

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**Office of the Secretary****Announcement of Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO)**

AGENCY: Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA), Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: Federal Funding Opportunity Announcement.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a federal funding opportunity (FFO) to obtain funding from the Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA) for community planning assistance and economic diversification in response to reductions or cancellations in Department of Defense (DoD) acquisition spending. Assistance may be granted if the reduction has a direct and significant adverse effect on a community or its residents. This notice includes proposal submission requirements and instructions, and eligibility and selection criteria that will be used to evaluate proposals from eligible respondents. OEA grants to a state or local government may result from proposals submitted under this notice, subject to available appropriations.

DATES: Proposals will be considered on a continuing basis, subject to available appropriations, commencing on the date of publication of this notice. OEA will evaluate all proposals and provide a response to a respondent within 30 business days of OEA's receipt of a final, complete proposal.

ADDRESSES: *Email:* oea.ncr.OEA.mbx.ffo-submit@mail.mil. Include "Proposal for Defense Industry Community Adjustment Assistance" on the subject line of the message and request delivery/read confirmation to ensure receipt.

OEA will review all proposals for which receipt has been confirmed.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Michael Gilroy, DIA Program Co-Lead, OEA, at (703) 697-2081 or michael.p.gilroy3.civ@mail.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Federal Funding Opportunity Title: Community Economic Adjustment Assistance for Reductions in Defense Industry Employment.

Announcement Type: Federal Funding Opportunity.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 12.611.

I. Funding Opportunity Description

OEA is a DoD Field Activity authorized under 10 U.S.C. § 2391 to provide assistance to entities of state or local governments, including regional

governmental organizations, to plan and carry out community adjustment and economic diversification activities in response to the cancellation or termination of a Department of Defense contract; the failure to proceed with an approved major weapon system program; a publicly announced planned major reduction in DoD spending; or the closure or significantly reduced operations of a defense facility as the result of the merger, acquisition, or consolidation of the defense contractor operating a defense facility.

II. Award Information

OEA is accepting proposals for grant assistance to support communities or regions in organizing and planning local economic adjustment programs. Proposals will be evaluated by OEA staff in coordination with representatives from the U.S. Departments of Commerce and Labor, as well as other Federal agencies as invited by OEA, against the eligibility criteria provided in Section III of this notice and the selection criteria provided in Section V of this notice. OEA will invite eligible respondents that submit successful proposals to submit full e-grant applications for review. To receive a grant award, an eligible respondent must submit both a successful proposal and an acceptable grant application. The final amount of each award will be determined by OEA based upon a review of the proposal and grant application, as well as comments from other Federal agencies, and will be subject to availability of funds. Grants may pay for up to 90% of a project's total cost, with the respondent required to pay not less than 10% of the project's total cost through non-Federal funding as local match. OEA reserves the right to cancel an award for non-performance.

States may request assistance to enhance their capacity to assist adversely affected communities, businesses, and workers; support local adjustment and diversification initiatives; and stimulate cooperation between statewide and local adjustment and diversification efforts.

III. Eligibility Information

States, counties, municipalities, other political subdivisions of a State; special purpose units of a State or local government; and tribal nations are eligible for funding under this notice. If multiple sub-State jurisdictions respond to the same event, only one proposal will be considered. A proposal must respond to: A publicly announced planned major reduction in DoD spending; the closure or significantly reduced operations of a defense facility as the result of the merger, acquisition,

or consolidation of the defense contractor operating the defense facility; the cancellation or termination of a DoD contract; or the failure to proceed with an approved major weapon system program.

This DoD activity must result in the loss of: 2,500 or more employee positions, in the case of a Metropolitan Statistical Area; 1,000 or more employee positions, in the case of a labor market area outside of a Metropolitan Statistical Area; or one percent of the total number of civilian jobs in the local labor market for the impacted area. For the purposes of demonstrating eligibility, only direct (i.e., prime and supply chain) job loss may be counted, and respondents may document a cumulative job loss over the span of not more than three consecutive years (e.g., two years prior to proposal and one year forward). Induced job loss will *not* be considered as a factor in demonstrating eligibility. The respondent must also explain how this job loss will cause direct and significant adverse effects to the community or residents in the area.

