus of the ARC Area Development Program is on:

- Promoting a regional economy through strategies that help communities create and retain businesses and jobs;

- Help communities develop an educated, skilled work-force;
- Supports the development and improvement of infrastructure including water and sewer services and the development and use of the Internet.

As in prior years, it is anticipated that the Pennsylvania State ARC Office will look favorably at projects where there are new business start-ups and job creation and those projects that will enhance the economic and community vitality of the state.

Examples of eligible projects that may be considered for funding as priorities in the Pennsylvania's Annual Strategy Statement include, but are not limited to, education and training, infrastructure, business development and entrepreneurship (industrial and business sites), incubators, technical assistance projects.

ARC Local Access Road Program

The ARC may approve local access road projects, which serve industrial and commercial areas, residential developments, recreational areas, and educational areas.

Local access road funds may be used for preliminary engineering, right-of-way and/or the initial construction of local access road projects. Close coordination with Penn Dot and Federal Highway Administration is necessary to secure all required approvals.

EDA Supplemental Evaluation Criteria

EDA will invest in applicants who are entrepreneurial in spirit and in action. Potential investments will be analyzed using the following five supplemental evaluation criteria.

- 1) Extent that proposed investments are market-based and results driven.
- 2) Have strong organizational leadership.
- 3) Advance productivity, innovation and entrepreneurship.
- 4) Looks beyond the immediate economic horizon, anticipates economic changes and diversifies the local and regional economy.
- 5) Demonstrates a high degree of commitment by exhibiting:
 - High levels of local government or non-profit matching funds and private sector leverage
 - Clean and unified leadership and support by local elected officials
 - Strong cooperation between the business sector, relevant regional partners and the local, state and federal government

EDA Funding Priorities

Applications for EDA's investment programs will be regionally driven initiatives that meet one or more of the following:

- 1) Investments in support of long-term, coordinated and collaborative regional economic development approaches.
- 2) Investments that support innovation and competitiveness.
- 3) Investments that encourage entrepreneurship.