



EASTGATE

Regional Council of Governments

Guidelines for Preparing a Required

FY2022 PRE-APPLICATION

**For Appalachian
Regional Commission
Funding**

Prepared by:

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EASTGATE
PROJECT PROPOSAL SUMMARY
ARC PRE-APPLICATION
FY22

Date Prepared:	05/16/2022			
1. Project Title:	Ashtabula County Imagineering Center			
2. Project Grantee:	The Growth Partnership for Ashtabula County			
3. Contact Person: (include name, title, address, e-mail & phone)	Greg Myers, Executive Director 35 W. Jefferson Street, Jefferson, OH 44047 (440) 576-9126			
4. County(ies) & Designation:	Ashtabula County – At-Risk			
5. Basic Agency:	NA			
6a. GOA State Goal/Strategy: (Copy/paste complete goal, objective, strategy)	ARC Goal 2 – Increase the education, knowledge, skills, and health of residents to work and succeed in Appalachian Ohio Strategies. Ohio Strategies 2.5 – Strengthen the workforce through job training initiatives and partnerships with educational institutions aimed at preparing Ohio’s workforce for the future.			
6b. ARC Fed Goal/Strategy: (Copy/paste complete goal, objective, strategy)	<i>Investment Goal 2: Ready Workforce - Increase the education, knowledge, skills, and health of residents to work and succeed in Appalachia.</i> Action Objectives: 1. Develop and support educational programs and institutions to prepare students for postsecondary education and the workforce. Educational attainment and achievement in Appalachia has improved over the last 50 years; however, more work is needed for the Region to achieve parity with the rest of the nation. It is essential to develop and support early childhood education, as well as primary and secondary programs and institutions, so youth in Appalachia graduate from high school prepared for postsecondary education, training, and entry into the workforce. Investments in postsecondary education – including increased distance learning opportunities, upgraded classroom technology, and improved science facilities – are also needed.			
7. Purpose:	The project will establish the Ashtabula County Imagineering Center at Iten Industries in Ashtabula, OH in partnership with Kent State University Ashtabula, Kent State University Tuscarawas, Ashtabula County Technical & Career Campus (A-Tech) in Jefferson, OH, and SPIRE Academy in Geneva, OH. The project will advance workforce development in Ashtabula County by giving hundreds of students from these schools access to state-of-the-art 3D printing equipment/technology that will lead to them earning industry-recognized certificates and degrees needed to succeed in advanced manufacturing jobs.			
8. Funding/Budget:		Percentage		
Source	Amount	of Total	Program/Funding	Status of Funds
ARC	\$250,000	60%	ARC	This application
Federal				
State				
Local				
Private	\$164,289	40%	Iten Industries, Inc.	Committed
Total	\$414,289	100%		

9. Project Description:

Maximum 3-4 paragraphs (describe who, what, where, when)

The Growth Partnership for Ashtabula County is seeking funding for completion of the Ashtabula County Imagineering Center at 4602 Benefit Avenue in Ashtabula, OH, which is a public/private workforce development partnership between Growth Partnership, Iten Industries, Kent State University Ashtabula, Kent State University Tuscarawas, the Ashtabula County Technical & Career Campus (A-tech), and SPIRE Academy. Growth Partnership, which is a private, non-profit economic development agency, will own the project equipment and Iten Industries, Inc., a private business, will house the Imagineering Center (and the equipment) in a portion (~15,000 SF) of its manufacturing facility. The education partners will lease the classroom time from Growth Partnership/Iten Industries for instruction to students. Iten will maintain the physical space and equipment. The education partners will be compensating their professors and engineering instructors as part of their operating budget. All the partners share the operating expenses under this structure. Eventually, the Imagineering Center could be opened for use by area high schools.

The project builds upon and leverages more than \$350,000 of past investment by Iten in the purchase of two state-of-the-art 3D printers. Printer 1 is a filament-fed machine used to design a single-prototype product. Printer 2 is a plastic pellet-fed machine used to run higher volume test runs for larger sized products. The third printer, to be purchased with the ARC funds, will be thermoset/thermoplastic machine used to print high volume, larger scale products. The 3D printing technology that will be available at the Imagineering Center will allow the education partners to provide students hand-on training in advanced manufacturing technology for several high-growth industries, including automotive, aerospace, and energy. Companies could eventually contract with the project partners to do R&D and development specific product prototypes.

