



Industry Cluster Grants Fact Sheet April 29, 2016

The Rhode Island Commerce Corporation (“Corporation”) is recommending that its Board of Directors select 7 organizations as the inaugural recipients of awards under the Industry Cluster Grant program. The Corporation received 26 applications seeking over \$5.7 million in funding. The 7 awards recommended total \$748,640.

Industry Cluster Grant Quick Facts

The Industry Cluster Grants program encourages companies in an industry sector to work together to solve problems, exchange ideas and develop talent. Grants of \$75,000 to \$250,000 are available to fund planning and organization building for the cluster; and grants of \$100,000 to \$500,000 are available to implement programs that strengthen the cluster in areas such as R&D, tech transfer, workforce development, or marketing.

- Program created in state fiscal year 2016 budget
- Program allocated \$750,000
- Final program regulations filed on November 5, 2015, after public comment period
- Application launched November 18, 2015
- Application deadline of February 8, 2016
- 26 applications received requesting over \$5.7 million in funding

More information on the Industry Cluster Grant Program is available here:

<http://commerceri.com/finance-business/taxes-incentives/industry-cluster-grants/>

Recommended Industry Cluster Grant recipients

Technical Assistance Grants

DesignXRI: \$100,000

Make RI design expertise visible through marketing materials and promote design as an important investment for Rhode Island businesses.

Highlander Institute: \$149,750

Leverage compact size and existing education networks as a unique platform for testing new Education Technology (“EdTech”) products to enhance Rhode Island as an Edtech Hub that can retain and recruit Edtech talent and businesses.

International Yacht Restoration School, Inc. (IYRS): \$75,290

Develop plans for a “Mobile Maker Lab,” a traveling trailer equipped with 21st century manufacturing technologies in order to incorporate advanced manufacturing and design into high school curriculum to enhance workforce development and innovation.



Polaris & RI Composites: \$99,600

Promote the adoption of composites as a new material for manufactured products.

Partnership for a Greater Future Providence & Southside Community Land Trust: \$115,000

Grow urban food cluster businesses by bringing in new outside investors and business partners, collaborating with and building on scalable local food cluster organizations, and prioritizing projects with attractive job creation and/or neighborhood redevelopment impacts.

Implementation Grants

Southeastern New England Defense Industry Alliance (SENEDIA): \$109,000

Provide small firms with information on Department of Defense and Homeland Security budgets, programs and points of contact so they have similar business development intelligence enjoyed by larger companies.

Rhode Island Manufacturers Association (RIMA): \$100,000

Increase access to advanced manufacturing facilities and expand local supply chains.