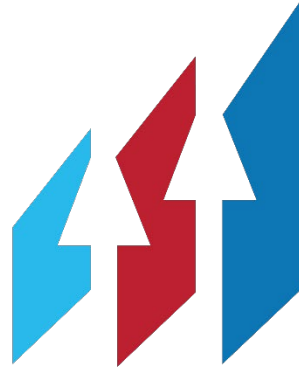


MBDA Parren J. Mitchell Entrepreneurship Education Program NOFO
Funding Opportunity Number MBDA-OBC

FY 2026 Notice of Funding Opportunity



MBDA
MINORITY BUSINESS
DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

MBDA Parren J. Mitchell Entrepreneurship Program

MBDA Parren J. Mitchell Entrepreneurship Education Program NOFO
Funding Opportunity Number MBDA-OBC

NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Federal Awarding Agency Name	Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA), U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC)
Funding Opportunity Title	Parren J. Mitchell Entrepreneurship Education Program
Announcement Type	Initial: This Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) is publishing application submission requirements and application review procedures for MBDA’s Parren J. Mitchell Entrepreneurship Education Program through which MBDA plans to award grants for activities designed to develop and implement entrepreneurship curricula.
Funding Opportunity Number	MBDA-OBC-2026-00002
Assistance Listing Number(s)	11.802 Minority Business Resource Development
Key Dates and Application Submission Instructions	<p>Application Deadline: Due June 29, 2026 by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time.</p> <p>Applications may be submitted starting from the publication date of this NOFO up to the deadline above. Applications must be submitted electronically via grants.gov. Applications sent via email, regular mail, or any other method must be pre-approved by MBDA. See section IV D.</p> <p>Applicants are encouraged to apply early to allow adequate time to make any corrections to errors found in the application during the submission process by the due date.</p> <p>Applicants should be aware that on-time submission means that an application is submitted error free (of both Grants.gov and eRA Commons errors) by 11:59 PM Eastern Daylight Time, June 29, 2026.</p> <p>Applicants are responsible for ensuring the completeness of their application.</p>
Funding Opportunity Description	The Parren J. Mitchell Entrepreneurship Education program was created to train and educate entrepreneurs in subjects directly related to successful entrepreneurship through the development and implementation of evidence-based curricula. This curriculum must be practical and targeted to building the skills

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	necessary to yield real results for entrepreneurs in a defined period of time. Further, classes or modules in this program will be available to any enrolled students at the grantee institution who are either entrepreneurs or aspiring entrepreneurs.
Funding Instrument	Assistance will be in the form of grants
Funding Details	Approximately \$14,500,000 for 7-10 awards.
Cost Share and Match Requirements	The eligible Applicant shall provide a cost share or match of 20% of the total amount of Federal funding to be made available for the award. See section III.B. below.
Eligible Applicants	<p>Under the MBDA Act (15 U.S.C. § 9543(b)(1)), eligible applicants are limited to institutions of higher education described in any of paragraphs (1) through (7) of section 371(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. § 1067q(a)).</p> <p>Requests from individuals will not be considered for funding.</p> <p>See section III.A, below.</p>
Pre-Application Technical Assistance Webinars and Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Document	<p>MBDA will conduct a pre-application technical assistance webinar. The webinar is designed to help prospective applicants understand the Program so they can prepare competitive grant applications.</p> <p>Dates and times for the webinar described above and any additional webinars will be posted on the MBDA website. Participants should register at least 24 hours in advance of any webinar. Please visit the MBDA website at www.mbda.gov to register and view recordings of the webinars, as well as other additional information.</p> <p>MBDA will post responses to questions in “Frequently Asked Questions” (FAQ) on its website. The FAQ’s will be updated regularly throughout the application period.</p> <p>Webinar participants can submit questions for possible MBDA inclusion in the FAQs. In addition, applicants may send questions to MBDA via email at pjm@mbda.gov. Please note that MBDA will not provide individual responses to questions.</p>
Award Notification	If selected for potential award and approved by the Selection Official, the Applicant can anticipate, subject to the availability of funds, receiving an award within a reasonable time after the closing date of the NOFO.

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Agency Contacts	For questions concerning this NOFO, including requests for technical assistance with application requirements, please contact MBDA via email at pjm@mbda.gov .
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APPENDICES

I. Program Description

A. Program Objectives and Priorities

The Trump Administration recognizes entrepreneurs as a key component to the success of local, regional, and the national economy. They generate new economic activity that would not otherwise exist through job creation, innovation, productivity, market competition, capital formation and investment, local wealth creation, expanding regional economic sectors/industries, and commercialization of research. It is critical to invest in the education of entrepreneurs to support these core drivers of U.S. economic dominance.

The Parren J. Mitchell Entrepreneurship Education (PJM) Program promotes the education and training of entrepreneurs by funding eligible institutions to develop and implement evidence-based curricula and programming on subjects necessary for successful entrepreneurship. Curricula developed or selected must be practical and targeted to successfully build the skills entrepreneurs need to sustain and grow their businesses. The PJM Program is interested in projects that yield real results over defined periods of time.

Under the PJM Program, awardees will develop and implement evidence-based curricula that prioritize training in various skill sets needed by contemporary successful entrepreneurs, including, but not limited to: business management; financial management and accounting; market analysis; competitive analysis; innovation; strategic planning; succession planning; marketing; and technology and technology adoption. In addition, skills such as general management, leadership, and human resources should be considered and included within the curricula to an extent that they align within the priority skill sets listed above.

Entrepreneurial development interventions with sound evidence bases are more likely to yield improved entrepreneurial outcomes for participants. As such, Applicants must demonstrate that their proposed curricula are grounded in existing evidence. Applicants that propose to replicate or adapt existing, evidence-based curricula should establish the efficacy of those existing curricula from prior research and justify any adaptations the Applicant plans on making to the curricula through this Program.

While there is a set of broad skills needed to successfully manage business ventures, it is critical that skills be aligned to opportunities, especially those that meet market needs. To that end, MBDA has established the following two Priority Areas for the PJM Program. **Applicants must address at least one of the below Priority Areas in their proposal:**

Priority Area 1: Leveraging Regional Assets

Entrepreneurs and businesses operate in complex interconnected ecosystems and institutes of higher education are poised to help them identify, navigate, and leverage regional assets. To that end, to address this Priority Area, the curricula developed and implemented by successful Applicants should include curriculum elements designed to ensure that entrepreneurs are able to align their ventures with the innovation clusters that exist within the regions in which they operate. Applicants addressing this Priority Area should design their curricula to not only educate entrepreneurs about regional innovation

clusters that exist within their ecosystems, but should also suggest an implementation strategy where regional assets are included in execution of the project.¹

Priority Area 2: Supporting Technology Development and Commercialization

Universities play a significant role in the development and commercialization of new technology. The PJM Program will seek to serve as a catalyst in technology development and commercialization by enhancing the knowledge and skills of entrepreneurs to access technology transfer resources.² By educating entrepreneurs, eligible institutions can advance technology and promote market entry for entrepreneurs. This also ensures that eligible institutions and entrepreneurs can support critical supply chains that are essential for our nation's economy and national security. To address this Priority Area, curricula developed and implemented under this NOFO should (at minimum) ensure entrepreneurs complete their educational programming with an understanding of the following:

- The benefits of “tech transfer” resources for entrepreneurs;
- The process for identifying “tech transfer” resources by/for entrepreneurs;
 - Best practices to consider when preparing to leverage “tech transfer” resources by/for entrepreneurs
 - (e.g., consider concepts including: “customer discovery”, “problem-solution fit”, etc.); and
- The availability of “tech transfer” strategic partnerships within the Applicant’s network for entrepreneurs to engage.

An Applicant also may address this second Priority Area by developing and implementing curricula that is expressly used to complement an existing evidence-based technology transfer program.

For this Program, an “**entrepreneur**” is an enrolled student who seeks (or aspires) to launch or scale a business. This includes but is not limited to nascent or ideation stage entrepreneurs. The definition of entrepreneur does not require or imply any success or experience in any past entrepreneurship activity.

An important aspect of this Program will be to document the efficacy of the curriculum developed and impact of its implementation on individual entrepreneur outcomes. As such, successful proposals, whether focusing on Priority Area 1 or 2, must demonstrate:

¹ Regional Assets are synonymous with Regional Innovation Clusters, which are networks of similar, synergistic, or complementary entities that support a single industry sector and its various supply chains. In general, RICs:
(1) Are based on a geographic area that may cross municipal, county, and other jurisdictional boundaries;
(2) May include catalysts of innovation and drivers of Regional economic growth, such as universities, government research centers, and other research and development resources;
(3) Have active channels for business transactions and communication; and
(4) Depend upon specialized infrastructure, labor markets, and services that build on the unique competitive assets of a location, including talent, technology, services, and hard and soft infrastructure, to spur innovation, job creation, and business expansion.

² For the definition of “technology transfer”, see Appendix A of this NOFO.

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- The ability to deliver an evidence-based curricula; AND
- Effectively collect and communicate proposed outputs, outcomes, and/or impacts that:
 - Support the overall program goals and objectives of the PJM Program;
 - Support the specific Priority Area; and
 - Support an approach by which MBDA may effectively monitor the project's successes, challenges, and areas of opportunities.

Additionally, MBDA intends to evaluate program success. To this end, Applicants will be required to provide client data for all recipients of services funded by this Program. Applicants will be required to attest to all performance and client data submitted in support of their program activities to best preserve the integrity of evaluations.

