

CSA Funding Pathways



Information from Council Fire Report on Federal Economic Development Assistance for Offshore Marine Aquaculture							
Opportunity	Funder	When to Apply	Brief Description	Eligibility	Eligible Groups	Location	Examples
US National							
Planning Partnership Grants	Economic Development Administration	Continuous	EDA supports regional efforts to convene the appropriate representatives of the public and private sectors to design an economic development roadmap that diversifies and strengthens the regional economy based on the region's economic goals. EDA prioritizes regional efforts that include explicit goals of creating or retaining high-quality jobs, particularly for the unemployed and the underemployed in the most economically distressed regions	Under the Planning program, EDA makes Partnership Planning, Short-Term Planning, and State Planning awards to eligible recipients to create and implement regional economic development plans designed to build capacity and guide the economic prosperity and resiliency of an area or region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private institutions of higher education Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education City or township governments Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized) County governments Public and State controlled institutions of higher education Nonprofits that do not have a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education Special district governments State governments 	US National	December 2022: Awarded \$70,000 to the Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission based in Accomack, VA to support the update of the unified regional strategy for the two highly distressed counties that have made aquaculture a core element of their economic development strategies and have aquaculture companies that are leading employers in the county and country.
Local Technical Assistance Program	Economic Development Administration	Continuous	EDA supports regional efforts to convene the appropriate representatives of the public and private sectors to design an economic development roadmap that diversifies and strengthens the regional economy based on the region's economic goals. EDA prioritizes regional efforts that include explicit goals of creating or retaining high-quality jobs, particularly for the unemployed and the underemployed in the most economically distressed regions.	Under the Local Technical Assistance program, EDA makes awards to strengthen the capacity of local or State organizations, institutions of higher education, and other eligible entities to undertake and promote effective economic development programs through projects such as feasibility studies, impact analyses, disaster resiliency plans, and project planning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private institutions of higher education Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education City or township governments Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized) County governments Public and State controlled institutions of higher education Nonprofits that do not have a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education Special district governments State governments 	US National	

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Guide to Federal Aquaculture Grant and Financial Assistance Services	Federal Agencies	Dependent on program	NOAA's guide describes federal assistance for aquaculture-focused scientific and technological or engineering research that is likely to benefit the industry as a whole	Dependent on program	Dependent on program	US National	US Department of Agriculture, US Department of Commerce, US Environmental Protection Agency, US National Science Foundation, US Department Homeland Security, The Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research, US Food and Drug Administration, Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance, Small Business Innovation Research Participating Agencies
Rural Business Development Program	Department of Agriculture's Rural Development	Annually - Last Application Due January 19, 2023	RD provides technical assistance and training for small rural businesses to public agencies, nonprofits, rural cooperatives, Tribes, and institutions of higher education	Rural businesses with fewer than 50 new workers and less than \$1 million in gross revenue	Rural public entities including, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Towns • Communities • State agencies • Authorities • Nonprofit corporations • Institutions of higher education • Federally-recognized tribes • Rural cooperatives (if organized as a private nonprofit corporation) 	US National	2020 - RD awarded more than \$64,000 in a Rural Business Development grant to the Maine Aquaculture Association to help the state's aquaculture producers strategize and plan concerning the business, financial, and production aspects of their farms.

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Build to Scale (B2S) Program	Economic Development Administration	Annually - Last Applications Due: July 28th, 2023	RD provides technical assistance and training for small rural businesses to public agencies, nonprofits, rural cooperatives, Tribes, and institutions of higher education	Dependent on program	Eligible applicants for EDA financial assistance under this NOFO include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A State; • An Indian tribe; • A city or other political subdivision of a State; • An entity whose application is supported by a State or a political subdivision of a State and that is— <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a nonprofit organization, • an institution of higher education, • a public-private partnership, • a science or research park, • a Federal laboratory, • a venture development organization, or • an economic development organization or similar entity that is <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • focused primarily on improving science, technology, innovation, or entrepreneurship; or • A consortium of any of the aforementioned entities. EDA is not authorized to provide grants or cooperative agreements to individuals under this Program. Requests from individuals will not be considered for funding.	US National	

