

National Strategic Priorities

Technology-Led Economic Development. Describe how the project will forward technology-led economic development in your region. EDA views projects with beneficiaries in the scientific, healthcare, or IT industries as highly competitive. Be sure to specify which industry the project supports by using a relevant North American Industry Classification (NAICS) code (<http://www.naics.com/search.htm>). **Section B.5: Project Beneficiaries** requests this information.

Support Small/Medium Sized Businesses. EDA supports small and medium size business growth. What is the average size (sales/employees) of the businesses benefitting from this investment? Supporting evidence may include information from these firms, which can be included in the letters requested in **Section B.5**.

Economic Dislocation because of Auto Industry Restructuring or Natural Disasters. The strength of the application in this area is solely dependent on the economic characteristics of the targeted region, and will be largely based on the responses to the questions in **Section B.1 – B.3: Regional Eligibility**.

- To document auto-industry restructuring: provide a Worker Adjustment and Retraining (WARN) notice or a cluster analysis showing the industry's decline in the community.
- To document a disaster: provide the FEMA disaster declaration number (<http://www.fema.gov/news/disasters.fema>)

Global Competitiveness and Innovation. How will the proposed investment help the region compete in the global marketplace? Does it target high-growth industries? Does it assist an industry with export potential? Will it support facilities or infrastructure to sustain or attract foreign direct investments?

Commercialization of Research. Will the investment support tech transfer; link to a business incubator or commercialization center; or commercialize a patent or invention?

Environmentally Sustainable Development. Will the investment result in a green end-product, green an existing process or function, or utilize sustainable construction practices? More information on EDA's definition of Environmentally Sustainable Development is available here: http://www.eda.gov/PDF/GCCMIF_%20OnePager_External%20081409.pdf.

Economically Distressed and Underserved Communities

The strength of the application in this area is solely dependent on the economic characteristics of the targeted region, and will be based on the responses to the questions in **Section B.1 – B.3**. When citing your data, please be sure to document the counties that make up the region you are describing and the year that was used to generate the data.

Return on Investment:

Job Creation/Private Sector Investment. What are the average wages in your region? Will the jobs created by the project provide higher wages? If so, include this information in your project narrative in **Section A**. Document the beneficiaries that will create or save jobs, or commit to investing additional funds in the region, due to the proposed investment in **section B.5: Project Beneficiaries**.

Collaborative Regional Innovation (Regional Collaboration):

Multi-Jurisdictional Collaboration. What other organizations are "actively involved" in the development and/or implementation of the project? Describe each organizational entity and its role in the project. Strong applications will draw from a broad range of partners in the project.

Leveraging Regional Assets. What are the region's major industry/occupational clusters? Use these to help document your region's unique economic assets. How will the proposed investment leverage these assets? How will the proposed investment expand or enhance the clusters you have identified?

Planning. Does the proposed project support the vital programs, projects, and activities identified in the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) or other regional planning document?

Public-Private Partnerships:

What is the nature of any private sector engagement in the project? Have they provided letters of support, offered committed to provide matching share for the project or otherwise contribute financially, match contribution or been part of the leadership of this project? Does the project form part of a larger public initiative? If so, what is the nature/sources of other investments that are committed to the larger initiative?