



JobsOhio Aerospace and Defense Opportunity Program

Grant and Loan Program Guidelines

Adopted August 1, 2025, Revised June 16, 2026

The JobsOhio Aerospace and Defense Opportunity Program was established to create support for projects that are being developed in the advanced aerospace, defense and federal sectors to improve Ohio's competitive edge with respect to attracting new investment and job creation. The program will leverage the investment and expertise of partners (private companies/developers, port authorities, communities, etc.), mitigate risks and other limiting factors preventing product development, and speed up the process of bringing economically impactful opportunities to Ohio.

There are four key components of the Aerospace and Defense Opportunity Program:

1. Support opportunities in these sectors, that have a defined gap, with infrastructure and speed to market.
2. Support both projects and/or site development.
3. Complete professional studies including preliminary engineering due diligence, real estate market assessment, and economic impact analysis
4. Provide support to federal and defense contractors, and private companies that support the United States aerospace and national defense mission and create jobs and capital investment in Ohio.

The four components will function as a grant and loan program with a defined project definition, to be vetted by the JobsOhio Aerospace and Defense and Sites teams prior to recommendation, and with support being awarded to an applicant with a contractual obligation to perform the work. The four components may also be supported through contracting directly with vendors for defined scopes of work which will also be driven by the Aerospace and Defense and Sites teams.

Program Details

- Program timeframe: July 2025 through June 2030
- Program funding will not exceed a total of \$50 million annually (\$250 million total) through the awarding of grants, loans and direct vendor/consultant payments. Unless authorized by the JobsOhio President/CIO:
 - Aerospace and Defense Opportunity Program support is not to exceed 50% of the total project cost.
 - Projects will be eligible up to a maximum of \$2.5 million in grant, or \$10 million per project combination grant and loan based on project gap.

- Provide financial assistance that minimizes the negative effects of a defense base realignment or closure decision and/or federal programmatic cuts.
- Aerospace and defense projects will be prioritized by JobsOhio. While minimum program eligibility requirements exist, meeting those requirements is not indicative the project will receive approval or support.
- The Program is designed to fill gaps where federal funding cannot support local military installations and their surrounding communities to build critical infrastructure and increasing resiliency to federal installations.

The program is also designed to support private organizations in Ohio that support aerospace defense while creating jobs and capital investment in Ohio. This program will not supersede other JobsOhio incentive programs.

Guiding Principles for the Program

- The primary focus of this program is to fill gaps in the aerospace and defense sector where other state and federal funding cannot support. This aligns with JobsOhio's support to military and federal installations, and the contractors that support aerospace and national defense.
- One objective is to spur attraction, expansion and development opportunities in Ohio; however, there is no guarantee financial support will be divided equally across the state, or the seven JobsOhio defined regions.
- JobsOhio seeks a diverse statewide portfolio of different inventory and opportunity types to support our aerospace and defense sector.

Eligible Applicants:

- Eligible applicants include businesses, developers, non-profits, port authorities and municipalities. Additional applicants will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Applicant must have ownership or line of site control of any property requesting support from this program.
- Beneficiary cannot be the contaminator of environmental issues if such exist.

Eligible Projects

- The applicant must commit to having a detailed development plan including the following:
 - Business plan with project description
 - Qualified cost estimates
 - Project development schedule
 - Project budget and funding sources

- Installation need (when applicable)
- Planning and permit approvals (when applicable)

Prospective End Uses

- Eligible
 - Infrastructure that supports research, production or development of aerospace and defense related projects.
 - Resiliency projects that reenforce electricity and communications to military installations
 - Office buildings and supporting infrastructure connected to national interests
 - Industrial sites that support production of end uses to the aerospace and defense industry.
- Ineligible
 - Recreational parks
 - Residential
 - Retail
 - Hotels
 - Hospitals
 - Parking lots/garages – unless part of an Environmental Control
 - Entertainment venues

Eligible Development Costs

- Site preparation
- New building construction
- Infrastructure (utilities, roads, rails, security related infrastructure (i.e. fencing, lighting, etc.), docks, etc.)
 - On-site (new or upgraded)
 - Off-site (e.g. utility lines, plant improvements, substations improvements, other resiliency upgrades, etc.)
- Redevelopment Projects
- Demolition
- Environmental Remediation
- Environmental Testing and Lab Fees
- Building Renovation
- Removal & Disposal of Universal and Construction Waste
- Asbestos Abatement
- Lead Based Paint Abatement

Special Considerations

The following items will be considered for eligibility on a case-by-case basis:

1. Administrative or general project management costs
2. Engineering services
3. Planning fees and material costs
4. Other relevant professional fees
5. Parking lots (only when used as an environmental control)
6. Partially or Potentially Eligible Costs:
 - Building and/or land acquisition
 - Machinery and Equipment
 - Legal fees associated with an environmental remediation project
 - Real estate brokerage engagement and site marketing costs

Ineligible Speculative Development Costs

Ineligible costs include, but are not limited to:

- Signage/Lighting/Landscaping
- Parking lots/garages
- Environmental Insurances or Clearances
- Operational Maintenance Costs
- Tenant Improvements
- Meals and Entertainment/Traveling Expenses
- Fees or owed or promised money such as:
 - Fines and Costs from Violation of Law
 - Contributions and Donations
 - Interest on Borrowed Money
 - Debt Servicing
 - Rolling Stock
 - Taxes
 - Lease and Rent Payments
 - Retirement of Bonds or other Investment Vehicles
 - Legal fees

Factors to Consider:

- Attribution to military value and enhancement
- Dedication to national security and or national interest
- Strategic JobsOhio sector alignment for Aerospace and Defense

Structure Concepts:

- Priority to be given to projects enhancing military value. Enhancing the military value of Ohio's federal installations is critical as military value is the primary consideration for federal entities in making any closure or realignment decision. "Military value" is defined as:
 - an installation's impact on the current and future capabilities needed and the effect on operational readiness
 - the availability and condition of land, facilities and associated airspace
 - the ability of the infrastructure of communities to support forces, missions and people
- Dedication to national security and/or national interest
- Strategic JobsOhio sector alignment

Disbursement of Funds

The JobsOhio Aerospace and Defense Opportunity Program Grant funds are reimbursement based and require supporting documentation and proof of payment. Should a loan be incorporated, the funds are available with same documentation and proof of payment at project completion.