

ANNOUNCEMENT OF FEDERAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITY
Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Programs

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **Federal Agency Name:** Economic Development Administration (EDA), U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC).
- **Funding Opportunity Title:** FY 2016 Economic Development Assistance Programs - Application submission and program requirements for EDA's Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance programs.
- **Announcement Type and Date:** FY 2016 Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) announcement publishing EDA's application submission requirements and review procedures for applications received under EDA's (i) Public Works and (ii) Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) programs, authorized under the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965, as amended (42 U.S.C. § 3121 *et seq.*). Effective date: [[XXXXXX]].
- Funding Opportunity Number: EDAP2016
- **Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Numbers:** 11.300, Investments for Public Works and Economic Development Facilities and 11.307, Economic Adjustment Assistance.
- **Dates:** EDA is employing a new two-phase review process for proposals/applications submitted under this FFO. There are no submission deadlines. Proposals and applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis until the publication of a new EDAP FFO. Proposals will be reviewed by EDA within 30 days of receipt; and following the proposal review, full applications will be reviewed within 60 days of receipt. Please see Section IV. of this FFO for complete information on EDA's two-phase review process.
- **Funding Opportunity Description:** EDA provides strategic investments on a competitive merit basis to support economic development, foster job creation, and attract private investment in economically distressed areas of the United States. Under this FFO, EDA solicits applications from applicants in rural and urban areas to provide investments that support construction, non-construction, technical assistance, and revolving loan fund projects under EDA's Public Works and EAA programs. Grants and cooperative agreements made under these programs are designed to leverage existing regional assets and support the implementation of economic development strategies that advance new ideas and creative approaches to advance economic prosperity in distressed communities.
- **Eligible applicants:** EDA is not authorized to provide grants or cooperative agreements to individuals or to for-profit entities. Requests from such entities will not be considered for funding. Eligible applicants for EDA financial assistance under the Public Works and EAA programs include a(n): (i) District Organization of a designated Economic Development District; (ii) Indian Tribe or a consortium of Indian Tribes; (iii) State, county, city, or other political subdivision of a State, including a special purpose unit of a State or local government engaged in economic or infrastructure development activities, or a consortium of political subdivisions; (iv) institution of higher education or a consortium of institutions of higher education; or (v) public or private non-profit organization or association

acting in cooperation with officials of a political subdivision of a State. See Section 3 of PWEDA (42 U.S.C. § 3122) and 13 C.F.R. § 300.3.

FULL ANNOUNCEMENT TEXT
**The Economic Development Administration’s (EDA) Public Works
and Economic Adjustment Assistance Programs**

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I. Funding Opportunity Description

A. Overview

This Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) announcement sets out EDA’s application submission and review procedures for two of its Economic Development Assistance programs (EDAP) authorized under the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965, as amended (42 U.S.C. § 3121 *et seq.*) (PWEDA): (i) Public Works and Economic Development (Public Works); and (ii) Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA). EDA will publish separate FFO announcements for its other programs: Regional Innovation Strategies, Planning, Partnership Planning, Local Technical Assistance, University Center, and Research and National Technical Assistance.

EDA’s programs provide economically distressed communities and regions with comprehensive and flexible resources to address a wide variety of economic needs, and are designed to lead to the creation and retention of jobs and increased private investment. EDA’s programs support local and regional economic development efforts to establish a foundation for vibrant economies throughout the United States. Through these programs, EDA supports bottom-up strategies that build on regional assets to spur economic growth and resiliency. EDA

encourages its grantees throughout the country to develop initiatives that present new ideas and creative approaches to advance economic prosperity in distressed communities.

B. EDA Investment Priorities

Through the competitive grant process outlined in this funding opportunity, all proposed projects are evaluated to determine the extent to which they align with EDA's investment priorities, create or retain high-quality jobs, leverage public and private resources, demonstrate the ability to start the proposed project promptly and use funds quickly and effectively, and provide a clear scope of work and specific, measureable outcomes.

EDA's investment priorities are designed to provide an overarching framework to guide the agency's investment portfolio to ensure its investments have the greatest impact. Competitive applications will be responsive to the evaluation criteria listed in Section V.A.2 of this FFO, and will align with at least one of the following investment priorities:

1. Collaborative Regional Innovation

Projects that support the development and growth of innovation clusters¹ based on existing regional competitive strengths. Such initiatives must engage relevant stakeholders; facilitate collaboration among urban, suburban, and rural (including tribal) areas; provide stability for economic development through long-term intergovernmental and public/private collaboration; and support the growth of existing and emerging industries.

2. Public/Private Partnerships

Projects that use both public and private sector resources and complementary investments by other government/public entities and/or nonprofits.

3. National Strategic Priorities

Projects that:

- a. encourage job growth and business expansion in manufacturing, including advanced manufacturing, sustainable manufacturing, and manufacturing supply chains;
- b. assist communities severely impacted by the declining use of coal;
- c. increase economic resiliency, including resilience to the effects of natural disasters and climate change;
- d. assist with natural disaster mitigation and recovery;
- e. are aimed at restoring or improving urban waters and the communities that surround them; and
- f. assist and/or support:
 - i. information technology infrastructure (for example, broadband or smart grid);
 - ii. communities severely impacted by automotive industry restructuring;

¹ EDA defines clusters as geographic concentrations of firms, workers and industries that do business with each other and have common needs for talent, technology, and infrastructure. Clusters are essentially networks of similar, synergistic, or complementary entities that are engaged in or with a particular industry sector; have active channels for business transactions and communication; share specialized infrastructure, labor markets, and services; and leverage the region's unique competitive strengths to stimulate innovation and create jobs. Clusters may cross municipal, county, and other jurisdictional boundaries.

- iii. job-driven skills development;
- iv. access to capital for small- and medium-sized and ethnically diverse enterprises;
- v. innovations in science and health care; and
- vi. advancement of science and research parks, other technology transfer, or technology commercialization efforts.

4. **Global Competitiveness**

Projects that support high-growth businesses and innovation-based entrepreneurs to expand and compete in global markets, especially investments that expand U.S. exports, encourage foreign direct investment, and promote the repatriation of jobs back to the U.S.

5. **Environmentally-Sustainable Development**

Projects that promote job creation and economic prosperity through enhancing environmental quality and developing and implementing green products, processes, places, and buildings as part of the green economy. This includes projects that encourage job growth, business expansion, and innovations in energy-efficient technologies and clean energy, including alternative fuel technologies. Additional information is available on EDA's website at <http://www.eda.gov/pdf/GreenGrowthOverview.pdf>.

6. **Underserved Communities**

Projects that strengthen diverse communities that have suffered disproportionate economic distress and job losses and/or are rebuilding to become more competitive in the global economy.

C. **EDA Program Information**

This section provides detailed information on the two programs to which this FFO applies. Additional information about EDA's programs, including information about the eligibility of specific kinds of projects, is available through EDA staff. EDA will continue to consider applications from communities experiencing adverse economic changes due to base realignment and closures (BRAC) and Federally declared disasters when awarding assistance from FY 2016 funds. In addition to the assistance described below, EDA assistance to such communities may include planning, coordinating the use of Federal resources available to support economic development recovery, and developing regionally focused economic recovery and growth strategies.

EDA staff provides technical assistance to prospective applicants to assist in proposal development and application submission. Applicants are *strongly encouraged* to contact the EDA representative listed for their applicable state in Section VIII. of this FFO to clarify technical matters involving their proposed project, its alignment with EDA's mission and investment priorities, and all other relevant publicly available information relating to technical matters before submitting an application to EDA.

Except for projects to develop, update, or refine a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) as described in EDA's regulation at 13 C.F.R. § 303.7, each project funded under both programs below must be consistent with the region's current CEDS or equivalent EDA-accepted regional economic development strategy that meets EDA's CEDS or

strategy requirements. Applicants must clearly detail how the proposed project will support the economic development needs and objectives outlined in the CEDS or equivalent strategy. In addition, applicants should highlight where and how the proposed project will be aligned with, integrated into, and/or will further leverage other public and private investments in the community and region. Additional information and a summary of EDA's CEDS and strategy requirements may be obtained through the applicable EDA representative listed in Section VIII. of this FFO.

