



OFFICE OF
LEGISLATIVE AND
INTERGOVERNMENTAL
AFFAIRS

COMMERCE

AUGUST RECESS PACKET

**INVESTING IN
AMERICA**

COMMERCE

INVESTING IN AMERICA

July 31, 2023

Dear Congressional Colleagues:

As you prepare for the August work period, it's my pleasure to highlight the many different ways in which the Biden-Harris Administration is serving your constituents, including your historically underserved, rural, and tribal communities. If you are interested in holding an event in your state or district please do not hesitate to contact this office. Please follow this [link](#) for a timeline of funding notices and implementation efforts.

The Department has an array of resources and local offices that you can partner with to highlight recent investments. One of the best ways to track investments in your state is [Invest.gov](#). Commerce's bureaus also provide information and updates regarding the important work taking place throughout the country. You can find links to those resources and event ideas below. For a brief overview of the Department's work, please see our [Commerce at a Glance](#) pamphlet.

The Department is deeply grateful for our Congressional partners, and we look forward to sharing more about our work in your states and communities. Please do not hesitate to contact my team with any questions you might have at CongressionalCorrespondence@doc.gov.

Sincerely,



Susie Feliz
Assistant Secretary for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

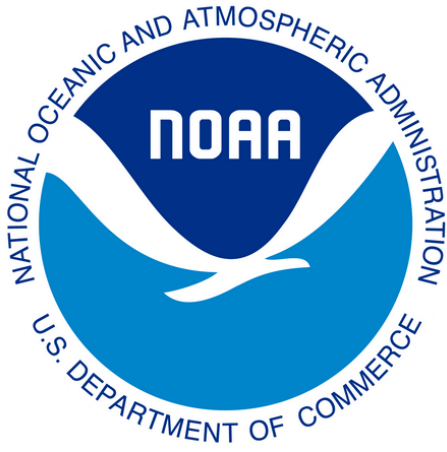
EDA Promotes innovation and competitiveness and prepares American regions for growth and success in the worldwide economy. They are charged with supporting the economy, starting at the local level. EDA awards various [grants](#) on a rolling basis.

- Through the American Rescue Plan (ARP), EDA launched the [Good Jobs Challenge](#) (GJC) and awarded \$500 million to [32](#) industry-led workforce training partnerships. These training programs are teaching and placing students right now.
 - **EVENT IDEA:** Reach out to a [GJC awardee](#) in your state and organize a roundtable discussion to highlight the success of this program.
- EDA also launched the [Build Back Better Regional Challenge](#) (BBBRC) through ARP and awarded \$1 billion to [21](#) regional coalitions to transform local economies and create good-paying jobs.
 - **EVENT IDEA:** Reach out to a BBBRC grantee in your state and organize a tour with a diverse group of stakeholders followed by a press event to amplify this program.
- In June, EDA launched the \$200 million [Recompete Pilot Program](#) which aims to advance communities with high prime-age (25-54 years) employment gaps – communities that make up the most economically distressed areas of the country – so they can actively grow and chart a new path to prosperity in the modern economy.
 - Find eligibility and how to support applicants in your state before the October 5th deadline ([webinar here](#)).
 - **EVENT IDEA:** Use our [mapping tool](#) to find eligible communities in your district, educate these eligible applicants, and help them apply for this funding opportunity.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

- In May, EDA launched the \$500 million [Tech Hubs Program](#) to drive regional technology and innovation-centric growth by strengthening a region's capacity to manufacture, commercialize, and deploy critical technologies.
 - Find [more information](#) on eligibility and how applicants in your state may apply before the August 15th deadline.
 - **EVENT IDEA:** Work with regions within your district or state to identify an eligible consortium. Host a workshop or a stakeholder meeting to help applicants understand the requirements needed to apply ([webinar here](#)).
- Through the American Rescue Plan, EDA awarded \$3 billion to assist communities nationwide. View awardees in your state using [EDA's map of all ARP allocations](#).
 - **EVENT IDEA:** Plan a tour or site visit with a local grantee to see firsthand how EDA is supporting your constituents and local communities.

