

Respondents are encouraged to respond to any or all of the following questions and topic areas. Responses may include estimates, which should be designated as such. Your responses may include supporting data and examples. We welcome submission of publications or studies that support your responses as attachments.

Questions

The questions section of this **Federal Register** notice is split into four parts: (a) General, (b) Financing, (c) Experience with U.S. Government Financing, and (d) Economic Outlook.

General

1. What are your (i) geographical and (ii) business sectoral coverage areas for lending or private credit investment efforts?

2. Do you finance companies that largely produce, integrate, or otherwise use equipment or services with a purpose that aligns with any of the Covered Technology Categories? Please list each Covered Technology Category and define the relationship.

3. What types of financing products do you make available to companies in Question #2?

4. Are there any debt financing gaps in industries or assets related to the Covered Technology Categories (e.g., capital expenditure, working capital, acquisition financing, lease financing, etc.)?

Financing

5. What terms are you offering the market? Please break down (i) the product type, (ii) the transaction size, (iii) the interest rate and credit spread, and (iv) the tenor range by Covered Technology Category.

6. What fees do you typically charge for various debt product types associated with companies in Question #2 (e.g., underwriting fees, draw fees, prepayment fees, etc.)?

7. What are the key credit risk categories that lead to a denial of financing to companies within the Critical Technology Categories relevant to your firm (e.g., technology commercialization risk, credit/financial risk, customer concentration risk, market/merchant risk, sector's cyclicity, etc.)?

8. How can the DoD Loan Program partner with financing firms to crowd capital into Covered Technology Categories and their supply chains?

9. Do you believe the Covered Technologies Categories identified in Question #2 would benefit from credit support from the DoD Loan Program? If so, what are the most beneficial forms

of credit support (e.g., Direct Loans, Loan Guarantees, etc.) and why?

10. How should the DoD Loan Program be designed to be complementary to, rather than a substitute for private sector debt financing?

11. Do you believe Federal loans and loan guarantees would help enhance the terms you provide to the market? If so, how and why?

12. What is the ideal loan guarantee coverage percentage that would entice you to lend to companies in a Covered Technology Category? Please include the (i) sector, (ii) the company size, and (iii) the debt amount. Additionally, please describe how this loan guarantee coverage percentage enables your firm to finance the companies discussed in Question 2.

Experience With U.S. Government Financing

13. Have you previously worked with financing tools from the U.S. Government? If so, please specify which (i) government programs your firm engaged in and (ii) what financing tools you utilized (e.g., loans or loan guarantees). If not, please specify why (e.g., not relevant, fees too high, etc.).

14. What was the size of the financing tools mentioned above? For example, if the tool used was a loan, please indicate its size (e.g., \$0–5MM, \$5–25MM, \$25–75MM, >\$75MM).

15. What types of fees were associated with these financing tools (e.g., underwriting fees, draw fees, prepayment fees, etc.)?

16. What challenges (i) have you seen, and/or (ii) do you foresee, with Federal credit direct loans and loan guarantees as it relates to Covered Technology Categories?

Economic Outlook

17. What is your outlook on the five-year macroeconomic projection for the Covered Technology Categories you selected previously? Which, if any, macroeconomic headwinds and tailwinds are most impacting (i) your ability to finance the Covered Technology Categories and (ii) the Covered Technology Categories themselves?

Requirements for Written Comments

OSC encourages respondents, when addressing the points above, unless raising other challenges related to financing Covered Technology Categories not explicitly asked, to identify which point they are responding to by using the same numbers and heading as set forth above. For example, someone submitting

comments responsive to (8), “How can the DoD Loan Program partner with financing firms to crowd capital into Covered Technology Categories and their supply chains?”, would use that same text as a heading followed by the respondent's specific comments responding to it. This formatting will assist OSC in more easily reviewing and summarizing the comments received in response to these specific points of inquiry.

Anyone submitting business confidential information should clearly identify the business confidential portion at the time of submission, file a statement justifying nondisclosure and referring to the specific legal authority claimed, and provide a non-confidential version of the submission. Users submitting a form that contains business confidential information will need to submit a non-confidential version of the same form that does not contain the confidential business information. The non-confidential version of the submission will be placed in the public file on <https://www.regulations.gov>. For comments submitted electronically containing business confidential information, the file name of the business confidential version should begin with the characters “BC.” Any page containing business confidential information must be clearly marked “BUSINESS CONFIDENTIAL” on the top of that page. The non-confidential version must be clearly marked “PUBLIC.” The file name of the non-confidential version should begin with the character “P.” The “BC” and “P” should be followed by the name of the person or entity submitting the comments.

Dated: July 18, 2024.