The project will allow the education partners to hold classes with the technology in a factory setting for more effective training and job development. Because of this partnership, KSU has established a certificate program and a 2-year degree program in 3D printing/advanced manufacturing. A-tech is establishing a 3D printing program for high school and adult students. SPIRE is working to create a high school engineering program for their Academy students. Area businesses interested in training incumbent workers in these advanced manufacturing technologies could contract with the education partners for customized training programs. These will be cutting edge programs not readily available in the rest of the country and guarantee long term technical jobs in this part of the state. The establishment of this program will allow Ashtabula County to take a lead on integration of this technology nationwide. Iten and A-tech did a "test run" of the proposed program during the 2021-22 school year with A-tech using Iten's 3D printers and related equipment to train several students who then interned at Iten. Iten recently hired 2 of the interns from A-tech.

Growth Partnership will work with the education partners to place students into internship, apprenticeship, and job shadowing opportunities. In addition, Growth Partnership will connect businesses with the training and product development resources that will be available to them at the Imagineering Center. Growth Partnership is aware of more than 100 open jobs at local manufacturing businesses currently. Businesses like Iten Industries (composite components), MFG (automotive), CabinetWorks (cabinetry), Chromaflo (colorants), Ineos (chemicals), Ashta Chemicals (chemicals), CSP (automotive), Kennametal (cutting tools), and many more are looking for skilled manufacturing workers. Based on data from TeamNEO, the demand for skilled manufacturing workers in Northeast Ohio (18 counties) is nearly 20,000 with a supply of only about 6,000 credentialed workers. That is a shortfall of nearly 14,000 credentialed workers. The credentialed programs in advanced manufacturing to be offered through the Imagineering Center will put Ashtabula County businesses and residents in a competitive position to help fill some of that demand. The anticipated project start date is July 1, 2022, with a completion date of June 31, 2023.

10. Strategic Rationale:	<p>1 short paragraph maximum</p> <p>Ashtabula County has a declining and aging population, which is putting tremendous pressure on workforce participation and talent retention for area businesses, especially those in manufacturing. So, it is imperative that we develop innovative workforce development programs that connect our education entities, their students, and industry to develop our future workforce. We believe that hands-on technical training programs like those proposed at the Imagineering Center will give us a better chance of connecting with students, training them, and placing them in high-value careers in our key industries.</p>
11. Collaborative Partners:	<p>1 short paragraph maximum</p> <p>Iten Industries, Inc.; Kent State University Ashtabula; Kent State University Tuscarawas; Ashtabula County Technical & Career Campus (A-tech); SPIRE Academy. Please see support letters in Attachment B.</p>
12. Performance Measurement: OUTPUTS:	<p>OUTPUTS (annual):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imagineering/Workforce Development Center Created • 2 Universities served (KSUA, KSUT) • Up to 9 school districts served (A-tech, Buckeye, Conneaut, Geneva, Grand Valley, Jefferson, Lakeside, Pymatuning Valley, and St. John) • 100 students served • 3 Organizations served (GP, LeaderShip, ACJFS) • 25 Businesses served
OUTCOMES	<p>OUTCOMES (annual):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Counties improved (Ashtabula, Tuscarawas) • 2 Universities improved • Up to 9 School districts improved • 100 Students improved • 3 Organizations improved • 25 Businesses improved

ATTACHMENT A

PROJECT COSTS

Cost Estimate
(for Construction Projects)

Itemized Price List of Equipment
(for Non-Construction Projects)

Administrative Budget
(for Operations Projects)

PROJECT COSTS:

