

2015 Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership Designation

The Opportunity

The Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP) Designation will be granted by the U.S. Economic Development Administration to 12 regions across the country to help accelerate the resurgence of manufacturing. Regions awarded the “Manufacturing Community” designation will develop and execute strategies for increasing investments into six important pillars of their manufacturing ecosystem: workforce and training, supplier network, research and innovation, infrastructure/site development or development, trade and international investment, and operational improvement and capital access. Designated communities will receive the coordinated support of fourteen federal agencies and preferential consideration for \$1.3 billion in existing federal funding opportunities.

The Proposal



Through a strategic partnership between the Office of Community and Economic Development at Fresno State, the Center for Economic Development at Chico State, and Valley Vision, **Central Valley AgPLUS** is an unprecedented effort to bolster California’s food manufacturing economy. It is widely recognized that production agriculture has been the Central Valley’s heritage and competitive advantage in the global economy; however, value-added food and beverage manufacturing is the region’s growth opportunity of the future.

Increasing the amount of value-added food manufacturing which occurs within the region will help reduce the amount of dollars and jobs that leak into other countries; primarily those along the Pacific Rim trade corridor. The region also is uniquely positioned to

capitalize on energy and water technologies that make food manufacturing technologies and the supply chain more productive, cost-efficient, and sustainable - and the region a global center of innovation.

Through coordination and strategic investments in the six important pillars of its manufacturing ecosystem, the Central Valley will mitigate its chronic poverty and unemployment by creating a globally competitive environment that is conducive to attracting, retaining and expanding food manufacturers. The IMCP Designation will enable California’s Central Valley to create good-paying jobs while expanding the nation’s manufacturing output and exporting value.

Preferential Consideration: Inventory of Federal Programs

Department of Agriculture	Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant; Rural Business Enterprise Grant; Intermediary Relending Program; Business & Industry Guaranteed Loan Program
Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)	Integrated Planning & Investment Grants
Department of Labor	Various
Department of Transportation	Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER)
Environmental Protection Agency	Targeted Brownfield Assessments; Brownfield Site Assessment/Cleanup/Revolving Loan Fund
National Science Foundation	Advanced Technology Education; Industry/University Cooperative Research Centers (supplemental awards)
Small Business Administration	Accelerator Program; Regional Innovation Clusters Program
Department of Commerce (DOC), National Institute for Standards and Technology	Award Competitions for Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) Centers; Advanced Manufacturing Technology (AMTech) Consortia; MEP Network Special Competitions
(Additional Federal Agencies Providing Technical Assistance in Support of IMCP Objectives)	Department of Defense Department of Education Department of Energy DOC, Economic Development Administration
(Availability of Additional Local and State Funding Programs that Support IMCP Objectives)	Community Development Block Grant HUD Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program

Benefits of the Designation

There are many direct benefits of the designation:

- Preferential consideration for \$1.3 billion in federal funding
- A federal point of contact to help access federal economic development resources
- National branding and promotion as a “Manufacturing Community”
- Potential consideration for federal financial assistance through Challenge Grant Awards

As well as many indirect benefits:

- Enhanced regional collaboration and strong voice to advance shared regional priorities
- Strong network for resource sharing and peer learning
- Organizational structure for future investment opportunities and initiatives

Central Valley AgPLUS: Food and Beverage Manufacturing Consortium

The Central Valley AgPLUS region includes 28 counties. The Central Valley is an economic powerhouse, with \$34.7 billion in farm gate value and \$11.0 billion exports. Its food and beverage manufacturing produces \$43.2 billion in annual output. Accelerating the growth of value-added food and beverage manufacturing will bring added economic opportunity and shared competitive advantage to the region, California and the nation by minimizing leakage of \$4.1 billion of output and 5,000 jobs outside of the region.



"California is our biggest economy, California is our biggest agricultural producer, so what happens here matters to every working American, right down to the cost of food that you put on your table."

President Barack Obama, February 14, 2014

"One out of every twelve jobs in the economy is connected in some way, shape or form to what happens on the farm."

USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack

"Dedicated supply chains offer the prospect of strong value creation, based on reducing risk, increasing productivity, improving access to capital, accessing new markets and enhancing reputation and brand."

"Winning through the Supply Chain:
From Chasing Price to Adding Value in the
Food & Agriculture Chain"

Rabobank, February 2013

"California's Working Landscapes contribute 1.2 million jobs and \$318 billion in sales and exports revenue to the state economy. This sector can add an additional 272,184 jobs over the next five years."

Center of Excellence, California Community Colleges
October 2013

"The bio-based products sector brings together two of the most important economic engines for rural America: agriculture and manufacturing."

USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack