ILLINOIS CLEAN TECH COALITION

2025 Clean Tech Economy
Request for Proposal Webinar
Wednesday, September 15th from 12:00 to 1:00

MHUB

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BACKGROUND

GRANT CHALLENGE OBJECTIVE: *Help regional economies recover from the pandemic and build economic diversity and resiliency to mitigate impacts of future economic disasters as well as benefit regional workforces and residents through creation of high-quality jobs, increased wages, and revitalize communities.*

COMPETITION OVERVIEW

Phase 1:
Help regions develop transformational economic development strategies
- Awardees: 50-60 regional coalitions
- Award: Up to $500K total for planning and strategy development
- Application: Due October 19th

Phase 2:
Fund the implementation of those strategies that will create & grow regional economic growth clusters
- Awardees: 20-30 coalitions that were finalists in Phase 1
- Award: $25-$75M and up to $100M to implement 3-8 tightly aligned projects
- Application: Due March 15th, 2022

KEY ELEMENTS & PROJECTS

Strong clusters will demonstrate:
- **Regional asset** utilization and creation
- **Industry leadership** support
- **Sustainability** post-grant funds expiration
- **Equity** commitment and benefits

Eligible Projects:
- **Non-construction activities** (e.g., design and engineering, entrepreneurial support, academic curriculum, workforce training)
- **Construction activities** (e.g., infrastructure improvements, business incubators, tech-based facilities, wet labs, multi-tenant manufacturing, research parks)

Projects must be complete by 9/30/2027

PROGRESS TO-DATE

- Three distinct efforts emerged around building a proposal focused on Clean Tech Economy – mHUB with entrepreneurial / innovation centers, Cook County with CMAP, UIC, IMEC and 7 county EDOs, and University of Chicago with southside neighborhood stakeholders

- mHUB and University of Chicago initiate collaborations in partnership with CMAP, Cook County, City of Chicago, State of Illinois, and Argonne to build a regional proposal based on an inclusive approach to sourcing and evaluating projects

- Mobilizing resources (pro bono, in-kind and philanthropic) to support for proposal development, writing and region-wide consortium building effort

- Released request for proposal to source projects from the entire region and built evaluation

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Consortium Focus

Clean tech is any product or process that reduces negative environmental impacts by way of renewable energy or energy efficiency improvements. Clean tech includes clean energy, clean air, clean water, transportation, recycling and waste reduction, supply chain improvement, the built environment, manufacturing, and more.

Industry Vertical #1: Clean Energy
The clean energy sector includes all technologies that reduce reliance on greenhouse gas (GHG)-producing fossil fuels.
- Hydrogen & Fuel Cell
- Grid Modernization
- Carbon Capture

Industry Vertical #2: Transportation
Within transportation, the coalition should focus on investing in innovation within advanced battery and electric vehicle charging technology, scaling existing regional battery and electric vehicle supply chains, driving consumer and fleet demand for EVs, and rapid expansion of charging network infrastructure.
- Batteries & Energy Storage
- Charging Infrastructure
- Climate Prediction

Additional energy-specific horizontal technology investments will be considered that will have an immediate impact on the clean tech economy. This includes but is not limited to:
- Artificial Intelligence
- Cybersecurity
- 5G & Connectivity
- Robotics
- Quantum Computing
- Advanced Materials

Project Call   *Sept. 26, 2021*

The Clean Tech Coalition is seeking project proposals from eligible entities across a variety of potential investment areas that align with the industry verticals identified. Proposals should range between $750K and $25M with full deployment of funding between 24 and 48 months. Examples of potential investment areas include but are not limited to:

- **Access to Capital** (e.g., revolving loan fund, accelerator program, etc.)
- **Applied Research and Innovation** (e.g., science and research park, university research institute, etc.)
- **Coal Economy Impact** (e.g., training centers, industrial park, etc.)
- **Entrepreneurship and Commercialization** (e.g., incubator with wet lab space, university and national lab tech transfer programs, etc.)
- **Equity Assessment** (e.g., analysis of current equity and inclusion capacity as part of project proposal to achieve direct investment in disadvantaged communities)
- **Environmental Justice** (e.g., training and capacity building, air and water pollution, etc.)
- **Infrastructure** (e.g., fleet yard charging infrastructure, technology demonstration and testbed, etc.)
- **Manufacturing** (e.g., supply-chain development, multi-tenant manufacturing facility, etc.)
- **Planning and Development** (e.g., brownfield development, market feasibility study, etc.)
- **Workforce Development** (e.g., constructing training centers, statewide training program, etc.)

All proposals should focus on either creating new capacity or scaling an existing program or entity. Each proposal must demonstrate a minimum 20% cost match.

