



Small Scale Manufacturing Pilot - 2020 Request For Interest

National Main Street Center

Small Scale Manufacturing Pilot Program

January - July 2020

About Small Scale Manufacturing:

Small-scale producers, or maker businesses, are defined as all types of small businesses producing tangible goods. This includes businesses producing goods in textile, hardware, wood, metal, 3D printing, and food. This also includes hardware prototyping, consumer product design and prototyping, breweries and distilleries, and local food production and packaging.

Small-scale manufacturing has emerged as a powerful way to tie opportunity to place, and can fill a key missing piece in today's local downtown and community development efforts. Data suggests that this form of manufacturing is rapidly growing in downtowns across the country, expanding and diversifying the employment and retail opportunities found there. The causes are two-fold: technologies like 3-D printing, high speed sewing equipment and food processors at scale are shrinking the footprint and cost of entry into traditional manufacturing. This is combined with rapidly changing consumer preferences that are tired of homogenous products that you can essentially get anywhere. Today's consumers are looking for products with a story that is locally made and appeals to their individualism. As a result, from micro brewers to apparel and bike manufacturers, many more people are beginning to blend retail, manufacturing and wholesaling opportunities at a much smaller scale, leading to growing tourism, diversified employment, and well-paid job opportunities for local communities.

How to apply:

Complete the Request for Interest for participation form below, and return it to mainstreet@dhcd.virginia.gov with the subject line: "SMALL SCALE MANUFACTURING PILOT RFI" no later than 12:00 p.m. EST on **January 10, 2020**.

Notification of acceptance into the pilot program will be made by January 24, 2020.

Additional information:

If selected for the pilot program, the community will receive approximately \$10,000 worth of technical assistance services. The community will be required to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) for the program. With this service, the community agrees to fully participate, as well as assist with logistics for on-site visits.

I. Contact Information

Community:

Municipal point of contact name:

Organization:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

If applicable:

Nonprofit/downtown organization point of contact name:

Organization:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

II. Community/Organization Information

1. How does small scale manufacturing fit into your local or downtown economic development strategy or identified focus (Transformation) strategy?
2. Describe community assets that you believe would position your program to have a high degree of success implementing a small scale manufacturing program (Examples might include a maker space, a kitchen incubator, a successful farmer's market, a community college).
3. List businesses already within the downtown district and community that would fit the definition of small scale manufacturing. Include the business name, business owner name and business/property address.
4. How would participating in a pilot program help your community and businesses? What goals would you hope to achieve through participation?
5. Describe your community or organization's skill sets, capacity, programs and resources that you believe would position you to successfully implement a small scale

manufacturing program. (Examples might include any professional development you've received in this area; history of working directly with small scale producers, etc.)

6. List other partners you feel would be helpful in implementing a small scale manufacturing program. Is there local elected official and municipal staff support for this type of economic development?

III. Supporting/Additional Information

Please include any information not addressed above that you think would be helpful for evaluation of this Request for Interest.

IV. Certification

I certify that the information provided above is correct, to the best of my knowledge. I understand that if the community is selected for the pilot program, full participation will be required and implementing recommendations from the services will be the expected outcome of this program.

Municipal Point of Contact Signature

Date

Nonprofit Point of Contact Signature, if applicable

Date

Return the completed form to mainstreet@dhcd.virginia.gov with the subject line: "SMALL SCALE MANUFACTURING PILOT RFI" no later than 12:00 p.m. EST on **January 10, 2020**.

If you have any questions about this RFI application, please call 804-371-7171.