Item	Description	Quantity	Unit Price	Total Price	Source
3D Printer	JuggerBot 3DJB3D (FGF) Pellet Extrusion Additive System: Tradesman Series™ P3-44	1	\$ 255,250	\$ 255,250	JuggerBot3D
Remodel Classroom	Enclose walls full glass, labor and materials, sprinkler modifications	na	\$ 50,342	\$ 50,342	HouseI Construction and Matcalf Glass
Remodel Restrooms	Make ADA compliant, completely gut mens and womes restroom, add new hantcapped accessible entryways	na	\$ 51,000	\$ 51,000	HouseI Construction
Restrooms	Doors for handicap accessible entryways	na	\$ 1,872	\$ 1,872	Yohar
Restrooms	Plumbing modifications for restrooms	na	\$ 36,325	\$ 36,325	Roto Rooter
Restrooms	Engineering design for restrooms	na	\$ 12,500	\$ 12,500	Smolen Engineering
Furniture for classroom	Tables and chairs for 20 students	20	\$ 350	\$ 7,000	Estimate--no quote yet
Total			\$ 414,289	\$ 414,289	Estimates

ATTACHMENT B

Business Support Letters – Job Creation/Retention

Partner Support Letters Forthcoming

ATTACHMENT C

MATCHING FUNDS COMMITMENT LETTER(S)



ISO 9001
Registered Firm

May 16, 2022

ITEN INDUSTRIES

Imagineering with Plastics

P.O. Box 2150
Ashtabula, OH 44005
Phone: (440) 997-6134
Fax: (440) 992-4966
www.itenindustries.com
e-mail: iten@itenindustries.com

Greg Myers, Executive Director
Growth Partnership for Ashtabula County
35 West Jefferson Street
Jefferson, OH 44047

Dear Mr. Myers,

On behalf of Iten Industries, please accept this letter of support for the Growth Partnership's application to the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) for funding to establish the Ashtabula County Imagineering Center in Ashtabula, Ohio. The project will establish a public/private workforce development partnership to provide our students access to credentialed training in 3D printing technology and advanced manufacturing that will give them the technical skills necessary to obtain and succeed in a variety of high-paying, in-demand manufacturing jobs available in Ashtabula County and the Appalachian region.

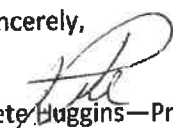
The ARC funding will leverage more than \$164,000 of private investment by Iten Industries for the project and build upon approximately \$350,000 of investment already made by Iten to purchase advanced manufacturing equipment and technology for the benefit of our school as well as other educational partners in the county.

According to the *Aligning Opportunities Report* by TeamNEO, 65% percent of Ohio jobs require a postsecondary credential; however, only 54% of Northeast Ohio residents, 25 years and older, have attended some college (includes certificate earners) or earned a graduate, bachelor's or associate degree as of 2016. Regional secondary and postsecondary institutions must produce more students with the credentials (certificates and degrees) needed in high-demand, good-paying industries like manufacturing.

As an independently owned manufacturing company as well as supporting educational initiatives in Ashtabula County, we must build industry/business partnerships and utilize all possible resources to set up the training resources required to educate our future workforce with the skills required to secure and succeed in advanced manufacturing and related technical jobs. Iten Industries estimates that we could send support dozens of students through programs at the Imagineering Center each year.

We believe that Growth Partnership is well-positioned to bring together public and private partners needed to successfully establish and operate the Imagineering Center which will create the workforce needed for Ashtabula County businesses and residents to thrive.

Sincerely,


Pete Huggins—President
Iten Industries, Ashtabula, OH

RESITEN® • POLITEN® • ITENITE®

Epoxies • Phenolics • Melamine • Silicone • Polyesters • Pultrusions • Custom Injection Molding • Die Cutting & Machining

Quality - Understanding and achieving my customers' expectations in everything I do.





ATTACHMENT D

MEMORANDIUM OF UNDERSTANDING

PRE-APPLICATION AND FULL APPLICATION GRANT PROCESS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

EACH YEAR THE APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION (ARC) RECEIVES AN APPROPRIATION FROM CONGRESS. A FORMULA IS APPLIED TO THAT SUM TO ALLOCATE PROGRAM FUNDS AMONG THE 13 STATES. THE ARC PROGRAM FUNDS MAY ONLY BE USED FOR PROJECTS LOCATED WITHIN THE 420 COUNTIES DESIGNATED BY CONGRESS AS THE APPALACHIAN REGION. IN OHIO, 32 OF THE 88 COUNTIES ARE DESIGNATED AS APPALACHIA AND ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING.

THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF APPALACHIA (GOA) RECEIVES APPROXIMATELY \$4 MILLION ANNUALLY FROM ARC TO IMPLEMENT THE ARC PROGRAM. USING A "BOTTOM UP" APPROACH, GOA COORDINATES PROJECT DEVELOPMENT WITH THE THREE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS (LDD):

-  BUCKEYE HILLS REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS LOCATED IN MARIETTA
-  EASTGATE REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS LOCATED IN YOUNGSTOWN
-  OHIO MID-EASTERN OHIO GOVERNMENTS ASSOCIATION LOCATED IN CAMBRIDGE
-  OHIO VALLEY REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION LOCATED IN WAVERLY

A POTENTIAL APPLICANT MUST WORK WITH ONE OF THE LDDs FOR GUIDANCE ON THE ELIGIBILITY FOR FUNDING AND ASSISTANCE IN PREPARING AN APPLICATION. THE GOVERNOR OF EACH STATE SELECTS PROJECTS TO BE SUBMITTED TO ARC FOR FUNDING.

PROGRAM GRANTS ARE AWARDED TO STATE/LOCAL AGENCIES, GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES (E.G. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITIES), LOCAL GOVERNING BOARDS (E.G. COUNTY COMMISSIONERS) AND NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS (E.G. SCHOOLS OR ORGANIZATIONS THAT BUILD LOW-COST HOUSING). PROGRAM GRANTS ARE NOT MADE TO INDIVIDUALS OR FOR-PROFIT ENTITIES.

APPLICATION PROCESS AND TIME-LINE FOR FY2022 IS AS FOLLOWS:

PRE-APPLICATION PROCESS

MARCH - AUGUST 2021

1. LDD WORKS WITH THEIR LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO DEVELOP PROJECTS THAT WILL HAVE THE GREATEST IMPACT ON THEIR AREA.
2. EASTGATE PRE-APPLICATION VIRTUAL WORKSHOP: **Scheduled April 13, 2021**
3. EASTGATE LDD PRE-APPLICATION DUE DATE **MAY11, 2021 BY 3PM.**
4. EASTGATE LDD CORRESPONDS WITH COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FROM EACH OF THE THREE COUNTIES TO GAIN INPUT ON PRIORITY OF PROJECTS WITHIN THEIR COMMUNITY THAT MEETS ARC GOALS.
5. EASTGATE LDD COMPILES A LIST OF PRIORITY PROJECTS TO PRESENT TO THEIR TAC, CAB, AND GENERAL POLICY BOARD.
6. EASTGATE LDD SUBMITS PRIORITY PROJECT PACKAGE TO GOA.
7. LDD'S AND GOA MEET TO DEVELOP OHIO INVESTMENT PACKAGE (FINAL LIST OF PROJECTS COMPILED FROM 4 LDD PRIORITY PROJECTS SUBMITTED).
8. GOA SUBMITS INVESTMENT PACKAGE TO ARC.

FULL APPLICATION PROCESS

AUGUST 2021 – FEBRUARY 2022

1. LDD'S MEET WITH APPLICANTS ON PRIORITY LIST TO REVIEW GUIDELINES FOR FULL APPLICATION.
2. APPLICANTS SUBMIT FULL APPLICATIONS TO LDD'S FOR REVIEW.
3. LDD'S SUBMIT FULL APPLICATIONS TO GOA FOR REVIEW AND SUBMITTAL TO ARC.
4. ARC REVIEWS, APPROVES AND MAKES FUNDS AVAILABLE TO APPLICANTS.
5. APPLICANT RECEIVES ARC/GOA GRANT AWARD LETTER.

