



RECOMPETE PILOT PROGRAM FACT SHEET

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPAND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACROSS AMERICA



*Application
Deadline:
October 5, 2023*

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more information

As part of President Biden's Investing in America agenda, the Distressed Area Recompete Pilot Program (Recompete Pilot Program)—authorized by the CHIPS and Science Act—will invest \$200 million toward interventions that create, and connect workers to, good jobs in geographically diverse and persistently distressed communities across the country.

Applications for Phase 1 of the Recompete Pilot Program opened on June 29, 2023, and will close on October 5, 2023 at 11:59 pm ET. Please visit the Economic Development Administration (EDA) [website](#) for the full Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), application portal, eligibility map, and supporting materials.

UNDERSTANDING THE PROGRAM

The Recompete Pilot Program will support economic revitalization in distressed communities across the country. Specifically, this program targets areas where prime-age (25-54 years) employment significantly trails the national average, with the goal to close this gap through flexible, bottom-up strategy development and implementation investments.

EDA will deploy funding through a two-phase competition (detailed below). Phase 1 investments can be used for strategy development activities, while Phase 2 investments can support a wide range of implementation activities across workforce development, business and entrepreneur development, infrastructure, and additional planning, predevelopment, or technical assistance.

EQUITY AND ENGAGING UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES

Equity is EDA's top investment priority and embedded in the design of the Recompete Pilot Program. Funding will be provided exclusively to distressed communities, and within these areas applicants should demonstrate how benefits from the program are shared equitably across all affected populations. Applicants will also be asked to demonstrate how they are engaging underserved communities in the upcoming application and planning process.¹

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FUNDING LEVELS

The Recompete Pilot Program will provide funding through a two-phase competition.

Phase 1

In Phase 1, applicants can apply for (1) a Strategy Development Grant, (2) approval of a Recompete Plan, or (3) both. In Phase 1, EDA anticipates approximately \$6–12 million in Strategy Development grants, each between \$250,000 and \$500,000.² EDA also expects to approve at least 20 Recompete Plans.³

Phase 2

Only applicants with approved Recompete Plans from Phase 1 will be invited to apply for Phase 2. In Phase 2, applicants can apply for larger awards for implementation. EDA expects to make approximately 4–8 implementation investments with the remaining available funding, ranging from \$20–50 million each. In each region selected for implementation investments, awardees will receive funding to implement approximately 3–8 interrelated projects.

PROGRAM TIMELINE

The Phase 1 NOFO has a 3-month application window with a deadline to apply by October 5, 2023 at 11:59 pm ET. Announcement of Phase 1 winners and the release of the Phase 2 NOFO is expected this Winter, where applicants with approved Recompete Plans will be invited to submit a Phase 2 application.

EDA concluded a Request for Information (RFI) and Tribal Consultation in March 2023. Aggregated findings were published with the Phase 1 NOFO.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

As stated in the program's authorizing legislation, applicants to the Recompete Pilot Program must meet two eligibility criteria.

1. Eligible Recipient Type: Eligible applicants include: (i) a unit of local government; (ii) the District of Columbia; (iii) a territory of the United States; (iv) a Tribal government; (v) political subdivisions of a State or other entity, including a special-purpose entity engaged in economic development activities; (vi) a public entity or nonprofit organization, acting in cooperation with the officials of a political subdivision of a State or other entity described in (v); (vii) an economic development district; and (viii) a coalition of any of the above entities that serve or are contained within an eligible geographic area.

2. Eligible Area: Recompete Pilot Program investments must be located in one of two eligible area types, including meeting certain Prime-Age Employment Gap (PAEG) requirements. To support applicants in determining geographic eligibility, EDA, in partnership with Argonne National Laboratory, released the Recompete Eligibility Mapping Tool (Mapping Tool) in June 2023. Please [click here](#) to access the Mapping Tool, which includes a user-friendly map and instructional materials.

Both types of eligible areas are represented in the Mapping Tool. Please see [EDA's Recompete FAQs](#) for more information on the PAEG.

Note that in this competition, EDA is targeting geographies where a high PAEG exists because meaningful employment is not available and/or barriers keep people out of the workforce, not places where demographic trends lead to high PAEG (e.g., high numbers of financially secure early retirees or people pursuing higher education). Please see the NOFO for application evaluation criteria reflecting this prioritization.

If you have questions about program eligibility or using the Mapping Tool please contact your local [Economic Development Representative](#) or reach out to the program at Recompete@eda.gov.

The [Mapping Tool](#) includes the two types of eligible geographic areas, which are:

- **Local Labor Markets (LLMs):** a Metropolitan Statistical Area, a Micropolitan Statistical Area, a commuting zone, or Tribal lands in the United States and Puerto Rico. LLMs with a PAEG of at least 2.5% are eligible. For the purposes of this competition, all Tribal lands and Pacific Ocean Territories are considered eligible LLMs.
- **Local Communities (LCs):** an area served by a general-purpose unit of local government (e.g., county government, municipal government) that is located within, but does not fully cover, an ineligible LLM (as defined above) and either:
 - The entire area served by the unit of local government on average has a PAEG of at least 5% and a median annual household income of no more than \$75,000; or
 - A subset of the area served by the unit of local government has five or more contiguous Census tracts that each individually have a PAEG of at least 5% and median annual household income of no more than \$75,000. In this instance, the applicant's service area must be contained within the identified Census tracts.

WHAT SHOULD APPLICANTS DO TO APPLY?

1. Explore the [Mapping Tool](#) to find out if your community is potentially eligible for this Program. If you are a region that the Map does not indicate is eligible, applicants may submit data showing eligibility that EDA will verify during application review.
2. Read the [Notice of Funding Opportunity \(NOFO\)](#) and visit the EDA Recompete Pilot Program [website](#) to access additional supporting materials.
3. Sign up for EDA's communications to stay up to date on the latest Recompete news. If you have questions, please reach out to Recompete@eda.gov.