

Grant Scoring Criteria

Economic Impact – 35%

1. Project application outlines the expected return on investment of the proposed project and the timeline for achieving that return.
2. Project application demonstrates the proposed project's alignment with and how it will address the prioritized needs and opportunities of the growth and diversification plan.
3. Grant requests that have a larger impact with regard to the creation of higher paying jobs and economic diversification, based on a return on investment model, in a smaller economic region shall receive higher scores.
4. Project outlines both behavioral as well as anticipated tangible results that will come from the collaboration.

Regional Collaboration – 30%

1. The number and percentage of localities within the region that are participating in the proposed project and the portion of the region's population represented by the participating localities.
2. Participation of localities or regions (including interstate collaborations) that are outside the applying region.
3. Cost efficiencies, repurposing of existing funds, leveraging of existing assets, or other evidence of collaboration that can be demonstrated as a result of the proposed project.
4. The amount of involvement in the project by businesses, colleges and universities, and other public and private entities within the region in the conceptualization of and the implementation of the project.
5. The amount, timing, and form of the proposed project match that outlines the depth of the commitment by the public and private funding partners to the effort.
6. Inventory existing grant requests or programs with similar goals to ensure the proposed project is not duplicative of, but additive to, other efforts to support economic diversification and the creation of higher paying jobs.

Project Readiness – 20%

1. Project application demonstrates that the project partners have the capability to successfully execute the project.
2. Project application demonstrates that the regional council has consulted with subject matter experts regarding the efficacy and viability of the proposal.
3. Project application outlines how the project may be coordinated with existing efforts in the region.
4. Project application fully analyzes the barriers to successful implementation and other associated risks along with a plan to overcome them.
5. Project application reviews any prerequisite activities undertaken by the collaborating parties to increase efficiency with regard to program delivery and to ensure a deeper and consistent level of support for the project once launched.



6. Project application demonstrates the project partners, including the lead public or private administering entity, have sufficient financial management and personnel to ensure compliance with the grant agreement.

Project Sustainability – 15%

1. Plan for how a project will be sustained after grant funds are exhausted.
2. Demonstrated ability to meet the project performance metrics and to take remedial actions in the event those measures are not achieved.
3. Demonstrate leverage above the required amounts from any source.