Applicants may provide proposed services to entrepreneurs in-person, virtually, or through a combination of in-person and virtual services. Awards may fund operational and programmatic costs related to developing and executing the proposed project plan. However, an Applicant proposing to serve entrepreneurs significantly outside its regional geographic area (i.e. online or distance learning) must clearly demonstrate the benefit for those students where the curricula may be primarily focused on local and regional networks. Additionally, an applicant must provide an effective outreach plan to reach and serve entrepreneurs within their project's geographic area, industry, and/or market segment.

Curricula must be designed and implemented to serve enrolled students who seek (or aspire) to launch or scale a business. Applicants must not limit the implementation of their curricula to students that are currently enrolled in their respective college or university. Rather, successful Applicants will provide curricula-based entrepreneurship training to entrepreneurs in their designated geographic service area regardless of whether that entrepreneur is currently enrolled as a student. However, nothing prevents the Applicant from providing university course credit only to currently enrolled students.

Applicants must have an outreach and engagement strategy to ensure that their project reaches a broad array of entrepreneurs. In addition, successful Applicants must develop and maintain a website accessible to the public that discusses and disseminates information about their project under this Program. MBDA will provide more detailed website requirements, branding requirements, and a license to use any required Program logos as part of the post-award process.

B. Statutory Authority

The statutory authority for the Parren J. Mitchell Entrepreneurship Education Program is 15 U.S.C. § 9543(b).

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II. Award Information

A. Funding Availability

In fiscal year (FY) 2026 under this NOFO, MBDA expects to obligate approximately \$14.5 million for 7-10 financial assistance awards for selected proposals. The awards, which MBDA anticipates funding at approximately \$1,500,000 to \$2,000,000, will have an overall two-year period of performance.

At this time in FY 2026, MBDA will fund two-year awards at approximately \$1,500,000 to \$2,000,000.

Publication of this NOFO does not oblige MBDA or the DOC to award any specific project or to obligate any available funds. MBDA or the DOC will not be responsible for application preparation costs, including but not limited to, if this program fails to receive funding or is cancelled because of agency priorities.

B. Project/Award Period

Subject to availability of funding, MBDA expects to issue awards for a total period of performance of two years from approximately September 1, 2026 – August 31, 2028. Each budget year within the two-year period of performance will be 12 months. Anticipated budget periods are outlined below.

Budget Year	Months	Anticipated Start and End Dates – for budget planning	
Year 1	12 months	September 1, 2026	August 31, 2027
Year 2	12 months	September 1, 2027	August 31, 2028

C. Type of Funding Instrument

Funding will be made through a grant.

III. Eligibility Information

A. Eligible Applicants

Under the MBDA Act (15 U.S.C. § 9543(b)(1)), eligible applicants are limited to institutions of higher education described in any of paragraphs (1) through (7) of section 371(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. § 1067q(a)). Therefore, eligible applicants are limited to:

- a Historically Black College or University (see definition of “part B institution” in 20 U.S.C. § 1061(2));
- a Hispanic-serving institution (as defined in 20 U.S.C. § 1101a);
- a Tribal College or University (as defined in 20 U.S.C § 1059c);
- an Alaska Native-serving institution or a Native Hawaiian-serving institution (as defined in 20 U.S.C. § 1059d(b));

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- a Predominantly Black Institution (as defined in 20 U.S.C. § 1067q(c)(9));
- an Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institution (as defined in 20 U.S.C. § 1067q(c)(2)); or
- a Native American-serving nontribal institution (as defined in 20 U.S.C. § 1067q(c)(8)).

B. Cost Share or Matching Requirement

A non-Federal cost share of 20% of the Federal funding is required, for awards issued pursuant to this NOFO. Non-federal cost sharing is that portion of the project costs not borne by the Federal Government. The applicant's share of expenses may include cash, services, and third-party in-kind contributions, as described at 2 CFR § 200.306. The source and detailed rationale of the cost share, including cash, full- and part-time personnel, and in-kind donations, must be documented in the Budget Narrative and Justification submitted with the application . As with the Federal share, any proposed costs included as non-Federal cost sharing must be an allowable/eligible cost under this program and under the Federal cost principles set forth in 2 CFR part 200, Subpart E.

In accordance with section B.03 of the *Department of Commerce Financial Assistance General Terms and Conditions*, the non-Federal share, whether in cash or third-party in-kind contributions, is to be paid out at the same general rate as the Federal share.

Non-federal cost sharing incorporated into the budget of an approved financial assistance award is subject to audit in the same general manner as Federal award funds. See 2 CFR part 200, Subpart F.

Revenue (*e.g.*, program income) may be, but is not required to be, generated from fees for service, client fees, membership fees, or other appropriate fees associated with services or activities funded through this Program as long as they are pre-approved by MBDA. Any program income generated may be used towards the matching requirement unless the matching requirement is met from other cash or in-kind sources. Any income generated in excess of the matching requirement must be used to carry out the activities of the program authorized by the award ([2 CFR § 200.307\(b\)\(2\)](#)). Awardees cannot charge fees so high that Program-funded services and activities are not accessible to a broad range of rural businesses.

In accordance with 15 U.S.C. § 9552(b)(2)(B), MBDA may determine, based upon a demonstration by the Applicant of substantial need, that the Applicant shall not be required to provide the full match with respect to the funding to be provided. To qualify for a lower match requirement or no match requirement, an Applicant must submit a request with the application, including an explanation of the substantial need, supporting documentation, and the amount being sought.

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IV. Application and Submission Information

A. Address to Request Application Package

All application materials and forms are available at the Grants.gov website (<http://www.grants.gov>). Helpful competition materials such as FAQs will be made available on the MBDA website (www.mbda.gov).

B. Content and Form of Application

Applications for the Program must be complete, and follow the format described in this NOFO. A complete application packet consists of the following forms and required submissions described below. Applications that fail to include all the necessary elements may not be reviewed or considered and may be disqualified.

Required Application Content		
1	Project Abstract (See Section IV.B.1, below, for requirements)	One (1) page limit
2	Project Narrative (See Section IV.B.2, below, for requirements)	Twenty (20) page limit
3	Supporting Documents (<i>i.e.</i> , Letters of Commitment, resumes)	Page Limits cited in Section IV.B.3
4	Standard Forms	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SF-424 (Application for Federal Assistance) • SF-424A (Budget Information Non-Construction Programs) • CD-511 (Certification Regarding Lobbying) • SF-LLL (Disclosure of Lobbying Activities) if applicable 	
5	Budget Narrative	Seven (7) page limit
6	Indirect Cost Rate (ICR) Agreement Documentation (if applicable)	
7	Project Performance and Start-up Narrative (see section IV.B.2.c.ii, below, for requirements)	

1. Project Abstract (One (1) page limit)

At a minimum, the Project Abstract page must provide the lead Applicant’s name, address, telephone number, email address, date of submission, project executive summary, brief description of project goals (the intended impact and what the Applicant hopes to accomplish), and the Funding Opportunity Number. Applicants should also provide the following additional information: the project title, total budget, and start and end dates. Note: The executive summary should be no more than 250 words and include a description of the curricula to be developed and implemented and the priorities that will be addressed. If your application is selected for funding, MBDA may publish this executive summary, or portions of it, on its or other relevant websites

and via social media. See Appendix B for a template.

2. Project Narrative (Twenty (20) page limit)

All applications must contain a detailed Project Narrative with defined sections as described below. All pages of the application must be consecutively numbered. Materials beyond 20 pages may not be read or considered. Applicants are encouraged to provide a clear and concise narrative that includes a compelling justification for the project and articulates the needs of the geographic area, the efficacy of curricula to be developed and implemented, and entrepreneurs to be served.

- a. **Project Description:** The Applicant should fully describe and explain what is being proposed, including:
 - i. The geographic region where services will be provided and the need for focused entrepreneurial development services as established through data. Applicants should also describe the regional ecosystems in which they operate, which could include economic makeup and population density. The location and geographic area should directly correspond to Questions 14 and 16 on the SF-424 (see section V.A.1.a. (*i.e.*, Evaluation Criteria 1.a.)).
 - ii. A detailed description of the curricula that will be developed, associated implementation activities, and a description of how these will yield project and entrepreneurial outcomes. Curricula and the associated implementation activities must address at least one of the Program's Priority Areas (see section I.A, above). The educational support activities to deliver or implement curricula should be clearly defined in terms of format, delivery, and length. Outputs/deliverables from these activities should be reasonably aligned to both PJM's objectives and the Applicant's proposed curricula strategy. The proposed outcome/impact of the planned curricula should also be reasonably articulated. **For Applicants that plan to rely upon or modify existing curricula**, Applicants must demonstrate that they have the right to use such curricula and describe in detail the evidence supporting the efficacy of existing curricula as well as their development process and timeline for any modifications and the evidence supporting such modifications. **For Applicants that propose to develop entirely new interventions or curricula**, the Applicant must describe in detail the development process and timeline, including the data relied upon and field-testing process(es) the Applicant proposes to implement. Importantly, proposed curricula are not required to be synchronous. However, if synchronous curricula and programming are developed, Applicants should propose metrics for program completion (see section V.A.1.b. (*i.e.*, Evaluation Criterion 1.b.)).
 - iii. The names, affiliations, complete mailing addresses, email addresses, and telephone numbers of all key person(s) who will lead the project. Identification and description of key stakeholders, project leaders, and partners that will be leveraged to accomplish the PJM Program's objectives. If the Applicant proposes to leverage third-party partnerships and their respective resources to implement key components or activities for the proposed project under this NOFO, the Applicant

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must provide proof of commitment by the third party as an attachment to the proposal. In this section, the Applicant should also describe its strategy to leverage and collaborate with existing Department of Commerce programs and other federal, state, or local government programs in the geographic region, including those that support entrepreneurs' access to capital (see section V.A.1.c. (*i.e.*, Evaluation Criterion 1.c.))

