



Public Participation Request **PPR ICAP2021**

1. Announcement

The Office of Economic Development & Competitiveness (OEDC) of the Washington State Department of Commerce (Commerce) is requesting information from Washington State organizations interested in participating in a program to develop, mature, and support industry-led consortia. OEDC works closely with a vast range of businesses and other partners within Washington State and is focused on ensuring the economic viability of our community through responsible, knowledgeable and dedicated planning from a diverse and inclusive network of stakeholders. This collaborative network is the key to accomplishing current and future equitable projects within OEDC.

2. Program Specifics (Background)

Commerce is launching our first statewide Innovation Cluster Accelerator Program (ICAP) to support the development of high-impact, high-value clusters built around Washington's industries of the future.

There are approximately 7,000 innovation clusters worldwide. From Washington's own Maritime Blue (www.maritimeblue.org) to Canada's Digital Supercluster (www.digitalsupercluster.ca) and the Queensland Robotics Cluster in Australia (www.qldrobo.org), clusters are increasingly used to grow existing industries, transform legacy industries and build entirely new industries. Around the world, government leaders and private industry executives are looking to innovation clusters to create trust-based collaboration platforms, speed up the pace of innovation, solve industry-level challenges and compete in new markets. For more information on innovation cluster, attend the Public Engagement workshop on 6/3/2021, which will provide an overview of innovation clusters and more details about ICAP. In addition, visit www.icapwashington.org, which will launch later this week.

Beginning in July, Commerce will release a competitive request for proposals (RFP) to award performance-based contracts to six to eight clusters statewide. These organizations will receive resources and support to develop and mature innovation clusters, including:

- Funding of \$100,000-\$500,000 to support cluster operation and development
- Cluster strategy development and technical assistance
- Networking with global cluster leaders

3. Public Engagement Goals

OEDC is familiar with the traditional sectors in our state, many of which are represented by Commerce's Industry Sector Lead program. At the same time, we recognize that there are many potential clusters out there, just waiting to be developed. We are looking to learn more about current and future industry ecosystems throughout Washington. In addition, we want to provide interested organizations with an

opportunity to learn more about innovation clusters to help them assess their fit for the program and prepare to respond to the upcoming RFP.

Responses to the Public Engagement Questions in Section 5 will help Commerce:

- Understand the level of interest in the program
- Learn about organizations interested in leading a cluster, including understanding their organizational structure
- Provide feedback to organizations that are likely to respond to the upcoming RFP
- Facilitate connections between organizations that might partner on a response
- Identify gaps and inform additional outreach to ensure likely respondents to the RFP include consortia that:
 - Are representative of key and future industries in Washington State
 - Include members from small and diverse businesses
 - Include members from rural areas
 - Include underrepresented minorities on their boards of directors

4. How to Participate

We welcome both established networks, alliances and associations, as well as new, emerging and potential clusters to participate in the public participation process and consider responding to the upcoming RFP.

Interested organizations are invited to:

- Register to attend the Public Engagement Workshop on 6/3/2021 from noon to 1:30pm PST at https://commerce_icap_public_engagement.eventbrite.com
- Submit a response to the Public Engagement Questions in Section 5 to the person listed below no later than 5:00pm PST on 6/11/2021.

The information received during the Public Engagement may be used to develop future RFPs and to inform follow up discussions with organizations interested in responding to the RFP. All questions and communications concerning this opportunity must be directed to:

Stephanie Scott
Innovation Cluster Accelerator Program Director
Office of Economic Development and Competitiveness
206-485-5961
stephanie.scott@commerce.wa.gov

Participation in the Public Engagement is completely voluntary and will not result in any preference or selection for any State or Federally funded contract or grant through Washington State Department of Commerce.

5. Public Engagement Questions (1 page limit)

Cluster name:

Legal organization (indicate yes/no/in process):

Contact name:

Email address:

Phone number:

1. Provide a short description of your consortium/cluster.
2. Why are you interested in this program?
3. How do you ensure inclusion of small and diverse businesses in your consortia/cluster membership and underrepresented minorities on your board directors?
4. Complete Appendix A: Cluster Snapshot. Please use the provided template and be concise. You will have an opportunity to provide more detailed information if you respond to the RFP.

We will discuss the Public Engagement Questions during the Public Engagement Workshop on 6/3/2021.

6. Summary

OEDC appreciates your thoughts and participation as we work together to increase our positive economic impact within Washington communities.