U.S. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION
PUBLIC WORKS AND ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE

EDA's two core economic development programs.
One open opportunity with a rolling deadline for Kentucky communities.

GRANT READY KENTUCKY

The Economic Development Administration's FY 2025 Notice of Funding Opportunity funds two of its core economic development programs, Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA), under one rolling application.

Within EAA, the Assistance to Coal Communities (ACC) pathway is especially relevant to Kentucky: four of the state's six congressional districts rank among EDA's 40 identified ACC districts nationwide.

PROGRAMS AT A GLANCE

Funding Opportunity Number: PWEAA2023. Assistance Listings 11.300 and 11.307

No application deadline: EDA accepts and reviews applications on an ongoing basis through the EDGE portal until funds are exhausted or the NOFO is replaced

Cost share required; baseline maximum EDA investment rate is 60% of total project cost, rising to 80% for distressed regions (including the ACC Special Need pathway) and up to 100% for certain rare cases where taxing and borrowing capacity is exhausted

Award range: $600,000 to $5,000,000 for PW; $150,000 to $2,500,000 for EAA; $500,000 to $3,000,000 for ACC, NCC, and BCC implementation; and $100,000 to $350,000 for planning

Eligible applicants: states, local governments (including special purpose units), area development districts, higher education institutions, public/private partnerships, and nonprofits working with local gov. Individuals and for-profit businesses are not eligible

GET A HEAD START

Because this funding is rolling until funds are exhausted, **Kentucky applicants, especially those in congressional districts 1, 2, 5 & 6, are encouraged to register in EDA's EDGE system (sfgrants.eda.gov), ensure SAM registration is current, and begin assembling projects to discuss with KY's EDA rep below.**

COMPETITIVENESS FACTORS

First, all projects must align with one of EDA's investment priorities, including: **Critical Infrastructure, Workforce, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Economic Recovery Resilience, or Manufacturing**.

Beyond meeting eligibility thresholds, EDA's Review Committee will score applications against eight equally weighted criteria:

1. **Project Feasibility** and likelihood of achieving outcomes
2. **Stakeholder Support:** Documented support from regional partners beyond co-applicants, such as workforce boards, community colleges, economic development orgs, and private employers
3. **Economic Resilience:** Showing how the project reduces reliance on a single employer or industry
4. **Alignment with Other Investments:** Naming and integrating with complementary public and private investments that are ongoing or planned in the region
5. **Degree of Economic Distress of self-defined region:** Current, 3rd party data on unemployment rates & per capita income against national averages; plus for ACC, the specific closure event (generally within the last 15 years), jobs lost, and/or supply chain ripple effects
6. **Job Creation & Retention:** project's demonstrated ability to create or retain jobs or registered apprenticeships
7. **Private Investment:** Named employers or confirmed tenants, letters of intent, and a clear ratio of leveraged private investment to the EDA request
8. **Plan Alignment:** Narrative should explain alignment with the region's CEDS document and any other applicable regional or state economic development plans, as well as the EDA's own investment priorities listed above

Disclosure: Summary for discussion purposes only. See NOFO for complete criteria or discuss with KY's designated EDA rep:

Need Help? Contact Kentucky's dedicated EDA Rep, Emily Hathcock,
Email EHathcock@eda.gov or call 202-424-0424 with questions about these programs.

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PUBLIC WORKS

Focused primarily on construction. Provides catalytic investments to help distressed communities build, design, or engineer critical infrastructure and facilities that advance regional economic development strategies.

Example projects include, but are not limited to:

- Acquisition and development of land or construction of public works facilities
- Workforce development facilities
- Water and sewer system improvements*
- Industrial parks, business incubators, accelerators, or commercialization facilities
- Port, harbor, and aviation facility revitalization
- Brownfield redevelopment
- Broadband and fiber optic infrastructure
- Multi-tenant manufacturing facilities

*Infrastructure projects should demonstrate how the project will create or retain jobs, e.g., a named employer that would like to locate in the region but requires upgraded sewer capacity to do so.

The historical average award is about $1.4 million

ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE (EAA)

EDA's most flexible program supports both construction and non-construction activities in regions experiencing economic change, whether sudden (such as a plant closure) or gradual (such as a long-term industry decline, changing trade patterns, a disaster, or a military base closure).

- **Strategy Grants:** to develop, update, or refine a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)
- **Implementation Grants:** To carry out CEDS activities, such as infrastructure, workforce projects, disaster resiliency, capitalizing Revolving Loan Funds (RLFs), and more

Includes three Special Need pathways for regions affected by the transition away from certain energy sources: Biomass Closure Communities, Nuclear Closure Communities, and **Assistance to Coal Communities, the pathway most relevant to Kentucky's coal-affected districts, which received $80 million in FY26 appropriations.**

Average awards under ACC have ranged from $500k - $3m for implementation or $100k- $350k for planning

EDA PWEAA COST SHARE: UNDERSTANDING YOUR MATCH

EDA covers a percentage of your total project cost; your community provides the rest as match. The more economic distress you can document in the project's service area, the higher the share EDA is allowed to cover.

Distress level	Criteria	EDA Investment / Applicant Match
Documented distress	24-month unemployment at least 1 percentage point above the national average or per capita income 80 percent or less of the national average, see thresholds set in the NOFO	EDA up to 60-80% / Match 40-20%
Special Need, including ACC	Documented hardship, such as a coal facility closure within the past 15 years or natural disaster; rate set case-by-case	EDA up to 80% / Match at least 20%
Full funding exception (RARE)	Tribes, nonprofits with exhausted borrowing capacity, or states and political subdivisions with exhausted taxing and borrowing capacity	EDA up to 100% / Match as low as 0%

Disclosure: Tiers for discussion; not a guarantee, final rate set during EDA's review. See Section C.2.b, pages 9–10 of the NOFO for full criteria.

Pro Tip! In Kentucky, EDA grants qualify for match assistance through the GRANT Program, for more info, visit: https://newkentuckyhome.ky.gov/grant