

FAST NY Grant Application Instructions – Track C

Track A – Shovel-Ready Certification

Track B – Pre-Development Grants

Track C – Infrastructure Improvements

Program Overview

The Fiscal Year 2023 New York State Budget provided funding of up to \$200 million for Empire State Development (ESD) to fund the new Focused Attraction of Shovel-Ready Tracts New York (FAST NY) Grant Program. Under the Program, ESD will provide grants for pre-development activities and infrastructure investments to develop sites that will attract high-tech manufacturing, particularly semiconductor manufacturing and related industry and supply chain projects, and interstate distribution and logistics businesses to the state to jumpstart New York’s shovel-readiness and increase the state’s attractiveness to future employers. The program further provides ESD the ability to award a “FAST NY Shovel-Ready Certification” for sites meeting high standards of shovel readiness to support their marketing to industry.

Eligibility Criteria

- Eligible Applicants
 - Municipalities
 - Municipally designated non-profit economic development organizations
 - Municipally designated Local Development Corporation/Industrial Development Agency
- Site Condition Eligibility
 - Sites must be 40 acres in size to be eligible to be considered
 - Exceptions may be made for smaller sites demonstrating compelling site assets or public benefits, including but need not be limited to: proximity to intermodal transportation assets, such as transportation terminals; population centers; the possibility for brownfield redevelopment
 - Applicant must have:
 - Ownership or control of the site, or
 - Written consent from the ownership entity and, if different, the entity that has legal control of the site, to the application for FAST NY funding and, if awarded, agreeing to use FAST NY funds as outlined in the application
- Award Eligibility
 - Track C – Infrastructure Improvements
 - Capital grants will be awarded to improve the shovel-readiness of existing, mature sites by funding infrastructure improvements such as water, sewer, transportation, electricity, gas and other capital-eligible site improvement costs.
 - Competitive grant awards will be available to sites that have substantially met the requirements of FAST NY Shovel-Ready Certification
 - A non-ESD match will be required, to be negotiated
 - Grant funds are issued on a reimbursement basis

- Expenditures incurred prior to the date of award letter are not eligible for reimbursement

Application Instructions

- Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis
- Letter of Intent to apply
 - A Letter of Intent to apply demonstrating an intent to apply is required
 - This can be found on the website under “How to Apply” here:
<https://esd.ny.gov/fast-ny>
 - ESD will confirm receipt by email within 7 calendar days
 - Within 30 calendar days, ESD will advise applicant by email whether they may proceed with the full application
- Application
 - Application documentation requirements can be found in the checklist below
 - A \$250 non-refundable application fee will be required prior to application submission. Documentation of this payment is required as a part of the application. A wire transfer should be made to Empire State Development Corporation using the information below:
 - Bank Name: JPMorgan Chase Bank
 - Account Name: ESD ED Income
 - ABA Number: 021 000 021
 - Account Number: 007004796
 - Reference: “[Applicant Name] – FAST NY Application Fee”
 - Eligible applicants must complete the application through the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) online portal: <https://apps.cio.ny.gov/apps/cfa/>
 - Once submitted, ESD will review applications for completeness and will thereafter score applications
 - Site visits will be completed prior to award selection
 - Projects will ultimately be selected for advancement or denial based on an internal project review committee
 - Awardees will be notified by email. Thereafter, a loan and grants project manager will send a grant disbursement agreement to the applicant
 - A one percent (1%) non-reimbursable commitment fee based on the grant amount awarded will be assessed to all awardees. The commitment fee will be due when the applicant executes documents required for processing the award, following approval by ESD Directors. The Applicant will be obligated to pay for out-of-pocket expenses incurred by ESD in connection with the project, including, but not limited to, expenses related to attorney fees, appraisals, surveys, title insurance, credit searches, filing fees, public hearing expenses and other requirements deemed appropriate by ESD.

