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**Funding  
Opportunities**

# Funding Opportunities

## Foreign Trade Zone 252

Foreign-trade zones (FTZs) are basically ‘free-trade zones.’ Within FTZs, company goods can be unloaded, manufactured, reassembled, tested, sampled, processed, repackaged, and re-exported without going through US customs authorities. FTZs promote the international competitiveness because activities primarily involve US operations combining foreign inputs with significant US inputs. FTZs also facilitate and expedite international trade, retain and create jobs, and encourage investment, manufacturing, and logistics within the US. FTZs have major financial benefits and lead to streamlined logistics for companies importing and/or exporting internationally.

## Health Resources and Services Administration – Rural Health Grants

The Health Resources and Services Administration provides rural health grants to fund rural hospitals, health centers, and local clinics for underserved people.

## US Department of Housing and Urban Development

The US Department of Housing and Urban Development supports child care facilities near or within public housing.

## National Endowment for the Arts

The National Endowment for the Arts offers a number of grants for art projects. Funding is specifically for projects, which can consist of one or more specific events or activities and can influence talent attraction and retention. Projects can be new or existing and range in size. Their programs include:

- *Art Works* –To support the creation of art that meets the highest standards of excellence, public engagement with diverse and excellent art, lifelong learning in the arts, and the strengthening of communities through the arts.
- *Challenge America* – To support projects that extend the reach of the arts to underserved populations.
- *Our Town* – Organizations may apply for creative placemaking projects that contribute to the livability of communities and place the arts at their core. Our Town offers support for projects in two areas:
  - Arts Engagement, Cultural Planning, and Design Projects that represent the distinct character and quality of their communities. Projects require a partnership between a nonprofit organization and a local government entity, with one of the partners being a cultural organization.
  - Projects that Build Knowledge About Creative Placemaking are available to arts and design service organizations, and industry or university organizations that provide technical assistance to those doing place-based work.

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## **National Park Service - National Heritage Areas Programs**

National Heritage Areas are individually authorized by Congress and receive funding, technical assistance, and management support from the National Park Service. Heritage area designation provides a vehicle for promoting local economic and cultural vitality by capitalizing on an area's heritage assets, particularly through heritage tourism.

## **National Science Foundation Small Business Grants**

The National Science Foundation Small Business Grants program provide funds for early-stage research and development at small businesses. This research should be based on transformational technology with high technical risk and potential for significant societal or commercial impact.

## **US Department of Health and Human Services**

The Office of Child Care has several funding programs for child care facilities.

## **US Department of Energy Grants**

The US Department of Energy supports a number of grant, loan, and financing programs that support businesses. These programs are not limited to energy-related projects and include a range of small business and other support programs.

## **US Economic Development Administration Grants**

The US Economic Development Administration (EDA) accepts applications from rural and urban areas to provide investments that support construction, non-construction, technical assistance, and revolving loan fund projects under EDA's Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance programs. Grants under these programs are designed to leverage existing regional assets and support the implementation of economic development strategies that advance new ideas and creative approaches.

## **Economic Development Administration – Regional Innovation Strategies Grants**

In 2015, the EDA launched a \$10 million funding opportunity within their Regional Innovation Strategies Program. Under this program, communities can apply for funding through two programs:

- i6 Challenge (\$8 million) – This is a national competition for an award of up to \$2.5 million to projects that provide services to rural areas. They are seeking projects that create outreach plans to populations and communities that are traditionally underrepresented in innovation and entrepreneurship.
- Seed Funding Support Grants (\$2 million) – These grants provide funding for technical assistance to support feasibility, planning, formation, and launch of cluster-specific seed capital funds. Funds must include job creation in their consideration and outreach to underrepresented communities and populations.

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### **US Department of Commerce – Market Developer Cooperator Program – International Trade Administration**

This program is designed to build partnerships by providing federal assistance to organizations involved in export promotion. The program can support tourism initiatives to promote international visitors in communities outside of federal lands.

### **US Small Business Administration**

The Small Business Administration provides small business financing options, technical assistance, and child care resource information.

### **US Department of Agriculture – Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program**

This program provides affordable funding to develop essential community facilities in rural areas. An essential community facility is defined as a facility that provides an essential service to the local community for the orderly development of the community in a primarily rural area, and does not include private, commercial, or business undertakings.

### **US Department of Agriculture - Resource Conservation and Development Program**

This program provides technical and limited financial assistance to Resource Conservation & Development Councils with development projects, including heritage tourism and related business development.

### **US Department of Agriculture – Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program**

This program provides loans and grants to Microenterprise Development Organizations to provide microloans to microenterprise startups and growth through a Rural Microloan Revolving Fund and provide training and technical assistance to microloan borrowers and micro entrepreneurs.

### **US Department of Agriculture – Rural Development Grants**

Community Programs provides grants to assist in the development of essential community facilities in rural areas and towns of up to 20,000 population.