1. Public Works²

Through the Public Works program, EDA provides catalytic investments to help distressed communities build, design, or engineer critical infrastructure and facilities that will help implement regional development strategies and advance bottom-up economic development goals to promote regional prosperity. The Public Works program provides resources to meet the construction and/or infrastructure design needs of communities to enable them to become more economically competitive. Prior examples of investments EDA supported through the Public Works program include projects supporting water and sewer system improvements, industrial parks, high-tech shipping and logistics facilities, workforce training facilities, business incubators and accelerators, brownfield development, technology-based facilities, wet labs, multi-tenant manufacturing facilities, science and research parks, and telecommunications infrastructure and development facilities.

As noted above, investments made through the Public Works program must be aligned with a current CEDS or EDA-accepted regional economic development strategy and clearly lead to the creation or retention of long-term high-quality jobs. For example, under this program, EDA may provide funding to a consortium of eligible recipients to support the construction of a technology center that provides laboratory, office, and manufacturing space that leads to the creation of advanced manufacturing jobs. As another example, EDA may provide funding to a county government to support regional job creation in targeted cluster industries and expand those industries' ability to export goods.

2. Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA)³

Through the EAA program, EDA provides investments that support a wide range of construction and non-construction activities (including infrastructure, design and engineering, technical assistance, economic recovery strategies, and capitalization or re-capitalization of Revolving Loan Funds (RLF)) in regions experiencing severe economic dislocations that may occur suddenly or over time. EDA utilizes EAA investments to provide resources that help communities experiencing or anticipating economic dislocations to plan and implement specific solutions to leverage their existing regional economic advantages to support economic development and job creation. Like Public Works investments, EAA investments are designed to help communities catalyze public-private partnerships to foster collaboration, attract investment, create jobs, and foster economic resiliency and prosperity. For example, EDA might provide funding to a university or community college to create and launch an economic diversification strategy to promote and enhance the growth of emerging industries in a region facing job losses due to a decline in the region's coal industry. As another example, EDA might

² CFDA No. 11.300. The regulations implementing the Public Works program may be found at 13 C.F.R. part 305.

³ CFDA No. 11.307. The regulations implementing the EAA program may be found at 13 C.F.R. part 307.

provide funding to a city to support the construction of a publically-owned multi-tenant business and industrial facility to house early-stage businesses.

3. Statutory authorities for EDA's programs

The statutory authorities for the Public Works and EAA programs are Sections 201 (42 U.S.C. § 3141) and 209 (42 U.S.C. § 3149) of PWEDA, respectively.

Applicant eligibility and program requirements are set forth in EDA's regulations (codified at 13 C.F.R. chapter III) and all applicants must address these requirements. Specific program requirements for the Public Works program are set out at 13 C.F.R. part 305 and for the EAA program at 13 C.F.R. part 307. For EDA's Public Works and EAA programs, this announcement supersedes the EDAP FFO announcement dated February 9, 2015. EDA's regulations are accessible at the U.S. Government Publishing Office (GPO) website at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/>. Under "Browse", selected the Code of Federal Regulations, choose the most recent year, and scroll down to find Title 13, Chapter III.

II. Award information

A. What funding is available under this announcement?

Note: As of the date of publication of this FFO, October 26, 2015, the full amount of FY 2016 appropriations is not available and EDA is operating under the authority of H.R. 719, which continues the FY 2015 Consolidated Appropriations Act funding levels. The FY 2015 award amounts are provided only for your information as they may prove useful for planning purposes.

In FY 2015, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2014 (P.L. 113-235) (The Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015 [division B of P.L. 113-235]) appropriated \$99 million for the Public Works program and \$35 million for the EAA program.

The funding periods and amounts referenced in this FFO are subject to the availability of funds at the time of award, as well as to DOC and EDA priorities at the time of award. Neither DOC nor EDA will be held responsible for application preparation costs. 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. Applications for renewal or supplementation of additional projects may compete with applications for new awards. The average award amounts set out below are provided only for your information and may prove useful for planning purposes. Actual amounts awarded may be higher or lower depending on the nature of the proposed project and the availability of funds.

The average size of a Public Works investment has been approximately \$1.4 million, and investments generally range from \$200,000 to \$3,000,000. Historically, EDA has awarded funds for between 80 and 150 Public Works projects a year.

The average size of an EAA investment has been approximately \$820,000, and investments generally range from \$100,000 to \$1,250,000. Historically, EDA has awarded funds for between 70 and 140 EAA projects a year.

B. What type of funding instrument will be used to make awards and how long will a project's period of performance be?

Subject to the availability of funds, EDA may award grants or cooperative agreements to eligible applicants to help support economic development activities. The period of performance for a given project will depend on the type of project, scope of work, and the EDA program under which the grant or cooperative agreement for the project is awarded. For example, the period of performance for a construction investment under EDA's Public Works program may last for three years, while a strategy investment under EDA's EAA program may allow for one to three years for completion of the scope of work, depending on its complexity or urgency. EDA expects that all projects will proceed efficiently and expeditiously, and EDA encourages applicants to clearly document how quickly the applicant will be able to start and complete the proposed work.

C. Are there any funding restrictions?

In general, EDA does not reimburse pre-award project costs. Applicants that are in need of such reimbursement should work closely with the EDA representative for their state to determine if their pre-award costs may be considered for reimbursement. In order for contracted pre-award costs to be eligible for reimbursement, the applicant must competitively procure services pursuant to the Federal government's procurement procedures.⁴ All pre-award costs are incurred at an applicant's own risk and will be considered for reimbursement, in EDA's sole discretion, only if an applicant receives an award and must be approved by EDA in writing. Neither EDA nor DOC will be held responsible for proposal and application preparation expenditures, which are distinguishable from pre-award project costs.

III. Eligibility Information

A. Eligible Applicants

Pursuant to PWEDA, eligible applicants for and eligible recipients of EDA investment assistance under this FFO include a(n):

1. District Organization;
2. Indian Tribe or a consortium of Indian Tribes;
3. State, county, city, or other political subdivision of a State, including a special purpose unit of a State or local government engaged in economic or infrastructure development activities, or a consortium of political subdivisions;
4. Institution of higher education or a consortium of institutions of higher education; or
5. Public or private non-profit organization or association acting in cooperation with officials of a political subdivision of a State.⁵

EDA is **not** authorized to provide grants or cooperative agreements to individuals or for-profit entities, and such requests will not be considered for funding.

⁴ Procurement requirements for States and other non-Federal entities are set out at 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.317 – 200.326.

⁵ See Section 3 of PWEDA (42 U.S.C. § 3122) and 13 C.F.R. § 300.3.

B. EDA Economic Distress Criteria

In order to be eligible for funding under this FFO, an applicant must propose a project located in a Region that meets EDA's distress criteria as of the date EDA receives the application. Applicants must provide third-party data that clearly indicates that the relevant Region is subject to one (or more) of the following economic distress criteria: (i) an unemployment rate that is, for the most recent 24-month period for which data are available, at least one percentage point greater than the national average unemployment rate; (ii) per capita income that is, for the most recent period for which data are available, 80 percent or less of the national average per capita income; or (iii) a "Special Need," as determined by EDA.⁶

EDA will review and evaluate documentation submitted by the applicant to determine eligibility. EDA will reject any documentation of eligibility that the agency determines is inaccurate or incomplete, which may cause the application to be rejected. In cases where EDA receives an application six months or more before the time of award, EDA will re-evaluate the project to determine continued eligibility for investment assistance before making an award.

To determine eligibility, applicants must self-define the appropriate geographical area that constitutes their Region in one of the following three ways:

1. The Region that meets EDA's economic distress criteria where the proposed project will be located;
2. If the proposed project is located in an Economic Development District that is located in a Region that does not meet EDA's economic distress criteria, the geographic area where substantial direct project-related benefits will occur; or
3. If a Region overall does not meet EDA's economic distress criteria, the geographic area of poverty or high unemployment located within the Region that meets EDA's economic distress criteria and where the proposed project will be located.

See also 13 C.F.R. § 301.3(a).

For construction projects (including design and engineering) the project must be located within an eligible Region. For non-construction projects, the investment's scope of work must primarily benefit an eligible Region and stakeholders from that eligible Region must be directly engaged. EDA suggests that applicants work closely with the EDA representative listed for their state as they define an eligible project in their Region.

1. Unemployment Rate & Per Capita Income

For economic distress levels based on the unemployment rate or per capita income requirements, EDA will base its determination upon the most recent American Community Survey (ACS) data published by the U.S. Census Bureau. If recent ACS data are not available to determine project eligibility, EDA will base its decision on the most recent Federal data from other sources (e.g., data available from the U.S. Census Bureau and the Bureaus of Economic Analysis, Labor Statistics, and Indian Affairs). If no Federal data are available, an applicant must submit to EDA the most recent data available from the government of the

⁶ See Section 301 of PWEDA (42 U.S.C. § 3161) and 13 C.F.R. § 301.3.

