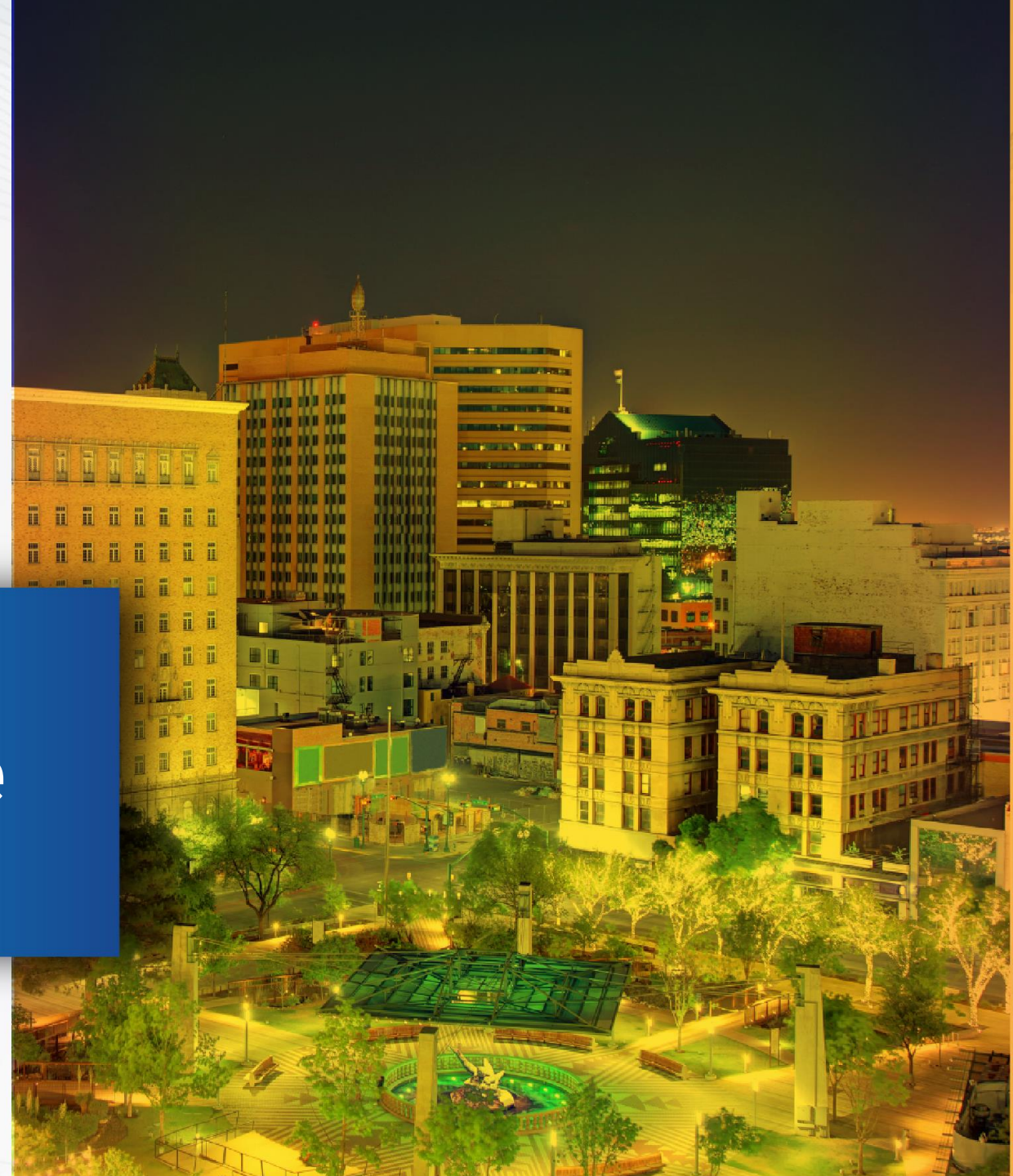


# Industry & Economic Development Committee Meeting



WELCOME



# 1. CALL TO ORDER AND NOTE OF QUORUM

Industry and Economic Development  
Committee Chair



## 2. ACTIVITY REPORTS

✓ ITEMS NOT POSTED FOR ACTION

# A: Discussion and update on the Business Collaboration Contracts

- Overview of completed contracts
- El Paso Hispanic Chamber and El Paso Chamber Presentations – Immigration Forum (*Desirae Manzanares EPHC - Business Center, Director of Public Policy and Advocacy and Mia - Romero Director of Advocacy*)

