



Federal Funds Initiative

THE
COLUMBUS
REGION

May 11, 2023

Federal Funding War Room

We convened a group last summer to discuss historic opportunities.

The federal budget, and the funding opportunities created through the passage of legislation like the Infrastructure bill, the Inflation Reduction Act, and the CHIPS and Science Act have created a huge opportunity for communities to compete for significant federal funding dollars.

As the first step, the Partnership team joined a group of statewide partners, the Ohio Grants Alliance to work with regional economic development partners around the state on projects of statewide significance.

At the Partnership, we created the Control Tower Structure for our regional effort:

- Understand what grants our local partners are currently pursuing and providing support
- Identify other potential federal funding opportunities that could benefit our region
- Supporting our local industries' efforts to participate in this new arena.

The Columbus Region Federal Funds Initiative

We've continued the conversation and are making progress on the process.

- With the strong support of Central Ohio's business community, we've convened four meetings of community and business leaders. These have been robust conversations about how federal funding can help transform our region.
- The Control Tower:
 - Tracking 34 federal grant applications (various stages, with 14 submitted for consideration)
 - Provided support to applications (letters of support, funding partners, capital match)
 - Led the effort on the recent CHIPS Technology Hub RFI for the region in partnership with MORPC

Grant Highlight: Rev1

Using our networks and resources, we helped Rev1 enhance their efforts.

Opportunity

- US Department of Commerce Minority Business Development Agency – MBDA Capital Readiness Application
- Up to \$3M over 4 years to expand outreach in the community through advisory and technical assistance for underserved entrepreneurs – both to find and support these entities who are part of Rev1 programming

Control Tower Assistance

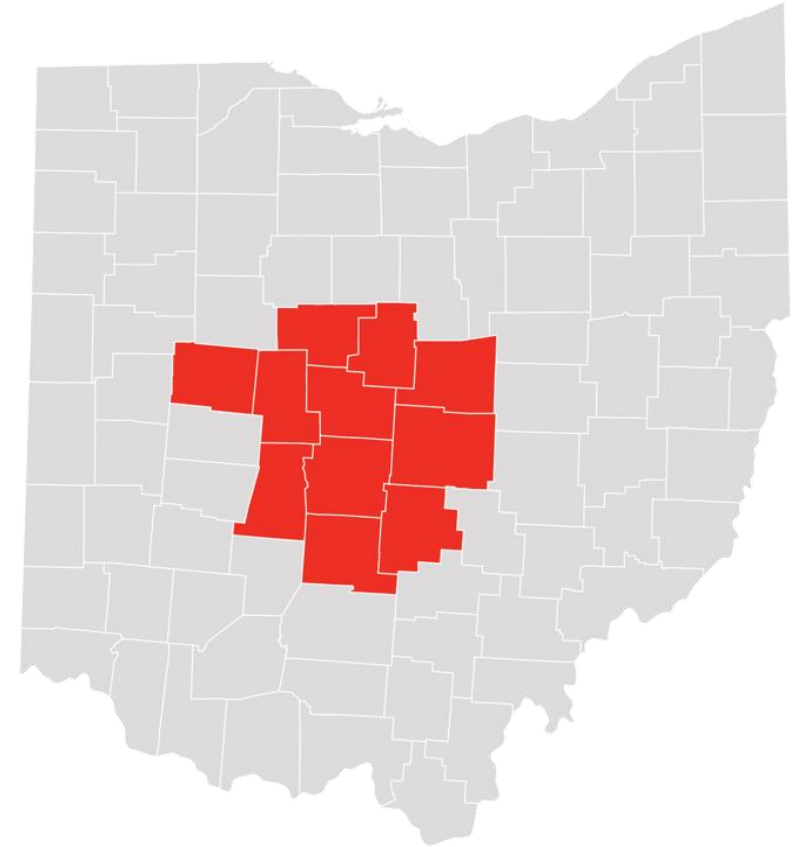
- Provided match money for the grant, along with a support letter
- Connected Rev1 with an expanded network of banks and credit unions to build support and funding for the match

Status

- Application submitted / Award notifications expected Q3 2023
- Control Tower and Rev1 are discussing other grant applications under consideration

Control Tower Update

- Ohio Grants Alliance Tool
- CHIPs Update



CHIPS Hubs Update

We expect the NOFO to drop within the next few days.

We will need help from our region to make this application a success.

Fact sheet: Regional Technology and Innovation Hubs (CHIPS Act)

PRELIMINARY AND DOES NOT CONSTITUTE LEGAL OR REGULATORY GUIDANCE

\$10B to support 20+ geographically distributed regional technology and innovation hubs focused on technology development, job creation, and expanding U.S. innovation capacity



Program summary

Overview

Fund the creation of **20 hubs in areas that are not currently leading centers for technology** to be led by private-public consortiums. These hubs are meant to be physical areas where innovators, researchers, creators, and businesses come together to stimulate job growth, economic activity, and innovation. Additional funding is anticipated for regions to develop comprehensive regional technology strategies.

Award terms

\$150M ceiling (initial support)	TBA floor	TBA non-federal cost share	4 years of performance
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Key dates

Feb 14, 2023 RFI posted
Mar 16, 2023 RFI comments due
TBA NOFO posted

Eligible entities

- Public-private consortiums made up of universities, economic development organizations, industry, rural communities, state and local governments, and nonprofit organizations

Eligible use

- All projects funded through the program must be located in areas that are not leading technology centers, with at least three new hubs located in each of the six regional divisions used by the Commerce Department's Economic Development Administration

Expected results

- At least one-third of eligible consortia "significantly benefit small and rural communities" as well as EPSCoR states. Hubs are intended to focus on technology development, job creation, and expanding U.S. innovation capacity.

Interested Parties

- Universities, economic development organizations, tech-focused corporations, with a special focus on high-potential cities who have not participated in the recent period of high innovation across the US including Akron, Toledo, Cincinnati, Dayton

Summary

We can work together to improve our funding applications and to win more of these resources for our region.

- The Grants Opportunities Tool will be sent out in the MORPC Monthly Member Newsletter. It will be included in the Drive Investment section.
- If you have any questions about the information or the Control Tower structure, please contact Ann Aquillo, Director of Federal Funding Initiatives, at ann@annaquilloconsulting.com or at (614) 641-6068.
- Please keep us updated on your federal grants efforts so we can track pending applications and let us know how we can be helpful in your pursuit of these opportunities.

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Thank you