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Build to Scale Venture Challenge	Economic Development Administration	Annually - Last Applications Due: July 28th, 2023	EDA's Venture Challenge seeks to advance technology-based economic development and nurture regional innovation ecosystems that promote the commercialization of new technologies, strengthen growing industry clusters, and lead to the expansion of high-paying economic opportunities in communities, regions, or combinations of regions. The challenge invests in programs that promote high-growth technology entrepreneurship, foster inclusive access to proven models of support for entrepreneurs, and increase access to entrepreneurial capital within the supported regions	Organizations seeking to support entrepreneurship and accelerate the growth of technology-based companies in their community, region, or combination of regions that are aligned with high-growth industrial clusters. Technology-based companies that are: piloting or scaling a solution to a demonstrated need; strengthening economic competitiveness through technology commercialization; facilitating job creation in high-growth industries; and building capacity and governance to support regional strategies to promote innovation economies.	See Build to Scale (B2S) Program	US National	In 2021, EDA awarded just under \$750,000 in a Venture Challenge Grant to the Gulf of Maine Research Institute (GMRI) to help build the "Blue Economy Innovation Corridor", an "innovation ecosystem" designed to position the Gulf of Maine Region as a global hub of innovation in aquaculture and other sustainable maritime industries
Capital Challenge Grant	Economic Development Administration	Annually - Last Applications Due: July 28th, 2023	EDA's Capital Challenge seeks to increase access to capital, particularly in regions where there is a limited supply of equity-based funding and a demonstrated opportunity to invest in innovative, technology-centric businesses within growing industry and technology clusters. Under this Challenge, there are two funding levels – Form and Deploy – designed to support applicants in creating new funds and scaling existing funds and investment programs. EDA has recently invested in either aquaculture or water-related initiatives with this grant	Organizations with a goal to expand capital deployment within a community, region, or regional industry (i.e. angel networks or investor training programs); programs that practice equity-based investing, whether through traditional or hybrid models, or support an initiative whose participants practice equity-based investing (in contrast to debt-based investing, which is not supported under the Capital Challenge); and deployment of investment capital into technology startups based on an investment thesis that clearly supports and fosters the growth of a regional technology cluster.	See Build to Scale (B2S) Program	US National	To support the innovation cluster focused on freshwater technologies around the Great Lakes and in the Lake Erie Basin region, EDA awarded the Cleveland Water Alliance (CWA) a Capital Challenge grant of nearly \$300,000 in 2022 to help fund the creation and launch of the Freshwater Economy Seed Fund. The Seed Fund, a vehicle for connecting entrepreneurs to capital, was a critical addition to the growing regional "innovation ecosystem" built to drive inclusive innovation and support new companies in the freshwater technology sector. It enabled CWA to build a network of informed investors (both private and philanthropic) and connect them to proven freshwater solutions developed by entrepreneurs in the broader ecosystem.

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Public Works Grant	EDA	Continuous	EDA enables distressed communities to revitalize, expand, and upgrade their physical infrastructure. Recently EDA has awarded several Public Works grants specifically to address the infrastructure needs and maritime economies of coastal communities	Organization whose project's demonstrated alignment with at least one of EDA's current investment priorities as published on EDA's website at www.eda.gov . The project's potential to increase the capacity of the community or region to promote job creation and private investment in the regional economy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special district governments • Public and State controlled institutions of higher education • Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized) • State governments • County governments • Nonprofits that do not have a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education • City or township governments • Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education • Private institutions of higher education • Others (see text field entitled "Additional Information on Eligibility" for clarification) 	US National	In 2018, EDA helped bridge the gap between the community's needs and its resources by awarding the Port a \$1.2 million Public Works grant. The federal investment enabled the Port to rapidly replace the Port Dock 5 Pier with a new, modern facility capable of handling vehicles and featuring enhanced electrical lines. In 2021, the Port officially inaugurated the new pier, which helped Newport continue to serve as an important port for the Pacific fishery
Water and Waste Disposal Program	Department of Agriculture's Rural Development	Continuous	RD provides funding to state and local governments, nonprofits, and Tribes to support clean and reliable drinking water systems, sanitary sewage disposal, sanitary solid waste disposal, and stormwater drainage that is provided to households and businesses in rural areas	The service areas supported must be located in rural areas with populations of 10,000 or fewer residents	This program assists qualified applicants who are not otherwise able to obtain commercial credit on reasonable terms. Eligible applicants include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most state and local governmental entities • Private nonprofits • Federally-recognized tribes 	US National	
Community Facilities Program	Department of Agriculture's Rural Development	Continuous	RD offers assistance to public bodies, non-profit organizations, and Tribes to develop or improve essential public services and facilities. These facilities are the type that provides community services and can be foundational elements of a thriving local economy. Funds may be used to construct, expand or improve facilities that provide health care, education, public safety, and public services. Specific projects may include fire and rescue stations, village and town halls, health care clinics, hospitals, adult and child care centers, assisted living facilities, rehabilitation centers, public buildings, schools, libraries, and many other community-based initiatives.	Rural areas including cities, villages, townships and towns including Federally Recognized Tribal Lands with no more than 20,000 residents according to the latest U.S. Census Data are eligible for this program.	Eligible borrowers include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public bodies • Community-based non-profit corporations • Federally-recognized Tribes 	US National	