Funding will be awarded to only one governmental entity on behalf of a region, so regional respondents should demonstrate a significant level of cooperation in their proposal.

A proposal from a State respondent must demonstrate how the proposed grant would support adversely affected communities, businesses and workers; support local adjustment and diversification initiatives or planning for such initiatives; and stimulate cooperation between statewide and local adjustment and diversification efforts. The proposal should also explain efforts to provide business planning and market exploration services to defense contractors and subcontractors seeking modernization or diversification assistance as well as any training, counseling, and placement services to dislocated armed forces and defense workers. Eligible proposals from respondents other than states must be designed to allow an affected region to: (1) Organize itself to represent and respond on behalf of affected communities, workers, and businesses; (2) plan local community and economic adjustment activities to assist affected communities, workers, and businesses; and (3) carry-out plans to effectively respond to the defense impacts and stabilize the local economy. Respondents must specifically demonstrate how the proposed project will replace lost jobs, improve the resiliency of affected defense manufacturers, and assist displaced workers in order to stabilize the local economy.

Eligible activities may include (but are not limited to): Staffing, operating, and administrative costs for an organization; outreach to businesses, workers, and other community interests; regional supply-chain mapping of defense-specific industry clusters; asset mapping to support a response; economic data collection and analysis to identify regional comparative advantages; preparation of diversification plans to lessen economic dependency on defense expenditures; facilitation of workforce adjustment and retraining efforts; provision of business planning and market exploration services for defense contractors and sub-contractors that seek modernization or diversification assistance; and, preliminary strategies and plans for the potential reuse or redevelopment of existing defense facilities.

Funds available under this program should not duplicate nor replicate activities otherwise eligible for/funded through other Federal programs. Respondents are encouraged to submit proposals that demonstrate appropriate leverage of all public and private resources and programs, such as:

- U.S. Department of Commerce's Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) Program for provision of relevant assistance to the region's manufacturers that operate as part of affected Defense supply chains;
- State, regional, and local economic development organizations which often work with the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA);
- Small Business Development Centers as well as local Small Business Administration District offices; and
- U.S. Department of Labor's (DOL) Employment and Training Administration (ETA) grantees, including local Workforce Investment Boards and/or American Job Centers.

Funds provided under this program may not be used to directly identify or assist a business, including a business expansion, in the relocation of a plant, facility, or operation from one Labor Market Area (LMA) to another if the relocation is likely to result in the loss of jobs in the LMA from which the relocation occurs.

IV. Application and Submission Information

Proposals will be accepted as received on a continuing basis commencing on the date of this publication and processed when deemed to be a final, complete proposal. Each proposal shall consist of no more than ten (10) single-

sided pages exclusive of cover sheet and/or transmittal letter, and must include the following information:

A. *Point of Contact*: Name, phone number, email address, and organization address of the respondent's primary point of contact;

B. *Defense Action/Impact*: A description of the publicly announced planned major reduction in Department of Defense (DoD) spending; the closure or significantly reduced operations of a defense facility as the result of the merger, acquisition, or consolidation of the defense contractor operating the defense facility; the cancellation or termination of a DoD contract; or the failure to proceed with an approved major weapon system program. Also include documentation of the known or anticipated job loss; the average unemployment rate over the past year; the current unemployment rate; and other factors indicating community impact and need;

C. *Project Description*: A description of the proposed project, including how the project addresses the impacts of Defense actions on communities, workers, and businesses, how the project will capitalize on existing strengths (e.g. infrastructure, institutions, capital, etc.) within the affected area, and how the project would be integrated with existing/ongoing economic development efforts;

D. *Project Parties*: A description of the local partner organizations/jurisdictions, and their roles and responsibilities, that will carry out the proposed project, including letters of support as attachments which will *not* count against the ten-page limit;

