

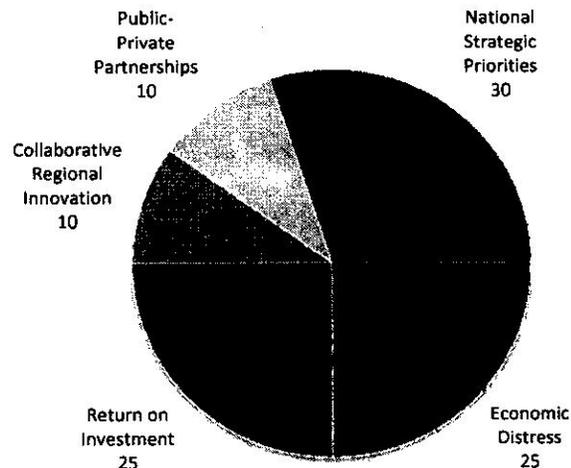
Helpful Hints for Submitting a Strong Proposal to EDA

Understand EDA's Merit Review Rating Process

The purpose of EDA's Merit Review is to evaluate the proposal's match with EDA's Investment Priorities. The evaluation does not encompass many other critical aspects of the application (legal, environmental, engineering, etc.) that will be considered in total by the Investment Review Committee (IRC).

Each of the evaluation criteria outlined in Section IV of the Public Works, Economic Adjustment Assistance, and Global Climate Change Mitigation Incentive Fund (GCCMIF) Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) dated October 14, 2010 has been assigned a weight (see pie chart) that contributes to the overall rating of the proposal. EDA will rate a proposal as *highly competitive* if the proposal is rated as *highly competitive* on evaluation criteria whose weights sum to 60 or more. For example, a proposal that is rated *highly competitive* under National Strategic Priorities, Collaborative Regional Innovation and Economic Distress would be rated *highly competitive* overall, since the combined weights of these criteria is 65 (30+10+25=65).

EDA will rate a proposal as *not competitive* if the proposal is rated as *not competitive* on evaluation criteria whose weights sum to 60 or more. Proposals that are neither *highly competitive* nor *not competitive* will be rated *competitive*.



Provide Supporting Evidence for Claims

EDA's merit review will only consider information contained in the application. Citing third-party evidence (such as federal/state data or an independent report) to support a claim will generally make that response highly competitive. **EDA prefers that applicants provide data from federal or state sources, whenever possible; however, applicants may cite other quantitative or qualitative data, including news articles, economic studies/market research, and letters of support from prospective partners and beneficiaries of the project. Where possible, applicants should provide copies of supporting data as attachments, or provide a complete citation/source-reference for the supporting evidence in the project narrative.**

- **Highly Competitive** responses will make a persuasive argument for the claim, and provide supporting documentation/data.
- **Competitive** responses will make a persuasive argument for the claim, but not necessarily document it using third-party evidence.
- **Non-Competitive** responses will not make a persuasive argument for the claim.

Make the ED-900 Application Form Work for You

Below are some helpful hints to ensure your ED-900 application highlights the fit between your project and EDA's evaluation criteria and provides EDA staff with the strongest possible evidence to support your claims. In general, the narrative responses to the questions in **Section A** of the ED-900 are the best forum for documenting how your project will match the goals and criteria outlined by the FFO. Other sections that can be effectively used to highlight a particular response to the criteria are highlighted below in **bold**.

Please note that the application needs to fully address only one of the sub-categories listed in the FFO under *National Strategic Priorities* to receive full credit for that criterion; however, the sub-categories listed under the other evaluation criteria should each be fully addressed to receive full credit for those criteria.