State in which the region is located (i.e., conducted by or at the direction of the State government).⁷

2. “Special Need” Criteria

For the purposes of determining eligibility based on a “Special Need”, an applicant must provide current and appropriate economic and demographic statistics for the applicable Region to support the identified Special Need. EDA will base its Special Need eligibility determination on whether the proposed project meets the specific requirements outlined below, or in cases where specific thresholds are not identified, on whether the data and information provided by the applicant presents a compelling case that the Region meets the Special Need criteria, as defined by EDA.

A project may be eligible pursuant to a Special Need if the project is located in a Region that meets one or more of the criteria described below⁸:

- a. Closure or restructuring of industries or the loss of a major employer essential to the Regional economy as defined by:
 - i. an actual closure or restructuring of a firm within the 12 months prior to application submission, resulting in sudden job losses and meeting the dislocation criteria in a.iii. below; or
 - ii. a threat of closure that results from a public announcement of an impending closure or restructuring of a firm expected to occur within two years of application submission; AND
 - iii. such actual or threatened closure results in sudden job losses meeting the following dislocation criteria:
 1. For Regions with a population of at least 100,000, the actual or threatened dislocation is 500 jobs, or one percent of the civilian labor force (CLF), whichever is less.
 2. For Regions with a population up to 100,000, the actual or threatened dislocation is 200 jobs, or one percent of the CLF, whichever is less.
- b. Substantial out-migration or population loss.
- c. Underemployment, meaning employment of workers at less than full-time or at less skilled tasks than their training or abilities permit.
- d. Military base closures or realignments, defense contractor reductions-in-force, or Department of Energy defense-related funding reductions.
 - i. A military base closure refers to a military base that was closed or is scheduled for closure, realignment, or growth pursuant to the base closure and realignment process or other Department of Defense (DOD) process. Unless further extended by the Assistant Secretary for Economic Development, the Region is eligible from the date of DOD’s recommendation for closure, realignment, or growth until five years

⁷ See Section 301 of PWEDA (42 U.S.C. § 3161) and 13 C.F.R. § 301.3.

⁸ The following criteria are published in accordance with 13 C.F.R. § 301.3(a)(1)(iii) and define what may constitute a “Special Need” (as defined in 13 C.F.R. § 300.3) sufficient to make a project eligible for Public Works or Economic Adjustment investment assistance, as described in Section III.B. of this announcement.

- after the actual date of closing of the installation or five years after the announced realignment or growth actually occurs.
- ii. A defense contractor reduction-in-force refers to a defense contractor(s) experiencing defense contract cancellations or reductions resulting from official DOD announcements that have aggregate value of at least \$10 million per year. Actual dislocations must have occurred within one year of the date an application is submitted to EDA and threatened dislocations must be anticipated to occur within two years of application to EDA. Defense contracts that expire in the normal course of business will not be considered to meet this criterion.
 - iii. A Department of Energy defense-related funding reduction refers to a Department of Energy facility that has experienced or will experience a reduction of employment resulting from its defense mission change. The Region is eligible from the date of the Department of Energy announcement of reductions until five years after the actual date of reduced operations at the installation.
- e. Natural or other major disasters or emergencies. A Region that has received one of the following disaster declarations is eligible:
- i. A Presidentially Declared Disaster (declared under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. § 5121 *et seq.*)); or
 - ii. A Federally declared disaster (pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. § 1861a(a)); the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, as amended (7 U.S.C. § 1961); or the Small Business Act, as amended (Pub. L. No. 85-536, 15 U.S.C. § 631 *et seq.*, 72 Stat. 384 (1958)).
- Applicants must demonstrate a clear nexus between the needs created by the declared disaster and the proposed project.
- f. Extraordinary depletion of natural resources or other impact attributable to a new or revised Federal regulation or policy that will have a significant impact on a community's ability to prevent an extraordinary depletion of natural resources. For example, in the case of a Federal fishing regulation designed to promote and sustain a community and its fishery in the long-term, EDA could quickly help a coastal community respond to any short-term economic dislocations.
 - g. Communities undergoing transition of their economic base as a result of changing trade patterns, for example, an area certified as eligible by the North American Development Bank (NADBank) Program or the Community Adjustment and Investment Program (CAIP).
 - h. Designation of the project region as a "Promise Zone." In order to receive consideration for this Special Need, applicants must submit a letter from the lead organization of a designated Promise Zone attesting to the contribution that the proposed activities would make, and supporting the application. A list of designated Promise Zones and lead organizations can be found at www.hud.gov/promisezones.
 - i. Other Special Need. The area is experiencing other special or extraordinary economic adjustment needs, as determined by the Assistant Secretary for Economic Development.

In addition to the above, all applications for funding based on Special Need must demonstrate how the project will address the economic development needs of the Region resulting from that Special Need.

C. Cost Sharing or Matching

Generally, the amount of an EDA award may not exceed 50 percent of the total cost of the project. Projects may receive an additional amount that may not exceed up to 30 percent of the total project cost, based on the relative needs of the Region in which the project will be located, as determined by EDA.

In general, EDA’s maximum investment rate (percent of the total project cost) is determined by the average per capita income or unemployment rate of the region in which the project is located, as outlined in Table 1 below:⁹

TABLE 1

Projects located in regions in which:	Maximum allowable investment rates (percentage of total project cost)
(A) The 24-month unemployment rate is at least 225% of the national average; or	80
(B) The per capita income is not more than 50% of the national average.	80
(C) The 24-month unemployment rate is at least 200% of the national average; or	70
(D) The per capita income is not more than 60% of the national average.	70
(E) The 24-month unemployment rate is at least 175% of the national average; or	60
(F) The per capita income is not more than 65% of the national average.	60
(G) The 24-month unemployment rate is at least 1 percentage point greater than the national average; or	50
(H) The per capita income is not more than 80% of the national average.	50

For projects subject to a Special Need, as outlined in Section III.B.2 above, EDA will determine the maximum allowable investment rate, not to exceed 80 percent of the total project cost, based on the actual or threatened overall economic situation of the region in which the project is located.

⁹ See Section 204(a) of PWEDA (42 U.S.C. § 3144) and 13 C.F.R. § 301.4(b)(1).

In addition, the Secretary of Commerce has delegated to the Assistant Secretary for Economic Development the discretion to establish a maximum EDA investment rate of up to 100 percent of the total project cost for projects: (i) of a State (or political subdivision of a State) that the Assistant Secretary for Economic Development determines has exhausted its effective taxing and borrowing capacity, or (ii) of a non-profit organization that the Assistant Secretary for Economic Development determines has exhausted its effective borrowing capacity.¹⁰ Additionally, EDA's regulations provide discretion to establish a maximum EDA investment rate of up to 100 percent for projects of Indian Tribes.¹¹

Potential applicants should contact the EDA representative listed for their state in Section VIII. of this FFO to obtain additional information regarding these EDA investment rate determinations.

The applicant must show that the matching share will: (i) be committed to the project for the period of performance, (ii) be available as needed, and (iii) not be conditioned or encumbered in any way that may preclude its use consistent with the requirements of EDA investment assistance.¹² Letters of support and other documentation may be necessary to meet these requirements. 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. Please contact the applicable EDA representative listed in Section VIII. of this FFO with questions regarding EDA's matching share requirements.

In the application review process, EDA will consider the nature of the contribution (cash or in-kind) and the amount of the matching share funds. In-kind contributions may provide the required non-Federal share of the total project cost. All in-kind contributions must be eligible project costs and meet applicable Federal cost principles and uniform administrative requirements. Examples of in-kind contributions can include space, equipment, services, or forgiveness or assumptions of debt.¹³ Funds from other Federal financial assistance awards may be considered matching share funds only if authorized by statute, which may be determined by EDA's reasonable interpretation of the statute.¹⁴

Applicants are *strongly encouraged* to work with the appropriate EDA representative listed in Section VIII. of this FFO to determine how in-kind contributions can be utilized to satisfy the matching share requirement for their respective project concept and application.

IV. Application and Submission Information

In order to make the application process more efficient and effective, EDA is employing a two-phase review process for proposals/applications submitted under this FFO.

Please note that all submissions under this FFO must proceed through the two-phase review process.