Aaron T. Siegel,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 2024–16180 Filed 7–23–24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6001–FR–P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

[Docket ID: DoD–2024–OS–0073]

Information Request on Financing Support for Covered Technology Categories—Specific to Companies and Trade Associations

AGENCY: Office of Strategic Capital (OSC), Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering, Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: Notice; request for information (RFI).

SUMMARY: The OSC is seeking information from companies and trade associations regarding strategic capital needs for industries related to the Covered Technology Categories to inform the design and implementation of the DoD Loan Program.

DATES: Comments must be received by October 22, 2024. Written comments in response to this RFI should be submitted in accordance with the instructions in the **ADDRESSES** and **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** sections of this notice.

ADDRESSES: Interested parties may submit comments on this transaction electronically on www.regulations.gov. To submit a comment, enter “Information Request on Financing Support for Covered Technology Categories—Specific to Companies and Trade Associations” under the heading “Enter Keyword or ID” and select Search. You can also search by the Docket ID, DoD–2024–OS–0073. Follow the instructions provided at the ‘Submit a Comment screen’.

Comments can also be sent by mail to Department of Defense, Office of the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Privacy, Civil Liberties, and Transparency, 4800 Mark Center Drive, Mailbox #24, Suite 08D09, Alexandria, VA 22350–1700.

Please include your name, company name (if any) and “Information Request on Financing Support for Covered Technology Categories” on any attached document.

Comments sent by any other method, to any other address or individual, or received after the end of the comment period, may not be considered.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For questions about this notice, please contact David Vidal, Office of Strategic Capital Director of Credit Programs, at Federal.Register.Notice@osc.mil, Tel. No. 703–545–1903. Please direct media inquiries to the OSC Press Team at engagements@osc.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

In December 2022, the Secretary of Defense established OSC to attract and scale private capital to technologies critical to the national security of the United States. Furthermore, in 2024, Congress authorized OSC as part of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2024. The NDAA states that OSC shall:

(a) develop, integrate, and implement capital investment strategies proven in the commercial sector to shape and scale investment in critical technologies and assets,

(b) identify and prioritize promising critical technologies and assets that require capital assistance and have the potential to benefit the DoD, and

(c) make eligible investments in such technologies and assets, such as supply chain technologies not always supported through direct investment.

Covered Technology Categories

The NDAA designates the following 31 categories as a “Covered Technology Category.”

- Advanced bulk materials (including dielectrics, alloys, polymers, and composites)
- Advanced manufacturing (including upgrades for increasing the efficiency or quality of existing production processes or for enabling commercialization of new technologies)
- Autonomous mobile robots
- Battery storage (including lithium ion, advanced lead acid, and alternate batteries, as well as fuel cells)
- Biochemicals
- Bioenergetics
- Biomass (including conversion-ready feedstock)
- Cybersecurity
- Data fabric (including integration across disparate domains)
- Decision science (including ensemble learning methods for portfolio optimization)
- Edge computing
- External communication
- Hydrogen generation and storage
- Mesh networks (including off-grid communications)
- Microelectronics assembly, testing, or packaging
- Microelectronics design and development
- Microelectronics fabrication
- Microelectronics manufacturing equipment
- Microelectronics materials
- Nanomaterials and metamaterials
- Open RAN
- Optical communications (including free space and optical fiber)
- Sensor hardware
- Solar (including power system and management components)
- Space launch
- Spacecraft
- Space-enabled services and equipment (including in-space operations and associated ground equipment)
- Synthetic biology
- Quantum computing
- Quantum security
- Quantum sensing

The NDAA authorizes OSC to provide capital assistance, defined as a “loan,

loan guarantee, or technical assistance” for eligible investments. Eligible investments are those made in a technology that is (a) in a Covered Technology Category and (b) not solely utilized in defense applications. OSC is seeking public comment on the capital needs of industries and assets related to the Covered Technology Categories to inform the design of DoD loan program.

Specific Requests for Information

The following statements and questions cover the major topic areas for which OSC seeks comment. They are not intended to limit the topics that may be addressed. Responses may include any topic believed to inform the U.S. Government’s efforts in developing recommendations for supporting the design of the DoD Loan Program, regardless of whether the topic is included in this document.

Respondents are encouraged to respond to any or all of the following questions and topic areas. Responses may include estimates, which should be designated as such. Your responses may include supporting data and examples. We welcome submission of publications or studies that support your responses as attachments.

Questions

The questions section of this **Federal Register** notice is split into four parts: (a) General, (b) Financing, (c) Economic Outlook, and (d) Competition.

General

1. From the Covered Technology Categories referenced in the Background of this **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section, please select at least one Category that best represents your company.

