



EDA Tech Hub - PHASE 1

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY:

EDA Regional Technology and Innovation Hub grant program

Authorized under the CHIPS and Science Act, the Regional Technology and Innovation Hub grant program seeks to strengthen regional economies and create jobs at all skill levels while improving national security. This program will invest \$500 million in 20 regions who have the assets, resources, capacity, and potential to commercialize, manufacture and deploy critical technologies. It is projected that every state will submit one or two grant proposals that describe their unique capabilities relative to the 10 predefined key technology interest areas. The West Virginia Department of Economic Development has developed an application that will bring together a consortium of academic institutions, industry partners, non-profits, and others to build this technology ecosystem and will leverage West Virginia's assets and resources to lead and address critical national security concerns.

West Virginia is well positioned for this opportunity. The competition is not against all other states for this sizeable grant, but due to its population, West Virginia will compete against eight other states, including Alaska, New Hampshire, North Dakota, South Dakota, and others. West Virginia stands out amongst its peers for its world class capabilities improving national security as the world increasingly digitizes.

West Virginia has over two decades of building cybersecurity solutions and talent to systematically identify various bad actors, from terrorists to fraudsters. From the FBI Center to our academic institutions, like Marshall University's Cyber Security Center, to private companies, like Idemia, Leidos or Rank One Computing, work done in West Virginia has repeatedly protected our most vulnerable individuals while meeting national security needs. The underlying premise of the application focuses on authentication. Authentication of a person, application, or device (e.g., computer, smartphone, networks, etc.) in an online environment is accomplished through unique system-based credentials.

The consortium is seeking to build a regional economic strategy around advanced cybersecurity techniques, broadly characterized as digital identity, to enable existing and new customers to expand on solutions for connected systems, services, and applications to know who or what they are

interacting with, at any time, and to verify the intended individual, application, or device is accessing the intended service for the intended reason at the intended time. There is no time to waste.

In 2021 alone, 42 million Americans were victims of digital identity fraud at a cost of \$52 billion. For the everyday West Virginian, often residing in a rural area, these systems are the foundation for improving the delivery of healthcare services. A 2022 Boston Consulting Group study found that at least \$1.6 trillion and countless lives can be saved globally each year through digital health care delivery. To realize this promise, which is especially important to the state's aging population, safe, secure, and authenticated connections need to be made.

West Virginia can lead the nation in providing its citizens safe access to the internet in a principled and privacy focused way. A successful Regional Technology Hub provides an environment conducive to a diverse set of public-private partnerships, creates an ecosystem to support startups and scale existing companies, attracts investment capital, aids in developing new technologies and implementing new processes and policies, supports new solutions for digital identity capability to protect the American people's privacy, considers accessibility for the disabled, and focuses on interconnectivity and interoperability to insure the United States is positioned to provide principled digital identity leadership.

Together, we will build a resilient infrastructure for digital identity, serving as a global model for the first line of cybersecurity defense while increasing inclusivity and improving efficiency in the delivery of key services.

For more information, contact:

Elizabeth Vitullo, PhD (she/her/hers)

Assistant Dean for Strategic Initiatives

Program Coordinator, Healthcare MBA

John Chambers College of Business and Economics

Assistant Vice President, Economic Innovation

West Virginia University

eavitullo@mail.wvu.edu

304-293-7811 (office) • 304-276-1745 (cell)