**Bianca Cervantes,**  
Communications Director



# Workforce Business Partnerships

## Resilient Workforce Economic Development Equity DEI

- Collaborative missions for economic prosperity through October 2024
- Industry sector targets
- Data driven training and education strategies
- Regional Business Retention & Expansion collaboration
- Small business roundtables for under-represented populations



# Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

**WORKFORCE**  
SOLUTIONS BORDERPLEX

- Workforce Equity @ Entrepreneurial Technical Assistance Centers via El Paso 8a and Government Contractors Association
- TWC Skills Development Grants
- Community Outreach with Regional Employers to integrate special populations
- Technical Assistance Roundtables
- Quarterly Snapshots of "Low-Tech" Businesses
- Industry Sector Targets and Skill Needs for Upcoming EdDev Funding Framework



# El Paso Chamber of Commerce Foundation

**WORKFORCE**  
SOLUTIONS BORDERPLEX

- Panelist/Moderator Inclusion as Subject Matter Experts
- Event Representation: Military Ball, State of the City, State of the County, State of Education, Healthcare Summit
- Ongoing Business Site Visits & Extensive Survey Data Collection
- Distribution of Business Services Toolkits
- BRE Collaborative Inclusion
- Media Partnership Schedule
- State of the Workforce Event Collaboration



# Borderplex Alliance

- Research to Identify Occupational Verticals and Skillset Mapping
- BR&E Meeting Coordination with WSB Presence
- Local Manufacturer + Education Collaboration Efforts for "Education-Friendly" Initiative
- Skills Development Fund Collaboration
- Strategic Conversations With Area Leaders on WSR Podcast





# Paso Del Norte Community Foundation

- Engage Employers to Address Needs of Untapped Talent
  - Non-Profit Collaboration
- Identification of 10 "Low-Tech" Businesses Quarterly
- Event Integration for WSB presence and Business Services Awareness
  - Reimagine
  - El Paso Giving Day
  - Gator Tank
- Ongoing WSB Partner Promotion



# Technology Hub

- Bridge Accelerator Supplier Development Program
- Collaboration with Area Partners
  - Pioneers 21
  - FUNAX
  - Microsoft TechSpark
- Ongoing WSB Business Services Representation Aligned to Target Industries



# El Paso Workforce & Border Solutions



June 1, 2023

- Advocacy for immigration reform
- Addressing labor shortages and a broken immigration system
- Prioritizing Minority, Women-Owned, Veteran-Owned small businesses



Advocating for Your Business Success.

# B: Discussion and updates on Economic and Workforce Development Projects

- EDA Distressed Area Recompete Pilot Program Grant
- NSF Regional Innovation Engines Grant: Paso del Norte Innovation for Defense and Aerospace (IDEA) Engine

Leila Melendez, Chief Executive Officer, and Alma Aranda, Director of Innovation and Development

# We are applying for EDA's Recompete grant, which aims to reduce employment gaps and support economic development



## Objective

Invest in **distressed communities** across the country to create, and connect workers to, good jobs and support long-term comprehensive economic development by helping to **reduce the high, prime-age (25 to 54 years of age) employment gap**

### Eligible areas

- Local labor markets with employment gap\* among workers 25-54 of not less than 2.5%, or
- Local communities with median household incomes below \$75K and employment gap not less than 5%

### Eligible recipients

- a unit of local government;
- a Tribal government;
- a public entity or nonprofit organization, acting in cooperation with the officials of a political subdivision of a State or other entity;
- an economic development district;
- a **consortium of any of the specified entities.**

