

USA: 15 Millionen US-Dollar für die Förderung regionaler Innovationen

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<http://www.eda.gov/oie/files/2014-risp-overview.pdf>

Das US-Wirtschaftsministerium hat den Start des "2014 Regional Innovation Strategies Program" bekanntgegeben. Im Rahmen des Programms können sich US-weit Regionen für drei Förderprogramme bewerben. Mit den Geldern sollen regionale Cluster und Innovationszentren sowie die Entwicklung von regionalen Innovationsstrategien gefördert werden. Insgesamt werden \$15 Mio vergeben. Acht davon fließen in Programme zur Förderung von Startup-Unternehmen, fünf Millionen in Fördermaßnahmen für Wissenschafts- und Forschungsparks sowie zwei Millionen in den Aufbau von Startkapitalfonds in Clustern.

U.S. Department of Commerce Announces \$15 Million Grant Competition to Spur Regional Innovation

U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker today announced the launch of the Economic Development Administration's (EDA) \$15 million 2014 Regional Innovation Strategies Program competition to spur innovation capacity-building activities in regions across the nation. Under this program, EDA is soliciting applications for three separate funding opportunities, including: the i6 Challenge, Science and Research Park Development grants, and cluster grants to support the development of Seed Capital Funds.

"President Obama and I are committed to strengthening American innovation, which is crucial for sustained economic growth and competitiveness," said Secretary Pritzker. "The EDA Regional Innovation Strategies Program announced today, which builds on the highly successful i6 Challenge, will help spur innovation through the development and strengthening of regional innovation clusters. Innovation clusters strengthen communities by creating good jobs and growing regional economies nationwide."

"EDA helps foster connected, innovation-centric economic sectors to support commercialization and entrepreneurship, including through regional innovation clusters," said U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development Jay Williams. "EDA's new funding opportunity will provide more communities and regions with the resources they need to help local businesses start and grow. Specifically, EDA will help regions across the country develop regional innovation strategies, including proof of concept and commercialization centers, feasibility studies for the creation and expansion of science and research parks, and opportunities to close the funding gap for early-stage companies. This new funding opportunity is also an important component of the Administration's commitment to build globally competitive regions."

The 2014 Regional Innovation Strategies Program originally started as the Regional Innovation Program under the reauthorization of the [America COMPETES Act of 2010](#). This year's program includes \$15 million in funding for the following programs:

- i6 Challenge (\$8M): Launched in 2010 as part of the [Startup America Initiative](#), the [i6 Challenge](#) is a national competition based on the most impactful national models for startup creation, innovation, and commercialization. The 2014 i6 has been broadened to include growing or expanding existing centers or programs and considering funding for later-stage Commercialization Centers, which provide opportunities for fine tuning and refinement of innovations. Special consideration will be given to programs which include initiatives focusing on innovative manufacturing and exports.
- Science and Research Park Development Grants (\$5M): The Science and Research Park Development grants program provides funding for feasibility and planning for the construction of new or expanded science or research parks, or the renovation of existing facilities.
- Cluster Grants for Seed Capital Funds (\$2M): These cluster grants provide funding for technical assistance to support feasibility, planning, formation, or launch of cluster-based seed capital funds that are offered to innovation-based, growth-oriented start-up companies in exchange for equity. Funds must include job creation in their consideration for issuing capital. Special consideration will be given for programs focused on innovative manufacturing and exporting.

Applicants are encouraged to refer to the Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) for examples of both the i6 Challenge and Cluster Grants for Seed Capital Funds. There is no requirement for applicants to submit proposals for more than one of the funding opportunities under this program. Funding for all three programs is available to all communities regardless of level of distress.

Eligibility, matching-fund requirements, application and submission deadlines, and other information can be found in the [FFO for the program](#).

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