

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

VAP3 Grantee Resource Series

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“Funding Opportunities with the U.S Department of Commerce”

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Are noncitizens eligible to apply for these funding opportunities?

So no, we don't, we don't fund private individuals. Regardless of citizenship status, but I will go through, and eligible entities it may work just depending on if they're a part of an eligible entity to be able to be supported through some of our funds.

You mentioned having a letter from one of these entities if you're in that area. Is obtaining that letter difficult? Or what is that process?

No it's usually not difficult, because I work with these groups' day to day, so it's a normal process for them. So, if you're not familiar with the PDC's, I'm always happy to do an introductory email just to explain the project to the PDC and request that letter at that time, but this is something they do throughout the year. So, it's usually not an issue to send an email and just say hey, I'm working on this EDA project, I'd love to talk to you about it and get a letter of support for the applications file.

Also, is there a place online where may hold all of the information or who they need to contact with in these areas or do they do we just do a Google search?

Yeah, so for contact information on the PDCs there is the Virginia Association of Planning district commissions, and their website has a PDC directory. That directory will give you their emails and phone numbers.

What is the average award amount for EDA projects?

Yeah, so if it's construction, the range is 600,000 to 3 million. I would say average is usually closer to 1.9. For construction projects and then non construction, \$100,000 to \$600,000. However, sometimes we go below that if it's a smaller study that really an organization needs to start as a base for their next their next step. Or over that if it's an equipment, a lot of times with equipment purchases it can go over that \$600,000 mark.

And when you say equipment purchases, what does that kind of look like?

Yeah, so, for in one case, we, actually purchased welding training equipment for community college because they had a huge need for welders in their region. In another case, we are purchasing medical equipment to do medical training at the community college as well. So, kind of across the board, but I mean going more towards your comments. We can do programmatic assistance to workforce development programs.

Is the grant for building or for renovation only?

Either, or, so we can build a new construction. Of course, it would have to be publicly owned but we could also renovate space.

Are there any additional examples you can provide us? Given the scope of your grant and also the scope of our partners.

They are our partners, are their services and resources fall under the social determinants of health. And we know that one of those areas is economic development.

Our students need more help, so we need more PS hired or we need help in the sense of so that we can provide our students with more resources. Do we have funding opportunities in that direction?

Yeah, so good question. So, we could potentially fund creation of an additional academic pathway. So, we've worked with VSU, Bright Point Community College to establish some new majors, degree programs certifications within the advanced pharmaceutical manufacturing space. So that's something we could talk about and like I said with any type of training or those academic programs it's about showcasing the need for that particular set of skills within your region or at your university.

What projects do you fund that can be non-building?

So, we're non construction projects that typically funded through economic adjustment assistance and usually what I'm seeing is what I keep mentioning in equipment, but that's been a big one. So, equipment purchases but then any industry sector studies like what Southwest Virginia is doing is really trying to figure out what they need to focus on going forward and past the coal industry. So, industry sector studies we've done site location studies. We did one of those in Southwest Virginia, site location for their Southwest Virginia Energy Park. Which incorporates research, development for energy, the energy sector above and beyond the coal. And then feasibility studies. As well. And really a variety, resiliency studies, if you feel like your community needs to focus on resiliency, whether that's economic or from future disasters. That's something we could talk about too. Those are just some that came to mind. And with the matching requirement you know so it has to be at least you know one to one so \$1 match for every dollar, but it can go above and beyond as well. You know, oftentimes,

you know, our funding is a small piece of a larger project. So those, matching contributions are fairly, you know, easy to find. When it comes to our rapid grants that don't require that we could cover the full cost of a program that's within that \$5,000 range.