



# INNOVATION CHALLENGE

**FuzeHub Jeff Lawrence Innovation Fund**  
2022 Advanced Materials Innovation Challenge Guidelines

*Application Period Opens: September 1, 2022*

*Application Period Closes: September 30, 2022 at 4:00 PM EST*



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## Introduction

FuzeHub administers the Jeff Lawrence Innovation Fund, which supports a set of activities designed to spur technology development and commercialization across New York State. As part of the Fund, FuzeHub will administer a New York State Advanced Materials Innovation Challenge. The purpose of this Innovation Challenge is to leverage the power of advanced materials to promote greater environmental sustainability.

Manufacturing in New York State is cleaner and greener than ever before, but manufacturing can still have harmful effects on the environment. Through the use of advanced materials, FuzeHub believes that manufacturers can make products, leverage technologies, and use processes that strengthen sustainability.

For the purpose of this Innovation Challenge, “advanced materials” include:

- New materials for new applications
- New materials for existing applications
- Existing materials for new applications

Importantly, the application must advance “environmental sustainability”, the responsibility to conserve natural resources and protect ecosystems now and into the future. The strongest applications will use advanced materials that are themselves sustainable within applications that promote environmental sustainability.

## Award Details

FuzeHub anticipates making 3 awards of \$50,000 each. FuzeHub maintains the right to award less than is being requested. Funds provided to awarded companies are distributed on a reimbursement basis. All awards are subject to the availability of funds from Empire State Development.

# Eligibility

## A. Eligible Applicants

Non-profit organizations in New York State, including non-profit institutions of higher education, are eligible to apply as lead applicants for the Innovation Challenge. The lead applicant must partner with a small to medium-sized manufacturer (“Industry Partner”) that fulfills the eligibility requirements below.

## B. Eligible Industry Partners

Manufacturing companies in any stage of maturity with a:

- Physical establishment in New York State, and no more than 500 employees worldwide;
- Dun & Bradstreet profile with a registered North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code from the list below:
  - Manufacturing Sector - Any NAICS Code beginning with 3\* (see [http://www.census.gov/manufacturing/numerical\\_list/](http://www.census.gov/manufacturing/numerical_list/))
  - 541714 Research and Development in Biotechnology
  - 541715 Research and Development in the Physical, Engineering, and Life Sciences
  - 423510 Metal Service Centers and Other Metal Merchant Wholesalers
  - 488991 Packing and Crating
  - 541330 Engineering Services
  - 541380 Testing Laboratories
  - 561910 Packaging and Labeling Services
  - 811310 Commercial and Industrial Machinery & Equipment (except Automotive & Electronic) Repair & Maintenance

FuzeHub encourages participation by military veterans, socially or economically disadvantaged small businesses, as well as businesses owned by minorities or women.

## C. Eligibility Factors

- Applicants may only submit one application, consisting of a single project.
- A manufacturer can only be the industry partner in one application. If an industry partner is on more than one application, only the first received application will be reviewed.
- In the case of a university, up to three different centers or departments may apply.<sup>1</sup>

1. In the case of the SUNY system, only three applications may come from a single campus.

# Eligibility (cont.)

## D. Eligible Types of Projects

Proposals must be for projects that use advanced materials to promote environmental sustainability. These projects may include but are not limited to those that:

- Reduce the use of toxic chemicals during manufacturing
- Replace or reduce the use of non-renewable resources
- Lessen dependency on harmful inputs (such as toxic chemicals or raw natural materials whose extraction is harmful to the environment) during manufacturing
- Reduce or eliminate the creation of harmful byproducts (such as hazardous wastes) during manufacturing, especially those that pollute the earth, air or water
- Identify, develop and/or validate alternative sustainable materials
- Shorten the supply chain to use locally-sourced and sustainable materials instead of materials that require long-distance transportation and greater fuel consumption
- Reduce landfilling and/or re-purpose waste from manufacturing or product end-of-life
- Remediate environmental pollution and protect ecosystems

Projects should be clearly defined and ready to begin. Projects must be completed within one year of an award.

## E. Eligible Project Costs

**Any project costs that were incurred prior to the grant agreement date are ineligible for reimbursement.**

### Eligible costs include, but are not limited to:

- Equipment
- Materials
- Engineering/design
- Travel (clearly defined, and directly related to the project)
- Personnel (costs must directly relate to the project. Executive salaries are ineligible -see details below)
- Testing/validation
- Other direct costs

### Ineligible costs include, but are not limited to:

- Overhead and administrative costs
- Indirect costs (e.g., office rent, utilities, or non-project-specific personnel costs)
- Executive salaries for the not-for-profit applicant and/or any industry partner, regardless of the type of work to be performed (i.e., executive director, president, CEO, or other leadership roles)
- Marketing/Business Development

# Application Process

Both stages of the online application must be completed by Friday, September 30, 2022 at 4:00 PM EST.

There is a \$55 fee for each submitted application. <https://fuzehub.smapply.io>

## Stage 1: Preliminary Eligibility Evaluation

Results from stage 1 review will typically be available within one business day.

- Applicant teams deemed eligible to apply will move to Stage 2; **or**
- If an eligibility issue is found, feedback and instructions will be provided via email.

## Stage 2: Full Application

- **Application Questions** - a copy of this form may be downloaded ahead of time for reference.
- **Project Budget - Maximum FuzeHub grant award is \$50,000** - (.xls or .xlsx file - the template must be downloaded from the FuzeHub website)
- **Signed Letter(s) of Commitment from the Industry Partner(s)** - (PDF file):
  - Affirming the need for and the anticipated benefits of the project;
  - Indicating approval of project description, scope of work and budget; and
  - Indicating the company's commitment to respond to the impact survey.
- **Payment** - \$55 application fee must be paid by credit card.
- **Media Package** - media contact information for both the not-for-profit applicant and the industry partner, plus a brief project description for media purposes only.

## Review Criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on, but not limited to, the following criteria:

- A well-defined business challenge
- Technology innovation/solution
- Impact on company's growth
- Sustainability Impact (reduction in waste, harmful chemicals, etc.)
- Project feasibility and schedule
- Reasonableness of budget and use of funds

In anticipation of a high volume of applications, FuzeHub will not commit to providing debriefs to unsuccessful candidates; when and if available, the debrief will be delivered electronically.

## Contact Information

For the FuzeHub Privacy Policy, click [here](#). Questions should be sent to the Innovation Fund program at [fund@fuzehub.com](mailto:fund@fuzehub.com).

Posted/Modified August 11, 2022. Please check back to this site for updates and modifications to these guidelines.