



For Immediate Release

Semiconductor-focused Ohio Coalition Named Finalist in Federal Grant Process; Vying to Win Up to \$160 Million

Ohio group moves to final phase in U.S. National Science Foundation grant; funding would spur technological and economic growth across Ohio

[November 22, 2024] A coalition of Ohio organizations supported by the Community Funding Accelerator has progressed to the final phase in the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) Engines grant application process, NSF recently [announced](#). The group, led by the [Midwest Microelectronic Consortium](#) (MMEC), is now able to request up to \$160 million over the next decade to develop and expand initiatives that will help K-12 students prepare to access well-paying, local technology jobs.

"Community Funding Accelerator is thrilled to have supported the Midwest Microelectronic Consortium with its winning preliminary proposal," said Amy Zhou, who leads CFA. "This project is poised to expand the nation's global leadership in microelectronics, and CFA is proud to help grow a pipeline of U.S.-based semiconductor talent by creating opportunities for students in underserved communities to access good jobs."

MMEC proposed securing domestic semiconductor and microelectronic supply chains by focusing on workforce development programs, including paid internships, micro-credentialing, earn-and-learn programs, and "stack and learn" methodologies. Together, [the Intel Semiconductor Education Program at Central State University](#), [Lorain County Community College](#), [Youngstown State University](#), [Wright State University](#), [The Ohio State University](#), and [SCALE K-12](#) will work to create programs with a focus on K-12 students, women, and underserved minorities. The project's region of service emphasizes workforce development efforts with underserved and underrepresented populations across Ohio including Dayton, Cleveland, Springfield, Lorain County, Mahoning Valley, and the Miami Valley.

"To secure a sufficient, sustainable, reliable, and secure domestic semiconductor ecosystem, efforts must enable a vibrant industry that supports quality jobs and a skilled workforce," said Dr. Jessica Falcon, Director of Workforce Development, MMEC. "Workforce Development Projects like this will create good-paying jobs that provide substantial benefit to the region and fulfill the needs of our partners to build a successful domestic semiconductor industry."



"Central State University (CSU) is excited and eager to collaborate with MMEC on the NSF Regional Innovation Engine project, an initiative that greatly aligns with the University's endeavors and Intel's monumental \$28 billion investment in Ohio's semiconductor industry," added Central State University President Dr. Morakinyo A.O Kutu. "This collaboration is in-line with the existing semiconductor projects led by CSU involving key Ohio-based universities and a national consortium of seven prominent HBCUs. It focuses on semiconductor technologies and represents a significant step forward in supporting the National CHIPS and Science Act. This joint effort endeavors to revitalize the U.S. semiconductor workforce, ensuring that the U.S. remains at the forefront of innovation and bringing critical manufacturing capabilities back to American soil. The NSF Engine project is a testament to CSU's commitment to educational excellence and technological advancement."

A workforce that possesses advanced technology skills and national security clearance is needed for these specialized industries, making a long-term and sustainable workforce development plan central to the proposal. The MMEC proposal starts early with microelectronics curriculum and exposure opportunities being introduced at the K-12 level, including advantaged technology internships and certification programs for both high school and undergraduate students.

To date, CFA has partnered with MMEC to establish K-12 education as the foundation for the coalition's workforce development strategies, provide support on grant writing, and strategic guidance on their application.

Now that MMEC is one of 71 teams selected to move forward to Phase 2, CFA will be working with them through the new year to create a strong proposal ahead of the February 2025 deadline. CFA will provide technical assistance on K-12 and workforce strategy, coalition engagement, application development to align with NSF Engines' requirements for cross-sector partnership, inclusive workforce development, and regional impact.

"This is an important time for partners to come together and determine ambitious but feasible impact goals, priorities, and funding needed," said Zhou. "CFA is proud to work alongside MMEC and help the coalition submit the strongest application possible."

MMEC's advancement builds upon CFA's highly successful summer, with seven CFA-supported communities winning almost \$260 million in federal grants June and September 2024.

For more information, and to access CFA's Federal Grants Tracker, visit communityfundingaccelerator.org.

About the Community Funding Accelerator



The Community Funding Accelerator (CFA) helps underserved communities access competitive federal grants. With a focus on K-12 education and workforce pathways, CFA identifies relevant grant opportunities, builds coalitions, and provides deep technical assistance to submit winning applications. CFA also supports implementation to create innovative education and workforce solutions in communities across the U.S. The CFA program is led by Delivery Associates, a public sector consulting firm.

Media Inquiries

Brendan Lowe

856.904.1693

brendan@eachdaycomms.org