Maryland
Build Our Future Grant
Pilot Program

September 5, 2024

Legislation and Funding

- House Bill 552 – Innovation Economy Infrastructure Act of 2023

- Pilot Program: 4 fiscal years, through June 2027

- FY2024 – $9 million awarded to 11 projects

- FY2025 – $7 million available

- FY2026 & FY2027 – Funding subject to appropriation

Eligible Uses of Funds

- Grant funding for Innovation Infrastructure Projects intended to support innovation in an eligible technology sector

- Grant awards may be used to defray the cost to acquire, construct, rehabilitate, install, improve, or equip an eligible innovation infrastructure project

- Project examples: SCIF facilities; wet labs; cyber ranges; prototype manufacturing centers

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Eligible Technology Sectors

- Advanced manufacturing
- Aerospace
- Agriculture
- Artificial Intelligence
- Biotechnology
- Blue Technology
- Cybersecurity
- Defense
- Energy and Sustainability
- Life Sciences
- Quantum
- Sensors and Robotics

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Eligible Applicants

In the State of Maryland

- Private companies

  (includes publicly-held companies)

- Nonprofit entities

- Local governments

- Colleges and universities

  (includes affiliated foundations)

Colleges & Universities

- **Grants to colleges and universities from the fund are most likely to be awarded to projects that:**

  - **Are performed in collaboration with private industry; or**

  - **Offer the prospect of significant economic impact and the opportunity to develop entrepreneurship or clusters of technological innovation in the State**

Application Process

- **2 Step Process**

- **Phase 1**

  – **Open call for proposals**

  – **Due Friday, September 27**

- **Phase 2**

  – **Successful Phase 1 applicants notified – late October / early November**

  – **Phase 2 application – due late December**

  – **Successful applicants notified – January 2025**

- **Funds awarded – spring 2025**

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Multiple Applications

- Eligible applicants are permitted to submit more than one application in a fiscal year

- If submitting multiple projects for consideration, each project must be submitted in a separate application

- There is only one opportunity to submit applications in a fiscal year

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Matching Funds

- ## Grants up to $1 million
  - ### Grantee provides a match of at least 200% of the grant amount

- ## Grants over $1 million up to $2 million
  - ### Grantee provides match of at least 400% of the grant amount

- ## Grantee funds from other State grant programs cannot be counted towards the grantee's matching funds requirement

Limits on grant awards

- A single entity may not be awarded more than $2 million in grant funds in a fiscal year

- Not more than 50% of the appropriation ($7M) in a fiscal year may be awarded to colleges and universities in that fiscal year

Additional Guidance

- **Applicants should demonstrate that the project fills a gap or a strong need in the ecosystem for advancing innovation in a targeted technology sector**

- **Priority will be given to projects that have funds readily available and can be implemented quickly**

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Disbursement of Funds

- 50% of the grant funds will be delivered following the execution of a grant agreement with the Grantee

- The balance of funds will be reimbursed following the submission of documented expenditures by the Grantee and review by Commerce

Audits and Compliance – 1

- **Grantees are subject to random audit for compliance with the appropriate use of grant funds**

- **Grantees that do not comply with the intended purpose of a grant are subject to repayment of the grant in full**

Audits and Compliance – 2

- Within 2 years from the date of the grant agreement:

  - Grant funds must be expended
  - The project must be fully operational

- If a purchase or construction of a facility:

  - Grantee agrees to maintain ownership of and not sell the property for at least 3 years
  - Failure to maintain ownership shall constitute a material breach and default of the grant award

Reporting

- Grantees will be required to submit annual reports regarding progress on the project, including metrics of success specified in the grant agreement and the project's economic impact

- Grantees are encouraged to collect and report demographic characteristics of the primary contractors and/or vendors associated with construction of the project

Questions?

- **Please use the Chat function**

- **We will answer as many questions today as we can**

- **Going forward, please use the mailbox for any additional communications:**

  buildourfuture.commerce@maryland.gov

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MD Department of Commerce

- **Heather Gramm – Assistant Secretary, Business & Industry Sector Development**

- **Roger Venezia – Director of Operations & Special Projects**

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