- iv. A description of the strategies the project will implement to drive the participation of entrepreneurs in the project. This includes but is not limited to the Applicant's outreach strategy. If the Applicant proposes to leverage stakeholders or other partners for outreach or awareness raising, the Applicant should provide a description of those stakeholders'/partners' roles and an indication that they have agreed to collaborate with or partner with the project. These strategies must ensure wide dissemination to ensure maximum participation of entrepreneurs of all types in the project (see section V.A.1.d. (*i.e.*, Evaluation Criterion 1.d.)).

- b. **Applicant Capability:** The Applicant must present information describing the experience and qualifications of the organization to carry out the proposed project. The application should include the following information:

- i. A concise summary of the Applicant's organization; its mission and programs; experience executing projects or services similar to those proposed; and a list of previous or current projects or services relevant to the proposal (see section V.A.2.a. (*i.e.*, Evaluation Criterion 2.a.)).
- ii. An overview that emphasizes the Applicant's experience and strategies for the development of evidence-based curricula, knowledge of entrepreneurship, and the implementation of entrepreneurial development programs (see section V.A.2.b. (*i.e.*, Evaluation Criterion 2.b.)).
- iii. Proof of capability to implement and manage a project of the scope and breadth proposed. This should include a discussion of financial and management infrastructure and can include but is not limited to, public records of accomplishments, public citations, and/or letters of referrals or recommendations as attachments to the proposal (see section V.A.2.c. (*i.e.*, Evaluation Criterion 2.c.)).
- iv. A chart showing the Applicant's organizational structure, including a functional statement noting the duties and/or responsibilities of all units that will comprise the organization during the period for which the proposal applies. Applicants must also provide a brief narrative outlining the reporting structure and/or governance of the Project (see section V.A.2.d. (*i.e.*, Evaluation Criterion 2.d.)).
- v. Applicants must provide a one-page bio or resume for each of the Applicant's key personnel(s) showing relevant experience of the leader(s). MBDA expects that an Administrator or Department Head or other staff with similar authority will serve as the Project Director, to oversee the success of the proposed project. The biographies and attachments should be included as attachments to your proposal and will not count toward the 20-page limit. Applicants must identify a Project Director; however, if the identified person is not currently employed by the Applicant, the Project Narrative should note when the person will be onboarded (see section V.A.2.d. (*i.e.*, Evaluation Criterion 2.d.)).

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- c. **Project Performance and Start-up:** The Project Performance and Start-up part of the Project Narrative communicates how the proposed project’s progress, production, and impact will be measured. This narrative should clearly describe how the project’s activities will generate results for MBDA’s performance measures. Applicants are encouraged to be data driven, which may require them to collect more data than what MBDA requires for performance reporting. The Project Performance and Start-up narrative has three components: 1) **Project Impact Narrative**; 2) **Project Performance Worksheet**; and 3) **Project Start-up Narrative**.
- i. The Project Impact Narrative should clearly describe what your proposed intervention intends to accomplish; how the goals, activities, and measures align; how data will be collected; how project activities will generate results for MBDA and project-specific performance measures; and how the curricula will yield improved entrepreneurial outcomes. Applicants must present a clearly articulated theory or theories of change for the curricula that will be developed and/or implemented. Importantly, Applicants must describe how data will be collected and how data will be used to inform project delivery (see section V.A.3.a. (*i.e.*, Evaluation Criterion 3.a.)).
 - ii. The Project Performance Worksheet must be in a spreadsheet format that will present the core measures that are required by MBDA as well as project-specific measures that the Applicant proposes to track through the performance period of the grant. The overarching goal for core program measures is to capture how many entrepreneurs are engaged through proposed curricula, how many (and what type of) educational support activities are executed, and how these activities illustrate impact on entrepreneurship. For example, in each year, XX entrepreneurs participated in XX educational activities (curricula), resulting in XX businesses developed, XX contracts secured, etc. For each core measure, the Applicant must propose a numeric target. Sub-metric goals are discretionary. The template must include the following:
 - a. Core Measures –
 - i. Students Enrolled (target goal required);
 - ii. Students Served (target goal required);
 - iii. Educational Support Activities Delivered (target goal required);
 - iv. Start-up (Incubator) Outputs (overall target goal required);
 1. Business Plans Developed (target goal is discretionary)
 2. New Businesses Formed (target goal is discretionary)
 3. Prototypes Produced (target goal is discretionary)
 - v. Advanced Stage (Accelerator) Outputs (overall target goal required);
 1. Capital Infusion (target goal is discretionary)
 2. Contracts Secured (target goal is discretionary)
 3. Jobs Created (target goal is discretionary)
 - vi. See Appendix C for additional details.
 - b. Project-specific measures and related numerical targets (if applicable)
 - c. Note: Applicants ensure that their proposed numeric targets for the beginning of the program reflect project ramp-up, curriculum development, and

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- anticipated start date for delivery/implementation of curricula.
- iii. The Project Start-up Narrative should clearly describe the operational processes and procedures that will be deployed to launch the project, such as hiring key staff (e.g., Director); securing locations to house the project; finalizing partnership agreements; and ensuring readiness for transmitting data to MBDA. Awardees are able to use the systems of their choice to collect data. However, MBDA will provide post-award guidance on the submission of data and participation in the evaluation of the PJM Program.

3. Supporting Documents

If cited in the proposal, the Applicant must provide the following additional documentation that supports the proposed project, including:

- Resumes of key personnel
- Memoranda of Understanding or Memoranda of Agreement between project partners.
- Letters of Support, Letters of Commitment, or other evidence of existing strategic relationships, collaborations, or alliances. Letters of Support or Commitment should be signed by an individual authorized to commit to the organization. Letters of Support or Commitment that provide details about how the entity intends to support the Applicant and/or engage with the project will be viewed as more competitive. (5-page limit)
- Data/literature cited in the Project Narrative.
- Letters of recommendation from entrepreneurs who were served by the Applicant, if available. (5-page limit)
- Project Timeline

4. Standard Forms (SF), Budget Narrative and Matching Commitment

The Applicant must provide the required Standard Forms, attachments, and budget information as described in the section below.

- a. **Standard Application Forms.** Please refer to the application package available through Grants.gov. Please review each form to determine which is required with the application. Each Applicant may not be required to submit all forms listed, depending on the project type or the Applicant type.
- i. **Signed SF-424.** The SF-424 must be signed by the authorized organization representative. Electronic signatures submitted through Grants.gov satisfy this requirement. **ONE SF-424 form will cover both budget years.** Please note that the authorized organization representative will be recognized as the main point of contact to receive official notifications on the application throughout the competition and to sign on behalf of the organization.
 - ii. **SF-424A.** Budget Information-Non-Construction Programs. **Applicants must submit a SEPARATE SF-424A for EACH budget year within the two-year period of performance.** In Section B of the form, include the federal fund amounts in column 1.

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- iii. **Budget Narrative.** A detailed budget narrative must be completed and submitted for all non-construction applications that describes the specific goods or services to be purchased in each cost category. The Federal and non-federal share amounts must be separated out for each budget year within the two-year period of performance (see additional information below in section IV.B.4.b.).
 - iv. **Commerce Department (CD)-511.** Certification Regarding Lobbying.
 - v. **SF-LLL.** Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (if applicable).
- b. **Budget Narrative.** Applicants **MUST** provide a clear budget narrative that identifies and justifies how funds in each cost category will be used to support the proposed project. The budget narrative should specifically address each budget line item (including both the Federal and matching non-Federal share). Please note that the budget narrative total should match exactly the total project costs listed in both the SF-424, Question 18, Line g (“TOTAL”) and the appropriate Federal and non-Federal total fields of the SF-424A. Please also note that successful Applicants will be required to develop and maintain a project-specific webpage through the duration of the project. Applicants should plan their budgets accordingly. MBDA will provide post-award guidance regarding webpage requirements and branding requirements.

5. Indirect Cost Rate Agreement Documentation (as applicable)

Applicants requesting to use an established indirect cost rate are required to submit a copy of their current and signed indirect cost rate agreement with the application package. If an Applicant does not have a current indirect cost rate established by a cognizant Federal agency, provide a statement to this effect. If a successful Applicant includes indirect costs in the budget that exceed the de minimis rate (discussed below) and has not established an indirect cost rate with a cognizant Federal agency, the Applicant will be required to obtain such a rate in accordance with Section B.06 of the *Department of Commerce Financial Assistance General Terms and Conditions*, dated September 22, 2025 (available at <https://www.commerce.gov/oam/policy/financial-assistance-policy>).

Alternatively, in accordance with 2 CFR § 200.414(f), a non-Federal entity that does not have a current negotiated indirect cost rate may elect to charge a de minimis rate of 15 percent of modified total direct costs. Applicants proposing a 15 percent de minimis rate pursuant to [2 CFR § 200.414\(f\)](#) should note this election as part of the budget and budget narrative portion of the application. Indirect costs proposed under the award must be clearly identified as a separate budget line-item.