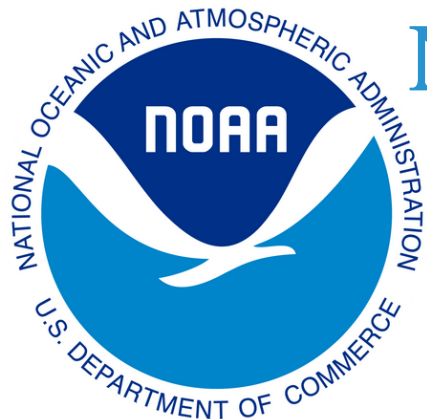




NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ASSOCIATION

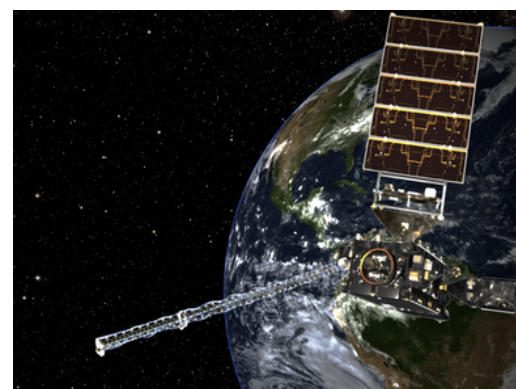
- To view a snapshot and highlight of NOAA facilities, staff, programs, or activities based in, or focused on, your state or territory, [see here](#).
 - **EVENT IDEA:** Visit a NOAA facility (such as a Weather Forecast Office) in your district to see how federal investments are having real world impacts on your local community.
 - NOAA Facilities Close to D.C.: the [NOAA Satellite Operations facility](#) is headquartered in Suitland, MD and the [NOAA Center for Weather and Climate Prediction](#) is located in College Park, MD. Visitors will see the end-to-end operations of satellites to data ingest and product development to operational weather forecasts.
 - **EVENT IDEA:** For coastal and Great Lakes states and districts, reach out to your local [Sea Grant](#), or [National Estuarine Research Reserve](#) partners for tours, press events, or other outdoor excursions.
- In April, NOAA awarded \$562 million to coastal and Great Lakes states as part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's Climate-Ready Coast Initiative. See where the money is being used in [your state](#).
 - **EVENT IDEA:** Join NOAA and local partners for a site visit, tour, roundtable discussion, or press event to highlight the impacts of this funding.
 - **EVENT IDEA:** Visit a NOAA Marine Debris Program [project](#) in your district to see how federal investments are being used to clean up our coastal and Great Lakes communities.





NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ASSOCIATION

- In June, NOAA released its [\\$2.6 billion framework](#) to build climate resilience and support coastal communities with Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funds. This initiative will support communities and people on the frontlines of climate change, dedicating nearly \$400 million for tribal priorities, and benefiting coastal and Great Lakes communities – with an emphasis on environmental justice.
 - **EVENT IDEA:** Join NOAA for two upcoming virtual briefings on upcoming IRA funding opportunities.
 - NOAA will host an all-interested state and local leaders briefing on currently available Inflation Reduction Act funding opportunities on August 1, 2023, 4:00-5:00 pm ET. The briefing will highlight three major initiatives: Climate Resilience Regional Challenge, Ocean-Based Climate Resilience Accelerators, and Climate Ready Workforce. Please use this [link](#) to register.
 - NOAA will host a seminar covering tips and tricks for first time grant applicants on August 2 at 3:00 pm ET. Please use this [link](#) to register.
 - **EVENT IDEA:** Learn more about how NOAA IRA-funded projects will impact your community through discussions, tours, and site visits with local experts.
 - **EVENT IDEA:** Visit Thoma-Sea Shipyard in Houma, LA, the host site for the construction of NOAA's two state-of-the-art oceanographic ships as well as the future site of NOAA's IRA-funded charting and mapping vessels.



NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION

NTIA promotes access to affordable, reliable, high-speed Internet service across the nation.

- At the end of June, NTIA announced the allocation of over \$42 billion in [Broadband Equity and Access Deployment \(BEAD\)](#) funds to states and territories. [Find information](#) about the impact in your state and specific tribal and minority community awardees.
 - **EVENT IDEA:** Reach out to your [State Broadband Office](#) to coordinate a roundtable discussion on NTIA's Internet for All programs, coordinate a BEAD allocation amplification [press event](#), visit a local university or community organization that benefited from one of our broadband programs, or [set up a tour](#) with a company that is investing resources to close the digital divide.
- NTIA has awarded more than \$1.7 billion to 191 tribal projects through its Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program (TBCP). Find a program in your state using NTIA's [TBCP recipient map](#). On July 27th, 2023, NTIA released a second [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) for TBCP, with nearly \$1 billion in additional funding.
 - **EVENT IDEA:** Connect with a tribe in your state to hear how this funding directed to tribal governments is being used for broadband deployment on tribal lands, as well as for telehealth, distance learning, broadband affordability, and digital inclusion.



NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION

- NTIA's [Connecting Minority Communities \(CMC\)](#) program has awarded more than \$268 million to 93 universities that will benefit communities across the nation. Find the awardee in your state using [NTIA's CMC recipient map](#).
 - **EVENT IDEA:** Partner with one of the [93 CMC awardees](#) from a Historically Black College and University (HBCU), Tribal College and University (TCU), Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI), or Minority-Serving Institution (MSI) to learn more about how this funding is contributing to higher learning. Host a roundtable and tour of the institution to see the impacts of this funding firsthand.
- NTIA awarded more than \$930 million in Middle Mile Grants across 34 different states and Puerto Rico. Find an awardee from your state using NTIA's [Middle Mile grant recipient map](#).



First Responder Network (FirstNet) Authority

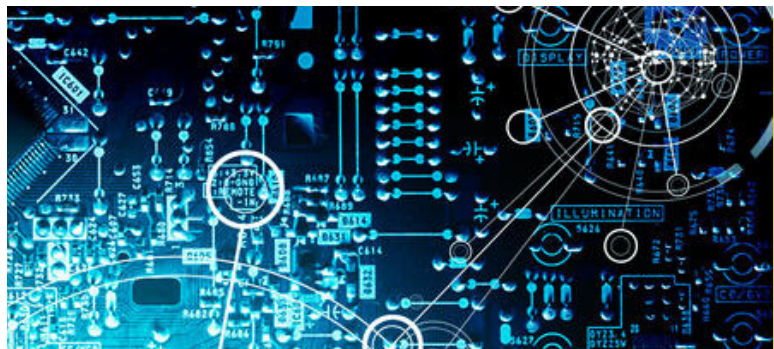
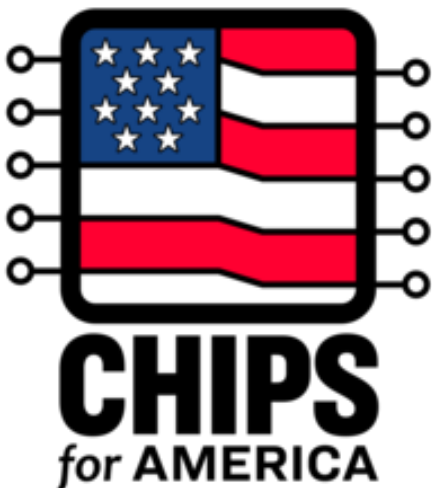
FirstNet Authority is an independent agency within NTIA, whose mission is to oversee the buildout, deployment, and operation of the nationwide public safety broadband network called FirstNet. Today, first responders throughout the country use FirstNet to help them save lives and keep communities safe.

- Please follow this [link](#) to connect with the FirstNet liaison in your State/Territory and to learn more about their work to keep your community safe.

NIST is home to the [CHIPS Program Office \(CPO\)](#). As part of the bipartisan CHIPS and Science Act, the Department of Commerce is overseeing \$50 billion to revitalize the U.S. semiconductor industry, including \$39 billion in semiconductor incentives.

On June 23, CPO [released](#) its semiconductor supply chain Vision for Success paper, and outlined strategic objectives to strengthen our domestic supply chains and advance U.S. economic security. That same day, CPO expanded the [first](#) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) announced in February to large [supply chain projects with capital investments over \\$300 million](#).

On June 26, the full application window opened for current-generation, mature-node, and back-end production facilities projects. Find information to support applicants in your state [here](#).



◦ **EVENT IDEAS:**

- Organize a visit to a local semiconductor manufacturing site in your state or district, including supplier and semiconductor customers.
- Tour a local organization's research laboratory.
- Coordinate a roundtable (in-person or virtual) discussion with semiconductor experts to discuss the CHIPS Act and what it means locally.
- Plan a workforce Development event (in-person or virtual) with local colleges, universities, trade organizations, or semiconductor manufacturers to discuss the NEW tech jobs and training that are needed for the revitalization of the U.S. semiconductor industry.
- Organize a business roundtable (in-person or virtual) with local business and community leaders.
- Coordinate a workforce development event with local workforce development organizations, universities, and community colleges, chambers of commerce, labor, and childcare leaders to discuss attracting and supporting a diverse workforce.
- Design a panel discussion (in-person or virtual) with academic institutions, STEM leaders, national security and economic experts, entrepreneurs, and semiconductor trade associations to discuss the impact of the CHIPS Act.



