

FDOT Newsletter

December 2023
Volume 92



SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

- Estimating Training
- Building Capacity
- Mobilization Financing
- Bonding Assistance
- Marketing Plan Development
- Creating a Business Plan
- Website Building
- Plan Reading

Governor Ron DeSantis Awards More Than \$28 Million to Expand Florida Semiconductor and Chip Manufacturing Industries

Today, Governor Ron DeSantis awarded more than \$28 million through the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund to expand semiconductor manufacturing and chip manufacturing through five workforce development projects. These awards are part of a cutting-edge workforce development initiative announced by Governor DeSantis to dedicate at least \$25 million to support the semiconductor industry through the Florida Job Growth Grant Fund. Across the state, these funds will create high-demand, high-wage jobs for Floridians and strengthen local talent pipelines for businesses. Florida is already #5 in the US for semiconductor manufacturing jobs and #3 in the nation for semiconductor establishments. These investments will help Florida continue to grow its semiconductor industry.

"Today's awards will expand Florida's manufacturing industry and provide high quality jobs for Floridians," said Governor Ron DeSantis. "In Florida, we are laying the groundwork for a strong economic future by investing in growing, high-demand industries that offer high-wage jobs for our residents."

"Less than two months ago Governor DeSantis called for Job Growth Grant Fund applications to strengthen Florida's semiconductor manufacturing industry and to enhance its workforce — our partners in economic development and workforce education around the state responded overwhelmingly," said Secretary of Commerce J. Alex Kelly. "Today's awards provide more education options for the learner's benefit and ensure that crucial industries have qualified, and eager candidates interested in working in their field."



[READ MORE ►](#)

What Contractors Should Know About the Build America, Buy America Act

Unpacking federal requirements for infrastructure projects

Battling back from the Great Depression, the Hoover administration passed the “Buy American Act” in 1933. The basic premise of the law was to revive and bolster the economy by requiring U.S.-sourced iron and steel mined or produced in the U.S. to be used in projects for the federal government.

In 1982 Congress passed the “Buy America Act,” which expanded the requirement that contractors utilize only U.S.-sourced iron and steel on state transportation projects receiving federal funding. The Buy America Act also expanded the items that must be U.S.-sourced to include manufactured items.

More recently, a further expansion, called the “Build America, Buy America Act” (BABA), was passed in 2021 as part of the Infrastructure and Investment Jobs Act (IIJA). Contractors need to be aware of how the law has changed and how it could affect their businesses in new ways.

Most significantly, BABA material requirements apply to all infrastructure projects receiving federal funding — not just IIJA projects — and not only where the federal government is the contracting party, but also on projects where a state or local government entity is the contracting party. Further, “infrastructure” projects are broadly defined to include:

- Roads, tunnels and bridges
- Railways (both passenger and freight)
- Dams, ports, harbors and other maritime facilities
- Airports
- Water systems
- Electrical transmission facilities and systems
- Utilities
- Broadband infrastructure
- Buildings appurtenant to all of the above, including train and bus stations, toll facilities and even office facilities

Here are some other facts you should know about BABA:

- Along with iron, steel and manufactured products, BABA’s requirements extend for the first time to construction materials, which must also be U.S.-sourced. Construction materials are defined to include commodities such as glass, drywall, fiber-optic cable, nonferrous metals like copper and aluminum, and PVC and other plastic or polymer-based products. Aggregates and cement are excluded.
- BABA incrementally increases the required domestic content threshold (by cost) of manufactured goods from 55% to 60% effective October 2022, up to 65% by 2024, and will top out at 75% in 2029. In certain instances, increases have been delayed pending review.

READ MORE ►

About The FDOT

The goal of the DBE Supportive Services Program is to increase the number of DBEs participating on FDOT contracts and facilitate the opportunity for DBEs to obtain contracts. The services are designed to:

- Assist established construction firms to move them from bidding as a subcontractor to bidding as a Prime Contractor to produce sound bids.
- Provide access to training increases DBE expertise in handling of daily business operations.



CEI DBE Supportive Services

(800) 423-7058

www.fdotdbesupportservices.com