6. Format Requirements

All pages should be single-spaced and should be composed in at least 11-point font with one-inch margins. The total proposal shall not exceed 30 pages, including the Project Abstract, Project Narrative, literature cited, Budget Narrative, project timeline, and organizational structure. The following items are **not** included in the 30-page limit:

- Resumes/bios of key personnel

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- Required forms (*i.e.*, Standard Forms 424, CD-511, etc.)
- Letters of Support and/or Letters of Commitment
- Letters documenting provision of matching funds
- Letters of recommendation from entrepreneurs served by the Applicant

Failure to follow these requirements may result in the rejection of the application. Any PDF or other attachments that are included in an electronic application must meet the above format requirement when printed.

C. Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM)

Each Applicant (unless the Applicant is eligible for an exception under [2 CFR § 25.110](#)) is required to:

- **Register** in the System for Award Management (SAM) before applying;
- **Provide** a valid unique entity identifier in the application; and
- **Continue** to maintain an active SAM registration with current information during the entire period that the Applicant has an active Federal award or an application under consideration by MBDA (or any other Federal agency).

MBDA may not make a Federal award to an Applicant until the Applicant has complied with all applicable unique entity identifier and SAM requirements. If an Applicant has not fully complied with the requirements by the time MBDA is ready to make the award, MBDA may determine that the Applicant is not qualified to receive a Federal award and use that determination as a basis for making an award to another Applicant.

D. Submission Requirements

Applicant organizations must complete and maintain three registrations to be eligible to apply for or receive an award. These registrations include SAM.gov, Grants.gov, and eRA Commons. All registrations must be completed prior to the application being submitted. The complete registration process for all three systems **can take 4 to 6 weeks, so Applicants should begin this activity as soon as possible.**

Prior to registering with eRA Commons, Applicant organizations must first obtain a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) from SAM.gov, if needed. Organizations can register with eRA Commons in tandem with completing their full SAM and Grants.gov registrations; however, all registrations must be in place by time of application submission. eRA Commons requires organizations to identify at least one Signing Official (SO) and at least one Program Director/Principal Investigator (PD/PI) account in order to submit an application.

The first PD/PI listed on the application must include their eRA Commons ID in the "Credential, e.g. agency login" Applicant Identifier field on the SF424 form. Failure to register in the Commons and to include a valid PD/PI Commons ID in the Applicant Identifier field will prevent the successful submission of an electronic application.

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NOTE: We strongly encourage all prospective Applicants to begin required registrations as early as possible. Completing the required registrations can take six weeks or longer. Submission due dates will not be extended because of registration delays. Submissions received after the due date will be considered late and will not be accepted.

See below for more detailed information on each required registration process.

1. System for Award Management (SAM.gov): SAM.gov registration is required to do business with the U.S. government. After registering with SAM.gov, you will receive a 12-character Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) that you will use throughout the application process. We recommend allowing at least three weeks for initial SAM.gov registrations and at least two weeks for SAM.gov registration renewals. Additional information on SAM.gov registration is available here: <https://sam.gov/content/entity-registration>. You must update your SAM.gov registration any time your entity's information changes. You must also renew and revalidate your entity's SAM.gov registration at least every 12 months from the date you last certified to and submitted the registration. The renewal process may take up to two weeks. Your SAM.gov account's primary point of contact will receive an email message alerting them to the renewal requirement at 60 days, 30 days, and 15 days prior to expiration. If you do not renew your registration by the deadline, it will expire.

2. eRA Commons: After completing your SAM.gov registration and receiving your Unique Entity Identifier (UEI), you must register with eRA Commons and create several required user accounts. The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Financial Assistance and Agreements Office (FAAMO) uses eRA Commons to process grant applications and manage grant awards. NOTE: eRA Commons requires Applicants to create one ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE and two USER ACCOUNTS before submitting an application. These requirements are described in detail below. We recommend allowing at least three weeks for eRA Commons registration. This process can be completed concurrently with your Grants.gov registration. Additional information on the eRA Commons registration process is available here: <https://www.commerce.gov/ocio/programs/gems/applicant-and-grantee-training>.

After creating an overall account for your "institution", which may be for your organization or yourself as an individual, eRA Commons requires you to set up at least two user accounts: one Signing Official (SO) account and one Program Director/Principal Investigator (PD/PI) account. The Signing Official (SO) user account must be assigned to an individual with signature authority to legally bind the organization in grants administration matters. The SO will receive 4-5 emails throughout the registration process. The PD/PI account must be assigned to an individual with primary responsibility for the project(s) described in the grant application. The eRA Commons User ID (Username) for the PD/PI must also be listed on the SF-424 form for item 4 (Applicant Identifier). Your SO and PD/PI user accounts must be active before you submit an application. Both accounts can be assigned to the same individual if appropriate.

3. Grants.Gov: After completing your SAM.gov registration and receiving your Unique Entity Identifier (UEI), you must complete a one-time registration process with Grants.gov. Grants.gov is a government-wide portal used to solicit and accept grant applications. We recommend

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allowing at least two weeks for Grants.gov registration. This process can be completed concurrently with your eRA Commons registration. Additional information on the Grants.gov registration process is available here: <https://www.grants.gov/applicants/applicant-registration>.

Submission Validation

Grants.gov and eRA Commons validation processes for a submitted application can take up to two business days after submission. Completed applications are sent for review. To ensure successful submission of an application, we strongly recommend that you submit a final and complete application at least two business days prior to the submission deadline.

Grants.gov and eRA Commons will not accept submissions if the Applicant has not been authorized or if credentials are incorrect. Submissions may also be rejected if:

- The PD/PI's account username within eRA Commons is not provided on the SF-424 form for item 4 (Applicant Identifier).
- The UEI from SAM.gov is not provided on the SF-424 form for item 8.c (UEI).
- The Congressional District is not entered in the correct format on the SF-424 form for item 16 (Congressional Districts). The correct format is: [State Abbreviation]-[three digit district number]. For example, Virginia's 1st Congressional District would be listed as VA-001.
- PDF files are not flattened. To flatten a fillable PDF, you can use the "Print to PDF" function from any web browser or PDF reader application.
- File sizes exceed 100 MB.
- Page sizes are greater than 8.5x11.
- File names exceed 50 characters (including spaces).
- File names include special characters.

After you submit your application, you will receive an automatic acknowledgment of receipt that contains a Grants.gov tracking number. This notification indicates receipt by Grants.gov only, not receipt by NIST FAAMO or eRA Commons. Applications submitted through Grants.gov will be accompanied by FOUR automated responses: 1. Grants.gov Submission Receipt; 2. Grants.gov Submission Validation Receipt for Application; 3. Grants.gov Grantor Agency Retrieval Receipt for Application; and 4. Grants.gov Agency Tracking Number Assignment for Application.

In addition to the Grants.gov automated notification messages, you may receive automated email notifications of any errors or warnings identified by eRA Commons. You must resolve all eRA Commons errors prior to the application due date in order for the application to be processed. Once an electronic application is accepted in eRA Commons, you will receive an additional automated notification that the completed application was received and that an application number will be assigned. You should save and print the proof of submission messages from both Grants.gov and eRA Commons. If you do not receive an acceptance message from both Grants.gov and eRA Commons, you should follow up with the agency contact listed in section VII to confirm NIST FAAMO's receipt of the complete submission.

E. Submission Dates and Times

Organizations must submit applications to Grants.gov (the online portal to find and apply for grants across all Federal agencies). Applicants must then complete the submission process by tracking the status of the application in the eRA Commons, NIST FAAMO's electronic system for grants administration.. Once submitted, an application will go through system validation checks to identify any errors in first Grants.gov and then in eRA Commons. Any errors identified by a system must be corrected in that specific system. **All applications must be free and clear of any errors in both Grants.gov and eRA Commons in order to be accepted and considered.**

All applications must be received on or before **June 29, 2026**, at 11:59 pm Eastern Daylight Time (EDT). Applications may be submitted starting from the publication date of this NOFO up to the deadline above. If a Changed/Corrected application is submitted after the deadline, the application will be considered late. The electronic submission will receive a date and time stamp and will be processed after it is fully uploaded. Applicants should anticipate receiving confirmation of successful submission within 48 hours. It is imperative that Applicants obtain this confirmation as proof of successful submission. Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit applications as early as possible. **Waiting to apply until the end of the competition period puts an application at risk**; be sure to allow ample time. Late applications will not be accepted.

In addition, please note the following:

- MBDA will not accept any unsolicited changes, additions, revisions, or deletions to applications after the submission deadline.
- Throughout the review and selection process, MBDA reserves the right to seek clarification from Applicants whose applications are being reviewed and considered.
- Applicants may be asked to clarify objectives and work plans and modify budgets or other specifics as necessary to comply with federal requirements and provide supplemental information required by the agency before award.
- See section V of this NOFO for application review and selection information.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to start early and not to wait until near the application deadline before logging on and reviewing the instructions for submitting an application through Grants.gov. Applicants should **SAVE AND PRINT WRITTEN PROOF** of an electronic submission made at Grants.gov. If problems occur while using Grants.gov, the Applicant is advised to print any error message received and contact Grants.gov immediately. You can find contact information for Grants.gov on its website, including at <https://www.grants.gov/support> at the time of publication of this NOFO.

