

EDA Offers Public Works and Economic Adjustments Grants to Advance Development Priorities

About EDA

The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) provides investments in construction, technical assistance, planning, and capacity building to support business start-up and expansion in towns and cities all across the country to build strong, durable and resilient local economies that produce good wages for American workers. EDA partners with regional economic development partners to advance locally-developed projects that link to the region's longer-term, sustainable economic development strategies.

The **Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Programs** are designed to provide resources to support the construction or renovation of public infrastructure needed to advance job creation, the formation or recapitalization of Revolving Loan Funds to provide needed capital for business growth, and the completion of specific studies to inform public policy for the purposes of advancing economic development.

Eligible Applicants

Applicants for EDA assistance must be an eligible entity, as defined by either (1) a designated Economic Development District; (2) an Indian Tribe or a consortium of Indian Tribes; (3) a 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) an institution of higher education or a consortium of institutions of higher education; *or* (5) a public or private nonprofit organization or association acting in cooperation with officials of a political subdivision of a state.

Distress Criteria and Maximum Allowable Investment Rates

Applications for EDA assistance must support a project region that meets *at least one* of the following distress criteria:

- Per Capita Income: the per capita income in the region identified may not exceed 80% of the national average;
- Unemployment Rate: the unemployment rate for the most recent 24-month period in the region identified must be at least 1 percentage point higher than the national average; *or*
- Special Need: the applicant must meet a Special Need criterion as outlined in the applicable FFO.

Matching Share Requirements

Generally, the amount of an EDA award may not exceed 50 percent of the total cost of the project. However, EDA regulations provide that 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 outlined in 13 C.F.R. § 301.4(b)(1) and as determined by EDA. Typically, EDA construction grants require cash match that is available, unencumbered, and from eligible sources at the time of submission of a full application.

Accessing and Submitting the EDA grant applications

EDA utilizes a two-stage application process comprised of an initial Proposal and a full Application. Proposals and applications can be submitted at any time. EDA's 2017 proposal and application forms and associated information may be accessed at: <https://www.eda.gov/funding-opportunities/>.

For More Information

EDA has state representatives who are available to answer questions, advise on project and proposal/application development, and otherwise assist applicants in developing the most complete and competitive Proposal and/or Application possible. EDRs do not make funding decisions, but provide useful technical assistance in helping communities consider variety of public, private, and foundation resources that may be leveraged to advance their development goals.

Hillary Sherman serves as the NC EDR and can be reached at hsherman@eda.gov or 404.730.3013 (office). **Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the NC EDR to discuss the proposed project and EDA's application process and requirements *prior* to submitting either a proposal or full application. All parties interested in EDA grants are strongly encouraged to fully review the applicable EDA FFO and regulations prior to submitting an application.**