

# Economic Development Administration

## Preparing for American Rescue Plan Grant Funding

While the U.S Economic Development Administration has yet to release guidelines for the \$3B allocated to the agency through the American Rescue Plan, communities should start thinking through project ideas now. Use this resource to make sure that you have answered key questions and are identifying competitive opportunities. The Community & Economic Development team at TJCOG is available for brainstorming and/or feedback on any project idea.

### Ask these questions of any project ideas

- Does your project idea align with EDA's Investment Priorities, and if so, which ones?
- Does your project idea assist with the retainment or creation of jobs and/or catalyze economic development?
- Does your project align with TJCOG's [Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy](#) (which can increase the proposal's competitiveness)?
- How does your project relate to COVID recovery efforts?

### Tips for a competitive application

#### Clearly Define the Need

- Why do you want to do the project?
- Is there evident regional distress?
- How might your project be different than work being conducted by other organizations (COGs, State) or how will it expand capacity that is complementary to other efforts?

#### Align with EDA Investment Prioritie(s)

- Equity
- Recovery and Resilience
- Workforce Development
- Manufacturing
- Technology-Based Economic Development
- Environmentally-Sustainable Development
- Exports and Foreign Direct Investment

#### Ensure Project Feasibility

- Outline project timeframe
- Identify any acquisition needed. Who owns the site and who will?
- Are there significant environmental or procurement hurdles?

#### Confirm Recipient Eligibility

- Eligible recipients include
- State government;
  - Political subdivisions of the State engaged in economic or infrastructure development.
  - Higher education
  - District organization or COG
  - Tribal governments
  - Non-profit organizations acting in cooperation with a political subdivision of a State.

#### Identify Needed Investment

- Are there committed jobs and private investment?
- How does industry fit into landscape (wage rates, relocation, etc.?)
- Is there financial commitment for needed match?

### Before you apply - Things to consider

- 1 No work can commence on any EDA project until after an award is made. This includes procurement for any work on the project.
- 2 EDA will put a lien or covenant of use on any asset constructed where the asset must be used for intended purposes for 20 years.
- 3 Construction and Equipment projects must adhere to Buy American and Davis-Bacon Wage rate requirements.
- 4 Set up or check to make sure you have a DUNS, TIN, and SAM before you submit.

### Regional strategy - Ways to align your application

Align the project with regional goals or action items in the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. Ask TJCOG for a CEDS consistency letter to submit with your application. Gather letters of support from regional partners.

**More questions? Want to discuss a project and ways to ensure applicability/competitiveness? Interested in exploring regional opportunities?**

#### Contact

Lindsay Whitson, Economic Development Manager  
lwhitson@tjcog.org