E. *Grant Funds and Other Sources of Funds*: A summary of local needs, including need for Federal funding; an overview of all State and local funding sources, including the funds requested under this notice; financial commitments for other Federal and non-Federal funds needed to undertake the project to include acknowledgment to provide not less than 10% of the funding from non-Federal sources; a description of any other Federal funding for which the respondent has applied, or intends to apply to support this effort; and, a statement detailing how the proposal is not duplicative of other available Federal funding;

F. *Project Schedule*: A sufficiently detailed project schedule, including milestones;

G. *Performance Metrics*: A description of metrics to be tracked and evaluated over the course of the project to gauge performance of the project;

H. *Grants Management*: Evidence of the intended recipient's ability and authority to manage grant funds;

I. *Submitting Official*: Documentation that the Submitting Official is authorized by the respondent to submit a proposal and subsequently apply for assistance.

OEA reserves the right to ask any respondent to supplement the information in its proposal, but expects proposals to be complete upon submission. To the extent practicable, OEA encourages respondents to provide data and evidence of all project merits in a form that is publicly available and verifiable.

Proposals must be submitted electronically to: Director, OEA, using the electronic address described in **ADDRESSES**.

V. Application Review Information

Selection Criteria—Upon validating respondent eligibility, to include job loss numbers and whether there is a direct and significant adverse impact as a result of the job loss on the area, OEA will consider each of the following equally-balanced factors as a basis to invite formal grant applications:

- An appropriate and clear project design to address the need, problem, or issue identified;
- Evidence of an holistic approach to the problem which leverages education, the workforce system, businesses, higher education, economic development, and other relevant assets at local, state, regional, and Federal levels;
- The innovative quality of the proposed approach to economic adjustment, or economic diversification; and,
- A reasonable proposed budget with local match commitment and schedule for completion of the work program specified.

Review and Selection Process—All proposals will be reviewed on their individual merit by a panel of OEA staff, all of whom are Federal employees. OEA will also seek the input of other Federal agencies with relevant expertise (e.g., Labor, Commerce, and the Small Business Administration) in the evaluation of proposals. OEA will notify the respondent within thirty (30) days of receipt of a proposal whether their proposal was successful and will then invite the respondent to submit a more detailed electronic grant (eGrant) application, and assign a Project Manager to advise and assist successful respondents in the preparation of the application. Grant applications will be reviewed for their completeness and accuracy and a grant award notification

will be issued, to the extent possible, within seven (7) business days from its receipt.

Unsuccessful respondents will be notified that their proposal was not selected for further action and funding, and may request a debriefing on their submitted proposal. Requests for debriefing must be submitted within 3 calendar days of notification of an unsuccessful proposal.

OEA is committed to conducting a transparent financial assistance award process and publicizing information about decisions. Respondents are advised that their respective applications and information related to their review and evaluation may be shared publicly. In the event of a grant award, information about project progress and related results may also be made publicly available.

VI. Award Administration Information

In the event a grant is awarded, the successful respondent (Grantee) will receive a notice of award in the form of a Grant Agreement, signed by the Director, OEA (Grantor), on behalf of the Department of Defense. The Grant Agreement will be transmitted electronically or, if necessary, by U.S. Mail.

Administrative and National Policy Requirements—Any grant awarded under this program will be governed by the provisions of the OMB circulars applicable to financial assistance and DoD's implementing regulations in place at the time of the award. A Grantee receiving funds under this opportunity and any consultant/contractor operating under the terms of a grant shall comply with all Federal, State, and local laws applicable to its activities. Current requirements that may apply include the following:

- Administrative requirements in:
 - 32 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) part 33, "Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments"; or
 - 32 CFR part 32, "Administrative Requirements for Grants and Agreements with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and Other Non-Profit Organizations";
- Provisions governing allowable costs in:
 - OMB Circular A-87, "Cost Principles for State, Local, and Indian Tribal Governments";
 - OMB Circular A-21, "Cost Principles for Educational Institutions"; or
 - OMB Circular A-122, "Cost Principles for Non-Profit Organizations";

- 31 U.S.C. 7502(h), "The Single Audit Act," as implemented in OMB Circular A-133, "Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations";
- 2 CFR part 180, "OMB Guidelines to Agencies on Government-wide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement)," as implemented by DoD in 2 CFR part 1125, "Department of Defense Nonprocurement Debarment and Suspension";
- 32 CFR part 26, "Government-wide Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace (Financial Assistance)," including subpart B, "Requirements for Recipients Other Than Individuals";
- 32 CFR part 28, "New Restrictions on Lobbying";
- 2 CFR part 25, "Universal Identifier and Central Contractor Registration" (now found in the System for Award Management (SAM) at www.sam.gov).