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MHUB'S CLEAN ENERGY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CREDENTIALS

Economic Development Administration (EDA)

November 2016 — i6 Challenge — "Manufacturing Innovation Hub" - $500K Grant

➥ Proposal to build mHUB as a physical product and hardtech entrepreneurial center

July 2019 — Seed Grant Challenge — "Product Impact Fund and Accelerator - $300K Grant

➥ Proposal to build impact venture fund and accelerator to foster hardtech venture capital ecosystem

September 2020 — Venture Challenge Scale — "Scaling Hardtech Development Services" $1.3M Grant

➥ Proposal to scale hardtech development services to provide SME manufacturers with R&D support and startups with supplemental income

May 2021 — CARES Economic Adjustment Assistance — "Chicago Proactive Response: COVID 19 Economic Recovery" $2.8M Grant

➥ Proposal with 1871 and MATTER to support rapid economic recovery of our entrepreneurial and small business communities

Department of Energy - OTT

PRIZE — June 2018 — American Inventions Made OnShore Prize — "Build4Scale Energy Commercialization Training" - $150K Prize

➥ Proposal to expand education curriculum to address specific needs of energy tech startups and provide a test bed for DOE training modules

October 2020 - Energy Program for Innovation Clusters #1 — "mHUB Innovation Center & Accelerator" - $50K Prize

➥ Program to recognize the most innovative and impactful incubators focused on developing strong regional innovation clusters for energy-related technology and entrepreneurship

June 2021 — Energy Program for Innovation Cluster #2 — "Midwest Regional Innovation Partnership" - $1M Grant

➥ Proposal with Clean Energy Trust, Argonne National Laboratory, Chain Reaction Initiative, University of Tennessee, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Lawrence Technical University to expand entrepreneurial resources to commercialize science and launch clean energy startups

50+
mHUB Has Supported Over 25 Energy / CleanTech Companies

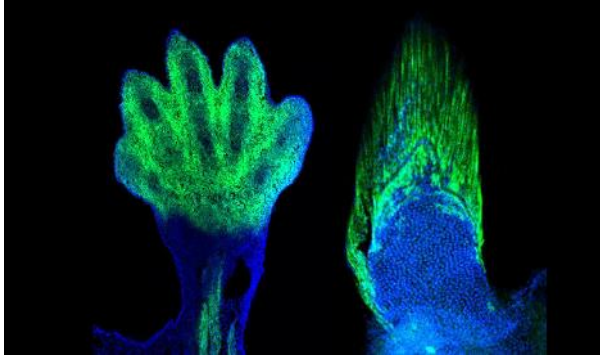## $179M
Capital Raised by mHUB Energy / CleanTech Companies

Leading mHUB Energy / CleanTech Companies

Current Energy / CleanTech Partner Network

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A Scientific Powerhouse Focused on Venture Creation

500+
COMPANIES
launched

$1+
BILLION
funding raised

$8.9+
BILLION
in investment and exits

GRUBHUB · Braintree *A PayPal Company* · EXPLORER · CLOSTRABIO · rise interactive · SWITCHED SOURCE · SIMPLE

$100M
to launch first-of-its kind
Pritzker School of Molecular Engineering

University Management of Two DOE National Labs focused on next generation Clean Tech
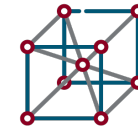
$1.5B
in annual sponsored research

Deep Tech · Data Science · Materials Science · Life Science · Quantum

POLSKY

PHASE 1 & 2 DELIVERABLES

Submit a maximum **5-page narrative** that includes:
- Vision for the regional growth cluster
- Economic opportunity presented by the cluster
- Coalition members, including roles and commitment
- 3-8 potential component projects for Phase 2
- Preliminary metrics of success for proposed projects
- Accessibility of matching funds for Phase 2 and complementary investments
- Barriers to implementation and mitigation strategy
- Implementation timeline

The appendix will include:
- List of regional assets
- List of partner employers, engagement with them, and letters of support
- Draft plan for sustainability after ARP funding (2-page)
- Draft plan for equitable sharing of benefits (2-page)
- Documentation of commitment of coalition members
- Additional letters of support from cluster partners
- Budget narrative
- Additional documentation, e.g. bylaws, articles of incorp.

The application will be submitted by the lead institution.