¹⁰ See Sections 204(c)(1) and (2) of PWEDA (42 U.S.C. § 3144) and 13 C.F.R. § 301.4(b)(5).

¹¹ See 13 C.F.R. § 301.4(b)(5).

¹² See 13 C.F.R. § 301.5.

¹³ See Section 204(b) of PWEDA (42 U.S.C. § 3144) and the definition of "In-Kind Contribution" at 13 C.F.R. § 300.3.

¹⁴ See the definition of "Local Share or Matching Share" at 13 C.F.R. § 300.3.

Phase I, the Proposal Phase, of EDA's process is designed to provide applicants with an economical and efficient means of determining if their proposed project meets the essential criteria to be considered responsive to this FFO.

In Phase I, potential applicants are able to provide EDA with general project information, as detailed in Section IV.B.1 of this FFO, to allow EDA to make a Phase I Determination, i.e., whether the proposed project meets the most essential criteria to be considered responsive to this FFO.

Proposal packages submitted for Phase I consideration may be presented at any time during the fiscal year.

All complete Phase I proposal packages will be reviewed by the respective regional office Proposal Review Committee (PRC), and the applicant will be advised of EDA's Phase I Determination within 30 days of EDA's receipt of the proposal.

If the regional office PRC determines that a proposal is responsive to this FFO (Phase I Responsive Determination), EDA will inform the applicant that it may submit a complete application to proceed to Phase II of the process.

In Phase II, the Application Phase, an applicant **must submit a complete application**, as detailed in Section IV.B.2 of this FFO, to be considered for funding.

In Phase II, EDA will make a determination on an application within 60 days of EDA's receipt of the **complete application**.

Again, please note that all submissions under this FFO must proceed through the two-phase review process. If an applicant submits an application in lieu of or concurrent with a proposal package, the regional office PRC must first make a Phase I Determination regarding the applicant's submission before moving to Phase II, the Application Phase.

In either Phase I or II, EDA may seek information or documentation from the applicant to clarify information presented in the proposal/application. Please see Section V. of this FFO for more information on EDA's review and selection process.

EDA strongly encourages applicants to consult with the EDA representative for their state to discuss whether their project is in alignment with EDA's investment priorities, eligibility requirements, cost-sharing requirements, property standards, or other requirements outlined in this FFO. This consultation is limited to clarification of technical matters involving their proposed project, project alignment with EDA's mission and investment priorities, and all other relevant publicly available information relating to technical matters.

A. How to Obtain a Proposal or Application Package

An applicant may obtain the appropriate proposal or application package electronically at www.grants.gov (Grants.gov). Applicants may search for this funding opportunity on Grants.gov using Funding Opportunity Number "EDAP2016". All components of the appropriate application package may be accessed and downloaded (in a screen-fillable format) at http://www.grants.gov/applicants/apply_for_grants.jsp. The preferred electronic file format for attachments is Adobe portable document format (PDF); however, EDA will accept electronic files in Microsoft Word, WordPerfect, or Microsoft Excel. *Applicants are advised that they must complete the registration process prior to submitting an application through Grants.gov;*

however, please note that registration is not required for an applicant to access, view, or download the application package. Even though an applicant may be able to view and download a proposal or application, if the applicant has not correctly completed the Grants.gov registration process, the applicant will not be able to submit the proposal or application electronically for EDA's review. Alternatively, an applicant eligible for assistance under this announcement may request a paper proposal or application package by contacting the EDA representative listed for their state under Section VIII. of this FFO.

B. Content and Form of the Proposal and Application

EDA has developed a suite of forms designed to address all types of assistance the agency provides. In addition, Federal grant assistance forms from the Standard Form (SF) 424 family and certain Department of Commerce (CD) forms are required as part of a complete application package. The tables in Sections IV.B.1 and IV.B.2 below describe all the forms and other documentation required for a complete proposal and application for each type of assistance EDA provides and may serve as a checklist for applicants in preparing their submissions.

EDA encourages applicants to submit a proposal package as outlined in Section IV.B.1 below as the documentation is designed to provide a general overview of a project with fewer resources invested by the applicant. An applicant may submit a complete application as outlined in Section IV.B.2 below either in lieu of or concurrent with a proposal; however, as noted above, the applicant's submission will still proceed through EDA's two-phase review process.

For proposals and applications submitted through Grants.gov, all relevant forms must be signed electronically by the applicant's Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR); please see Section IX. of this FFO for information on AOR requirements. Paper proposals and applications must include original signatures of an authorized official of the applicant. Please refer to important information on submitting your application provided in Section IV.D. of this FFO.

All documentation and data submitted should be current and applicable as of the date submitted. Applicants are encouraged to contact the EDA representative for their state for technical assistance before submitting a proposal or application under this FFO. EDA staff members are available to provide applicants with technical assistance regarding proposal or application requirements.

1. What is required for a complete proposal?

The following table provides a complete list of documents required for a complete proposal based on whether the applicant is requesting construction or non-construction assistance.

Proposals for **construction assistance (including design and engineering)** must include:

1. **One Form SF-424** (Application for Federal Assistance) from each co-applicant, as applicable.
2. **One Form ED-900P** (EDA Proposal Form) and accompanying supporting documentation. ¹⁵
3. **One Form SF-424C** (Budget Information-Construction Programs) per project.

Proposals for **non-construction assistance** must include:

1. **One Form SF-424** (*Application for Federal Assistance*) from each co-applicant, as applicable.
2. **One Form ED-900P** (*EDA Proposal Form*) and accompanying supporting documentation. ¹⁶
3. **One Form SF-424A** (Budget Information-Non-Construction Programs).

2. What is required for a complete application?

The following table provides a complete list of documents required for a complete application based on the type of EDA assistance: construction, design and engineering (without a construction component), both construction and design and engineering, and RLF.

Applications for **construction assistance** (including applications for design and engineering with construction activities) must include:

1. **A copy of the completed proposal package** as detailed above in Section IV.B.1, including any relevant updates (if the applicant did not submit a proposal, the applicant must submit one Form SF-424 (Application for Federal Assistance) from each co-applicant, as applicable, and one Form SF-424C (Budget Information-Construction Programs) per project).
2. **One Form SF-424D** (Assurances-Construction Programs) from each co-applicant, as applicable.
3. **One Form ED-900** (General Application for EDA Programs).
4. **One Form ED-900A** (Additional EDA Assurances for Construction Or Non-Construction Investments) from each co-applicant, as applicable.

¹⁵ In the event of discrepancies between instructions provided in any of the forms and this FFO, the requirements for complete proposals and applications as stated in this FFO will prevail.

¹⁶ In the event of discrepancies between instructions provided in any of the forms and this FFO, the requirements for complete proposals and applications as stated in this FFO will prevail.

5. **One Form ED-900B** (Beneficiary Information Form) from each beneficiary of the proposed project, as applicable.
6. **One Form ED-900C** (EDA Application Supplement for Construction Programs) and accompanying supporting documentation.
7. **One Form ED-900E** (Calculation of Estimated Relocation and Land Acquisition Expenses).
8. **An environmental narrative** that will enable EDA to comply with its NEPA responsibilities. A narrative outline that details required components may be accessed in EDA's website at:
http://www.eda.gov/files/012_Environmental_Narrative_Template.zip.
9. **One Applicant's Certification Clause** (see Appendix A to the environmental narrative noted above) completed separately and signed by each co-applicant, as applicable.
10. **One Form CD-511** (Certification Regarding Lobbying) from each co-applicant, as applicable.
11. **One Form SF-LLL** (Disclosure of Lobbying Activities) from each co-applicant, as applicable.

Applications for **design and engineering assistance only** (without a construction component) must include:

1. **A copy of the completed proposal package** as detailed above in Section IV.B.1, including any relevant updates (if the applicant did not submit a proposal, the applicant must submit one Form SF-424 (Application for Federal Assistance) from each co-applicant, as applicable and one Form SF-424C (Budget Information-Construction Programs) per project).
2. **One Form SF-424D** (Assurances-Construction Programs) from each co-applicant, as applicable.
3. **One Form ED-900** (General Application for EDA Programs).
4. **One Form ED-900A** (Additional EDA Assurances for Construction Or Non-Construction Investments) from each co-applicant, as applicable.
5. **One Form ED-900D** (Requirements for Design and Engineering Assistance).
6. **An environmental narrative** that will enable EDA to comply with its NEPA responsibilities. A narrative outline that details required components may be accessed in EDA's website at:
http://www.eda.gov/files/012_Environmental_Narrative_Template.zip.
7. **One Applicant's Certification Clause** (see Appendix A to the environmental narrative noted above) completed separately and signed by each co-applicant, as

applicable.