2. What is the 6-digit North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code for your business? If your business has more than one NAICS code, please list those associated with the Covered Technology Categories noted in your response to Question 1.

3. Does your company largely produce, integrate, or otherwise use equipment and/or services for a purpose that aligns with any of the Covered Technology Categories enumerated in the Background section? Please list each Covered Technology Category and define the relationship.

4. What are the primary technology asset(s)/equipment utilized in your sector for production or provision of services? What is the typical useful life of these technology equipment/assets?

5. Is there a secondary market for the technology equipment/asset(s) noted in Question 4? If so, how is the secondary

market value typically established (e.g., public benchmark, appraisals, etc.)?

6. If applicable, how are these technology equipment/asset(s) transported from the source of origin to your facilities (airship, sea ship, rail, trucks)? If shipped via sea, are you/your supplier able to transport them on a U.S.-flagged vessel?

7. How long has your company been in business? How many years has your firm operated in the specified Covered Technology Category?

8. What was your company's annual revenue over the past five years? (Please list each year and the respective annual value).

9. What were your company's earnings before interest and taxes (EBIT), and EBIT margins from the past five years? (Please list each year and the respective annual value).

10. What is your company's actual or implied Credit Rating Agency rating (e.g. BB+, Ba1, etc.)?

11. What is the current size of your company by employee count?

12. In which city, state, and countries are your company's headquarters, and manufacturing plants located?

13. In which geographies are your suppliers most concentrated? Please specify the state(s) or country(ies) if foreign.

14. In which geographies are your customers most concentrated? Please specify the state(s) or country(ies) if foreign.

15. Who are the major lenders in your market segment (e.g., banks, specialty firms, private credit)? Please specify the institutions.

16. What percentage of your annual revenue has been spent on Research and Development (R&D) over the past five years? (Please list each year and the respective annual value).

17. What percentage of your annual revenue has been spent on capital expenditures (CapEx) over the past five years? (Please list each year and the respective annual value).

18. How often is capital expenditure (CapEx) funding usually needed (e.g., once every three years)?

Financing

19. Have you previously used any form of U.S. Government funding? If so, please specify which funding tool(s) your company used and how (e.g., loans, loan guarantees, etc.). If not, please specify why.

20. Have you ever accessed or attempted to obtain Federal credit (e.g., direct loans or loan guarantees) in the past, or are you considering it in the future? If so, please specify the Federal credit programs or institutions.

21. Have Federal credit programs been able to successfully address the funding needs in your market segment? Please explain.

22. Which types of debt financing are currently available to your company for the purposes of working capital, capital/equipment lease or purchases, and acquisition?

23. What are the sources of debt financing in your market segment (e.g., Banks, Credit Unions, Non-Bank Lenders, Funds, etc.)?

24. On average, how long does it take a company in your market segment to secure the needed debt funding for working capital, capital/equipment purchases or leases, acquisitions, etc.? How critical is the speed of funding availability in your line of business?

25. What are the typical terms for such debt instruments (e.g., debt/equity ratio, repayment tenor, fund availability period, grace period, amortization structure, security/collateral package, covenants, interest rates, credit spreads, etc.)?

26. What are the limitations with existing forms of debt capital available to your company or sector (e.g., type, cost, availability, covenants, eligibility, etc.)?

27. What are the typical debt instruments used to fund the procurement of the technology assets/equipment in your sector?

28. What forms of working capital funding are available to companies in your market?

29. Have you deferred production expansion due to lack of access to capital or the cost of capital?

30. What is the seniority level of the typical debt instrument in your market? Are there any covenant restrictions preventing additional borrowing that is pari-passu or senior to existing debt on your balance sheet (if any)?

31. What are some of the limitations or challenges in accessing funding in your sector?

32. Are there any niche areas in your sub-sector that struggle with accessing the needed debt capital? Please describe the reasons for this.

33. Would you benefit from OSC offering any of the following types of loan or loan guarantees: working capital loans or lines of credit, asset-backed loans, equipment financing, or acquisition financing?

34. Subject to the criteria and eligibility requirements to be determined by OSC, what factors should OSC consider important when reviewing applications for the DoD Loan Program?

Economic Outlook

35. What is your outlook on the five-year macroeconomic projection for your industry? What macroeconomic headwinds/tailwinds are most impacting you?

Competition

36. Who are the main competitors in your space? Where are they located geographically? Please list the city and state, if known. If the competitor is located overseas, please list the city and country.

37. Do you have foreign competition in your industry? Foreign competition is defined as a competing firm with headquarters outside of the United States. If yes, please list the firm(s) as well as the country they are headquartered in.

38. Are you aware of or facing competition backed by foreign government financing? If so, please identify the competition and the type of foreign government financing provided.

