



Jeff Lawrence Innovation Fund

# MICROELECTRONICS INNOVATION CHALLENGE GUIDELINES

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## Application Period

Opens January 5, 2026

Closes February 17, 2026 at 11:59 PM EST

## APPLICATION SUBMISSIONS

The applications are submitted online at [SurveyMonkey](#)

[Apply](#). If you have questions or require assistance,  
contact [fund@fuzehub.com](mailto:fund@fuzehub.com).

## Award Details

The purpose of this Innovation Challenge is to strengthen national defense through the advancement of New York's microelectronics industry. For the purpose of this Innovation Challenge, "microelectronics" include:

- Electronic components on the micrometer-scale or smaller
- Components and materials necessary for assembling printed circuit boards
- Materials, equipment, and processes necessary for the manufacturing and assembly of the above two categories.

Importantly, the application must advance New York State's manufacturing or manufacturing capabilities within the microelectronics industry, either through improving innovative technologies, or through strengthening the microelectronics supply chain within New York State.

Up to \$180,000 in funding is available. FuzeHub anticipates making three awards of \$60,000 each. FuzeHub maintains the right to award less than is being requested. Funds provided to awarded organizations are distributed on a reimbursement basis. Funding support is provided through a grant from the U.S. Department of Defense Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC) as part of the Defense Manufacturing Community Support Program (DMCSP). All awards are subject to the availability of funds from Empire State Development and the U.S. Department of Defense.

Applicants will select a track during the application process:

- Innovation Track: projects creating innovations to improve the ability of a supplier to service the defense industry.
- Supply Chain Developments Track: projects improving/strengthening microelectronics supply chain readiness.

## 1. Eligibility

### A. Eligible Applicants

New York State not-for-profit organizations that partner with at least one New York State small to medium-sized manufacturer. At least one of the applicant team organizations must be located in one of the following counties:

- Cayuga
- Cortland
- Herkimer
- Madison
- Oneida
- Onondaga
- Oswego

### Eligible Partner Manufacturers

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 [census.gov](https://www.census.gov))
- 423510 Metal Service Centers and Other Metal Merchant Wholesalers
- 4841 General Freight Trucking
- 4842 Specialized Freight Trucking
- 488510 Freight Transportation Agreement
- 488991 Packing and Crating
- 4931 Warehousing and Storage
- 541330 Engineering Services
- 541380 Testing Laboratories
- 541420 Industrial Design Services

- 541511 Custom Computer Programming Services
- 541512 Computer Systems Design Services
- 541713 Research and Development in Nanotechnology
- 541714 Research and Development in Biotechnology (except Nanotechnology)
- 541715 Research and Development in the Physical, Engineering, and Life Sciences (except Nanotechnology and Biotechnology)
- 561910 Packaging and Labeling Services
- 811310 Commercial and Industrial Machinery & Equipment (except Automotive & Electronic) Repair & Maintenance

## B. Eligibility Factors

- Applicants may only submit one application, consisting of a single project.
- A manufacturer can only be the industry partner in one application per round.
- A manufacturer can only be the recipient of up to \$250,000 from the Jeff Lawrence Innovation Fund in the life of the company across all tracks and rounds.
- In the case of a college or university, up to three different centers or departments may apply.

## C. Eligible Types of Projects

(project timeline must not exceed 12 months)

- Adoption of new technology to enhance a process and/or product
- Prototype development
- Design for manufacturing
- Proof-of-concept manufacturing
- Improve the ability of existing suppliers to service the defense industry
- Re-shore manufacturing capabilities
- Manufacturing scale-up
- Other projects to advance manufacturing or manufacturing capabilities

## D. 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:

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

Ineligible costs include, but are not limited to:

- Equipment;
- Overhead and administrative costs;
- Capital improvements;
- 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.

## 2. Application Requirements

The application process is completely done in the [SurveyMonkey Apply](#) platform. The deadline to apply is February 17 at 11:59PM EST.

## 3. Review Criteria

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

### 1. Track Dependent

- Innovation Track: degree to which the project is transformational, unique, and/or will lead to new or improved products or technologies.

- Supply Chain Development Track: degree to which the project de-risks the microelectronics supply chain.

## 2. Impacts

- Project impacts in the current or future needs of the defense / aerospace industry, including strengthening, and adding resiliency, efficiency, and competitiveness to the microelectronics industry.
- Expected economic impacts and the resulting company growth (jobs, cost savings, and investments).

## 3. Team

- Ability to achieve project goals as proposed.

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.

## 4. Availability of Funds

All grants are subject to the availability of funds from Empire State Development, Division of Science, Technology & Innovation (NYSTAR) and from the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD).

### Contact Information

Questions should be sent to the Innovation Fund program at [fund@fuzehub.com](mailto:fund@fuzehub.com).

For the FuzeHub Privacy Policy, click [here](#).

**Posted/Modified** December 4, 2025. Please check back for updates and modifications to these guidelines.