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The Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIPD)	Department of Transportation's Maritime Administration	Annually - Last Applications Due: July 28th, 2023	Dept. of Transportation's Maritime Administration is the primary source of federal support for infrastructure projects at the nation's port facilities. In 2022, the Administration awarded \$703 million to fund 41 port improvement projects around the country. This represents nearly twice as much funding in 2022 than in 2021. Communities with aquaculture strategies that envision port improvements should be positioning themselves for the upcoming rounds of funding.	To be eligible for funding, each project had to be related to the loading or unloading of goods in a port, movement into and/or out of a port, resilience, or environmental or emissions mitigation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a port authority • a commission or its subdivision or agent under existing authority • a State or political subdivision of a State or local government • an Indian Tribe • a public agency or publicly chartered authority established by one or more States • a special purpose district with a transportation function • a multistate or multijurisdictional group of entities or a lead entity described above jointly with a private entity or group of private entities (including the owners or operators of a facility, or collection of facilities, at a port) 	US National	
Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program	Department of Transportation	Annually - Last Applications Due: September 28, 2023	Dept. of Transportation's program provides funding to reconnect communities that are cut off from opportunity and or are disproportionately burdened by pollution caused by past transportation infrastructure decisions. In February 2023, the Department of Transportation announced \$185 million in grant awards under the program for 45 projects. Funding is available for planning, technical assistance, and construction.	A highway, including a road, street, or parkway or other transportation facility, such as a rail line, that creates a barrier to community connectivity, including barriers to mobility, access, or economic development, due to high speeds, grade separations, or other design factors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • States • Units of local government • Federally recognized Tribal governments • Metropolitan planning organizations • Nonprofit organizations 	US National	Among the grantees was the City of Norfolk, Virginia, which was awarded \$1.6 million to address a 14-lane-wide jumble of Interstate ramps and interchanges that cuts a low-income and majority-Black neighborhood off from the downtown core. Among the cut-off neighborhoods is the Elizabeth River waterfront
ReConnect Program	Department of Agriculture	Annual	Dept. of Agriculture's program assists with projects that serve rural areas where at least ninety percent of the households lack high-speed Internet service. In October 2022, USDA announced \$759 million in funding to projects sponsored by state, local, or territory governments, companies, Tribes, or cooperative organizations. The Department expects to make more than \$1 billion in additional awards in 2023. For those rural communities where service is least likely to be commercially available, USDA also offers grants of between \$100,000 and \$3 million through its Community Connect program.	Grant funds must be used to support projects that provide high-speed Internet services in rural, economically-challenged communities where no service is currently available.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporations • Limited Liability Companies and Limited Liability Partnerships • Cooperatives or mutual organizations • States or local governments, including any agency, subdivision, instrumentality of political subdivision thereof • A territory or possession of the United States • An Indian Tribe, as defined in Section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. §450b) 	US National	