PROGRAM PARAMETERS:

1. ARC FUNDS **ARE NOT** GUARANTEED TO ANY GRANTEE UNTIL THE ARC FEDERAL CO-CHAIRMAN HAS APPROVED THE PROJECT IN WASHINGTON, DC.
2. ARC **WILL NOT** REIMBURSE EXPENDITURES OCCURRING BEFORE ARC APPROVAL, OR REIMBURSE ANY EXPENSES INCURRED FOLLOWING THE CONCLUSION OF THE GRANT PERIOD.
3. DEMOLITION AND/OR CONSTRUCTION **MUST NOT** BE STARTED ON ANY PROJECT PRIOR TO ARC APPROVAL OF THE PROJECT. DO NOT DEMOLISH, TEAR ANYTHING DOWN, MOVE DIRT OR CONSTRUCT ANYTHING WITHOUT ARC AND BASIC AGENCY APPROVAL.
4. EQUIPMENT **CANNOT** BE PURCHASED PRIOR TO AN ARC AWARD. THERE IS **NO** REIMBURSEMENT PROCESS.
5. ARC FUNDS **CANNOT** BE SPENT OR COMMITTED PRIOR TO NOTIFICATION OF ARC APPROVAL. GOA WILL SEND COVER LETTER AND COPY OF ARC APPROVAL LETTER.
6. ARC NO LONGER GRANTS A WAIVER ON ANY PROJECT (THIS PROCESS HAS BEEN DISCONTINUED).
7. PROJECT LOCATED IN DISTRESSED COUNTIES MAY BE FUNDED UP TO **80%** OF THE TOTAL PROJECT COST, **50%** IN TRANSITIONAL COUNTIES AND **30%** IN COMPETITIVE COUNTIES. ARC FUNDING WILL VARY FOR PROJECTS THAT INCLUDE ACTIVITIES AND/OR SERVICES INVOLVING MORE THAN ONE COUNTY.
8. GRANTEE MUST MEET ARC AND FEDERAL BASIC AGENCY GUIDELINES.
9. LOCAL ACCESS ROAD PROJECTS MAY BE FUNDED UP TO **100%** UP TO \$500,000 THROUGH THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM.
10. ARC IS A REIMBURSEMENT GRANT. THE APPLICANT MUST BE ABLE TO PAY THE BILLS INITIALLY, AND THEN REQUEST REIMBURSEMENT FROM THE BASIC AGENCY.
11. No dirt can be moved prior to an ARC grant award; to do so may put the ARC funding in jeopardy. Same for equipment (non-construction projects). Do not purchase the equipment prior to an ARC grant award.
12. Once grant award is received and ARC funding is made available to the applicant, it is anticipated the ARC funds will be spent on your project within 12 months.
13. Applicants should also note, with the exception of Access Roads, the total of all federal funds committed to a project, including ARC, cannot exceed 80% of the total project cost.

AFTER READING THESE GUIDELINES, PLEASE SIGN AND DATE.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU MAY CONTACT YOUR LOCAL DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT OR THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF APPALACHIA.

PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN ORIGINAL WITH YOUR PRE-APPLICATION.

I HAVE READ AND FULLY UNDERSTAND THIS DOCUMENT.

THE GROWTH PARTNERSHIP FOR ASHTABULA COUNTY

TYPE COMPANY/ORGANIZATION NAME

GREG MYERS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TYPE REQUIRED SIGNATURE/TITLE



 REQUIRED SIGNATURE

5/16/22

 DATE

ATTACHMENT E

Mandate/Non-compliance Letter

OEPA, ODNR Letters

Section Not Applicable

ATTACHMENT F

PROJECT TIMELINE (Start and end dates)

PROJECT TIMELINE:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Start Date</u>	<u>End Date</u>
All funding secured	7/1/2022	6/30/2023
Environmental review completed	na	na
Final design completed	7/1/2022	9/31/2022
Permits Obtained	7/1/2022	10/31/2022
Advertise for bids	na	na
Bid opening	na	na
Construction start date	11/1/2022	
Final inspection	1/1/2023	5/31/2023
Construction completion date		5/1/2023