

WEST VIRGINIA WINS TWO TECH HUB STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

What is a Tech Hub?

A Regional Technology and Innovation Hub or “Tech Hub” brings together a diverse group of public, private, and academic partners focused on manufacturing, commercializing and deploying cutting-edge and critical technologies that will strengthen American economic competitiveness in the years to come.

The Tech Hubs Program is an initiative of the Economic Development Administration (EDA) at the U.S. Department of Commerce that leverages a region’s assets, capital, research and development, and infrastructure to drive rapid growth in technology and innovation in the next decade. By growing these emerging innovation hubs across the country, the Tech Hubs Program will boost U.S. economic growth, bolster our national security, and create jobs right here in America, including West Virginia.

How Was the Tech Hubs Program Funded?

As Chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Senator Manchin fought for and secured West Virginia priorities in the historic, bipartisan *CHIPS and Science Act of 2022* to drive American competitiveness, improve domestic supply chain resilience, and support access to key technologies. Among the priorities is the Tech Hubs Program. The legislation authorizes \$10 billion for the Program over five years. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Senator Manchin worked to provide the EDA \$500 million in funding in the Fiscal Year 2023 omnibus appropriations bill to kickstart the Program.

In May 2023, the EDA published the Tech Hubs Phase 1 Notice of Funding Opportunity. This is the first of two phases. Phase 1 designates at least 20 Tech Hubs across the country and award approximately \$15 million in strategy development grants. In Phase 2, EDA will make at least five implementation awards to designate EDA Tech Hubs.

On October 23, 2023, the EDA announced that West Virginia was awarded *two* Tech Hub Strategy Development Grants:

- **West Virginia Advanced Energy and Industrial Technology Manufacturing (WV-AEIM) Hub;** and
- **West Virginia Digital Identity Tech Hub**

About the West Virginia Advanced Energy and Industrial Technology Manufacturing Hub

The WV-AEIM Hub, located in Bridgeport, West Virginia, will bring advanced energy and material manufacturing and emerging technologies back to the United States while building a resilient supply chain across the state. This Tech Hub will revitalize West Virginia’s economy through greater private sector investment and permanent jobs.

Key Partners:

Industry: Allegheny Science & Technology, Form Energy, Hino Motors, AmeriCarbon, Marshall University Advanced Manufacturing Center, Global Project Finance Advisory Council

Laboratory: National Energy Technology Laboratory

Economic Development Organizations: Wyoming County Economic Development Authority

Workforce Training Organization: West Virginia State Building and Construction Trades Council/AFL-CIO, West Virginia Women Work

Nonprofit Organizations: Chemical Alliance Zone, The Nature Conservancy



UNITED STATES SENATOR *for* WEST VIRGINIA

About the West Virginia Digital Identity Tech Hub

The West Virginia Digital Identity Tech Hub, a technology ecosystem in Charlestown, West Virginia, will play a vital role in creating a regional economic strategy around digital identity that is critical to national security. In 2021 alone, an estimated 42 million Americans were victims of digital identity fraud at a cost of \$52 billion. For many West Virginians, especially those who live in rural areas, digital health care delivery may prove to be more efficient, beneficial, and even lifesaving in some cases. In order to realize this promise, it is important that safe, secure, and authenticated connections are made. Specifically, this Tech Hub will leverage the expertise of the regional stakeholders and West Virginia's two-decade experience of building cybersecurity and talent to enhance existing cybersecurity, including improving identity management and trust support services for connected systems, services, and applications.

Key Partners:

State Agency: Herbert Henderson Office of Minority Affairs

Institutions of Higher Education: West Virginia University, Marshall University, West Virginia State University, WV Community and Technical College System

Industry: Amazon Web Services, Google Public Sector, Leidos, LG, Pangiam, Rank One Computing, SaaS Factory

Economic Development Organizations: West Virginia Department of Economic Development, High Technology Foundation, America's Frontier Fund

Workforce Training Organization: Workforce West Virginia

Specialized Organizations: West Virginia University Health System, Huntington National Bank

Senator Manchin's Previous Work on Economic Hubs

In 2022, Senator Manchin announced a \$1.6 million grant from the EDA to the University of Charleston to establish a Downtown Innovation Hub in Charleston, West Virginia. This project will assist small businesses in creating economic opportunities and is expected to help create 95 jobs, retain 195 jobs, and generate \$6.3 million in private investment. This project was funded under the Assistance to Coal Communities Initiative (ACC).



If you have additional questions, please contact Senator Manchin's Charleston office:

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