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Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act	Department of Labor	Annual	Dept. of Labor provides the biggest federal investment in job training and workforce development for adults is provided to states under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. In many cases, states have deployed these funds to promote closer partnerships, known as “sector partnerships”, between the employers within an industry sector and the trainers of the skilled workers that those employers need. The mission of these sector partnerships is to ensure that skills training is aligned with the actual needs of employers and to connect newly trained workers with jobs.			US National	Rhode Island deployed some of its federal funds to support Real Jobs Rhode Island, a state program that funds sector partnerships and training programs in growing sectors of the state’s economy. After identifying aquaculture as a priority sector, the state-funded a partnership to support it. One of the first major activities of the partnership was to identify a shortage of trained, entry-level farm workers that were needed to support the businesses in the sector. To help address this need for the workforce, the state-funded the development of an in-person aquaculture training program.
Sea Grant Program	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	Letters of Intent due: November 30, 2023 and Full Proposals due: February 13, 2024	NOAA’s Sea Grant mission is to enhance the practical use and conservation of coastal, marine and Great Lakes resources in order to create a sustainable economy and environment.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State governments • Tribal governments • Territorial governments • Local governments • Institutions of higher education • Nonprofit organizations 	US National	
Rural Innovation Stronger Economy (RISE) Program	Department of Agriculture’s Rural Development	Annually - Last Applications Due: April 20, 2023	RD supports entrepreneurship and workforce innovation by encouraging rural communities to take a regional, innovation-driven approach to economic development. The program is designed to help rural communities identify and maximize local assets and connect to networks and industry clusters within their region. RD can award between \$500,000 and \$2 million in RISE funding to projects that provide worker training to assist in the creation of new jobs, training the existing workforce with skills for higher-paying jobs, or developing a base of skilled workers and improving their opportunities to obtain high-wage jobs in new or existing local industries	Eligible applicants are rural jobs accelerator partnerships with expertise in delivering economic and job training programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-profit entities • State entities • Tribal entities • Institutions of higher education • Public bodies 	US National	RD awarded a \$740,000 RISE grant in 2021 to support Spruce Root, Inc., based in Juneau, to support entrepreneurship and workforce development in the regenerative economy of southeast Alaska. The region encompasses 23 rural communities and has a high indigenous population. Among the companies that Spruce Root supports are Barnacle Foods, which sustainably harvested wild kelp and other marine resources, and Wildfish Cannery, a community-focused seafood processor that smokes, cans, and supplies fresh fish for local communities

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Recompete Pilot Program	Economic Development Administration	Annually - Applications are due by October 5, 2023	EDA will provide \$200 million in grants to distressed communities across the country to support economic development projects that create jobs for workers aged 25 to 54 years old. Projects that support aquaculture that employs workers in this age range would be eligible if they are located in distressed areas. EDA is currently seeking public input on the design of the program	Recompete Eligibility Mapping Tool - Recompete Pilot Program investments must be located in one of two eligible area types, including meeting certain Prime-Age Employment Gap (PAEG) requirements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit of local government • the District of Columbia • a territory of the United States • a Tribal government • political subdivisions of a State or other entity • a public entity or nonprofit organization • an economic development district • a coalition of any of the above entities that serve or are contained within an eligible geographic area 	US National	
Good Jobs Challenge	Economic Development Administration	One time grant	EDA characterized this grant program as a once-in-a-generation federal investment in high-quality, locally-led workforce systems and training partnerships. Funding for the program was made available by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and was aimed at positioning communities to recover from the pandemic, so EDA is unlikely to make additional awards in the future. Nevertheless, EDA did provide funding to one community to support its maritime industries, and the program does provide a model for how federal funding could be bundled to be substantial enough to motivate communities to take bold steps to transform their regional economies.			US National	In August 2022, EDA awarded a total of \$500 million in funding to 32 regional workforce coalitions after a single round of evaluation. Among the projects funded was the Blue Economy and Clean Energy Workforce Training Program in the Hampton Roads Region of Virginia and North Carolina. Led by Hampton Roads Workforce Council, the coalition receiving the grant serves 27 independent localities in southeastern Virginia and northeastern North Carolina and includes communities that are distressed or at risk in each state

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Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) Program	Economic Development Administration	Annually	EAA is designed to support community efforts to develop and implement new and creative approaches to the community's changing economic circumstances. It is often used to support additional planning, market studies, feasibility studies, supply chain mapping, or projects that build capacity and promote supply chain resiliency. EDA opened the most recent funding opportunity for EAA grants in mid-March 2023, offering grants between \$100,000 and \$30 million	Communities burdened with changing economic circumstances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private institutions of higher education City or township governments Special district governments State governments Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education Public and State controlled institutions of higher education Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized) Others (see text field entitled "Additional Information on Eligibility" for clarification) County governments 	US National	To address the long-term economic decline, EDA awarded nearly \$7.3 million in April 2022 to the Port of Port Angeles, Washington, to support the design and construction of an 18-acre Marine Trades Industrial Park on the Port's industrial waterfront property.
Revolving Loan Funds	Economic Development Administration	Continuous	EDA makes Economic Adjustment Assistance grants that in turn create loans providing access to capital as gap financing that enables small businesses to grow and lead to new employment opportunities with competitive wages and benefits. Each RLF Recipient must develop and maintain an RLF plan to demonstrate how the fund fits specific economic development goals and how it will adequately administer the RLF throughout its lifecycle.	Grants awards to establish revolving loan funds (RLFs) that make loans to businesses that cannot otherwise obtain traditional bank financing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State, county, city, or other political subdivision of a State Indian tribe EDA-approved district organization institution of higher education public or private non-profit organization <p>*While individuals and for-profit entities are not eligible for an EAA award to establish an RLF, individuals and for-profit entities are eligible to apply for and receive loans from an RLF established by an eligible entity.</p>	US National	As just one of many examples, EDA provided \$1.1 million in December 2020 to the Arcata Economic Development Corporation in Eureka in Humboldt County, California, to create a Revolving Loan Fund to assist business borrowers located in Del Norte County, a remote county located on the state's northern coast. The EDA investment was intended to alleviate the sudden and severe economic dislocation caused by the pandemic, provide permanent resources to support economic resiliency, and further the long-term economic adjustment objectives of the distressed county
Thriving Communities Program	Department of Transportation	Coming summer of 2023	Dept. of Transportation's \$25 million program provides technical assistance to disadvantaged communities that have been adversely or disproportionately affected by environmental, climate, and human health policy outcomes. The program staff is focused solely on ensuring that these communities have the technical tools and organizational capacity to compete for federal assistance and to deliver the projects supported by that assistance	Technical assistance provider or a community that needs technical assistance, planning, and capacity building support		US National	

