

IMCP Project Summary

What is the Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP)?

The Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP) is a new Administration-wide initiative that will accelerate the resurgence of manufacturing and help cultivate an environment for businesses to create well-paying manufacturing jobs in regions across the country. The IMCP is designed to reward communities that demonstrate best practices in attracting and expanding manufacturing by using long-term planning that integrates targeted investments in workforce training, infrastructure, research, and other key assets. Special attention should be given to the role of small and medium sized manufacturing firms.

Strategies developed by these grants, will enhance regions' efforts to compete for future proposed large-scale IMCP grants (Phase 2, up to \$25M each). **These grants will be given to communities with the best strategies for attracting and expanding private investment in the manufacturing sector.** IMCP partner agencies will coordinate funding across agencies in order to leverage complementary activities while also preventing duplication of efforts.

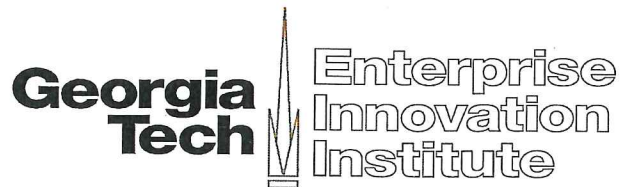
What does the Northwest Georgia IMCP project propose?

A plan to develop an Advanced Manufacturing Strategic Plan for Northwest Georgia, targeting the needs of the floorcovering industry. Georgia Tech and the Core Group will create a multi-year strategic plan focused on developing the floorcovering industry and providing the labor force necessary to support the advanced manufacturing ecosystem. At a minimum, the strategy will:

- Detail the communities' comparative advantages in specific industries, supply chains, or technology;
- Make investments in public goods – such as infrastructure or educational institutions – through a combination of public and private funding; and
- Encourage collaboration among multiple entities in the community (such as universities, businesses and non-profits), which expand the area's commercial appeal to investors.

Developing a Strategic Plan





What is the process?

There are two parts to this project: The Strategic Assessment (October 2013 – June 2014) and Integrated Regional Planning and Action Steps (March 2014 – September 2015).

Assemble Core Group and Steering Committee	November 2013
Public Kickoff	December 2013
Quantitative Research	November 2013- January 2014
Qualitative Research and Interviews	January-March 2014
Development of Strategic Plan	March 2014-May 2014
Finalization of Strategy	June 2014
Coordinating Regional Plans	March 2014 – September 2015

What are the next steps?

Formation of a Steering Committee, scheduling a kickoff meeting open to the public, and scheduling interviews with stakeholders and state/regional partners.

What's involved in Phase Two, the IMCP "Challenge" Grants?

President Obama's fiscal year 2014 budget includes funds for the Department of Commerce to award **five to six IMCP "Challenge" grants, expected to be up to \$25 million each**. These funds are intended to be supplemented by coordinated investments from several other federal departments and agencies. The 2014 challenge will reward communities for having the best long-term strategies for attracting private investment and increasing exports, and should combine many of the elements companies seek when they are deciding where to locate or expand, such as: specialized research centers at local universities; business incubators focused on targeted technology sectors; community college programs to train workers in targeted industries; public works projects to upgrade infrastructure or enhance energy efficiency; viable export promotion plans; well-integrated supply chains; and an engaged community of local government, education, workforce, and business leaders.

What type of non-federal match will be required for the "Challenge" grants in Phase Two?

Communities applying for the fiscal year 2014 challenge should have a 2:1 nonfederal match (\$2 dollars of local matching funds for each \$1 of federal funds).

What if a community receives an implementation strategy grant but do not receive further federal funding?

We expect communities to move forward with their strategies using state, local, and private resources, even if federal resources are not made available.