8. **One Form CD-511** (Certification Regarding Lobbying) from each co-applicant, as applicable.
9. **One Form SF-LLL** (Disclosure of Lobbying Activities) from each co-applicant, as applicable.

Applications for **non-construction assistance** must include:

1. **A copy of the completed proposal package** as detailed above in Section IV.B.1, including any relevant updates (if the applicant did not submit a proposal, the applicant must submit one Form SF-424 (Application for Federal Assistance) from each co-applicant, as applicable and one Form SF-424A (Budget Information-Non-Construction Programs) per project).
2. **One Form SF-424B** (Assurances-Non-Construction Programs) from each co-applicant, as applicable.
3. **One Form ED-900** (General Application for EDA Programs).
4. **One Form ED-900A** (Additional EDA Assurances for Construction Or Non-Construction Investments) from each co-applicant, as applicable.
5. **One Form CD-511** (Certification Regarding Lobbying) from each co-applicant, as applicable.
6. **One Form SF-LLL** (Disclosure of Lobbying Activities) from each co-applicant, as applicable.

Applications for **RLF assistance** must include:

1. **A copy of the completed proposal package** as detailed above in Section IV.B.1, including any relevant updates (if the applicant did not submit a proposal, the applicant must submit one Form SF-424 (Application for Federal Assistance) from each co-applicant, as applicable and one Form SF-424A (Budget Information-Non-Construction Programs) per project).
2. **One Form SF-424B** (Assurances-Non-Construction Programs) from each co-applicant, as applicable.
3. **One Form ED-900** (General Application for EDA Programs).
4. **One Form ED-900A** (Additional EDA Assurances for Construction Or Non-Construction Investments) from each co-applicant, as applicable.
5. **One Form ED-900F** (Supplement for Revolving Loan Fund Applications).
6. **A draft RLF plan** that addresses all components required by EDA's regulation at

13 C.F.R. § 307.9.

7. **One Form CD-511** (Certification Regarding Lobbying) from each co-applicant, as applicable.
8. **One Form SF-LLL** (Disclosure of Lobbying Activities) from each co-applicant, as applicable.

In addition, **an application to support a business incubator**, regardless of the type of assistance being requested (i.e., construction or non-construction) must also include:

- a. A feasibility study establishing the market demand for the specific start-up companies proposed for incubation (technology, general business, bio-tech, manufacturing, etc.), presence of necessary resources, and community support for the facility;
- b. Documentation detailing that the applicant has the financial capacity to operate the facility and reach a positive cash flow within a reasonable period of time, which EDA generally expects to be three years; *and*
- c. A management plan for operation of the facility that, *at a minimum*, includes a/an:
 - i. *Tenant/client selection policy* that includes a description of the types of businesses sought and any established selection criteria;
 - ii. *Tenant lease agreement* that enumerates the shared services to be provided; delineates the incubator's business assistance policy, including the provision of management, technical, and training, assistance and the incubator's graduation policy; and establishes periodic access to the tenant's business records to permit assessment of the health of the tenant's business;
 - iii. *Business assistance policy* that outlines the various types of assistance that the incubator will provide to start-up firms, including how the incubator will support tenants/clients with access to capital markets needed to successfully grow their businesses;
 - iv. *Staffing Plan* that details the talent and resources that will be dedicated to supporting the specific startup companies proposed for incubation;
 - v. *Tenant graduation policy* that is documented as a provision of the tenant lease agreement with clear requirements for tenant graduation from the facility or services of the incubator to maintain operations as an incubator; and
 - vi. *Incubator performance plan* that includes how the incubator will track the success of incubator tenants/clients, specifically identifying what performance measurement data the incubator proposes to collect from tenants/clients and for what period of time during and after the service period the data will be collected. This should also include who the oversight policy board for the incubator will be that will be responsible for setting goals of the incubator, selecting staff, establishing and reviewing policy, and monitoring performance.

Any applicant that proposes a project to support a business incubator is ***strongly encouraged*** to contact the EDA representative listed for their applicable state in Section VIII. of this FFO to clarify technical matters involving their proposed project.

3. Will I be required to provide any additional forms or documentation?

After EDA reviews your application, EDA may contact you to request any necessary additional documentation to clarify or substantiate submitted application materials, depending on the type of project proposed. Examples of additional documentation may include title verification, proof of project ownership, 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 your application.

C. Deadlines for submission

There are no application deadlines under this FFO. Proposals and applications are accepted and reviewed on an ongoing basis in accordance with the timelines set out in this FFO until the publication of a new EDAP FFO.

D. How to submit a proposal or an application

1. Electronic submissions

EDA strongly encourages electronic submissions of proposals and applications through Grants.gov. EDA will not accept facsimile or email transmissions of proposals or applications.

Once a proposal or an application is submitted, it undergoes a validation process through Grants.gov during which the application may be accepted or rejected by the system. Please be advised that the validation process may take 24 to 48 hours to complete. Proposals or applications that contain errors will be rejected by Grants.gov, and will not be forwarded to EDA for review. The applicant must correct the error before Grants.gov will accept and validate the proposal or application.

Please see Section IX. of this FFO for more detailed instructions and information on the requirements for submitting proposals or applications electronically via Grants.gov.

2. Paper submissions

An applicant may submit a completed paper proposal or application via postal mail or courier service, using the selected courier's delivery confirmation service, to the applicable regional office listed in Section VIII. of this FFO. The applicant may download the appropriate proposal or application package, whether construction or non-construction as provided in Section IV.B. of this FFO, in a screen-fillable format from http://www.grants.gov/applicants/apply_for_grants.jsp, save it electronically, and print it for paper submission.

One original and two copies of the complete proposal or application must be received by the applicable regional office. Applicants are encouraged to include an electronic version of their proposal or application on a CD to facilitate processing of the application by EDA.

DOC mail security measures may delay receipt of United States Postal Service mail for up to two weeks. Therefore, applicants that submit paper submissions are advised to use guaranteed delivery services.

E. Unique entity identifier and System for Award Management (SAM)

To enable the use of a universal identifier and to enhance the quality of information available to the public as required by the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006, to the extent applicable, **applicants are required** to: (i) Be registered in the System for Award Management (SAM) before submitting its application; (ii) provide a valid unique entity identifier in its application; and (iii) continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has 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 unique entity identifier 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 to receive a an award and use that determination as a basis for making an award to another applicant. Recipients will be subject to reporting requirements, as identified in OMB guidance published at 2 C.F.R. parts 25 and 170 (2014). The guidance set out at 2 C.F.R. part 25 may be located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2014-title2-vol1/pdf/CFR-2014-title2-vol1-part25.pdf>, and the guidance set out at 2 C.F.R. part 170 may be located at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2014-title2-vol1/pdf/CFR-2014-title2-vol1-part170.pdf>. Note that SAM now encompasses the Central Contractor Registration (CCR), and that the unique entity identifier is commonly the Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Numbers.

F. Intergovernmental review

Applications submitted under this FFO 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 State 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.¹⁷ 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 on the Office of Management and Budget’s home page at http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants_spoc. Section A.11. of Form ED-900 provides more information and allows applicants to demonstrate compliance with EO 12372.

V. Application Review and Selection Process

Throughout the review and selection process, EDA reserves the right to seek clarification in writing from applicants whose proposal or application packages are being reviewed and considered. EDA may ask applicants to clarify proposal or application materials, objectives, and work plans, or modify budgets or other specifics necessary to comply with Federal requirements. Before proposals and applications are reviewed as described below, EDA will conduct an initial screening to verify that all required forms are complete and all required documentation is

¹⁷ As provided for in 15 C.F.R. Part 13.

included. Proposals and applications that do not contain all elements listed in Sections IV.B.1 and IV.B.2, respectively, of this FFO will not be reviewed.

A. Phase I: Proposal Review

A Proposal Review Committee (PRC) of at least three EDA staff will review all complete proposal packages received to ensure that they are responsive to this FFO and reflective of the essential criteria necessary for EDA's competitive consideration. EDA staff will use the following factors to determine if a proposal is "Responsive" or "Not Responsive" to this FFO:

1. The project's alignment with at least one of EDA's current investment priorities as outlined in Section I.B of this FFO;
2. The project's potential to foster job creation and/or promote private investment in the regional economy or the project's ability to provide information and tools necessary to further regional economic goals;
3. The applicant's eligibility to receive an EDA grant (for more information on applicant eligibility requirements, see Section III.A of this FFO);
4. The eligibility of the Region in which the project will be located or will benefit (for more information on Regional economic distress eligibility requirements, see Section III.B of this FFO); and
5. The project's alignment with the goals of the Public Works or Economic Adjustment Assistance programs, as applicable, as detailed in Section I.C of this FFO.

