

(2) Redistribution in the form of loans, loan guarantees or other appropriate assistance may be to public or private entities.

§ 308.3 Eligible applicants.

Eligible applicants within areas meeting the EDA eligibility criteria described below include:

- (a) A redevelopment area or economic development district established under Title IV of the Act;
- (b) An American Indian tribe;
- (c) A State;
- (d) A city or other political subdivision of a state;
- (e) A consortium of such political subdivisions;
- (f) A Community Development Corporation;
- (g) A non-profit organization determined by EDA to represent the interests of a redevelopment area(s) or economic development districts with respect to the objectives of the Economic Adjustment program; and
- (h) The Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

§ 308.4 Eligible areas.

(a) *General.* The area(s) to be assisted by the applicant must be eligible on the basis of the criteria described below for establishing that it is experiencing either Long-Term Economic Deterioration (LTED) or a Sudden and Severe Economic Dislocation (SSED) or a Special Need.

(b) *LTED.* The area must be experiencing at least one of three economic problems:

- (1) Very high unemployment;
- (2) Low per capita income; or
- (3) Chronic distress (i.e., failure to keep pace with national economic growth trends over the last 5 years). Priority consideration will be given to those areas with two or more of these indicators. Eligibility is generally determined statistically. Further information is available from EDA's regional offices and EDRs (see § 300.4 of this chapter).

(c) *SSED.* The area must show actual or threatened permanent job losses that exceed the following threshold criteria:

(1) For areas not in Metropolitan Statistical Areas:

(i) If the unemployment rate of the Labor Market Area exceeds the national average, the dislocation must amount to the lesser of 2 percent of the employed population, or 500 direct jobs; and

(ii) If the unemployment rate of the Labor Market Area is equal to or less than the national average, the dislocation must amount to the lesser of 4 percent of the employed population, or 1,000 direct jobs.

(2) For areas within Metropolitan Statistical Areas:

(i) If the unemployment rate of the Metropolitan Statistical Area exceeds the national average, the dislocation must amount to the lesser of 0.5 percent of the employed population, or 4,000 direct jobs; and

(ii) If the unemployment rate of the Metropolitan Statistical Area is equal to or less than the national average, the dislocation must amount to the lesser of 1 percent of the employed population or 8,000 direct jobs.

(3) In addition, 50 percent of the job loss threshold must result from the action of a single employer, or 80 percent of the job loss threshold must occur in a single standard industry classification (i.e., two digit SIC code).

(4) Actual dislocations must have occurred within one year and threatened dislocations must be anticipated to occur within 2 years of the date EDA is contacted.

(5) In the case of a Presidentially declared disaster, the area eligibility criteria findings are waived.

(d) *Special need.* An area must be determined by EDA to require assistance for another kind of economic adjustment problem or problems.

§ 308.5 Selection process.

(a) Projects will be selected in accordance with § 304.1 of this chapter.

(b) Applicants for funding of a Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) are generally required to submit a RLF Plan in addition to the adjustment strategy for the area. Guidelines on RLFs are available

from the Regional Offices. See the annual FY NOFA for the appropriate point of contact and address.

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§ 308.6 Evaluation factors.

(a) *General.* EDA will use the evaluation criteria set forth in part 304 of this chapter. To the extent practicable, EDA will use the evaluation factors set out in this section in the selection process:

(b) *Strategy grants.* EDA will review strategy grant applications to determine whether:

(1) The applicant organization has the necessary authority, mandate and capacity to lead and manage the planning process and implementation of the resulting strategy;

(2) The planning process provides for the representation of public and private sector entities with a contribution to make to the development of the strategy and/or on which accomplishment of the strategic objectives will depend. These entities include public program and service providers, trade and business associations, educational and research institutions, and community development corporations, etc.; and

(3) The proposed scope of work focuses on the specific economic problems to be addressed and provides for undertaking the appropriate research and analysis needed to formulate a realistic, market-based, adjustment strategy.

(c) *Implementation grants.* EDA will review implementation grant applications to determine whether:

(1) Strategies have been completed; provided however, that EDA may in some instances, consider funding a project prior to completion of the strategy/plan, if:

(i) An appropriate community planning process is underway;

(ii) Sufficient analysis has been done to show that the proposed project is economically viable and potentially consistent with the evolving strategy; and

(iii) The proposed project has the support of the community.

(2) Activities or projects proposed for funding are generally identifiable as

integral and priority elements within an adjustment strategy for the eligible area(s) prepared or updated within the preceding 2 years;

(3) The strategy addresses the following:

(i) An appropriately designed and conducted planning process;

(ii) An understanding of the economic problems being addressed;

(iii) An analysis of the industry sectors and the firms within them that comprise the area's economic base, and of the particular strengths and weaknesses of the area that contribute to, or detract from, its current and potential economic competitiveness;

(iv) Strategic objectives that flow from the economic analysis and conclusions and focus on stimulating investment in new and/or expanding economic activities that offer the best prospects for revitalization and growth;

(v) Appropriate and necessary resources in the area and elsewhere which have been identified and are/will be coordinated to support implementation of the strategy; and

(vi) The performance measures which the applicant will use to assess progress toward accomplishing its strategic objectives.

(4) All individual activities or projects proposed for funding are consistent with one or more of the Economic Adjustment Program objectives stated in § 308.1.

(d) *Revolving Loan Fund grants.* For implementation grants proposing to capitalize or recapitalize a Revolving Loan Fund (RLF), EDA will also review how the application discusses:

(1) The need for a new or expanded public financing tool to complement other business assistance programs and services available to firms and/or would-be entrepreneurs in industry sectors and/or locations targeted by the adjustment strategy;

(2) The types of financing activities anticipated; and

(3) The prospective capacity of the RLF's organization to work effectively with the business community and other financing providers, to function as an integral part of the overall economic adjustment effort and to manage the lending function.