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## Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) Inner City Innovation Hubs Announcement

The Office of Congresswoman Alma S. Adams, Ph.D. [phanalphie.rhue@mail.house.gov]

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 29, 2020 11:48 AM

**To:** Steve Johnston



*Please see the below announcement on the Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) Inner City Innovation Hubs Program*



**Funding Opportunity Description:**

MBDA, a bureau of the U.S. Department of Commerce, leads Federal Government efforts to promote the growth and global competitiveness of minority business enterprises (MBEs). MBDA has established key priorities designed to overcome the unique challenges faced by minority business enterprises (MBEs).

MBDA is now initiating new approaches to serve MBEs that complement Presidential priorities and U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC) strategic goals. The DOC's strategic goals include: 1) accelerating American leadership through commercial space activities, foundational research investments, and protecting intellectual property; 2) enhancing job creation through increased exports and foreign direct investment; 3) strengthening U.S. economic and national security; 4) fulfilling Constitutional requirements and supporting economic activity with reliable data; and 5) excelling in the delivery of customer-centric services.

The Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) Inner City Innovation Hubs program will focus on research and technology transfer, digital innovation, artificial intelligence, and entrepreneurship in support of minority-owned start-ups and entrepreneurs with innovative products or services. The program will fuel minority business innovation in inner city areas with high concentrations of minority persons and minority-owned businesses.

MBDA is looking for projects that include or support research and technology transfer, digital innovation, use of machine learning and artificial intelligence, and entrepreneurship. Projects should incorporate the use of these concepts to assist clients or plan to provide management and technical assistance to businesses based on technological advancement and innovative concepts, or both.

**The following program priorities should be considered in an application for an award under this Announcement:**

- a) Collaborative workspaces (Hubs)
- b) State, regional and local municipal/government partnerships
- c) Corporate Partnerships
- d) Financing Resources
- e) Industry Focus

**NOTE:** Projects must be located in a U.S. State or U.S. Territory and must provide services that benefit minority-owned businesses in any U.S. State or Territory.

Eligible applicants include: For-profit entities (including but not limited to sole proprietorships, partnerships, limited liability companies, and corporations), non-profit organizations, institutions of higher education, commercial organizations, state and local government entities, quasi-government entities, Indian Tribal governments, Tribal entities, and Native Hawaiian entities in any U.S. State or U.S. Territory.

**DEADLINE:** The deadline to submit completed applications for the broad agency announcement is 11:59 pm EST on Friday, May 15, 2020.

**Link to announcement:** <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=326321>

**Pre-Application Conference Call**

MBDA will conduct a pre-application conference call on Wednesday, April 29, 2020, from 2:00 – 3:00 pm EST. The goal of the conference call is to provide a background and summary of the funding opportunity, as well as provide potential applicants with the opportunity to ask questions about the program and the application process.

**Link to register:** <https://www.mbda.gov/form/mbe-inner-city-innovation-hub-grant-competitions-registration>

Applicants should visit MBDA at [www.mbda.gov](http://www.mbda.gov) for more information.

For more information, please contact Shayla Moon at [smoon@mbda.gov](mailto:smoon@mbda.gov) or Emily Kessel at [ekessel@mbda.gov](mailto:ekessel@mbda.gov)

### **Notice of Federal Funding Document**

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