If the PRC determines that a proposal is "Not Responsive" to any of the above criteria, the proposal will not receive further consideration for funding. Applicants will be notified within 30 days of receipt of their complete proposal (or combined proposal/application package) of the PRC's determination regarding their proposal.

If the PRC determines that a proposal is "Responsive" to all of the above criteria, the applicant will be asked to submit a **complete application** to EDA for further evaluation (see Section V.B. of this FFO).

An EDA manager/supervisor will verify that the PRC properly applied each of the responsiveness factors. If the manager/supervisor determines that the PRC's application of the responsiveness factors is incorrect and reverses the PRC's determination, the manager/supervisor will justify his or her decision in writing and with specificity.

Please note that if EDA determines that a proposal is Responsive to this FFO and requests that an applicant submit a complete application, EDA cannot guarantee that the relevant project will receive funding--EDA receives far more applications than it can fund.

B. Phase II: Investment Review Committee (IRC)

At least once per quarter, each regional office will convene an IRC that consists of at least four Federal employees to review each complete application where the PRC has determined that the proposed project is "Responsive" to this FFO. Additional IRCs may be convened depending on the volume of applications received. Before the IRC reviews an application, EDA will conduct an administrative review to determine that the application is complete. An application package that does not contain all elements listed in Section IV.B.2 of this FFO will not be reviewed.

All IRC members will review each complete application before the IRC discussion and evaluation. The IRC will make a group evaluation of the merits of each application based on the extent to which the application meets the program-specific award and application requirements provided in 13 C.F.R. § 305.2 for Public Works investments and 13 C.F.R. §§ 307.2 and 307.4 for EAA investments. The IRC will use the following criteria in its review, with each criterion receiving equal weight:

1. The project's feasibility, including the availability and committed nature of proposed matching funds;
2. The project's sustainability/durability, including the extent to which the project demonstrates support from regional stakeholders (private, public, and non-profit entities, etc.);
3. The applicant's organizational capacity, including its financial and management capability;
4. The project's alignment with the regional CEDS or other equivalent EDA-accepted economic development strategy, including the extent to which the project is aligned with and integrated into other public or private investments currently ongoing or planned for the community and region;
5. The project's demonstrated alignment with at least one of EDA's current investment priorities as outlined in Section I.B. of this FFO;
6. The project's demonstrated ability to foster job creation and promote private investment in the regional economy; and
7. The extent to which the project will enable the community/region to become more economically diversified and prosperous.

Based on its consideration of the above factors, the IRC will prepare a priority order of funding recommendations for the respective Regional Director. EDA's final decision on whether to fund a project is dependent upon the ability of the applicant to provide sufficient documentation of the project's compliance with applicable rules and regulations.

Applicants should expect written notification from EDA regarding the outcome of the IRC within 60 days of EDA's receipt of their **complete application**.

C. **Due Diligence**

If the IRC recommends an application, the applicant still may have to complete certain due diligence requirements before EDA can make an award. After an applicant has been notified that their application has been recommended by the IRC, EDA may request the applicant to submit additional documents and information to allow EDA to fully evaluate compliance with applicable rules and regulations.

For example, in the case of construction projects, such additional due diligence may include:

1. Title verification;
2. Proof of project ownership;
3. Documentation of matching funds; and
4. Documentation required for environmental or legal compliance.

If the applicant provides the requested information and supporting documentation in a timely fashion and EDA determines that the project is fully compliant with applicable rules and regulations, the application will be forwarded to the Regional Director for a final decision and award approval. 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 has been denied.

D. Grants Officer's Decision

Applications recommended by the IRC and deemed fully compliant with applicable rules and regulations will be forwarded to the Regional Director, who is the Grants Officer under this announcement. Each Regional Director has been delegated the authority to make the final decision on whether to fund an application and may select a project for funding that differs from the IRC's recommendations based on any of the following Selection Factors:

1. The relative economic distress of the region;
2. The likelihood a given project will start quickly, realistically achieve project goals, and catalyze additional resources;
3. The extent to which the application meets the overall objectives of Section 2 of PWEDA (42 U.S.C. § 3121);
4. The applicant's performance under previous Federal financial assistance awards, including whether the grantee submitted required performance reports and data;
5. The availability of program funding; and
6. The extent to which the project supports EDA's goals of geographic balance in distribution of program funds, project types, organizational type (to include smaller and rural organizations) and the overall portfolio.

The Regional Director's final decision must be consistent with EDA's and DOC's published policies. Anytime a Regional Director makes a selection that differs from the IRC's recommendation, the Regional Director will document the rationale for the decision in writing.

VI. Award Administration Information

A. Award notification

1. Notification of Application Status

Under this FFO, EDA expects to provide applicants with written notification regarding the status of their application at each phase of the evaluation process, as outlined in Section V. of this FFO above. Applicants are advised that though this notification may express the applicant's success in a particular phase of the evaluation process, it will not obligate EDA to make an award to the applicant and is not the official award document (see Form CD-450 discussion below).

2. Notification of Award (Form CD-450)

If an application is selected for funding and the applicant successfully and timely completes all due diligence requirements, the expectation is that the EDA Grants Officer will issue the Form CD-450, which is the authorizing financial assistance award document.

3. Accepting an EDA Award

By signing Form CD-450, the recipient agrees to comply with all award provisions. EDA will provide Form CD-450 by mail or two-day delivery to the appropriate business office of the recipient's organization. The recipient must sign and return the Form CD-450 without modification within 30 days of the date of the EDA Grants Officer's signature on the form to the applicable Regional Office.

4. Future Funding

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.

5. Unsuccessful Applicants

EDA will notify unsuccessful applicants in writing. EDA will retain unsuccessful applications in accordance with EDA's record retention schedule.

B. Administrative and national policy requirements

Administrative and national policy requirements for all DOC awards apply to this competition. These requirements may be found in the "Department of Commerce Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions" (ST&Cs) and are summarized in the "Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements," published in the *Federal Register* on December 30, 2014 (79 FR 78390). The Pre-Award notice may be accessed at the Government Printing Office (GPO) website at www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2014-12-30/pdf/2014-30297.pdf. The ST&Cs may be accessed at the following website:

http://www.osec.doc.gov/oam/grants_management/policy/default%20p2.htm

C. Reporting requirements

1. All recipients are required to submit financial, performance, and impact reports in accordance with the terms and conditions of the grant award, generally no less than semi-annually. All project progress and financial reports must be submitted to the applicable EDA program officer in electronic format.
2. 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 www.FSRS.gov on all sub-awards over \$25,000. Please see the OMB guidance published at 2 C.F.R. part 170 (2015), which can be accessed at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2015-title2-vol1/pdf/CFR-2015-title2-vol1-part170.pdf>.

3. EDA may require additional data on actual impact of the funded investment, pursuant to the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), to be submitted to EDA at periodic intervals up to nine years after the grant award.

EDA reserves the right to use information contained in applications submitted under this opportunity, as well as all reports and performance data submitted by recipients to undertake an evaluation of its programs, either through its staff or by hiring a third party. Recipients of EDA grant awards are expected to cooperate with such evaluations, including by sharing performance information that they are already collecting as part of their grant activities, including performance information on any beneficiaries of the grantee's activities funded in whole or in part by the EDA grant award(s).

D. Regulations, administrative requirements, and cost principles

Specific regulations, administrative requirements, and cost principles govern the use of EDA funds. The general and administrative requirements for EDA awards are set forth in 13 C.F.R. parts 300–302. Specific application and award requirements for the Public Works program are set out at 13 C.F.R. part 305 and for the EAA program in subpart A of 13 C.F.R. part 307. EDA funds may not be used directly or indirectly to reimburse any attorneys' or consultants' fees incurred in connection with obtaining investment assistance pursuant to this competitive solicitation. *See* 13 C.F.R. § 302.10.