Awards (including supplemental awards) made after December 26, 2014 may reflect revisions in accordance with DoD implementation of new OMB guidance in 2 CFR part 200, "Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards".

Grant Award Determination—Selection of an organization under this FFO does not constitute approval of a grant for the proposed project as submitted. Before any funds are awarded, OEA may enter into negotiations about such items as program components, staffing and funding levels, and administrative systems in place to support implementation of the award. The amount of available funding may require the final award amount to be less than that originally requested by the respondent. If the negotiations do not result in a mutually acceptable submission, OEA reserves the right to terminate the negotiations and decline to fund an application. OEA further reserves the right not to fund any application received under this FFO.

In the event the respondent is awarded a grant that is less than the amount requested, the respondent will be required to modify its grant application to conform to the reduced amount before execution of the grant agreement. OEA reserves the right to reduce or withdraw the award if acceptable modifications are not submitted by the awardee within 15 working days from the date the request for modification is made. Any modifications must be within the scope of the original application.

Reporting—OEA requires quarterly performance reports, an interim financial report for each 12 months a grant is active, and one final performance report for any grant. The performance reports will contain information on the following:

- A comparison of actual accomplishments to the objectives established for the period;
- Reasons for slippage if established objectives were not met;
- Additional pertinent information when appropriate;
- A comparison of actual and projected quarterly expenditures in the grant; and,
- Amount of Federal cash on hand at the beginning and end of the reporting period.

The final performance report must contain a summary of activities for the entire grant period. All required deliverables should be submitted with the final performance report. The final SF 425, "Federal Financial Report," must be submitted to OEA within 90 days after the end of the grant. Any grant funds actually advanced and not needed for grant purposes shall be returned immediately to OEA. Upon award, OEA will provide a schedule for reporting periods and report due dates in the Grant Agreement.

VII. Agency Contacts

For further information, to answer questions, or for help with problems, contact: Mr. Michael Gilroy, OEA DIA Program Co-Lead, at (703) 697-2081, michael.p.gilroy3.civ@mail.mil, or regular mail at 2231 Crystal Drive, Suite 520, Arlington, VA 22202-3711. The OEA homepage address is: <http://www.oea.gov>.

VIII. Other Information

No Obligation for Future Funding—Amendment or renewal of an award to increase funding or to extend the period of performance is at the discretion of OEA. If a respondent is awarded funding under this FFO, neither the DOC, EDA, National Institute of Standards and Technology, DOL, ETA, nor Small Business Administration are under any obligation to provide any additional future funding in connection with that award or to make any future award(s).

Intellectual Property Rights—In the event of a grant award, the Grantee may copyright any work that is subject to copyright and was developed, or for which ownership was purchased, under an award. The Federal awarding agencies reserve a royalty-free, nonexclusive and irrevocable right to reproduce, publish, or otherwise use the

work for Federal purposes, and to authorize others to do so. Such uses include, but are not limited to, the right to modify and distribute such products worldwide by any means, electronically or otherwise. The grantee may not use Federal funds to pay any royalty or license fee for use of a copyrighted work, or the cost of acquiring by purchase a copyright in a work, where the Department has a license or rights of free use in such work. If revenues are generated through selling products developed with grant funds, including intellectual property, these revenues are program income and shall be added to the grant and must be expended for allowable grant activities.

Dated: May 15, 2014.

Aaron Siegel,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Proposed Waiver and Extension of the Project Period for the Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy Program

AGENCY: Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Education.

ACTION: Proposed waiver and extension of the project period.

