



U.S. Department of Commerce

2020

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION (EDA)

EDA'S CARES Act Recovery Assistance

The Economic Development Administration (EDA), an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce, provides grants that support economic development, foster job creation, and attract private investment throughout the United States. EDA is currently providing federal stimulus money through its **CARES Act Recovery Assistance** program to help communities and regions respond to, and recover from, the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. A total of \$1.5 billion is being made available nationally to support this effort and will be invested in a wide variety of projects and programs that not only help alleviate the severe economic dislocations brought on by the immediate crisis, but also assist localities in becoming stronger and more economically resilient over the long-term.

PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

The program is flexible and allows for a broad array of activities that will enable affected communities to respond to the impacts of COVID-19. Each application should explain how a proposed project addresses the needs caused by the pandemic.

Some examples of projects that may be funded through the program include:

- Constructing public works and facilities that will support economic recovery (e.g. business incubators, broadband, roads/water/sewer for business parks);
- Implementing entrepreneurial support programs to diversify economies (e.g. workforce training programs, fabrication laboratories);
- Economic recovery planning and preparation of technical strategies to address disruptions caused by the pandemic (e.g. project feasibility or market studies, economic development strategies);
- Preparing or updating resiliency plans to respond to future pandemics (e.g. strategic plans or components of other plans that address responses to pandemics).

GRANT AWARD DETAILS

EDA expects to fund at least 80% of project costs. Any portion of project costs not funded by EDA will need to be provided by the applicant or a third party.

In some cases, up to 100% funding by EDA may be available, depending on factors such as whether the applicant has exhausted its taxing or borrowing capacity, the extent of the regional impact of COVID-19, or the degree to which a community or region is economically distressed. Additionally, EDA may establish a maximum investment rate of up to 100% for Native American tribes.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications are competitive and will be accepted on a rolling basis. Funding for the program will be available until September 30, 2022, or until all funds have been allocated. Although there is no maximum or minimum grant amount, EDA often funds projects with total projects costs of \$1 million or higher.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Eligible applicants under the program include:

- Native American tribes
- State, county, city or other local governments
- Special purpose units of government engaged in economic development
- Universities and colleges
- Public or private nonprofit organizations working with a political subdivision of a State

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Note: *WCWRPC is an Economic Development District (EDD) of EDA. As part of its EDD designation, WCWRPC works in partnership with EDA to assist eligible applicants with grant applications.*