Recipients of an EDA award will be bound by the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, which are codified at 2 C.F.R. Part 200 (Uniform Guidance). The Uniform Guidance streamlines the language from eight existing Office of Management and Budget (OMB) circulars, including Cost Principles (OMB Circulars A-21, A-87, A 122), administrative requirements (OMB Circulars A-102 and A 110), and audit requirements (OMB Circular A-133) into one consolidated set of guidance applicable to federal assistance awards. Note that the Uniform Guidance supersedes DOC's Uniform Administrative Requirements set out at 15 C.F.R. parts 14 and 24. Applicants are advised to familiarize themselves with 2 C.F.R. Part 200, which may be found at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2015-title2-vol1/pdf/CFR-2015-title2-vol1-subtitleA-chapII.pdf>. Additional information on the substance of and transition to the OMB Uniform Guidance may be found at <https://cfo.gov/cofar/>.

E. EDA's Non-relocation Policy

Applicants are advised that should an application be selected for award, the recipient will be required to adhere to a special 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 the Standard Terms and Conditions of the Award, including suspension of disbursements and termination of the award for convenience or cause, 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 the applicant estimates that such employer will create or save 100 or more permanent jobs as a result of the investment assistance, provided that such employer also is specifically named in the application as benefiting from the project, or 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. In smaller communities, EDA may extend this policy to the relocation of 50 or more jobs.

F. 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 (i.e., non-profit organizations, including non-profit institutions of higher education and hospitals, states, local governments, and Indian Tribes) that expends federal awards of \$750,000 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 also may conduct an audit of an award at any time.

VII. Other Information

A. Freedom of Information Act Disclosure

The Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. § 552) (FOIA) and DOC’s implementing regulations at 15 C.F.R. part 4 set forth the rules and procedures to make requested material, information, and records publicly available. Unless prohibited by law and to the extent permitted under FOIA, contents of applications submitted by applicants may be released in response to FOIA requests. In the event that an application contains information or data that the applicant deems to be confidential commercial information, that information should be identified, bracketed, and marked as “Privileged, Confidential, Commercial or Financial Information.” Based on these markings, the confidentiality of the contents of those pages will be protected to the extent permitted by law.

B. 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 special award conditions; (5) suspending any active DOC award(s); and (6) terminating any active DOC award(s).

C. Restrictions Governing Making Grants to Corporations Convicted of Felony Criminal Violations and/or Unpaid Federal Tax Liabilities

In accordance with current Federal appropriations law, execution by an applicant of the Representation by Corporations Regarding an Unpaid Delinquent Tax Liability or a Felony Conviction Under Any Federal Law (see Appendix A) will be required in a format requested by EDA before any award will be made under this FFO.

D. Environmental and historic preservation requirements

All applicants for EDA construction assistance (including design and engineering assistance) are required to provide adequate environmental information. Each application will be reviewed by EDA for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA). 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. The implementing regulations of NEPA require 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.¹⁸ For further guidance and information, please contact the applicable Regional Environmental Protection Specialist listed in Section VIII. of this FFO.

E. Implementing the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

The U.S. Department of Justice has issued revised regulations implementing Title II of the ADA (28 C.F.R. part 35; 75 FR 56164, as amended by 76 FR 13285) and Title III of the ADA (28 C.F.R. part 36; 75 FR 56164, as amended by 76 FR 13286). The revised regulations adopted new enforceable accessibility standards called the “2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design” (2010 Standards). The 2010 Standards are an acceptable alternative to the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS). DOC deems compliance with the 2010 Standards to be an acceptable means of complying with the Section 504 accessibility requirements for new construction and alteration projects under 15 C.F.R. § 8b.18(c), as follows:

1. Public Recipients subject to Title II of the ADA may use either the 2010 Standards or UFAS where the physical construction or alternations commence on or after September 15, 2010 and before March 15, 2012 (see 28 C.F.R. § 35.151(c)(2)); and
2. Private Recipients subject to Title III of the ADA may use either the 2010 Standards or UFAS if the date when the last application for a building permit or permit extension is certified to be complete by a State, county, or local government (or, in those jurisdictions where the government does not certify completion of applications, if the date when the last application for a building permit or permit extension is received by the State, county, or local government) is on or after September 15, 2010 and before March 15, 2012, or if no permit is

¹⁸ As specified in 40 C.F.R. § 1506.6(b).

required, if the start of physical construction or alterations occurs on or after September 15, 2010 and before March 15, 2012 (see 28 C.F.R. § 36.406(a)(2)).

As of March 15, 2012, **all new construction and alteration projects must comply** with the 2010 Standards. In all cases, once a recipient selects an applicable ADA accessibility standard (i.e., the 2010 Standards or UFAS), that standard must be applied to the entire facility.

VIII. EDA Contact Information

For questions concerning this solicitation, or more information about EDA programs, you may contact the appropriate EDA representative listed below. Updated contact information can be found on EDA's website at <http://eda.gov/contacts.htm>.

Atlanta Regional Office

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(404) 730-3025 Fax

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404-730-3020

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404-730-3023

Kentucky

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404-730-3026

Mississippi

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Atlanta Regional Environmental Protection Specialist

Keith Dyche
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803-253-3640

North Carolina

Hillary Sherman-Zelenka
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Tennessee

Bertha Partin
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404-730-3010

Austin Regional Office

Jorge Ayala, Acting Regional Director
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(512) 381-8177 Fax

Louisiana, South Texas

Jorge Ayala
jayala@eda.gov
512-381-8150

Arkansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, North Texas

Matthew Giannini
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512-381-8171

Chicago Regional Office

Jeannette P. Tamayo, Regional Director
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Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin

Lee Shirey
lshirey@eda.gov
312-353-8143 x151

**Chicago Regional Environmental
Protection Specialist**

Robin Bush
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312-353-8143 x146

Denver Regional Office

Mari Sutton, Acting Regional Director
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406- 599-9795

**Iowa, Eastern and Central
Missouri**

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573-590-1194

**Nebraska, Kansas, Western
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913-894-1586

**Denver Regional Environmental
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Jennifer Benz
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303-844-5363

Philadelphia Regional Office

Tonia R. Williams, Acting Regional Director
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Philadelphia Regional Environmental Protection Specialist

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Seattle Regional Office

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Seattle Regional Environmental Protection Specialist

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**Hawaii, Guam, Northern Mariana
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Marshall Islands, Federated States
of Micronesia, Palau**

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Idaho, Nevada

David Farnworth-Martin
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206-220-7699

**Oregon, Clark County and
Eastern Washington**

David Porter
dporter@eda.gov
503-326-3078

IX. Instructions for Application Submission via Grants.gov

Register early and submit early. In order to submit an application through www.grants.gov (Grants.gov), an applicant must register for a Grants.gov user ID and password. Note that this process can take between three to five business days or as long as four weeks if all steps are not completed correctly. To avoid delays, EDA strongly recommends that applicants start this process as soon as possible before applying. Information about the Grants.gov registration process for organizations can be found at <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/organization-registration.html>. Please note that organizations already registered with Grants.gov do not need to re-register; however, all registered organizations must keep their registration for System for Award Management (SAM), which includes the Central Contractor Registration (CCR) database, up-to-date through sam.gov or their applications will not be accepted by Grants.gov.

AOR requirement. Applicants must register as organizations, not as individuals. As part of the registration process, you will register at least one Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR) for your organization. AORs registered at Grants.gov are the only officials with the authority to submit applications at Grants.gov so please ensure that your organization's application is submitted by an AOR. If the application is submitted by anyone other than your organization's AOR, it will be rejected by the Grants.gov system and cannot be considered by EDA. Note that a given organization may designate multiple individuals as AORs for Grants.gov purposes.

Once an applicant is registered, the following list provides step-by-step instructions for accessing, completing and submitting an application via Grants.gov. Please also read the instructions posted at Grants.gov.

- a. Ensure that you have installed a compatible version of Adobe Acrobat Reader on your computer, as incompatible versions of Adobe Acrobat Reader may cause errors. See <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/adobe-software-compatibility.html>. Navigate to www.grants.gov and select "Apply for Grants" from the Applicants menu.
- b. Select the link for "Download a Grant Application" package.
- c. Enter Funding Opportunity Number "EDAP2016" and click "Search."
- d. Click on the "Select Application Package to Download" link under "Actions" for the instructions and application specific to the type of project and EDA program (Public Works or Economic Adjustment Assistance) under which you are applying.
- e. A new page should come up. On that page you may either enter your email address (in order to receive updates about this funding opportunity) or check the box that says "No, I do not wish to provide my email address." Click "Submit."
- f. Two new links will appear. Click on "Download Application Instructions" to review the instructions posted on Grants.gov and "Download Application Package" when you are ready to begin the application.
- g. Save the applicable application package to your computer or network drive. Note that the package file can be shared among multiple users; however, each user

must have a compatible version of Adobe Acrobat Reader installed in order to save changes to the application package.

