EDA’s mission is to lead the Federal economic development agenda by promoting innovation and competitiveness, preparing American regions for growth and success in the worldwide economy.

As the only Federal agency with economic development as its exclusive mission, EDA provides strategic investments to help communities design and implement critical public projects that will promote job creation and retention, attract private investment, and support the long-term economic development goals of the region.
To be eligible for EDA assistance, four key eligibility requirements must be met:

- The application must be submitted by an eligible Applicant;
- The project must be in a distressed region (eligible Region);
- The project must meet required Matching Share thresholds;
- The project must be for eligible activities under each program type.
Eligible Applicants

- State governments;
- City or other political subdivision of a State, including a special purpose unit of State or local government engaged in economic or infrastructure development activities;
- Institutions of high education;
- District organization or COG;
- Native American tribal governments; and,
- Non-profit organizations acting in cooperation with officials of a political subdivision of a State.
Regions that meet one or more of the following criteria may be eligible for EDA grants:

- **Unemployment rate** for the most recent 24-month period that is at least 1% point higher than the national average;

- **Per capita income** that is 80% or less than the national average; or,

- **A Special Need**, such as (but not limited to) underemployment, recent or pending plant closings, natural disasters, or military base closures.
Applications for EDA assistance generally require a 50 percent Matching Share. Matching Share funds must:

- **Be available and committed** to use for the specific EDA project outlined in the application as of the date that the application is submitted;

- **Be unencumbered**, or not otherwise limited or directed to specific tasks (Matching Share funds need to be available for the entire EDA Scope of Work requested); and,

- **Be from eligible sources** (generally other Federal funds may not be used as Matching Share for an EDA award).
EDA Programs & Eligible Activities

PROGRAMS

- Economic Adjustment
- Public Works
- University Centers
- Research & National Technical Assistance
- Planning
- Local Technical Assistance
- Trade Adjustment Assistance for Firms
Through the Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) program, EDA provides targeted assistance to help communities experiencing adverse economic changes that may occur suddenly or over time advance economic development initiatives that will strengthen their regional economy and create and retain jobs.

• **Allowable activities include construction, capitalization or recapitalization of revolving loan funds, and technical assistance projects.**

• **Applications are accepted on a quarterly basis.**
• **Next deadline: December 13, 2013**
Through the Public Works (PW) program, EDA makes strategic investments to help communities build or expand access to key infrastructure assets which are critical inputs to driving regional competitiveness and long-term economic prosperity.

- **This program supports construction activities, including but not limited to water/sewer lines and upgrades, access roads, construction or retrofitting of public buildings (such as regional workforce centers or incubators).**

- **Applications are accepted on a quarterly basis.**
- **Next deadline: December 13, 2013**
Through the University Center (UC) program, EDA provides resources to incentivize institutions of higher education to marshal their diverse resources to catalyze economic development initiatives in their respective service area.

• **Alabama currently has 1 UC that provide resources and services to the state:**
  
  • **Auburn University**
Through the short-term Planning Program, EDA provides resources to complement EDA’s Partnership Planning Program through investments that help catalyze innovative aspects of a regional CEDS or that support creative, cross-cutting initiatives to advance economic development in a region.

• **GA Tech’s Independent Innovator (Inventor) project** is an excellent example of the innovative type of project EDA encourages through this program.

• **Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.**
Through the Technical Assistance Program, EDA provides resources to help communities obtain, analyze, disseminate, and coordinate efforts that will lead to more informed economic development decision-making.

• **Applications for this program can take many forms, including feasibility studies, economic impact assessments, regional best practice and dissemination efforts, and collaborative regional projects.**

• **Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.**
Through the Trade Adjustment Assistance for Firms Program, EDA provides resources to help trade-impacted firms become more competitive and better able to succeed in the global economy.

- **EDA supports 11 TAA centers that provide targeted assistance to import-impacted firms.**

- **Alabama firms are covered by services provided from the Southeastern Trade Adjustment Assistance Center**
  - For more information contact:
    - Tracy Cole, Client Development Manager
    - 770-531-4550
    - Tracy.cole@innovate.gatech.edu
    - http://setaac.org
EDA grant investments are made on a COMPETITIVE basis. While all investments are reviewed based on the criteria in the applicable funding notice, generally EDA prioritizes projects that:

- Clearly advance the goals of the region as articulated in the region’s CEDS;
- Will create or retain jobs, leverage private investment, and increase community capacity to promote long-term prosperity;
- Are clear economic development projects that would not duplicate projects which could be funded from other Federal agencies;
- Engage broad public-private support across the region;
- Will be able to start expeditiously, managed effectively, and completed on-time; and,
- Advance key Agency Investment Priorities and align with the specific goals of the applicable program to which application is submitted.
Applications for EDA assistance are most competitive when they align with at least one of the following Investment Priorities. Projects do not need to meet all of these priorities in order to be competitive.

- Collaborative Regional Innovation.
- Public/Private Partnerships.
- National Strategic Priorities.
- Global Competitiveness.
- Environmentally-Sustainable Development.
- Economically Distressed and Underserved Communities.
• As you consider submitting an application to EDA for consideration, a few helpful things to consider:

  • Before tackling the application, flesh out what the specific project will be and what will be needed to implement it.

  • Talk to your COG and regional partners to ensure that the project has broad support and does not duplicate other existing regional efforts.

  • Use your EDR. His job is to help answer any questions you have as you move through the application process so that your application is as complete and as competitive as possible when it is submitted.
Feel free to reach out to the Economic Development Representative (EDR) for the state of Alabama to discuss potential projects, ask questions on the application process, or solicit feedback on any query you may have ---- The Alabama EDR is here to serve the communities of Alabama. Through its programs, EDA seeks to provide a framework and contribute to greater realized innovation, increased capital formation, and more jobs for the state, region and nation! It has been my pleasure to speak with you today!

Thank you.

Milton Cochran Sr.
404-730-3024
mcochran@eda.gov