

Federal Manufacturing Finance Resources

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For over thirty years, CDFAs has supported tools and resources to assist American manufacturers with access to low-cost capital, including many of the financing programs offered by the federal government. Multiple federal agencies offer technical assistance, grants or loans, early stage capital, export/import assistance, workforce development benefits, and other financing resources designed to support manufacturers. Several agencies contain

offices that specifically work to help address manufacturers' barriers to growth.

In the Federal Financing Clearinghouse, CDFAs tracks over 170 federal programs that assist with financing for American manufacturers, including industrial development bonds and SBA 504. Here are four lesser-known tools for manufacturing finance:

Advanced Manufacturing Office (AMO)

U.S. Department of Energy

DOE's Advanced Manufacturing Office (formerly Industrial Technologies Program) works with diverse partners to develop and deploy technologies and practices that will help U.S. manufacturers succeed in global markets. AMO is a key contributor to the Advanced Manufacturing Partnership, helping with research and development, as well as technology deployment.

Eligible Users:

Manufacturers and other organizations, including academia and DOE national laboratories are eligible for AMO R&D cost-sharing financing. For AMO technical deployment, state and local stakeholders, utilities, universities, trade associations, non-profits, and others may be eligible.

Financing Type:

Access to Capital | Innovation Finance

Working Capital Guarantee

Export-Import Bank of the United States

Ex-Im Bank's working capital financing enables small business exporters to obtain loans to facilitate the exports of goods or services, providing the liquidity and confidence to compete internationally. The Working Capital Guarantee encourages commercial lenders to make working capital loans by providing them with a 90% loan backing guarantee, which decreases their risk. Ex-Im Bank's Delegated Authority Lenders can expedite the loan process by evaluating eligibility and offering the guarantee before Ex-Im Bank's participation.

Eligible Users:

Eligible exporters for this program must be located in the United States, have at least a one-year operating history, and a positive net worth. See the Ex-Im Bank's website for additional requirements.

Financing Type:

Access to Capital | International

Trade Adjustment Assistance for Firms (TAA)

U.S. Economic Development Administration

The TAA program provides technical assistance to manufacturers or producers that have lost employment and sales or production due to increased import competition. EDA administers the TAA program through a national network of eleven Trade Adjustment Assistance Centers (TAACs), which aids in submitting a petition to EDA for certification of eligibility and in applying for assistance under the TAA program.

Eligible Users:

Only manufacturers are eligible for assistance, although related banks, economic development groups, and other organizations may contact a TAAC on behalf of an eligible firm.

Financing Type:

Access to Capital | International

Small Business Investment Research (SBIR) Program

U.S. Department of Commerce

DOC's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) SBIR program solicits, from small businesses, scientific and engineering related R&D proposals for contracts that respond to specific technical needs described in NIST's annual SBIR solicitation. Only proposals responding to those specific technical needs expressed in the NIST Solicitation will be reviewed and evaluated for possible funding. SBIR programs do not fund projects that have already established a proof-of-concept. The first phase of any SBIR award is a feasibility study, and that phase may not be skipped.

Eligible Users:

Small science- and technology-based businesses.

Financing Type:

Innovation Finance | Access to Capital