

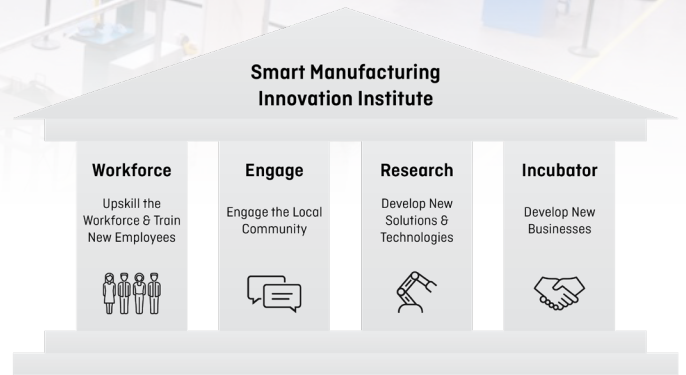
FY 2021 USED A BUILD BACK BETTER REGIONAL CHALLENGE GRANT APPLICATION

East Tampa Works - Regional Innovation Hub

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Tampa Bay Economic Development Council (TBEDC) in concert with a strong coalition of educational, non-profit, and public sector partners are joining forces to establish the *East Tampa Works – Regional Innovation Hub* to feature the *Smart Manufacturing Innovation (SMI) Institute* as its anchor. The *Regional Innovation Hub* will build a smart manufacturing ecosystem for the greater Tampa Bay Region providing the physical space and programming necessary to catalyze new business incubation, workforce training and job placement, advanced educational opportunities and research, manufacturing prototyping, and demonstration project facilities. The cluster growth strategy is consistent with the region’s Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs) and directly aligns with EDA’s Investment Priorities for Equity, Recovery & Resilience, Workforce Development, Manufacturing, Technology-Based Economic Development, Environmentally-Sustainable Development, and Exports or Foreign Direct Investments.

COMPONENT PROJECTS

- 1. Regional Innovation Hub - Infrastructure.** High-speed internet and broadband services to expand access and support Smart Equipment for the East Tampa community, as well as transportation and placemaking elements.
- 2. Community Equity.** A customized workforce development program and minority business incubator for post high-school students, exiting military personnel, and residents in the Hub and other manufacturing clusters surrounding rural areas.
- 3. Business Development.** PCED and TBEDC will design program campaigns, marketing, and operations budgets to aid coalition members to attract participants to the SMI Institute and foster the growth of manufacturers in the Regional Innovation Hub and



manufacturing clusters. IAE will leverage partnerships with small manufacturing businesses and local industry leaders, while BBIF Florida will bring equity and inclusion to the SMI Institute by managing the Makerspace. PCED, TBEDC and others, will grow the manufacturing cluster through marketing and promotional aids for regional growth and international sales.

- 4. SMI Institute – Facility.** Site acquisition, construction, and buildout of the SMI Institute and Makerspace.
- 5. SMI Institute – Equipment.** The acquisition and installation of equipment to create production level demonstrations of new digital products.
- 6. SMI Institute - Operations.** Development of evidence based educational, training, and vocational programs that reflect the core competencies of the USF-IAE-AMI-BBIF collaboration in the SMI Institute. Detailed program budget and operations implementation will define this component, providing start-up capital for 24 to 36 months of operations of the Institute and Makerspace.
- 7. TBEDC Capital Access Program.** A loan fund to aid the expansion of small and medium-sized manufacturers and encourage ownership to mitigate neighborhood blight.

COALITION MEMBERS

COALITION PARTNERS



REGIONAL CLUSTER PARTNERS	13
INDUSTRY LEADERSHIP CLUSTER PARTNERS	26
COMMUNITY CLUSTER PARTNERS	12