MBDA, in its sole discretion, may pre-approve in writing submission via an alternate method (e.g., email) due to a systems issue at Grants.gov only insofar as any such systems issue is beyond the control of the Applicant. However, any submission via this alternate method must have email or facsimile receipt timestamps no later than the application deadline or must be timestamped on or before the application deadline. **LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED for any reason**, including but not limited to late submissions caused by issues

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with Grants.gov, SAM, or Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) registrations. **An application that is not timestamped as applicable, by the application deadline WILL NOT BE REVIEWED.**

Applicants are responsible for ensuring the completeness of their application.

F. Intergovernmental Review

Applications under this program are not subject to Executive Order 12372, Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs.

G. Funding Restrictions

The following activities and associated costs are not allowable under the PJM Program. Such costs may not be charged to the Federal share or matching share of the award.

- **Construction:** Construction activities are not allowable under this Program. For the purposes of an award made pursuant to this NOFO, construction includes any activity that disturbs the ground or modifies a structure.
- **Capital Investments & Loans:** The use of award funds for capital investments, loans, or grants to entrepreneurs or businesses is not allowable under this Program. Thus, the cost of any capital investment, loan, or grant is not an allowable cost under an award. Neither Federal nor matching share funds may be invested in startups or other companies, whether through capital, debt, hybrid, or another mechanism. Similarly, services funded by Federal or matching share cannot be exchanged or otherwise used as the basis for an ownership stake in a company.
- **Scholarship Programs:** The use of award funds to pay a student's college or university tuition in the form of a scholarship or fellowship is not allowable under this Program.

V. Application Review Information

Throughout the review and selection process, MBDA reserves the right to seek clarification and corrected or missing documents in writing from Applicants whose applications are being reviewed. MBDA may additionally ask Applicants to clarify application materials or modify budgets or other specifics necessary to comply with Federal requirements.

A. Evaluation Criteria

Each application will be evaluated based on the criteria included below. The number of points that can be earned for each category of criteria is listed below. A maximum total of 100 points may be earned for required criteria.

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Summary of Evaluation Criteria		
1	Project Description	50 points
2	Applicant Capability	25 points
3	Project Objectives, Metrics, and Implementation	25 points
Total Available Application Points		100 points

1. Project Description (50 points total)

This criterion considers the proposal’s alignment with entrepreneurs’ needs and the geographic context in which the project will operate, the strength of the proposed activities under the PJM Program (including the strength of the proposed curricula to be developed, the evidence-based nature of the curricula, and the strength of the proposed implementation of the curricula), the proposal’s alignment with at least one of the Program’s Priority Areas (see section I.A.), and the strength of the proposed partnerships. Accordingly, the proposal will be assessed on the following specific criteria:

- a. The proposal’s clear identification of the geographic region where services will be provided *and* a demonstrated understanding – backed by data – of the region’s needs, and strategies to reach entrepreneurs in that region. (10 points)
- b. The strength of the Applicants’ use of existing or planned curricula **and** the approach to implement said curricula, including a clear statement backed by evidence demonstrating the efficacy of the curricula and any activities that implement the curricula. The educational support activities to deliver or implement curricula should be clearly defined in terms of format, delivery, and length. Outputs/deliverables from these activities should be reasonably aligned to both PJM’s objectives, and the Applicant’s proposed curricula strategy. The proposed outcome/impact of the planned curricula should also be reasonably articulated. (25 points)
- c. The strength of the proposal’s strategy to leverage key stakeholders and partners to implement the project and accomplish the PJM Program’s objectives (other than driving participation in the project, see section immediately below). This criterion includes a clear identification of key stakeholders and a clear explanation of how the project will engage with those stakeholders and/or proposed partners. This criterion also includes, if applicable, the strength of the proposal’s strategy to leverage and collaborate with existing Department of Commerce programs and other federal, state, or local government programs in the geographic region, including those that support entrepreneurs’ access to capital (see Priority Area 1). (10 points)
- d. The strength of the Applicant’s strategies to drive the participation of entrepreneurs in the project, including a clear statement backed by numerical data demonstrating how the Applicant’s proposed activities and outreach strategy maximize the number of entrepreneurs served. This element may include the strength of the proposed partnerships (as illustrated through Letters of Commitment and/or Memoranda of Understanding) and the strength of the proposal’s plan for outreach. (5 points)

2. Applicant Capability (25 points total)

This criterion assesses whether the Applicant has the resources and organizational capacity to execute their proposed project successfully, including the ability to manage a federal award and past experience with developing and implementing evidence-based curricula and entrepreneurial development programming.

- a. The clarity of the description of the organization and a demonstrated commitment and experience providing entrepreneurial development services or related services to entrepreneurs relevant to the project. (6 points)
- b. The strength of the Applicant's experience with the development of evidence-based curricula development and implementation. (7 points)
- c. The degree to which the Applicant demonstrates a strong organizational capability to implement and manage a project of the scope and breadth proposed. This includes the overall financial stability of the organization as demonstrated by strong accounting systems, fiscal, and administrative controls in place to properly manage federal funds, and previous grants management experience. (7 points)
- d. The strength of the Applicant's organizational structure chart, personnel devoted to the project, including the qualifications and experience of key personnel and other staff assigned to significant roles and responsibilities proposed in the application, and an effective organizational structure consistent with successful implementation of the project. This also includes a brief narrative outlining the reporting structure and/or governance of the Project. (5 points)

3. Project Objectives, Metrics, and Implementation (25 points total)

This criterion considers the Applicant's approach for collecting and utilizing data to manage performance and demonstrate impact; the congruity of targets with the geographic area to be served; and the clarity with which it describes its plan to successfully implement key milestones.

- a. The strength of the Project Narrative (see section IV.B.2.), including the clarity with which the Applicant describes and justifies the project's goals, the connection between the Applicant's theory of change and its proposed curricula and activities, approach to data collection, and the system it will use to manage and synthesize client data. (5 points)
- b. The extent to which the Applicant addresses the full range of core performance measures (Students Engaged, Student Enrolled; Educational Support Activities Delivered; Total Number of Startup (Incubator) Output Activities; and Total Number of Advanced (Accelerator) Output Activities) and project specific performance measures (*e.g.*, Program Graduates), and how the proposed numerical targets align with the project's theory of change. Where required, numeric targets for performance goals must be provided on an annual basis. Additionally, MBDA assesses performance on a semi-

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annual basis. If achievement of annual goals is reliant upon a “scaling” or “ramp-up” approach, Applicants should be clear within their project proposal if/how their proposal plans to address semi-annual (6 month) assessment of their performance. Grantees should make every effort to reflect seasonality in their projections (seasonality is the presence of regular fluctuations in a time series with peaks and troughs that can be observed and measured). (5 points)

- c. The feasibility of the project’s proposed numerical targets for the core performance metrics, particularly whether the proposal demonstrates that the targets and activities are ambitious, realistic, achievable, and reasonable given the amount of funding requested by the proposal. (5 points)
- d. Clearly describes and justifies a sound plan for meeting the preliminary steps during the planning phase to ensure that the following key benchmarks are reached: hiring key staff, securing locations for operations, meeting with potential partners, and ensuring readiness for transferring or entering data to MBDA. (10 points).

B. Review and Selection Process

1. Initial Screening (Technical Review)

Prior to the formal review process, each application will receive an initial administrative screening to ensure that all required forms, signatures, and documents are present. An application may not be evaluated by the review panel if:

- a) The application is received after the closing date.
- b) The application package does not contain mandatory items (see section IV. B.).
- c) The project fails to address program objectives and priorities (see section I.).
- d) The Applicant is not an eligible entity as defined by this NOFO.

MBDA, in its sole discretion, may continue review of applications with minor defects that may be easily rectified or cured.

2. Merit Review

Each responsive application will receive an independent, merit review by a panel (Merit Review Panel) qualified to evaluate the applications submitted based on the published evaluation criteria. The Merit Review Panel will consist of at least three (3) individuals. Each reviewer on the Merit Review Panel shall evaluate and provide an individual score for each proposal based on the criteria set out in this section (see Application Review Information, above) for a maximum of 100 points. The Merit Review Panel may discuss the application(s) but will not provide a consensus on scores for each Applicant. During the review process, Applicants may receive a written request from the MBDA program office to clarify items contained in the Applicant’s proposal.

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Each application will receive a single score by averaging the scores of all reviewers for each application. MBDA, in its sole discretion, may use a statistical technique to normalize, aggregate, and sort the Merit Reviewers scores into tiers of similarly scored applications. Applications that receive an overall average of 75 points or more are deemed meritorious and will be considered for funding. If the number of applications that score an average of 75 points or more is not enough to exhaust available funding or does not provide enough applications to preserve the Selection Review Panel's discretion to apply selection factors (as described in section V.B.3. below), MBDA also may advance the next tier of awards forward for consideration for funding.

3. MBDA Selection Review and Selection Factors

The results of the Merit Review process (as described in section V.B.2) will be passed to the Selection Review Panel, composed of no more than five (5) Federal employees, for consideration. The Selection Review Panel will recommend a portfolio of proposals, from which the successful applications may be selected, and may take into consideration one or more of the following selection factors:

- The extent to which the application meets the overall objectives and priorities of the MBDA Parren J. Mitchell Entrepreneurship Education program as provided in section I.A.
- The likelihood that the Applicant will be able to develop and implement high-quality evidence-based curricula in a way that benefits entrepreneurs.
- Demonstrated ability to provide high quality technical assistance.
- The performance of the Applicant under previous Federal financial assistance awards, as well as the performance of any third parties the Applicant identifies who will carry out a substantial portion of the project.
- The availability of funds.
- The extent to which the application demonstrates an effective plan to ensure that entrepreneurs benefit from available resources.
- The likelihood that the Applicant and its proposed partners will be able to effectively engage with entrepreneurs.
- The likelihood that the proposal will benefit the business ecosystem in a lasting way (*i.e.*, sustainability and lasting impact).
- The extent to which the project supports MBDA's goals of balance in distribution of program funds within the overall portfolio of awards, including balance in geographic locations, type of institution, and business area or industry focus.
- The extent to which the proposal aligns with MBDA's mission.
- The relative rate of return of the project.

In addition to considering the application and supporting documentation, the Selection Review Panel may rely upon publicly available information to inform its application of the selection factors. The Selection Review Panel will recommend a final portfolio of proposals for final funding decision by the Selecting Official or their delegee.

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The Selecting Official retains discretion to select and recommend an application for funding that was not recommended by the Selection Review Panel based on one or more of the selection factors enumerated above.

Prior to making a final recommendation for funding to the Selecting Official, MBDA may conduct negotiations with an Applicant regarding the elements of the application and/or may request that the Applicant provide written clarifications regarding its application.

There is no appeal process for denied applications.

C. Anticipated Announcement and Federal Award Dates

MBDA anticipates that the awards under this NOFO will be made with a start date of September 1, 2026. Successful Applicants may be eligible for pre-award costs (see 2 CFR § [200.458](#)). See section VI. A for additional information.

VI. Award Administration Information

A. Award Notices

The Notice of Award is executed by the NIST FAAMO through the eRA Commons electronic grants management system to the Authorized Representative of the recipient organization. The Notice of Award will include the DOC Financial Assistance General Terms and Conditions and any other required Specific Award Conditions. The Authorized Representative will receive instructions from eRA on how to access the eRA system to accept the award.

MBDA will notify unsuccessful Applicants, in writing, after final selections have been made and after all offers have been accepted. Those applications that are not ultimately selected for funding will be retained by MBDA for a period of three (3) years after which they will be destroyed.

PRE-AWARD COSTS. Per 2 CFR § 200.458, recipients must receive written prior approval from NIST FAAMO authorizing award recipients to expend pre-award costs up to 90 days before the period of performance start date. Pre-award costs must be in accordance with the Applicant's internal policies and procedures and are assumed at the Applicant's own risk prior to approval from NIST FAAMO. Such costs are allowable only to the extent that they would have been allowable if incurred after the date of the federal award. This does not include direct proposal costs.

GRANTS OFFICER SIGNATURE. Proposals submitted in response to this solicitation are not considered awards until the Grants Officer has signed the grant or cooperative agreement. Only Grants Officers can bind the Government to the expenditure of funds. The Grants Officer's digital signature constitutes an obligation of funds by the federal government and formal approval of the award.

B. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

1. *Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements For Grants And Cooperative Agreements* – The *Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements*, published in the Federal Register on December 30, 2014, effective December 26, 2014 (79 FR 78390) are applicable to this solicitation and may be accessed online at:
<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2014/12/30/2014-30297/departments-of-commerce-pre-award-notification-requirements-for-grants-and-cooperative-agreements>
2. Awards made under this NOFO are subject to the *Department of Commerce Financial Assistance General Terms and Conditions*. This document will be provided in the award package. This document can be found at: <https://www.commerce.gov/oam/policy/financial-assistance-policy>. Successful Applicants may also be required to agree to additional Specific Award Conditions as a condition of funding. These conditions will be provided in the award package.
3. *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements*: Through 2 CFR § 1327.101, the Department of Commerce adopted Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards at 2 CFR Part 200, which apply to awards in this program. Refer to <http://go.usa.gov/SBYh> and <http://go.usa.gov/SBg4>.
4. *Review of Risk*: After applications are proposed for funding by the Selecting Official, the FAAMO will perform administrative reviews, including an assessment of risk posed by the Applicant under [2 CFR § 200.206](#). These may include assessments of the financial stability of an Applicant and the quality of the Applicant's management systems, history of performance, and the Applicant's ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements imposed on non-Federal entities. Special conditions that address any risks determined to exist may be applied. Applicants may submit comments to SAM.gov Responsibility/Qualification, which replaced the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS) as the OMB-designed integrity and performance system, about any information included in the system about their organization for consideration by the awarding agency.
5. *U.S. Department of Commerce Office of Inspector General*: The U.S. Department of Commerce Office of Inspector General (OIG) seeks to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Department's programs, including deterring and detecting fraud, waste, abuse and mismanagement. The OIG accomplishes this mission primarily through investigations, audits, and inspections of Department activities, including grants, cooperative agreements, loans, and contracts.

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a. Disclosures:

Recipients of financial assistance originating from the U.S. Department of Commerce, including MBDA, shall timely disclose, in writing, to the OIG and awarding agency, whenever, in connection with the award, performance, or closeout of this grant or sub-award thereunder, the recipient has credible evidence that a principal, employee, agent, or sub-recipient has committed:

- (i) A violation of federal criminal law involving fraud, conflict of interest, bribery, or gratuity violations found in Title 18 of the United States Code; or
- (ii) A violation of the civil False Claims Act (31 U.S.C. §§ 3729-3733).

b. Reporting:

The OIG maintains a hotline to receive allegations of fraud, waste, or abuse. To report such allegations, please visit <https://www.oig.doc.gov/Pages/Hotline.aspx> Upon request, the OIG will take appropriate measures to protect the identity of any individual who reports misconduct, as authorized by the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended. Reports to the OIG may also be made anonymously.

c. Whistleblower Protection:

Recipients, sub-recipients, and employees working on this grant award will be subject to the whistleblower rights and remedies established under 41 U.S.C. § 4712.

An employee of a recipient or sub-recipient may not be discharged, demoted, or otherwise discriminated against as a reprisal for disclosing information that the employee reasonably believes is evidence of: gross mismanagement of a federal contract or award; a gross waste of federal funds; an abuse of authority (*i.e.*, an arbitrary and capricious exercise of authority that is inconsistent with the mission of MBDA or the U.S. Department of Commerce or the successful performance of a contract or grant awarded by MBDA or the Department) relating to a federal contract or award; a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety; or a violation of a law, rule, or regulation related to a federal contract (including the competition for or negotiation of a contract) or grant.

The recipient or sub-recipient shall inform its employees and contractors, in writing, in the predominant language of the workforce or organization, of employee whistleblower rights and protections under 41 U.S.C. § 4712, as described above and at <https://www.oig.doc.gov/Pages/Whistleblower-Protection-Program.aspx> <https://www.oig.doc.gov/whistleblower/protection-program/>.

6. *Requirements for recipients with more than \$10 million in Federal-wide funding:*

As required by [appendix XII to 2 CFR part 200](#), a recipient with more than \$10 million in Federal-wide funding must maintain the currency of information reported to SAM that is

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made available in the designated integrity and performance system (formerly FAPIIS) about civil criminal, or administrative proceedings.

C. Reporting

1. Reviews

MBDA may, in its sole discretion, conduct an operational assessment nine months after the award date of the project, and thereafter as determined by MBDA. MBDA will conduct performance assessments every six months, or at any time MBDA determines necessary, to determine progress made toward achievement of performance targets. These assessments may be conducted in-person onsite at the project or virtually. Projects will be monitored throughout the funding award period, and there will be ongoing communication with key project staff. As such, awardees will be required to provide data and outcomes for participants. The level of monitoring will be at MBDA's sole discretion.

2. Reporting Requirements

The project is required to provide the following reports using the systems and format required by MBDA. Additional guidance will be provided to successful Applicants during the post-award process.

- a) *Federal Financial Reports (FFR SF-425)* – (a). The SF-425 are due by April 30 and October 30 after the semi-annual reporting periods ending March 31 and September 30 for the cumulative project period of the award. (b). The SF-425 is required for any recipient using ASAP for payment.
- b) *Final Federal Financial Report* – A final comprehensive SF-425, which is a cumulative report for the entire award performance period, must be submitted within 120 days following the period of performance end date.
- c) *Performance Progress Reports (PPRs)* – (a). PPRs are due by April 30 and October 30 after the semi-annual reporting periods ending March 31 and September 30. (b). PPRs are due on a semi-annual basis unless otherwise specified in a specific award condition, no later than 30 days following the end of each six (6) month period. (c). The last semi-annual performance report is required.

The PPRs must include data and information to determine project progression and success. MBDA will rely on these reports, data, and information as evidence for success stories, future program design, policy recommendations, and/or statistical purposes. Note: Failure to submit reports in a timely manner may result in MBDA award enforcement and/or delayed and/or terminated access to Federal funds.

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- d) *Final Performance Progress Report* - The final PPR, which summarizes activities conducted during the entire award performance period, must be submitted within 120 days following the period of performance end date. Subrecipients must submit final reports to the pass-through entity, no later than 90 days after the period of performance end date.
- e) *Ongoing Data Reporting* - All required project data reporting to MBDA shall be conducted via a performance collection tool to be designated. Guidance regarding the form and frequency of data collection will be provided by MBDA and will be aligned with MBDA needs, including but not limited to the planned comprehensive evaluation of the Program.
- f) *Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 Reporting* - The Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006, 31 U.S.C. § 6101 note, includes a requirement for awardees of applicable Federal grants to report information about first-tier sub-awards and executive compensation under Federal assistance awards. All awardees of applicable grants and cooperative agreements are required to report to the Federal Sub-award Reporting System (FSRS), available at www.FSRS.gov, or its successor on all sub-awards over \$30,000. Please see the OMB guidance published at 2 CFR Parts 170 and 200, which can be accessed at http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title02/2cfr200_main_02.tpl.
- g) *Operational assessment input* – The project is required to provide information as requested by MBDA related to the project’s operational status, including but not limited to branding, website, hiring and training of staff, office space, and compliance with information technology requirements.

