



Made In America Manufacturing Act

Purpose: The *Made In America Manufacturing Act* creates a public-private program to partner the federal government with states, regions, the private sector, higher education, communities and other critical stakeholders in implementing comprehensive Manufacturing Enhancement Strategies. These strategies would focus on expanding opportunities for American manufacturing and that help address the skills gap that hinders the growth of many manufacturers, particularly in high-tech and other advanced manufacturing sectors. Up to \$20 million in federal funds for each award through this competitive program would support and accelerate growth in multiple states or regions around the country, focusing on strategic investments to grow manufacturing industries in industry clusters like nanotechnology, photonics, biotechnology and aerospace. The funding would be used in a number of ways, including:

- Establishing and managing a revolving loan fund to provide manufacturers low-interest loans for the construction of new facilities or for retooling, retrofitting or expanding existing plants, including equipment, infrastructure or energy efficiency upgrades, among other capital needs of facilities;
- Create job training programs that align with the skill needs of manufacturers and result in employer- or industry-recognized and nationally transferable credentials by providing on-the-job training, off-site training, classroom and on-site experiential learning in partnership with education institutions like community colleges, as well as by developing and implementing registered apprenticeship programs;
- Providing capital and technical assistance in researching new international markets to boost exporting opportunities of manufacturers;
- Offering capital and technical assistance with product development, mapping and developing local supply chains, offering new opportunities for growth of small and medium manufacturers by improving their business as a supplier to larger companies.

By coupling support for capital facility requirements with resources for job training and market expansion within a comprehensive manufacturing strategy, this bill ensures that federal funds will be strategically used to address multiple needs of a state or region's efforts to expand their manufacturing industry at once rather than in a scattershot way.

Eligibility: This legislation encourages a state- and regionally-driven approach to strengthening U.S. manufacturing. States and regional partnerships are eligible to receive an incentive grant through this program in order to implement a Manufacturing Enhancement Strategy. States and regional partnerships must organize key stakeholders in a targeted industry cluster or broader manufacturing partnership into a working group that focuses on the needs of manufacturers. Key stakeholders may include state economic development and workforce officials, county and local governments, manufacturers, labor organizations, higher education and other training providers, local and regional chambers of commerce, non-profit organizations and local and regional Manufacturing Extension Partnership centers.

All manufacturers would be able to participate within this program as long as the funds would be used to carry out activity within the United States. Participating manufacturers would be identified based on need and ability to best leverage the program funding to achieve the goals of the Manufacturing Enhancement Strategy.

Additional Details:

- **How Proposals Will Be Evaluated for Funding:** Manufacturing Enhancement Strategy proposals will be evaluated by the Department of Commerce based on a description of how the strategy will improve U.S. competitiveness in one or more manufacturing industries as well as a description of the expected economic return on investment, including job creation, increase of sales, cost savings by manufacturers, number of workers to be trained, private investment that the federal funding would help leverage and how the strategy may help address economic distress, including high unemployment and mass layoffs.
- **Priority for Proposals with Matching Funds:** The *Made In America Manufacturing Act* incentivizes buy-in from the private sector as well as other stakeholders involved with the proposal by giving priority to Manufacturing Enhancement Strategies that identify and commit matching funds and contributions on a 1-to-1 basis. These matching funds and contributions may include previously awarded federal funding, state and local funding and in-kind contributions like equipment, services and forgiveness or assumptions of debt.
- **Cross-Sector Collaboration:** This legislation encourages cross-sector collaboration by having each successful applicant form a Made In America Partnership Board, which will bring together all of the necessary stakeholders to one table – for example, manufacturing firms, departments of labor, economic development entities, industry organizations, and education and workforce training agencies – and empower that group to implement the Manufacturing Enhancement Strategy. With this collaboration, the Made In America Partnership Board must work to improve the coordination of all federal, state, local and private funds to achieve the results of the Manufacturing Enhancement Strategy as well as to ensure comprehensive counseling, technical assistance, workforce development, export guidance and other critical assistance is provided to manufacturers.
- **Stakeholder Input on the Implementation of the Program:** This bill establishes an advisory committee to provide input to the Department of Commerce on the implementation of this program to help meet the goals of the legislation. The advisory committee would be made up of state and local government, regional planning, education, manufacturing and other related organizations.
- **Ensuring Accountability in the Use of Funds:** There are a number of accountability measures in the bill, including requiring Department of Commerce reviews of the Manufacturing Enhancement Strategies and the use of funds by each third party recipient.
- This bill is WTO compliant.

Endorsements:

American Small Manufacturers' Coalition