SUMMARY: For the Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy program, the Secretary proposes to: (1) Waive the restriction against project period extensions involving the obligation of additional Federal funds; and (2) extend the project period for a grantee that only requested three out of a possible five years of funding. The Secretary proposes this action because additional funds are available from the fiscal year (FY) 2014 appropriation to support this extension and we believe that it would be in the public interest to support continued funding of the affected project. This proposed extension would support the affected grantee in its efforts to fully implement its State Literacy Plan, as well as to continue its sustainability efforts and program activities.

DATES: We must receive your comments on or before June 19, 2014.

ADDRESSES: Address all comments about this proposed waiver and extension of the project period to Rosemary Fennell, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW., Room 3E228, Washington, DC 20202-6200.

If you prefer to send your comments by email, use the following address: rosemary.fennell@ed.gov. You must include the phrase "Proposed waiver and extension of the project period" in the subject line of your message.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rosemary Fennell by telephone at (202) 401-2425 or by email at: rosemary.fennell@ed.gov.

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) or a text telephone (TTY), call the Federal Relay Service (FRS), toll free, at 1-800-877-8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Invitation to Comment: We invite you to submit comments regarding this proposed waiver and extension of the project period.

During and after the comment period, you may inspect all public comments about this proposed waiver and extension in Room 3E228, 400 Maryland Avenue SW., Washington, DC, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Washington, DC time, Monday through Friday of each week except Federal holidays.

Assistance to Individuals With Disabilities in Reviewing the Rulemaking Record: On request we will provide an appropriate accommodation or auxiliary aid to an individual with a disability who needs assistance to review the comments or other documents in the public rulemaking record for this proposed waiver and extension. If you want to schedule an appointment for this type of accommodation or auxiliary aid, please contact the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**.

Background

In FY 2010, Congress appropriated \$200 million to support establishment of a comprehensive literacy development and education program through the Consolidated Appropriations Act (Pub. L. 111-117, "the Act") under section 1502 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended (ESEA). The purpose of the Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy grant program (SRCL) is to advance literacy skills—including pre-literacy skills, reading, and writing—for students from birth through grade 12, including limited-English-proficient students and students with disabilities. Section 1502 of the ESEA provides the authority for demonstration programs, like SRCL, that show promise of enabling children to meet challenging academic content and achievement standards. SRCL funds are awarded through multiple funding

streams—formula grants, discretionary grants and set-aside—for the common purpose of advancing literacy skills. The FY 2010 formula grant program awarded \$10 million to 46 States, the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico to assist States in creating or maintaining a State Literacy Team of at least nine members with expertise in literacy development and education for children from birth through grade 12 to assist the State in developing a comprehensive literacy plan.

FY 2010 funds also were distributed through a discretionary grant competition conducted in FY 2011 to six State educational agencies (SEAs), and through set aside grants to the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) and four Outlying Areas—American Samoa, Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Virgin Islands. The U.S. Department of Education (the Department) announced this discretionary grant competition in a notice inviting applications that was published in the **Federal Register** on March 10, 2011 (76 FR 13143) (March 2011 NIA). The purpose of the discretionary grants to SEAs and the set asides to BIE and the Outlying Areas is to encourage these entities to take a comprehensive approach to literacy that includes pre-literacy, reading, and writing skills for all students—including disadvantaged students, limited-English proficient students, and students with disabilities—from birth to grade 12.

The grants awarded under the FY 2011 competition were for a project period of up to five years. The Department indicated in the March 2011 NIA that it planned to make continuation awards in accordance with section 75.253 of the Education Department's General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) (34 CFR 75.253), depending on the availability of funds.

Five of the six SEA grantees funded under the FY 2011 grant competition submitted a budget for all five years of the grant period. One grantee, the Montana Department of Education, submitted a budget request for only three years, believing that it could request funding for years 4 and 5 after receiving a grant award. On March 25, 2014, the Montana Department of Education, Office of Public Instruction requested to extend its project period for an additional two years.

The Secretary proposes to waive the requirement of 34 CFR 75.261(a) and (c)(2) of EDGAR that generally prohibits project period extensions involving the obligation of additional Federal funds. The Secretary also proposes to extend the current Montana SRCL project period for an additional 24 months. This