- h. The application package should pre-populate with all mandatory forms embedded.
- i. To add “Optional Documents” to the application, click on the checkboxes next to the form name on the first page of the application package. Form SF-LLL is required and must be completed if non-Federal funds have been or are planned to be used for lobbying in connection with this competitive solicitation. If you will be submitting your application via Grants.gov, also check the box next to “Attachments.” The Attachments form allows applicants to attach any documents required as attachments under this competitive solicitation, such as a CEDS or letters of support.
- j. Complete all mandatory fields (highlighted in yellow) on the forms. Note that mandatory fields will vary based on the type of applicant and the type of assistance sought. On Form CD-511, type “not awarded yet” in the “project number” field. Save the application package at regular intervals to avoid losing work.
- k. Attach any required attachments. The preferred file format for attachments is portable document format (PDF); however, EDA will accept electronic files in Microsoft Word, WordPerfect, or Excel formats.
- l. When all mandatory fields have been completed, scroll to the top and click on “Check Package for Errors”.
- m. Click “Save”.
- n. Click “Save and Submit”. At this point the applicant’s AOR must be connected to the Internet and will be asked to enter their Grants.gov user id and password in order to submit via Grants.gov. As noted above, an AOR must submit the application for it to be validated by Grants.gov and received by EDA.

Field limitations and special characters. Please be advised that Grants.gov provides the following notice with respect to form field limitations and special characters:

Are there restrictions on file names for any attachment I include with my application package?

Please limit file names to 50 characters and do not use special characters (example: &,-,*,%/,#) in attachment names and application form fields (including periods (.), blank spaces and accent marks) or attaching documents with the same name. An underscore (example: my_Attached_File.pdf) may be used to separate a file name. Please note that if these guidelines are not followed, your application may be rejected.

What kind of information can be entered into form fields within my application?

Grants.gov application packages offer fields to enter a set amount of data. When the limit is reached for a certain field, you will no longer be able to enter data into that field. For every form, there are different limitations to the data that you are allowed to enter (this varies between agency and form). Refer to the agency instructions available for download with the application package for more detail.

Do not use special characters (example: &,-*,%/,#) within the application form fields

including periods (.), blank spaces and accent marks; an underscore may be used. Please note that if these guidelines are not followed, your application may be rejected.

In EDA's experience, use of apostrophes (') in file names and fillable fields of required forms has resulted in application submission issues. Accordingly, please periodically check the status of your application to make sure it has been validated, and use file naming conventions that do not negatively affect your application submission.

If a response exceeds the field limit requirements of any form, including Form ED-900, the applicant is advised to include the response as an attachment to the application. The applicant should check the 'Attachments' box under 'Optional Documents for Submission' in the application package, and clearly indicate in the form field that the information is included as an electronic file.

Verify submission was successful. Applicants should save and print written proof of an electronic submission made at Grants.gov. Applicants can expect to receive multiple emails regarding the status of their submission. Since email communication can be unreliable, applicants must proactively check on the status of their application if they do not receive email notifications within a day of submission.

An applicant should expect to receive two initial emails from Grants.gov: the first will confirm receipt of the application, and the second will indicate that the application has either been successfully validated by the system before transmission to EDA or has been rejected due to errors. Applicants should be aware that it may take up to two business days after Grants.gov receives an application for applicants to receive email notification of an error. Applicants will receive a third email once EDA has retrieved their applications.

EDA requests that applicants kindly refrain from submitting multiple copies of the same application package. Applicants should save and print both the confirmation screen provided on the Grants.gov website after the applicant has submitted an application, and the confirmation email sent by Grants.gov when the application has been successfully received and validated in the system. If an applicant receives an email from Grants.gov indicating that the application was received and subsequently validated, but does not receive an email from Grants.gov indicating that EDA has retrieved the application package within 72 hours of that email, the applicant may contact the applicable EDA representative listed in Section VIII. of this announcement to inquire if EDA is in receipt of the applicant's submission.

It is the applicant's responsibility to verify that its submission was timely received and validated successfully at Grants.gov. To see the date and time your application was received, log on to Grants.gov and click on the "Track My Application" link from the left-hand menu. For a successful submission, the application must be received and validated by Grants.gov, and an agency tracking number assigned. If your application has a status of "Received," it is awaiting validation by Grants.gov, and has not yet been received by EDA. Once validation is complete, the status will change to "Validated" or "Rejected with Errors." If the status is "Rejected with Errors," your application has not been received successfully. Some of the reasons Grants.gov may reject an application can be found at <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/encountering-error-messages.html>.

Applicants should access the following link for assistance in navigating Grants.gov and for a list of useful resources: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/support.html>. The following link lists frequently asked questions (FAQs): <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/applicant-faqs.html>. If you do not find an answer to your question under the “Applicant FAQs,” try consulting the “Applicant User Guide” or contacting Grants.gov by email at support@grants.gov or telephone at 1-800-518-4726. The Grants.gov Contact Center is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Appendix A. Certifications Regarding Federal Felony and Federal Criminal Tax Convictions, Unpaid Federal Tax Assessments and Delinquent Federal Tax Returns

As discussed in Part I and Part II below, EDA anticipates the applicable appropriations Act to contain certain funding prohibitions and certification requirements applicable to financial assistance awards issued with appropriated funds. Based on these requirements, the Department of Commerce requires the following certifications from prospective financial assistance award recipients (also referred to below as applicants):

PART I-Certifications from Corporations

None of the appropriated funds made available by relevant appropriations Acts may be used to issue a financial assistance award to any corporation that:

- (a) Was convicted of a felony criminal violation under any 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) Has 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 purposes of the below certification, a corporation is defined as an entity that has filed articles of incorporation in one of the fifty states, the District of Columbia, or the various territories of the United States including American Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Midway Islands, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, Republic of Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. (Note that this includes both for-profit and non-profit organizations.)

The below certification is required for all new financial assistance awards, and for all amendments to existing financial assistance awards, that are made to corporations (as defined above) and that are funded with appropriated funds made available to the Department of Commerce pursuant to relevant appropriations Acts. This certification is further required to the extent that other appropriation Acts contain the same or substantively similar prohibitions against the issuance of financial assistance awards to certain corporations.

Instructions: All recipients that are corporations (as defined above) must complete paragraphs (1) and (2) below, which must be signed below by an authorized representative of the corporation. Recipients that are not corporations are not required to complete this representation.

(1) _____ [insert name of corporation] certifies that it is is not (check one) a corporation that was convicted of a felony criminal violation under a Federal law within the 24 months preceding the signature date of this Representation.

(2) _____ [insert name of corporation] certifies that it is is not (check one) a corporation that has 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 agreements with the authority responsible for collecting the tax liability.

By: _____
[Typed name and title of the signing individual]
[Typed phone number of the signing individual]
[Typed email address of the signing individual]

Date: _____

PART II-Certifications for Awards Over \$5 Million

For financial assistance awards in excess of \$5 million, EDA anticipates the applicable appropriations Act to require Commerce to obtain written certification from all recipients that:

- (a) To the best of its knowledge and belief, the recipient has filed all Federal tax returns required during the three years preceding the certification;
- (b) The recipient has not been convicted of a criminal offense under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and/or
- (c) The recipient has not, more than 90 days prior to certification, been notified 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 proceeding.

The below certification is required from all recipients receiving financial assistance awards in excess of \$5 million and funded with applicable appropriations. This certification is further required to the extent that other appropriation acts contain the same or substantively similar prohibitions against the issuance of financial assistance to certain recipients of financial assistance awards in excess of \$5 million.

Instructions: All applicants receiving financial assistance awards in excess of \$5 million and funded with applicable appropriations must complete paragraphs (1), (2) and (3) below, which must be signed below by an authorized representative of the applicant.

(1) _____ [insert name of corporation] certifies that it has has not (check one) filed all Federal tax returns required during the three years preceding this certification;

(2) _____ [insert name of corporation] certifies that it has has not (check one) been convicted of a criminal offense under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended; and/or

(3) _____ [insert name of corporation] certifies that it has has not (check one) been notified, more than 90 days prior to this certification, of any Federal tax assessment for which 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 proceeding.

By: _____
[Typed name and title of the signing individual]
[Typed phone number of the signing individual]
[Typed email address of the signing individual]

Date: _____