Submit a maximum **10-page overarching narrative** that includes:
- Synopsis of the vision, initiatives, partners, projects and outcomes
- Project's location and region
- Expected participation from private sector entities
- Plan for sustainability after ARP funds
- Plan for engaging community-based organizations and labor unions
- Plan for ensuing equitable distribution of benefits from cluster
- Outcomes expected from joint impact of component projects
- Overview of work conducted between Phase 1 award and Phase 2 application submittal
- Appendix with updated letters of support and evidence of coalition members' commitment

Each proposed project must submit a **component application:**
- Project narrative (maximum 6-pages) that details scope, regional industry assets/needs, project location and region, proposed solution, partners and program outreach, former or existing partnerships, outreach plan, measurable goals and impacts, and sustainability plan
- Additional documentation required depending on type of project (construction or non-construction) and if it meets certain criteria

Overarching narrative submitted by lead institution. Component applications submitted by combination of lead institution and coalition members

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RFP Timeline

- 9/9 – Released request for proposal to 350+ stakeholders
- 9/15 – Host informational webinar & release FAQs
- 9/26 – Project proposals are due, and evaluation begins
- 10/4 – Initial notifications to selected projects
- 10/19 – Full coalition proposal is due to the EDA

Grant Proposal Timeline
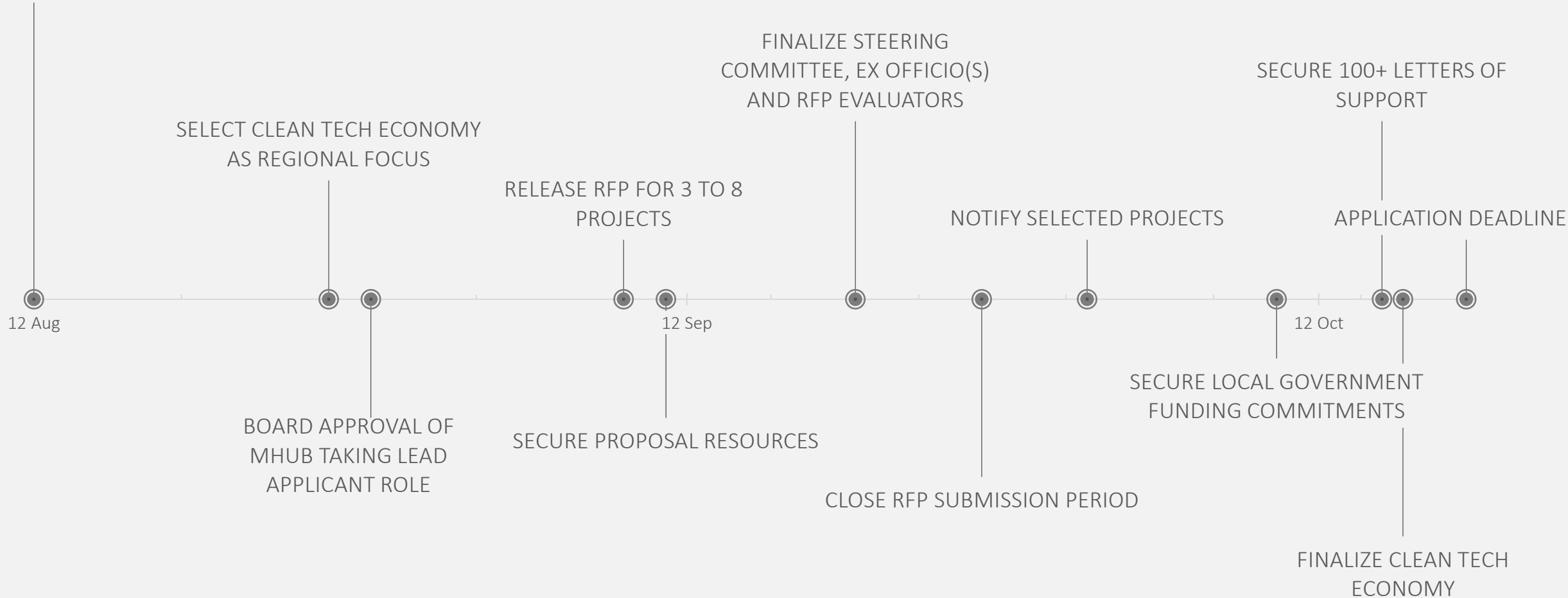
- 10/19 – Phase 1 Concept Proposals due
- 12/8 – Phase 1 Award date
- 3/15/22 – Phase 2 Full application due
- 9/30/22 – Phase 2 Award date

