

**[The grant language] suggests an application try to focus on "as many as possible" of the different categories. If an applicant and its partners can do one area quite well but not others does it still make sense to apply?**

Application language has been updated to say “These solutions *can* incorporate and support as many as possible of the attraction and retention focus areas listed below.” There is value in focusing on one or two areas really well and the depth of focus in a particular areas will be helpful to understand in the proposal.

**The application feels like it's workforce focused. Does workforce need to be a focus in order to be successful?**

This grant funding is not intended for workforce agencies unless they are serving the role of talent attraction and retention for their region; eligible applicants must be a local or regional economic development organization or a SmartZone.

**Assuming a successful application, would the funding awarded be provided up front or is it a reimbursement model?**

The funding would be provided as an up-front disbursement or an initial disbursement with additional disbursements at certain benchmarks, depending on the structure of the proposal. Payment structure will be finalized with awardee during contract execution. This funding is not intended to be made as a reimbursement.

**Do eligible applicants include local governments?**

Eligible applicants must be a local or regional economic development organization or an MEDC-designated SmartZone. A local government’s economic development agency would qualify based on the eligibility language.

**I noticed that the program information states grantees must implement partnerships, and partnerships may include collaboration with other local and regional economic development organizations, 2-year and 4-year higher education institutions, Michigan Works! agencies, and local nonprofit organizations. Are these partner entities themselves also applicants?**

There should only be one application submitted by a lead applicant on behalf of a partners group working on a region’s proposal.

**Can we partner with an EDO from a neighboring region?**

Where appropriate applicants can work with partners across prosperity regions, but please include in the proposal value of partnerships across regional delineations.

**Are there any limitations on the type(s) of entities that are eligible to apply, or may any type of entity apply (i.e., higher education institutions, schools, nonprofit organizations, state/local government entities, private sector entities, tribes, tribal organizations)?**

Eligible applicants must be a local or regional economic development organization or an MEDC-designated SmartZone.

**For organizations that cover more than one prosperity region, are we able to partner on two applications, one in each region? If so, are there any limitations on that arrangement, like we can't be the lead applicant on an application?**

There is no restriction for an organization participating in more than one application across prosperity regions or a single application covering territory across more than one prosperity region. The application language does not restrict a single organization submitting two separate applications; however, the proposal language for both should show clarity in distinguishing between the two should a single organization be the lead applicant/partner in both.

**What are the size of the grants to be awarded?**

The size of grant ask is not restricted; however, the funding available is \$500,000 for the program.

**How many grants will be awarded?**

We do not have a specific number of awards planned for; awards will be dependent on proposal asks.

**When will awards be made?**

Award notifications are anticipated to be made by September 30, 2025.