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Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers Program	Federal Agencies	Annually - Last Applications Due: November 1, 2022	Various federal agencies contribute to this program that provides grant funding to groups outside of the federal government to establish technical assistance centers. The mission of these centers is to provide technical assistance, training, and related support to communities with environmental justice concerns. Their key focus is building the community's capacity for writing grant proposals, navigating federal systems, and managing grant funding		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public and private universities and colleges Public and private nonprofit institutions/organizations (includes institutions of higher education such as community colleges, and philanthropic organizations), Intertribal Consortia - a coalition between two or more Indian tribal governments authorized by the governing bodies of those tribes to apply for and receive assistance and participate in self-governance 	US National	
Environmental and Climate Justice Grant Program	Economic Development Administration	EPA must award grants and technical assistance under the ECJ Program by September 30, 2026	Environmental Protection Agency is currently asking for public input as to how it should offer the \$3 billion that has been authorized for assistance by the 2022 IRA. Among the types of projects that can be funded are projects that reduce air pollution, mitigate climate and health risks, promote climate resiliency and adaptation, or facilitate the engagement of disadvantaged communities in state and federal public processes. Although the Agency has not yet established detailed selection criteria, it seems reasonable to assume that affected communities that seek to promote aquaculture could make a compelling case for this funding by pointing to the evidence that seafood is a healthy climate-smart alternative to processed meat.	By law, the bulk of the assistance must be awarded to state or local governments, Tribes, and community-based nonprofits to support community-led projects in disadvantaged communities that address disproportionate environmental and public health harms related to pollution and climate change.		US National	
Build Back Better Regional Challenge	Economic Development Administration	One time grant	EDA program that funded several regional coalitions to support aquaculture or maritime industries. As with the Good Jobs Challenge, funding for Build Back Better was made available by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and was aimed at post-pandemic economic recovery, so EDA is unlikely to make additional awards in the future.	No future funding		US National	

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State/Regional							
Maryland Shellfish Aquaculture Loan Program	Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation	One time grant	EDA program that funded several regional coalitions to support aquaculture or maritime industries. As with the Good Jobs Challenge, funding for Build Back Better was made available by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and was aimed at post-pandemic economic recovery, so EDA is unlikely to make additional awards in the future.	Persons holding State submerged land or water column aquaculture leases, or those people who have applied for such leases are eligible to apply. In addition, all applicants must have production and business plans that demonstrate the financial feasibility of the planned aquaculture operation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An applicant must either hold a shellfish aquaculture lease from DNR currently, or have applied for such a lease. Although for applicants that have applied for a shellfish aquaculture lease from DNR, loans may be approved but will not close until the lease is approved. An applicant must demonstrate that the proposed shellfish aquaculture production will begin within 12 months of lease approval. Priority will be given to applicants who have received less than \$100,000 in Shellfish Aquaculture funding previously from MARBIDCO.	Maryland	
Tribal and Indigenous Groups							
Tribal Climate Resilience	Inflation Reduction Act		The Inflation Reduction Act also provided additional funding for efforts to strengthen the resilience of Tribal and Native Hawaiian communities, focusing in particular on the effects of climate change on fisheries. It provides \$2.6 billion in federal assistance to Tribes for the conservation, restoration, and protection of coastal and marine habitats and resources, including fisheries, to prepare for climate-related events and conditions, as well as for projects that support natural resources to sustain coastal and marine resource-dependent communities.			US National	