

Mass Workforce Issuance

Workforce Issuance No. 13-66

Policy Information

To: Chief Elected Officials
Workforce Investment Board Chairs
Workforce Investment Board Directors
Title I Administrators
Career Center Directors
Title I Fiscal Officers
DCS Operations Managers

cc: WIA State Partners

From: Alice Sweeney, Director
Department of Career Services

Date: December 17, 2013

Subject: **Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP) Application**

Purpose: To notify Local Workforce Investment Boards, One-Stop Career Center Directors and other local workforce investment partners that the [Economic Development Administration is calling for applications](#) for regions to compete to be designated as one of up to 12 “manufacturing communities”. The Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP) will foster an integrated, comprehensive approach to economic development throughout the country – encouraging local leaders to think even more strategically about how to align all of their efforts to attract investment and support burgeoning industries and is a critical component of the Department’s “Open for Business Agenda,” which prioritizes trade and investment. **The application deadline is March 14, 2014.**

Background: The IMCP is designed to reward communities that demonstrate best practices in attracting and expanding manufacturing using long-term planning that integrates targeted investments in workforce training, infrastructure, research, and other key assets.

In order to earn the designation, communities must present strategies that identify technologies or industries in which their communities would be competitive in the future and would make investments, such as:

- Workforce and training
- Advanced research
- Infrastructure and site development

- Supply chain support
- Export promotion
- Capital access

Regions are invited to apply as a consortium that includes at least one of the following:

- Regional economic development district organization
- Indian tribe
- State, county, city or local government engaged in economic infrastructure development activities
- Institutions of higher education
- Public or private non-profit organizations or associations acting in cooperation with local government officials

Designated communities will have an array of benefits, including:

- Elevated consideration for federal dollars and assistance across 10 cabinet departments/agencies, totaling \$1.3 billion
- A dedicated federal liaison at each of these agencies who can act as their concierge to the specific services they need
- Subject to funding availability, challenge grants may become available to some awardees from the pool of designated manufacturing communities from EDA and other agencies
- Recognition on a government website, accessible to prospective private foreign and domestic investors, looking for information on communities' competitive attributes

Inquiries: Questions should be directed to Diane Hurley at 617-626-5701 or dhurley@detma.org.