**MEP • MANUFACTURING
EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP®**

NIST's Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program serves small- and medium-sized manufacturers with an [office in every state](#).

◦ **EVENT IDEAS:**

- Reach out to your local MEP to learn how they provide companies with services and access to public and private resources to enhance growth, improve productivity, reduce costs, and expand capacity.
- Tour a local business that benefits from your local MEP.

MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

- MBDA helps constituents grow their businesses through exports, information about federal contracting, and more.
 - **EVENT IDEA:** Reach out to your local MBDA [center](#) to set up a tour and a roundtable discussion with a diverse set of stakeholders in your district. Learn how this center is benefiting individuals in your community.



US PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

USPTO provides an examination of patent and trademark applications, guides domestic and international intellectual property (IP) policy, and delivers IP information and education worldwide to foster innovation, competitiveness, and economic growth. Please see additional background on USPTO's work and upcoming opportunities [here](#).

- **Regional Offices:** The USPTO's four regional offices – in Detroit, Dallas, Denver, and San Jose – serve as hubs for IP outreach and education efforts and provide inventors, small businesses, and entrepreneurs easier access to USPTO personnel and resources, including walk-in services to obtain general IP information; work stations for searching patents and trademarks; and interview rooms to connect applicants to examiners across the country.
- **EVENT IDEAS:**
 - **National Inventors Hall of Fame (NIHF) Camp Invention:** Camp Invention is the flagship program of the [National Inventors Hall of Fame](#) (NIHF), a national educational nonprofit working in partnership with the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) since 1990 to encourage creativity, exploration and inventiveness in students of all ages. With a focus on hands-on STEM and 21st century skills, [Camp Invention](#) will help children make the most of this summer.
 - [China Intellectual Property \(IP\) Road Shows:](#) As China Intellectual Property (IP) Road Shows are planned in your district/state, especially for small and medium-sized business and new-to-market exporters, please share USPTO-provided flyer information with constituents you think may have an interest in the program. We invite Member and staff attendance at programs and “welcome remarks” by Members during the programs.



OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

OUSEA sets the data and evidence strategy for the Department of Commerce and provides critical economic analysis of the Department's priorities. In March, OUSEA launched the [Regional Economic Research Initiative](#) an effort to build data tools, offer data services, and publish research to improve the design, implementation, and evaluation of place-based policies.

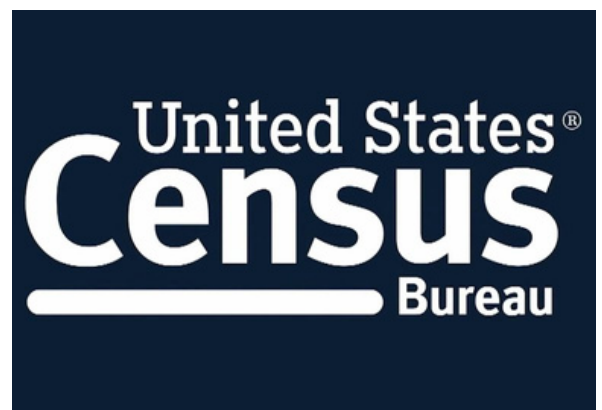
- **EVENT IDEA:** Host a roundtable with local economic development organizations and leaders to understand what types of data and analysis would be helpful to them as they help the communities you serve.
- Send the group's feedback to RegionalInitiative@doc.gov so that the Regional Initiative team can continue to improve our products and services.

BEA's economists produce some of the world's most closely watched [statistics](#), including U.S. gross domestic product (GDP), the statistics that help us track inflation, and data on industries and investments. Check out statistics available by [state and/or locality](#).



- **EVENT IDEA:** Convene local business leaders to share information about the economic data available to them from BEA and to hear their thoughts about additional economic data that would help supercharge their decision-making power.

The U.S. Census Bureau is the leading source of federal government statistics about your local community. [Quick Facts](#) is an easy resource for understanding the demographic and economic characteristics of your community. [My Congressional District](#) gives you quick and easy access to selected statistics for each U.S. Congressional district.



- **EVENT IDEA:** Ask a Census Bureau [Data Dissemination Specialist](#) to [demo](#) Census Bureau data products that local community organizers and leaders can use to make decisions, conduct outreach, and advocate for change.



CONTACT INFORMATION

Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs:

(202) 482-3663

CommerceIGA@doc.gov

CongressionalCorrespondence@doc.gov