Application Attachment Checklist

Track C - Documentation Items	Yes	N/A
Letter of Intent		
Documentation of site ownership/control, OR Written consent from the ownership entity consenting to the application for funding		
Proof of clear title		
Letter of support from the chief executive and/or legislative resolution of the local municipality that maintains land use control over the proposed project site		
For EDO applicants, a municipal resolution or letter from a municipal executive designating the EDO to apply for FAST NY funds (this does not apply to IDA's or EDO's where the organization's board is entirely municipally appointed)		
Documented research and/or market study showing the specific industry that will be targeted and the specific infrastructure needs. Applicant must demonstrate that the requested infrastructure will serve to help attract the specified economic development		
Documentation of engagement with water and sewer districts, transportation departments, and local utility providers needed for infrastructure. A detailed and documented plan for how infrastructure upgrade(s) will be accomplished is required, including a willingness of the necessary parties		
Project PowerPoint presentation (15 slides maximum) (include information on targeted industry, maps of the site, developer experience, funding request, etc.)		
Demonstration of industry interest (ie, studies, leads, tenant interest/commitments)		
Demonstration of financial viability (when applicant is partnering with a privately held entity, please provide their 3 years' audited financials)		
Cost estimates for capital upgrades		
Demonstration of alignment with Regional Economic Development Council's (REDC) regional strategy		
Documentation of leveraged investment, such as private and local investment (including the non-ESD match required)		
Detailed sources and uses of funds table including documentation of leveraged investment, such as private and local investment (including the non-ESD match required)		
Documentation of shovel-readiness showing substantial completion of FAST NY Shovel-Ready Certification items (as detailed in Track A Addendum, see Application Instructions)		
Documentation of any environmental review		
Documentation from local planning/zoning		
Application fee proof of payment		

Eligible Uses of Funds

- Eligible industries:
 - High-tech manufacturing, including but need not be limited to clean-tech renewable energy, life sciences, agribusiness, optics, transportation equipment, materials processing, industrial machinery manufacturing and other advanced manufacturing
 - Sites for interstate distribution and logistics
 - Priority may be given to semiconductor manufacturing and related industry and supply-chain projects

- Eligible site activities:
 - Manufacturing
 - Research and development
 - Office park
 - Interstate distribution and logistics
- All grant funds will be issued on a reimbursement basis
- The Recipient shall be required to use “Good Faith Efforts,” to achieve a Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprise (“MWBE”) participation goal
- Grantees will be permitted to use funds for the following:
 - Investments in water infrastructure, sewer infrastructure, roads, electricity (including power lines and electrical substations), natural gas lines, specialized telecommunications infrastructure, and other site infrastructure
 - Capital-eligible site preparation and development expenses

Scoring Criteria

- The following will be evaluated as a part of the basic application scoring criteria
 - Demonstration of financial viability (when applicant is partnering with a privately held entity, please provide their three years audited financials)
 - Alignment with REDC strategy
 - Applicant has substantially completed FAST NY Shovel-Ready certification items (see Track A addendum)
 - Favorable site characteristics (topography, developability, useable acreage, etc)
 - Highway and truck access to meet needs of intended use
 - Utility services to site to meet needs of intended use
 - Rail service, barge access or airport access to meet needs of intended use
 - Other strategic site characteristics (brownfield redevelopment, urban center, smart growth, etc.)
 - Quality of marketing plan
 - Quality of shovel-readiness documentation
- The following will be evaluated as a part of the additional application scoring criteria
 - Demonstration of industry interest (ie. studies, leads, tenant interest/commitments)
 - Leveraged investment (match)
 - Applicant’s development experience

Track A – Addendum

FAST NY Track C Competitive grant awards will be available to sites that have substantially met the requirements of FAST NY Shovel-Ready certification. These activities are listed below.

Track A – FAST NY Shovel-Ready Certification

ESD will award FAST NY Shovel-Ready Certification to those applicants that satisfy the production requirement of the following documents, as applicable:

- State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) consultation on plan

- Site plan and subdivision approval by local municipality
- Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) and/or Phase II ESA report
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) mapping
- Park rules, regulations and covenants document (created by developer)
- NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Natural Heritage program correspondence and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) database search findings
- Environmental Assessment Form (EAF) and Negative Declaration or Draft & Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)
- Site plan and boundary survey map
- Soil survey map
- Signoff by oversight body if needed for special district (e.g., Adirondack Park Agency, agricultural district, etc.)
- Preliminary storm water management plan
- Department of Transportation (DOT) review of traffic impact study
- Wetland avoidance and minimization plan – pre-application meeting with US Army Corps of Engineers and DEC
- Smart Growth Impact Statement
- Other necessary project approvals specific to site