### Two types of grants

- Strategy development
- Strategy implementation

**Terms:** No less than 2 years; renewable based on progress (for strategy implementation grants)

**Award amount:** Min \$20M; Max. depends on area characteristics

**Recompete Plan** - Comprehensive Multi-year Economic Development Plan that includes:

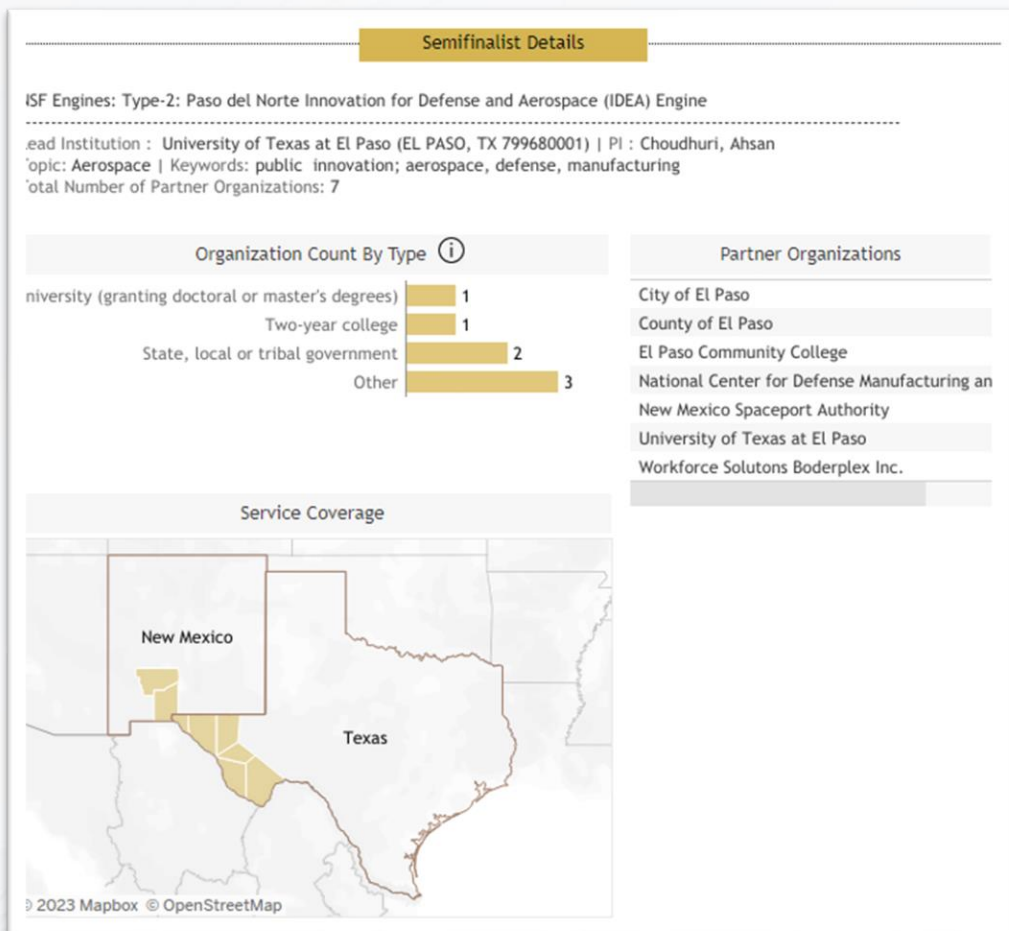
- Programs and activities to address the economic challenges in a comprehensive manner that promotes sustained economic growth, lasting job creation, and reduction of employment gap in the eligible area
- Costs, annual expenditures, and disbursement schedule
- Roles and responsibilities of specified entities

\*"prime-age employment gap" means the difference (expressed as a percentage) between- (i) the national 5-year average prime-age employment rate; and (ii) the 5-year average prime-age employment rate of the eligible area.



# NSF Paso Del Norte Innovation for Defense and Aerospace (IDEA) Engine

- The US National Science Foundation (NSF)
- 34 semifinalists for the first NSF Regional Innovation Engines competition
- Focus on key technologies and societal economic challenges highlighted in the CHIPS and Science Act



Proposed key vulnerabilities in the nation's defense industrial base:

- R&D needs of small and medium manufacturers to help compete in aerospace and defense markets
- Developing capabilities to support the supply chain
- Deploying talent infrastructure

4. Discussion on items of interest for next agenda – August 16, 2023

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**Adjourn**