Requirements for Written Comments

OSC encourages respondents, when addressing the points above, unless raising other challenges related to financing Covered Technology Categories not explicitly asked, to identify which point they are responding to by using the same numbers and heading as set forth above. For example, someone submitting comments responsive to (9), "What is your company's actual or implied Credit Rating Agency rating (e.g. BB+, Ba1, etc.)?", would use that same text as a heading followed by the respondent's specific comments responding to it. This formatting will assist OSC in more easily reviewing and summarizing the comments received in response to these specific points of inquiry.

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Dated: July 18, 2024.

Aaron T. Siegel,

Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[Docket No.: ED-2024-SCC-0093]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request; Education Stabilization Fund—Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER I and GEER II) Recipient Data Collection Form

AGENCY: Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE), Department of Education (ED).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995, the Department is proposing an extension without change of a currently approved information collection request (ICR).

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before September 23, 2024.

ADDRESSES: To access and review all the documents related to the information collection listed in this notice, please use <http://www.regulations.gov> by searching the Docket ID number ED-2024-SCC-0093. Comments submitted in response to this notice should be submitted electronically through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov> by selecting the Docket ID number or via postal mail, commercial delivery, or hand delivery. If the www.regulations.gov site is not available to the public for any reason, the Department will temporarily accept comments at ICDocketMgr@ed.gov. Please include the docket ID number and the title of the information collection request when requesting documents or submitting comments. Please note that comments submitted after the comment period will not be accepted. Written requests for information or comments submitted by postal mail or delivery should be

addressed to the Manager of the Strategic Collections and Clearance Governance and Strategy Division, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave. SW, LBJ, Room 6W203, Washington, DC 20202-8240.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For specific questions related to collection activities, please contact Britt Jung, (202) 453-6046.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department, in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)), provides the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed, revised, and continuing collections of information. This helps the Department assess the impact of its information collection requirements and minimize the public's reporting burden. It also helps the public understand the Department's information collection requirements and provide the requested data in the desired format. The Department is soliciting comments on the proposed information collection request (ICR) that is described below. The Department is especially interested in public comment addressing the following issues: (1) is this collection necessary to the proper functions of the Department; (2) will this information be processed and used in a timely manner; (3) is the estimate of burden accurate; (4) how might the Department enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (5) how might the Department minimize the burden of this collection on the respondents, including through the use of information technology. Please note that written comments received in response to this notice will be considered public records.

Title of Collection: Education Stabilization Fund—Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER I and GEER II) Recipient Data Collection Form.

OMB Control Number: 1810-0748.

Type of Review: Extension without change of a currently approved ICR.

Respondents/Affected Public: Private Sector; State, Local, or Tribal Governments.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Responses: 3,326.

Total Estimated Number of Annual Burden Hours: 40,612.

Abstract: The Department awards GEER grants to Governors (States) and analogous ESF—Governor grants to Outlying Areas for the purpose of providing local educational agencies (LEAs), institutions of higher education (IHEs), and other education related entities with emergency assistance as a

result of the coronavirus pandemic. The Department has awarded these grants to States (Governors offices) based on a formula stipulated in the legislation. The grants are also awarded to Outlying Areas based on the same formula: (1) 60% on the basis of the States or Outlying Areas relative population of individuals aged 5 through 24. (2) 40% on the basis of the States relative number of children counted under section 1124(c) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). Data collected through this information collection will inform Department monitoring and oversight, and public reporting.

This information collection requests approval for an extension to a previously approved collection that includes annual reporting requirements to comply with the requirements of the GEER/ESF—Governor program and to obtain information on how the funds were used.

The information will be reviewed by U.S. Department of Education (Department) employees to ensure that GEER/ESF—Governor funds are used in accordance with applicable requirements under the CARES Act and CRRSA Act and will be shared with the public to promote transparency regarding the allocation and uses of funds. Furthermore, the information collected will be analyzed to provide aggregate statistics on SEA and LEA use of Education Stabilization Fund (ESF) funds to address the impacts of the COVID-19 virus on students and schools. The collection was used for a similar purpose in the first three years of its administration, with reporting made public in 2021, 2022, and 2024.

Dated: July 18, 2024.

Kun Mullan,

PRA Coordinator, Strategic Collections and Clearance, Governance and Strategy Division, Office of Chief Data Officer, Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development.

[FR Doc. 2024-16187 Filed 7-23-24; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4000-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

[Docket No.: ED-2024-SCC-0094]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request; Education Stabilization Fund—Emergency Assistance for Non-Public Schools (EANS) Program Recipient Annual Reporting Data Collection Form

AGENCY: Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE), Department of Education (ED).