

IMCP Project Summary

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

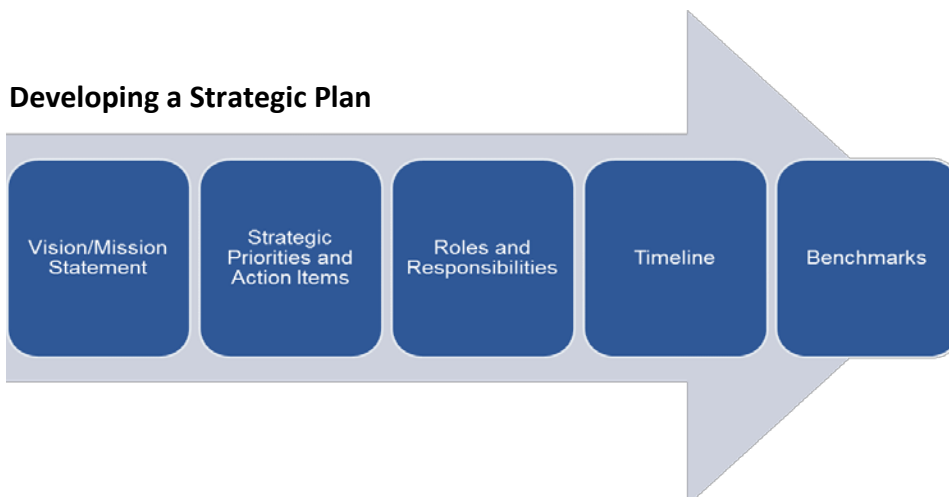
The Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP) is a new Administration-wide initiative that will accelerate the resurgence of manufacturing and help cultivate an environment for businesses to create well-paying manufacturing jobs in regions across the country. The IMCP is designed to reward 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 rounds of IMCP grants and EDA support. **Future awards and designations 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?

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.





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	November 2013
Quantitative Data Collection and Research	November 2013- January 2014
Qualitative Research and Interviews	January-March 2014
Apply for Phase 2 “Manufacturing Community”	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 Working Groups focused on key areas of the project, and scheduling confidential, one-on-one interviews with stakeholders and state/regional partners.

What’s involved in Phase Two, the IMCP “Manufacturing Community” designation?

The IMCP is a critical component of the Department of Commerce’s “Open for Business Agenda,” which prioritizes trade and investment. In Phase Two of the IMCP, up to 12 communities that come up with winning strategies will receive a designation of being a “Manufacturing Community” that gives them elevated consideration for \$1.3 billion in federal dollars and assistance from 10 cabinet departments/agencies. These communities would also potentially receive additional catalytic federal investments to support their economic development strategies. In order to earn the designation, communities must present strategies that identify technologies or industries in which they would be competitive in the future and would make investments in the following areas:

- Workforce and training;
- Advanced research;
- Infrastructure and site development;
- Supply chain support;
- Export promotion;
- And capital access

These communities will receive:

- Elevated consideration for federal dollars and assistance across 10 cabinet departments/agencies, totaling \$1.3 billion;
- A dedicated federal liaison at these agencies who can act as their concierge to the specific services they need;



- Subject to funding availability, challenge grants may become available to some awardees from the pool of designated manufacturing communities;
- Recognition on a government website, accessible to prospective private investors (foreign and domestic alike) looking for information on communities' competitive attributes

Communities must apply by March 14, 2013 to be considered. Eligibility for Phase 2 is not contingent on having won Phase 1.

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

Communities should move forward with their strategies using state, local, and private resources, even if federal resources are not made available.