



Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program

Program Overview

Program Intent

- The intent of the Maryland Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program is to support innovation in eligible technology sectors through grant funding for infrastructure projects that are impactful and transformative to the ecosystems of those sectors.

Eligible Applicants

- Grants may be awarded to the following entities in the State:
 - Private companies
 - Nonprofit entities
 - Local governments
 - Colleges and universities

Uses of funds

- Grant awards may be used to defray the cost a Grantee incurs to acquire, construct, rehabilitate, install, improve, or equip an eligible infrastructure project.
- Funds may not be used for indirect or “soft” costs, management fees or expenses, consulting fees, administrative fees, or salaries of the applicant.

Eligible Technology Sectors

An “Eligible Technology Sector” must be one of the 12 technology sectors referenced in the authorizing legislation:

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

Examples of projects

- Sensitive Compartmented Information Facilities
- Wet Laboratories
- Cyber Ranges
- Prototype Manufacturing Centers
- Other Specialized Workforce Training, Skill Certification, or Research-Related Spaces

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.

Funding Formulas

- A single entity may not be awarded more than \$2,000,000 in grant funds in a fiscal year.
 1. For a grant award up to \$1,000,000, a Grantee shall provide matching funds that are at least 200% of the grant amount.
 2. For a grant award exceeding \$1,000,000, and up to \$2,000,000, a Grantee shall provide matching funds that are at least 400% of the grant amount.
 3. Funds received by a Grantee through other State grant programs are not counted toward the Grantee's matching funds requirement.
- A Grantee must demonstrate an ability to cover the remaining estimated costs of the project for which the grant is awarded.
- Not more than 50% of the appropriation to the Fund in a fiscal year may be awarded to colleges and universities in that fiscal year.
- Grants to colleges and universities from the Fund will be awarded to projects that:
 1. Are performed in collaboration with private industry; or
 2. Offer the prospect of significant economic impact and the opportunity to develop entrepreneurship or clusters of technological innovation in the State.

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 will be only one opportunity to submit applications each fiscal year.

Application process

- There are no fees or costs to apply for a grant. However, please note that grants are taxable.
- Applications must be signed by an officer or someone with appropriate authority to commit matching funds should the application be approved.
 - For colleges and universities, this must be the president or his/her designee.
- The application process will be in two steps/phases:
 1. Phase 1 Application
 - A completed Phase 1 application must include an outline and narrative of the project, and describe how it qualifies and supports the goals and parameters of the program.
 - The application must include the location, size, and function of the project. It must identify the technology sector, describe how the project will support innovation in that sector, identify sources and uses of funds, and describe the transformational aspects of the project.
 - Incomplete submissions cannot be considered.
 - An informational webinar for potential applicants will be held on Thursday, October 19 at 11:00 a.m. EDT. Please see the website to register for the webinar.
 - Completed Phase 1 applications should be submitted to buildourfuture.commerce@maryland.gov.

- Due Date: Friday, November 17, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. EST.
- Successful applicants will be notified and invited to submit a Phase 2 application in early January.
- 2. Phase 2 Application
 - Phase 1 Applications that are approved for consideration will be invited to submit additional information, including but not limited to demonstrating the applicant's ability to provide matching funds for the project.
 - The Phase 2 application will be available at a later date.
 - Phase 2 applications will be due within 60 days after receiving the invitation to submit.
- Grant funds are expected to be awarded in late Spring 2024.

Phase 1 Application documents

- A completed Phase 1 Application as described above.
- IRS Form [W-9](#)
- Evidence of Good Standing with the State - Good Standing can be determined on the [Maryland Business Express website](#). A screenshot of the results will suffice; a formal Certificate of Status is not required.

Funding process

- Fifty percent of the grant funds will be delivered following the execution of a grant agreement with the Grantee.
- The balance will be reimbursed following the submission of documented expenditures by the Grantee and review by Commerce.

Audits and Compliance

- Grantees are subject to random audit for compliance with the intended purpose of the grant.
- Grantees that do not comply with the intended purpose of a grant are subject to repayment of the grant in full.
- Grant funds must be expended within two (2) years from the date the grant award is executed.
- The project must be fully operational within two (2) years from the date the grant award is executed.
- For grant awards that include the purchase or construction of a facility the Grantee agrees to maintain ownership of and not sell the subject property for at least three (3) years from the date the grant award is executed. Failure of the Grantee to maintain ownership of and not sell the Property for the required three (3) years shall constitute a material breach and default of the grant award.

Reporting

- Grantees will be required to submit annual reports to the Department of Commerce regarding progress on the Project, including metrics of success and economic impact. Annual reports must include financial expenditures and budget updates.
- Commerce encourages Grantees to collect and report demographic characteristics of the primary contractors and/or vendors associated with construction of the project.



Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program

Phase 1 Application

Project

1. Name of Project _____

Funding

2. Grant Funds Requested _____

3. Funds to be Provided by Applicant and Other Sources _____

4. Total Project Costs _____

Applicant

5. Applicant Full Legal Name _____

6. Address of Principal Place of Business _____

City _____ State _____ Postal Code _____

7. Federal Employer Identification Number _____

8. Type of Applicant (check one):

- Private Sector Company
- Non-Profit Entity
- Local Government
- College or University

9. Contact Person

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Suffix (Jr., III) _____

Title _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Postal Code _____

Telephone Number (with Area Code) _____

E-Mail Address _____

Signature* _____ Date _____

*Your typed name is your signature

A. Narrative - Brief Description of the Project. Include:

- **Project Site/Address**
- **Size of Proposed Innovation Infrastructure Facility**
- **Function of Proposed Innovation Infrastructure Facility**
- **Total Capital Investment**
- **Timeline/Date to Complete Proposed Innovation Infrastructure Facility**

B. Which eligible technology sector(s) does the project support?

C. Describe the transformational aspects of the project, and how the project will support innovation in the eligible technology sector.

D. Does the project fill a gap in the ecosystem for this technology sector?
If so, please explain.

E. Identify proposed sources and uses of funds for the project.

F. Describe how State funds will be critical to the project.

G. What does success look like?

When finished, save this file, and send it to buildourfuture.commerce@maryland.gov with the subject of "Build Our Future Grant application." Applications are due by 5:00 p.m. EST on November 17, 2023.