VII. Agency Contact(s)

Prospective Applicants may contact:

Office of Business Centers

Minority Business Development Agency

U.S. Department of Commerce

Email: pjm@mbda.gov

For all questions regarding this NOFO, prospective Applicants should email pjm@mbda.gov. Direct replies to Applicants generally are prohibited to avoid giving an unfair advantage to any particular Applicant. MBDA may answer questions received through updates to its FAQs posted to mbda.gov. FAQs posted to mbda.gov.

VIII. Other Information

A. Conferences

1. Pre-Application Webinar

MBDA will conduct a pre-application technical assistance webinar. The webinar is designed to help prospective Applicants understand MBDA's PJM Program and to assist Applicants to prepare competitive grant applications. The webinar will cover the following topics:

- Competition Overview, Program Priorities and Objectives, Key Dates, Application Review Criteria, Budget pitfalls to avoid and best practices, Measuring success and performance

MBDA may also announce and hold additional webinars during the competition period. Dates and times for the webinars will be posted on the MBDA's webpage. Participants must register at least 24 hours in advance of the teleconference. Please visit the MBDA website at www.mbda.gov to register and view recordings of the webinars, as well as other competition information.

MBDA will post responses to questions in "Frequently Asked Questions" (FAQ) on its website. The FAQ will be updated regularly throughout the application period. Webinar participants can submit questions for possible MBDA inclusion in the FAQs. In addition, Applicants may send questions to MBDA via email at pjm@mbda.gov. Please note that MBDA will not provide individual responses to questions.

National MBDA Parren J. Mitchell Implementation Meeting (Post-Award Webinar)
Awardees will be required to attend a post-award virtual conference (webinar) conducted by MBDA to ensure that awardees have a clear understanding of the project award, terms, conditions, and expectations. During the post-award webinar, MBDA will orient the awardees and key project staff on the purpose and goals of the Program, explain project reporting requirements and procedures, identify available Federal resources that can enhance the capabilities of the project, and provide detailed information about MBDA and other relevant Federal resources, branding and logo requirements, and other online systems the recipient will use during the period of performance. Awardees will receive a license to use MBDA PJM Entrepreneurship Education Program trademarks, program naming requirements, and a branding guide. Post Award implementation activities may include learning opportunities, keynote speakers, workshops, and other training elements that inform attendees information related to program implementation.

2. Grants Management Workshop

The recipient will also be required to attend one or more virtual Grants Management Workshops facilitated by DOC and/or MBDA's financial management team, unless

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otherwise noted by MBDA. Workshops are designed to review key Financial Assistance requirements from MBDA and NIST FAAMO.

B. Past Performance and Non-Compliance with Award Provisions

Unsatisfactory performance under prior Federal awards may result in an application not being considered for funding. Per [2 CFR § 200.339](#), failure to comply with any or all of the provisions of an award – including but not limited to mismanagement or misuse of funds – may have a negative impact on future funding by the Department of Commerce (or any of its operating units) and may be considered grounds for any or all of the following remedies for noncompliance: establishment of an account receivable, withholding payments under any Department of Commerce awards to the recipient, disallowing all or part of the cost of the project or action not in compliance, changing the method of payment from advance to reimbursement only, imposition of other special award conditions, suspension or termination of any active Department of Commerce awards.

C. Limitation of Liability Funding for awards listed in this NOFO is contingent upon the availability of appropriations. In no event will MBDA or the Department of Commerce be responsible for the preparation costs for the Applicant’s proposal. Publication of this NOFO does not obligate MBDA or the Department of Commerce to award any specific project or to obligate any available funds.

D. Audit Costs

Audits shall be performed in accordance with audit requirements contained in the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements found in [2 CFR Part 200, Subpart F](#). Recipients expending \$1,000,000 or more in Federal funds during the recipient’s fiscal period must conduct a single audit in accordance with guidelines outlined in 2 CFR §§ 200.500-.520. For-profit organizations not covered by the audit requirements in 2 CFR §§ 200.500-.520 are subject to the audit requirements set forth in the terms and conditions of the award. Recipients that expend less than \$1,000,000 during the recipient’s fiscal year in Federal awards are exempt from Federal audit requirements for that year, except as noted in 2 CFR § 200.503, but records must be available for review or audit by appropriate officials of the Federal agency, pass-through entity, and Government Accountability Office (GAO). Applicants are also reminded that other audits may be conducted by the Department of Commerce Office of Inspector General and by other authorized Federal agencies.

E. Right to Use Information

The Applicant acknowledges and understands that information and data contained in applications for financial assistance, as well as information and data contained in financial, performance, and other reports submitted by Applicants, may be used by the Department of

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Commerce—either through its staff or by hiring a third party—in conducting reviews and evaluations of its financial assistance programs.

For this purpose, Applicant information and data may be accessed, reviewed, and evaluated by Department of Commerce employees, other Federal employees, Federal agents, and contractors, and/or by non-Federal personnel, all of whom enter into appropriate confidentiality and nondisclosure agreements covering the use of such information.

As may be provided in the terms and conditions of a specific financial assistance award, Applicants are expected to support program reviews and evaluations by submitting required financial and performance information and data in an accurate and timely manner and by cooperating with Department of Commerce and external program evaluators. In accordance with 2 CFR § 200.303(e), Applicants are reminded that they must take reasonable measures to safeguard protected personally identifiable information and other confidential or sensitive personal or business information created or obtained in connection with a Department of Commerce financial assistance award. Additional terms and conditions on this topic may be included as a condition of funding.

F. Freedom of Information Act Disclosure

MBDA may publish any applications it receives, including any supporting documentation, on its website or through other means.

In addition, Department of Commerce regulations implementing the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552, are found at [15 CFR Subtitle A, Part 4, Disclosure of Government Information](#). These regulations set forth rules for the Department regarding making requested materials, information, and records publicly available under FOIA. Applications submitted in response to this Notice of Funding Opportunity may be subject to requests for release under FOIA. If an application contains information or data that the Applicant deems to be confidential commercial information that should be exempt from disclosure under FOIA, that information should be identified, bracketed, and marked as Privileged, Confidential, Commercial or Financial Information. In accordance with 15 CFR § 4.9, the Department of Commerce will protect from disclosure confidential business information contained in financial assistance applications and other documentation provided by Applicants to the extent permitted by law.

G. NOFO Changes Communicated on Grants.gov

MBDA may make changes or additions to this NOFO. All changes will be communicated on Grants.gov. It is recommended that Applicants set up a Grants.gov account and subscribe to this funding opportunity “**MBDA-OBC-2026-00002**” in order to be notified of any updates or changes. DOC or MBDA may cancel, modify, or withdraw this NOFO at any time. MBDA is not obligated to make any Federal award or commitment as a result of this announcement.

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H. Termination

In accordance with 2 CFR § 200.340(a), this Federal award may be terminated in part or in its entirety as follows:

- a. By DOC or the pass-through entity if the recipient or subrecipient fails to comply with the terms and conditions of this Federal award;
- b. By DOC or the pass-through entity with the consent of the recipient or subrecipient, in which case the two parties must agree upon the termination conditions. These conditions include the effective date and, in the case of partial termination, the portion to be terminated;
- c. By the recipient or subrecipient upon sending DOC or the pass-through entity a written notification of the reasons for termination, the effective date, and, in the case of partial termination, the portion to be terminated. If DOC or the pass-through entity determines that the remaining portion of this Federal award will not accomplish the purposes for which this Federal award was made, DOC or the pass-through entity may terminate this Federal award in its entirety.
- d. By DOC or the pass-through entity to the extent authorized by law, if the award no longer effectuates the program goals or agency priorities.

I. Executive Order 14173: Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity

- a. This award term implements Executive Order 14173, 90 FR 8633 (Jan. 21, 2025). By accepting this Award or Award Amendment (as the case may be) and expending federal funding thereunder, the recipient:
 - 1) Agrees that compliance in all respects with all applicable Federal anti-discrimination laws is material to the government's payment decisions for purposes of section 3729(b)(4) of Title 31 United States Code;
 - 2) Certifies to the Department that it does not operate any programs promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion that violate any applicable Federal anti-discrimination laws; and
 - 3) Further certifies to the Department that it does not participate in any illegal preferences, mandates, policies, programs, activities, guidance, regulations, enforcement actions, consent orders, and requirements, that violate any applicable federal anti-discrimination laws.
- b. Affirmative Duty to Monitor for and to Report Potential Inconsistencies: The recipient must actively monitor its administration of this award to ensure that its activities do not violate the requirements of this award, including this SAC. At any time during the period

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of performance of this award, if the recipient believes that any of the activities in its approved scope of work may be inconsistent with the policies as outlined above, the recipient has an affirmative duty to immediately stop work on those potentially inconsistent activities and immediately contact the Grants Officer named in the Notice of Award (NoA) to determine whether the potentially inconsistent activities may proceed under this award. The performance of activities that violate or are otherwise inconsistent with requirements as outlined above will result in appropriate enforcement action pursuant to 2 C.F.R. § 200.339, including the disallowance of costs and possible termination of a portion or all of this award.

