Partnerships for Opportunity Workforce and Economic Revitalization (POWER) Implementation Grants

The United States is undergoing a rapid energy transformation, particularly in the power sector. This transformation is producing cleaner air and healthier communities, and spurring new jobs and industries. At the same time, it is impacting workers and communities who have relied on the coal industry as a source of good jobs and economic prosperity, particularly in Appalachia, where competition with other coal basins provides additional pressure.

To help these communities adapt to the changing energy landscape and build a better future, the President's FY 2016 Budget proposed the **POWER+ Plan**. The POWER+ Plan invests in workers and jobs, addresses important legacy costs in coal country, and drives development of coal technology.

This year, the Administration will make a down payment on the POWER+ Plan by beginning implementation of the Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization (POWER) Initiative. The Initiative is a coordinated effort, involving multiple federal agencies, with the goal of effectively aligning, leveraging and targeting a range of federal economic and workforce development programs and resources to assist communities negatively impacted by changes in the coal industry and power sector.

The POWER Initiative is awarding grants on two parallel tracks to partnerships anchored in impacted communities. The first track was announced on April 27th, 2015 by the Economic Development Administration (EDA) and will provide up to $3 million in planning grants to assist coal communities in developing comprehensive economic development strategic plans for their regions.

The second track, POWER Implementation Grants, were made available through a single Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO), announced on May 11th, 2015 These grants will provide up to $35.5 million in funding to help coal communities: (1) diversify their economies; (2) create jobs in new or existing industries; (3) attract new sources of job-creating investment; (4) and provide a range of workforce services and skills training, including work-based learning opportunities, resulting in industry-recognized credentials for high-quality, in-demand jobs.

Funding for the POWER Implementation Grants is provided through:

- The Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) – up to $12.5 million available to support economic development activities leading to job creation, expanded markets, economic growth, and global competitiveness.
- The Department of Labor, Employment & Training Administration (ETA) – up to $20 million available through a special National Dislocated Worker Grant offering called the POWER DWG to fund planning and implementation activities relating to training and reemployment of dislocated workers directly aligned with a regional or local economic development plan.
- The Small Business Administration (SBA) – up to $2.5 million available through SBA's Regional Innovation Clusters Program to strengthen regional cluster initiatives.
- The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) - up to $500,000 available for projects directed to fund activities addressing gaps or shortages in the Appalachian Region's industrial or entrepreneurial ecosystem.

EDA, ETA, SBA, and ARC will award implementation funds to regional partnerships that will assist communities impacted by coal mining and coal power plant employment loss (or layoffs in the manufacturing or transportation logistics supply chains of either) and that have strong strategic economic development plans in place. A number of other federal agencies that participate in the POWER Initiative will provide technical assistance, education and outreach to winning partnerships, as well as coordination

with existing resources, and/or preference points for agency funding for applications from the partnerships.

The deadline for receipt of applications for EDA, SBA and ARC funding is July 10, 2015. Applications for ETA funding will be accepted on a rolling basis. Partnerships are encouraged to apply for more than one funding source where appropriate.

For additional questions and information regarding the POWER initiative, please review the POWER FFO on Grants.gov (http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=276458) or visit the POWER website: http://www.eda.gov/power.