

Program Purpose	To provide technical and financial assistance to help NYS manufacturing firms address competitiveness issues that increase productivity, efficiency and market share.
Eligible Applicants	NYS manufacturers that employ fewer than 500 workers
Eligible Projects	Manufacturers work with private consultants to develop and implement projects that result in enhanced productivity and competitiveness in NYS, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Organizational and technical needs assessment ▪ New product design and development ▪ Manufacturing process and quality improvement ▪ Market expansion and product commercialization ▪ Information systems upgrade
Ineligible Projects	IEP cannot fund: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Preliminary needs assessments ▪ Projects using only in-house staff without outside consultants ▪ Equipment and machinery purchases ▪ Consultant services for advertising and marketing materials ▪ Worker training except when the training is integral to the implementation of new systems and procedures ▪ Retaining consultants to continue a project the company had already started ▪ Start-ups and new ventures ▪ Projects that grow operations outside of NYS
Minimum Requirements	Classification as a manufacturer and completion of a preliminary assessment, and the ability to implement productivity and operational improvements recommended in the preliminary assessment to remain competitive.
Maximum Award	Up to \$50,000 grant.
Eligible Costs	Private consulting fees.
Expected Results	Enhanced management and production process to expand market share and promote job growth or retention within NYS.
Award Evaluation	Demonstrated need, company size, willingness to share costs of technical expertise and contribute resources, involvement of employees, and commitment to self-improvement.
How to Apply	Applications are provided through the ESD Regional Offices. Applications are accepted and reviewed on a continual basis.
Contact Information	Regional ESD office contacts are at http://www.empire.state.ny.us/Contacts_and_About_us/locations.asp

This is an overview of the program, and does not include all requirements and details.