J. Prohibition on Using Federal awards to Promote or Support Theories of Disparate-Impact Liability

In accordance with Executive Order 14281, Restoring Equality of Opportunity and Meritocracy (April 23, 2025), it is the policy of the Federal Government to eliminate the use of disparate-impact liability in all contexts to the maximum extent possible and as permitted by law.

APPENDIX A: DEFINITIONS

1. Advanced Stage (Accelerator) Outputs - For purposes of PJM, any one of the following are considered activities are acceptable:
 - a. Capital Infusion - All forms of capital debt and/or investments from all sources (*i.e.*, lines of credit, consumer debt products used specifically for the business, angel investors, owner's capital contributions, etc.).
 - b. Jobs Created - The number of new full time and/or part time employment opportunities reported for a client's payroll during the funding year.
2. Business Plans – A business plan is a) developed by a client due in part to assistance from the Applicant organization and b) deemed acceptable by an Applicant organization.
3. Students Enrolled - Unique students (or entrepreneurs) enrolled in an eligible “Educational Support Activity” during a specific period.
4. Students Served - Unique students (or entrepreneurs) that complete the entirety of an eligible “Educational Support Activity” during the period of performance.
5. Educational Support Activities may include (but are not limited to) short format training events, continuing education or academic courses, and individual counseling sessions.
6. Entrepreneur – An individual who seeks to launch or scale a business. For this Program, the definition of “entrepreneur” includes nascent or ideation stage entrepreneurs and does not require or imply any success or experience in any past entrepreneurship activity.
7. New Business Formed - A new business start is realized when after enrollment a client served has completed required registration(s), if applicable, with the local, state, and/or Federal Government (e.g., DBA registration, get a business license, agency issued tax identifications, etc.) AND at least one of the following:
 - a. Has documented a transaction from the sale of a product or professional or personal service for the purpose of gain or profit; or
 - b. Has contracted for or compensated an employee(s) or independent contractor(s) to perform essential business functions; or
 - c. Has acquired debt or investment capital to pursue business operations (e.g., to purchase inventory, equipment, building, business, etc.); or
 - d. Has incurred business expenses in the operation of a business.
8. Jobs Created – New full time and/or part time employment opportunities reported for a client's payroll during the funding year.
9. Measures – Are quantifiable indicators used to determine if a project or program is achieving its desired objectives.
10. Notice of Award - The official document, signed (or the electronic equivalent of signature) by a Grants Management Officer that:
 - a. Notifies the Recipient of the award of a grant;
 - b. Contains or references all the Terms and Conditions of the grant and Federal funding limits and obligations; and

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- c. Provides the documentary basis for recording the obligation of Federal funds in the MBDA accounting system.
- 11. Program – The MBDA Parren J. Mitchell Program
- 12. Project – A successful Applicant’s implementation of its proposal that was selected for funding under this Program. Multiple projects will operate under the PJM Program.
- 13. Project Period - The total period of performance for an award made under this Funding Opportunity.
- 14. Prototypes Produced - A tangible product and/or service is a) developed by a client, b) is deemed acceptable by an Applicant organization, AND c) the product has been presented and/or tested in the consumer market to determine its economic feasibility.
- 15. Recipient - An Organization that has had its Application accepted and has been awarded funding under this Funding Opportunity.
- 16. Startup (Incubator) Outputs – For purposes of PJM, any one of the following are considered activities are acceptable:
 - a. Business Plan Developed
 - b. New Business Formed
 - c. Prototype Produced
- 17. Targets – defined as the numeric benchmark to be reached under a particular measure (*e.g.*, Clients Engaged, Clients Enrolled, etc).
- 18. Technology Transfer- The process of transitioning results that emerge from scientific and technological activity to the marketplace and to wider society, along with associated skills and procedures.
- 19. Training- A workshop or seminar or other formal setting during which staff of the recipient and/or an affiliated third party actively delivers the curricula developed or proposed under this Program. Training can be in person or virtual.

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APPENDIX B: PROJECT ABSTRACT SAMPLE

At a minimum, the project abstract page must provide the Applicant's name, address, telephone number, email address, date of submission, and the Funding Opportunity Number. Applicants should also provide the following additional information: the project title, total budget, and the names, affiliations, complete mailing addresses, email addresses, and telephone numbers of all key persons affiliated with the proposal.

PROJECT ABSTRACT

APPLICANT NAME:

APPLICANT ADDRESS:

APPLICANT TELEPHONE NUMBER:

NAME FOR PRIMARY CONTACT:

EMAIL ADDRESS FOR PRIMARY CONTACT:

PROPOSED PROJECT TITLE:

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (NO MORE THAN 250 WORDS):

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT GOALS (the intended impact and what the Applicant hopes to accomplish):

APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATE:

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY NUMBER:

TOTAL FEDERAL FUNDING REQUESTED:

NAME(S) AND CONTACT INFORMATION FOR KEY PROJECT PERSONNEL

APPENDIX C: PERFORMANCE MEASURE DEFINITIONS

The following are the required measures under the Program. For each required measure, the Applicant must propose specific numeric targets that the Applicant proposes to reach, broken out by year and quarter. These numeric targets will form the basis for MBDA’s assessment of successful Applicant’s performance under their projects throughout the project performance period.

<p>Total Number of Students Enrolled (Quantitative)</p>	<p><u>Students Enrolled:</u> Total number of unique students enrolled in an “Eligible Educational Support Activity” during a specific period. If a student is documented as <i>attending</i> any portion of at least one “Eligible Activity” during the period of performance, the student would be counted as one unique student enrolled. (Sign-ups without documented attendance are not sufficient to receive credit for “Students Enrolled”.)</p>
<p>Total Number of Students Served (Quantitative)</p>	<p><u>Students Served:</u> Total number of unique students that complete the entirety of an “Eligible Educational Support Activity” during the period of performance. If a student is documented as <i>completing</i> any type of “Eligible Activity” during the period of performance, the client would be counted as one unique student served. (Attendance without documented completion of “Eligible Activity” is not sufficient to receive credit for “Clients Served”. See “Clients Enrolled” for alternative performance credit.)</p>
<p>Total Number of Educational Support Activities Delivered (Quantitative)</p>	<p><u>Total Number of Educational Support Activities:</u> Total number of “Eligible Support Activities” delivered during the period of performance. Activities may include (but are not limited to) short format training events, continuing education or academic courses, academic courses, and/or 1v1 counseling sessions.</p>
<p>Start-up (Incubator) Outputs</p>	<p><u>Total Number of Startup (Incubator) Output Activities:</u> Total number of “Start-Up” Outputs delivered during the period of performance. For purposes of the PJM Program, a “Start-Up Output” may include*:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business Plans Developed – A business plan is a) developed by a client due in part to assistance from the Applicant organization and b) deemed by acceptable by an Applicant organization. • New Businesses Formed – A business is a) meets the “Appendix A” definition, b) is formed and

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	<p>attributed due (in part) to the client’s participation in the Applicant’s PJM program,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prototypes Produced - A tangible product and/or service is a) developed by a client, b) is deemed acceptable by an Applicant organization, AND c) the product has been presented and/or tested in the consumer market to determine its economic feasibility. <p>Applicants must propose a numeric target for the TOTAL # of outputs (annually, OR for each program period of performance). An individual breakdown target by eligible output type (<i>i.e.</i>, business plans developed, businesses formed, and/or prototypes produced) is not mandatory. Providing proposed targets for these outputs may or may not strengthen an Applicant’s proposal. If specific targets are provided for these output types, the targets should be reasonably aligned with the Applicant’s capability, and should demonstrate an advancing impact with respect to MBDA’s PJM project goals and objectives.</p> <p>*Outputs not explicitly listed should not be considered for your output total. For MBDA’s consideration, alternative outputs should be presented as your own proposed project-specific measures.</p>
<p>Advanced Stage (Accelerator) Outputs</p>	<p><u>Total Number of Advanced Stage (Accelerator) Output Events:</u> Total number of “Advanced Stage” Outputs delivered during the period of performance. For purposes of the PJM Program, an “Advanced Stage Output” may include*:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital Infusion - Capital infusion events includes all forms of capital debt and/or investments from all sources (<i>i.e.</i>, lines of credit, consumer debt products used specifically for the business, angel investors, owner’s capital contributions, etc.). Credit lines and other revolving debt facilities/instruments such as credit cards are to be recognized for the full amount of the line of credit when established, and not to be based on individual draw-downs. • Jobs Created - The number of new full time and/or part time employment opportunities

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	<p>reported for a client’s payroll during the funding year.</p> <p>Applicants must propose a numeric target for the TOTAL # of events of “Advanced Stage (Accelerator) Outputs” for each program period of performance. An individual breakdown target by eligible output type (<i>i.e.</i>, Capital Infusion, Jobs Created, and Jobs Retained) is not mandatory. Providing proposed targets for these outputs may or may not strengthen an Applicant’s proposal. If specific targets are provided for these output types, the targets should be reasonably aligned with the Applicant’s capability, and should demonstrate an advancing impact with respect to MBDA’s PJM project goals and objectives.</p> <p>*Output types not explicitly listed should not be considered for your output total. For MBDA’s consideration, alternative outputs should be presented as your own proposed project-specific measures.</p>
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PROJECT-SPECIFIC MEASURES

Project-specific measures are those logically connected to the overall goal of the project and its activities. Applicants **must** propose and collect project-specific measures with your project proposal for the consideration of MBDA’s approval.