

What Michigan is Doing to Promote Knowledge Economy Jobs: The 21st Century Jobs Fund

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The economy of Michigan is going through a difficult transformation. Manufacturing, once the backbone of our economy is declining. The 21st Century Jobs Fund is an initiative authorized by the legislature in 2005 and administered by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation to spark new investment in Michigan. The work of the Fund will focus on creating new high tech jobs primarily in four sectors:

- ♦ life science
- ♦ alternative energy
- ♦ advanced automotive manufacturing
- ♦ homeland security and defense

How Much was Invested?

The legislature has appropriated \$394 million to the 21st Century Jobs Fund for fiscal year 2005-06, of which \$107.96 million has already been appropriated for specific allocations or administration, leaving \$286.04 million for lending and grants.

Who May Receive a Grant?

Funding will be considered for the following activities in one of the desired high tech sectors:

- ♦ Commercialization
- ♦ Applied research
- ♦ Basic research
- ♦ Commercialization support services

For profit companies, nonprofit corporations, institutions of higher education, and nonprofit research institutes are eligible to apply for different activities. As the process is fairly simple there are many applicants for the available grant and loan money. Grants are awarded in a highly competitive environment where the state can select potentially successful grantees after a panel of experts in each field has reviewed and approved the proposal [1].

In the 2006 funding round, 505 proposals were submitted, with the greatest number in the areas of applied research and commercialization [2]. The first set of proposals are currently under review.

To find out more information visit The Michigan Economic Development Corporation at <http://www.michigan.org/medc>.