



Maryland Build Our Future Grant Pilot Program

August 21, 2025

Legislation and Funding

- **House Bill 552 – Innovation Economy Infrastructure Act of 2023**
- **Pilot Program:**
 - **4 fiscal years, through June 30, 2027**
- **FY2024 – 11 projects – \$9.0 million awarded**
- **FY2025 – 10 projects – \$6.95 million awarded**
- **FY2026 – Funded at \$7.0 million**
- **Competitive application process**

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**

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:**
 - 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**



Eligible Technology Sectors

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

Application Process

- **2 Step Process**
- **Phase 1**
 - **Open call for proposals**
 - **Due Friday, September 26 at 5:00 p.m.**
- **Phase 2**
 - **Successful Phase 1 applicants notified – early November**
 - **Phase 2 application – due late December**
 - **Successful applicants notified – early February 2026**
- **Funds awarded – spring 2026**

Multiple Applications

- **There is only one opportunity to submit applications in a fiscal year**
- **Eligible applicants are permitted to submit more than one Phase 1 application in a fiscal year**
- **If submitting multiple projects for consideration, each project must be submitted in a separate application**

Matching Funds

- **Grants up to \$1 million**
 - **Grantee provides a match of at least 200% of the grant amount being requested**
- **Grants over \$1 million up to \$2 million**
 - **Grantee provides match of at least 400% of the grant amount being requested**
- **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 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**

Disbursement of Funds

- **Grant Agreement**
- **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 a report and documented expenditures by the grantee and review by Commerce once the project has been completed**

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**

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**

Questions?

- **Please use the Q&A function**
- **We will answer as many questions today as we can**
- **Mailbox:**
 - **buildourfuture.commerce@maryland.gov**
- **Website:**
 - **<https://commerce.maryland.gov/fund/build-our-future-grant-program>**

MD Department of Commerce

Thank you!

- **Roger Venezia – Director of Operations & Special Projects**
- **Maryland Department of Commerce**
- **buildourfuture.commerce@maryland.gov**
- **<https://commerce.maryland.gov/fund/build-our-future-grant-program>**