Funding Opportunity: DOD Announces FY 2021 Defense Manufacturing Community Support Program

Lewis-Burke Associates LLC – April 19, 2021

The Department of Defense’s (DOD) Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC) released the first notice of its two-step funding opportunity announcement (FOA) for the fiscal year (FY) 2021 Defense Manufacturing Community Support Program (DMCSP). The DMCSP is designed to spearhead long-term investments in “critical skills, facilities, research and development, and small business support” to strengthen manufacturing capabilities and national security in designated defense manufacturing communities. The DMCSP allows organizations to obtain Defense Manufacturing Community (DMC) designation and funding and aims to recognize communities where local stakeholders are able to utilize long-term planning to attract and expand defense manufacturing through private and public investments.

OLDCC, formerly the Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA), has only released the first step of the FOA, which includes proposal requirements for seeking designation as a Defense Manufacturing Community. The second step, which is by invite only, will be a separate grant application for funding.

Key factors in competitive proposals will include direct alignment with DOD priorities including the National Defense Strategy, the Fiscal Year 2020 Industrial Capabilities Report to Congress, and DOD Research and Engineering modernization priorities. The program also seeks to complement the DOD-sponsored Manufacturing Innovation Institutes program and industry- and association-initiated Industry 4.0 efforts, as well as “leverage the whole of federal government resources to amplify the execution of its proposed activities.”

In addition to the proposal for Defense Manufacturing Community designation, each proposal must include a plan of proposed activities to improve the community’s defense industrial base, which may include the following types of investments:

- “Workforce training, retraining, or recruitment and retention, including that of women and underrepresented minorities;
- Business incubators;
- Advanced research and commercialization, including with Federal laboratories and depots;
- Supply chain development; and
- Small business assistance.”

Webinar: OLDCC will be hosting a pre-proposal webinar on April 23, 2021 and April 26, 2021 at 11:00 AM PDT to review the objectives of DMC and answer questions. More information can be found in the full notice.

Submission Information: OLDCC must receive full proposals no later than June 15, 2021 at 5:00 PM PDT. If designated, OLDCC will assign Project Managers to winning consortia on or about August 14, 2021 for the submission of a grant application.

Total Award Funding: The program has been allocated $25 million for FY 2021, with individual grants up to $5 million per award. DMC designations last for a period of five years with the option to renew designations for two additional two-year periods.

Eligibility: Consortia composed of members from “academia, defense industry, defense industry and association-led organizations, non-profit organizations, State and local government organizations and various combinations” are
eligible to apply for DMC designation. A Lead Organization must apply on behalf of a regional manufacturing consortium. Eligible Lead Organizations must be one of the following entities:

- "Institution of higher education or a consortium of higher education institutions"
- "Public or private non-profit consortium of defense industries"
- "State, local or tribal government organization"

**Note:** Consortia that received Defense Manufacturing Community designation and grant funding in FY 2020 as a result of the first round of this program are not eligible for additional designation or funding under this announcement.

**Cost Share:** Proposals must match at least 20 percent of the proposed program.

**Sources and Additional Information:**

- Full funding opportunity announcement can be found on [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) under funding opportunity number “OLDCC-21-F-0001” or [here](http://www.grants.gov).
- More information on the DMCSP can be found [here](http://www.grants.gov).