

Mississippi Development Authority
Mississippi Site Development Grant Program

1. Does land have to be public at the time of the application or when it's time for reimbursement?

Once grant funds are awarded, grantees have six months from the award date to complete the purchase. The Mississippi Development Authority will provide official notification determining the exact date of the grant award. The award is contingent upon proof of ownership. Per the guidelines, grant money cannot be used for purchase of land.

2. Is there a specific definition of "site work ready" within 6 months?

The site should be cleared, grubbed and ready for pad.

3. The guidelines indicate a community cannot match with grants administered by MDA. Would Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) money be included in the exclusion?

ARC funds cannot be used as match grant funds.

4. Does receiving the ARC grant prohibit us from this grant?

Grantees are not prohibited from receiving ARC funds. However, ARC funds cannot be used as a match since those funds are administered by MDA.

5. For a Ready Site, does the 6 month time frame to perform site ready work start the day a project formally announces? Same question on the 12 months for utilities.

Timelines begin upon official notification from MDA the grant has been awarded.

6. What type of labor study is acceptable and how recent does the information need to be?

Labor studies must be less than a year old from the approval date and must come from a reputable third party provider.

7. If a workforce study is currently planned for an area with a premier site meeting all other requirements, would the study be accepted after the **November 30 deadline**?

Applicants must submit proof of the completion date of the workforce study with the application.

8. Can contributions from economic development partners toward site improvements be included in the matching requirement?

Contributions from economic development partners may be used, provided the funds are not ARC funds or any other grant funds administered by MDA.

9. Can the cost of a workforce study contribute towards any of the matching requirement for the Premier Site Grant, or is the matching requirement required to be for the exact project for which an economic development organization is seeking reimbursement?

Yes, the cost of a workforce study can contribute to the grant match requirement.

10. Does land for a Premier Site have to be contiguous?

Yes. For example, the site cannot be separated by a highway.

11. The statement, “MDA will only consider approving grant funds in support of sites that have been identified by a site location consultant as meeting the criteria of a Premier site.” Does this mean it has to be site selector certified prior to application? Who pays for the consultant? Do community’s need to contract one? MDA? Utilities?

No, a site consultant does not have to pre-approve sites prior to application, nor does a consultant need to be hired.

12. Will there be another round of applications if communities cannot meet the November deadline?

Yes. Applications will be accepted for future consideration if all funds are not committed or if the program receives additional funding from the State Legislature.

13. Why is rail service preferred on the smaller “Ready” Sites?

Rail service provides communities a competitive economic development advantage.

14. What determines the, “the desired development criteria of its potential market(s)?”

Local communities target markets should be provided to MDA for consideration when submitting applications. This is determined by the local economic development entities and is dependent on the sectors the community is trying to attract.

15. How much detail should be given in the mitigation plan? Do we need to have identified the specific banks we intend to buy credits in? What if the client has different mitigation preferences?

Detailed mitigation plans should be provided.

16. What are the expectations for the “training program” document? Is “end result” the end result of the training program or end results of the site development grant request?

We want to see the end result of the training program that is designed for those target industries for the specific site.

17. Cost to extend utilities will depend on the requirements of the client. Should utility partners make assumptions of client demand, and provide cost to extend based on these assumptions?

Yes

18. Can communities use grant funds for marketing materials or target market plans for already certified sites?

No

19. What is MDA's definition of an agent or consultant necessary to complete site diligence?

A site consultant does not have to pre-approve for you to apply. You do not have to hire a consultant, MDA will hire someone to review all "Premier Site" applications.

20. On the Premier Site does ACT Work Ready Certification suffice for a workforce study? If not, what does?

No, any qualified workforce study.

21. How much money was appropriated for this grant program for this funding cycle?

\$2 million

22. Is there any administration allowed through the grant? If so, how much?

No

23. Can "consultant or agent fees to complete site diligence" be used as fees for administration?

Consultant or agent fees for site diligence can be paid for under administrative fees, but no payment will be made for general administrative fees on grants, etc.

24. Clarify the match that is required of the applicant for each category (ready site and premier site). 50% match?

100% Match (\$1 : \$1)

25. List suggestions for "match funds from other sources".

Any type of funds that are not administered by MDA

Utility funds

City, county funds

Grants other than ARC

In-kind – city, county

26. Would you prefer PDF maps/photos of the site in the application or one KMZ file with various labeled layers which can be turned on and off in Google Earth?

Either is acceptable.

27. Can we do more than one ready site for the \$50,000 match, or is there a cap on money/sites per entity?

All eligible applications will be considered.