



Defense Manufacturing Community Support Program Overview

OVERVIEW

The Defense Manufacturing Community Support Program is designed to support long-term community investments that strengthen national security innovation and expand the capabilities of the defense industrial ecosystem.

The Defense Manufacturing Community Support Program is authorized under Section 846 of the Fiscal Year 2019 National Defense Authorization Act. This program was developed in coordination with the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Industrial Base Policy (formerly known as Assistant Secretary of Defense for Industrial Policy) and the Under Secretary of Defense, Research and Engineering.

The Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation manages this program on behalf of the Department of Defense. A total of \$50 million has been allocated (\$25 million in each of the previous two fiscal years) to 11 Defense Manufacturing Communities to assist over 1,350 defense businesses and 29,000 workers. This program currently assists:

- more than 1,000 small and medium size companies to receive guidance on entering the defense sector;
- development of 11 new defense technologies/products;
- improvement of 23 defense technologies/products; and
- enhancement of cybersecurity capabilities of 397 companies.

These projects have reportedly created over 400 defense jobs and retained more than 1,400 jobs.

The funding and technical expertise provided through the program will enhance a region's ability to narrow gaps and address needs in defense manufacturing in the following areas:

- critical skills
- facilities
- research and development
- small business support

To qualify for funding through the Defense Manufacturing Community Support Program, communities should demonstrate best practices in attracting and expanding defense manufacturing by bringing together key local stakeholders and using long-term planning that integrates targeted public and private investments.

The Defense Manufacturing Community Support Program competition is a two step process. First, regional manufacturing consortia compete to receive designation as a Defense Manufacturing Community. Second, the most competitive Defense Manufacturing Communities are invited to submit a grant application for funding.

ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION PROCESS

For this program, a consortium must be the applicant. A consortium can be comprised of the following organizations and various combinations of the following:

- academia
- defense industry
- defense industry and association-led organizations
- non-profit organizations
- state and local government organizations
- any combination of the above

Additionally, the consortium must demonstrate regional collaboration capabilities and technological and/or industrial base supply chains that are determined to be critical to national security.

Proposals should be submitted by a Lead Organization on behalf of the regional manufacturing consortium. Lead Organizations can be state, local or tribal government, non-profit or private-non-profit institutions.

Step 1: Defense Manufacturing Community Designation

Proposals will be evaluated according to the eligibility criteria listed within the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) in [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov), which includes:

- Identification of geographic service area, regional specialization, and correlation to Department of Defense priorities and response to areas the Department is also specifically working with its partners to develop and otherwise expand capabilities in: biotechnology, hypersonics, kinetic capabilities, energy storage and batteries, castings and forgings, microelectronics, and submarine and ship building workforce;
- the quality of a region's assessment of gaps and opportunities to strengthen the defense industrial base;
- the applicant's ability to communicate a strategy and activities that enhance the region's ability to amplify the development of key technologies, submarine and shipbuilding workforce, and/or support the industrial base supply chains;
- the strength of the consortia's leadership capacity, size and its ability to leverage regional partners, including members of academia, defense industry, commercial industry, and state and local government organizations; and
- the extent to which the proposed activities complement Department of Defense Manufacturing Innovation Institutes and leverage resources available across the Federal government.

Once a consortium receives designation as a Defense Manufacturing Community, it will be invited to move to the next step.

Step 2: Technical and Financial Assistance Award

Once the consortium receives Defense Manufacturing Community designation, it can apply for technical and financial assistance. The grantee must contribute at least 20 percent of the total project cost toward the project.

For Fiscal Year 2022 Defense Manufacturing Community designees, Defense Manufacturing Community Support Program grant awards may vary in size, but in no case will exceed \$5 million per award. Total amount available for this program is \$30 million, based on Fiscal Year 2022 appropriations. Grant recipients will have up to 5 years to expend the funding.

The activities eligible under this program may include:

- equipment or facility upgrade
- workforce training, retraining, or recruitment and retention, including that of women and underrepresented minorities
- business incubators
- advanced research and commercialization, including with Federal laboratories and depots
- supply chain development
- small business assistance

ANTICIPATED TIMELINE

May 20 – July 19, 2022: Defense Manufacturing Community Support Program begins accepting proposals for Defense Manufacturing Community designation.

Mid August 2022: Consortia will be notified and invited to apply for technical and financial assistance.

Mid August – September 30, 2022: Process grant applications until the full amount appropriated for the program is committed (anticipated end of September).

This is a general overview of the Defense Manufacturing Community Support Program. For more information and details on eligibility and the application process, please visit: [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) and search for the Notice of Federal Funding Opportunity OLDCC-22-F-0001. For updates about the Defense Manufacturing Community Support Program, please sign up for our emails: public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDODOLDCC/signup/14050.