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PROJECT TIMELINE

PROJECT START

SELECT CLEAN TECH ECONOMY
AS REGIONAL FOCUS

FINALIZE STEERING
COMMITTEE, EX OFFICIO(S)
AND RFP EVALUATORS

SECURE 100+ LETTERS OF
SUPPORT

RELEASE RFP FOR 3 TO 8
PROJECTS

NOTIFY SELECTED PROJECTS

APPLICATION DEADLINE

12 Aug

12 Sep

12 Oct

BOARD APPROVAL OF
MHUB TAKING LEAD
APPLICANT ROLE

SECURE PROPOSAL RESOURCES

SECURE LOCAL GOVERNMENT
FUNDING COMMITMENTS

CLOSE RFP SUBMISSION PERIOD

FINALIZE CLEAN TECH
ECONOMY

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EVALUATION PROCESS FOR PROJECTS

Program Description
- Align with defined industry verticals identified in the RFP
- Established organizational leadership and operating history to accomplish project proposal and achieve outcomes
- Defined and distributed impact objectives

Regional Industry Assets and Needs
- Leveraging local and U.S. manufacturing and region's competitive and comparative advantages
- Local and state government support – actual and potential
- Secured program partners and identify potential program partners and defined an outreach plan
- Project aligns with EDA Recovery and Resilience investment priorities, local CEDS plan and address COVID19 negative economic impacts (e.g. employment loss)

Proposed Solution
- Proposal aligned with an industry with large TAM and CAGR
- Achieves short-term immediate economic impact while building longer-term job and wealth creation and supports creation of virtuous cycles of innovation and entrepreneurship, increasing employment, and attracting private investment
- Project is feasible – business and technical

Partners and Program Outreach
- Defined diversity, equity and inclusion strategy for organization, program leaders and participants
- Creation of jobs at all education attainment levels
- Established partnerships and project commitments from private industry
- Define milestones, deliverables and timeline
- Equitable breakdown of populations benefiting from investments

Clearly defined and measurable Goals and Impacts
- Defined diversity, equity and inclusion goals that align with broad economic impacts
- Defined goals and anticipated outcomes and outputs
- Economic impact projections - Job creation (Direct and Indirect), # of new businesses created, revenue generated to support GRP growth, investment capital attracted

Sustainability Plan
- Clear sustainability plan with demonstrated history of achieving similar scope and scale of programs or initiatives
- Articulation of understanding of structural barriers limiting access to benefits of the project
- Defined challenges and sustainability barriers ensuring long-term success of the project
- Demonstration of organization's financial commitment to project investment (e.g., cost-share)

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EDA PHASE 1 CONCEPT PROPOSAL REVIEW

1. **Overall Concept and Anticipated Outcomes (20 points)** – Strength of the proposed component projects, their alignment to support cluster-based economic development and EDA Investment Priorities, related outcomes (e.g., relative regional wage, jobs, and GDP growth), and the evidence-base to support those anticipated outcomes.

2. **Regional Assets (20 points)** – Strength of the proposed plan to utilize existing and develop new assets to support the region's economic competitiveness.

3. **Industry Leadership (20 points)** – Strength of the cluster's potential for industry leadership, including private sector led development strategies that support innovation and workforce development for global competitiveness and high-quality jobs.

4. **Sustainability (20 points)** – Potential of the cluster's plan for sustainability/durability, including the extent to which the project shows support or commitment from regional stakeholders (private, public, and non-profit entities, etc.) and is aligned with and integrated into other public or private investments currently ongoing or planned for the community and region.

5. **Equity (20 points)** – The extent to which the application articulates a plan for sharing the project's benefits across all affected communities, and how resident and community leadership will be engaged throughout the project's duration. Although not required, EDA encourages efforts to reach historically excluded populations, racial minorities, and women. These strategies should create the connectivity and conditions for growth where it may not exist, such as in rural and underserved communities.

6. **Feasibility (20 points)** – Potential of the articulated vision to drive change in the identified region and the likelihood that individual project components will be complete by September 30, 2027 within budget.

7. **Capacity (20 points)** – Strength of the coalition identified to support the growth of an industry or industries and the applicants' organizational capacity, including its financial and management capacity; its experience and capacity in managing large federal grants and subawards; and ability to meet stated metrics.

8. **Distress (20 points)** – The degree of historic economic distress experienced in the project region, including the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic, as measured by local employment and regional GDP.

9. **Regional Investment (20 points)** – Availability and commitment of local government, philanthropy, and industry investment to support the growth of a region, i.e. the amount of local leverage that will augment the federal award.

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QUESTIONS

Please provide questions via the chat function. We will do our best to answer everyone's questions.

FAQs – All questions and answers will be emailed to registrants tomorrow.

Upcoming Office Hours:
- Wednesday, September 15 from 10:00 to 12:00
- Thursday, September 16 from 12:00 and 3:00
- Friday, September 17 from 12:00 to 2:00

Schedule time with Juan de Pablo and team of the University of Chicago by emailing cleantechproject@uchicago.edu.

 Or email all RFP@2025CleanTech.com

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