

GRANT PROGRAM

PRESENTED BY
JPMORGAN CHASE & CO.

METRO CHICAGO EXPORTS 2016 GRANT PROGRAM

Metro Chicago Exports is launching the 2016 Grant Program, presented by JP Morgan Chase & Co., on April 4, 2016. Online Client Assessments will be accepted through May 27, 2016.

Metro Chicago Exports works with small and medium-sized companies in the seven-county region, helping businesses navigate and address financial, structural and other barriers to exporting.

Small and medium-sized companies drive the regional economy through innovation and job creation. Metro Chicago Exports invests in small and medium-sized companies to enable them to increase their global reach and further the region's economic competitiveness.

GRANT PROGRAM SPECIFICS

The single-round 2016 Grant Program will award up to \$5,000 to small and medium-sized companies in the seven-county region to reimburse 50% of eligible expenses associated with implementing an export plan.

In fall 2016, Metro Chicago Exports will host a pitch fest during which both 2015 and 2016 grant recipients will be eligible to submit a pitch for additional funding. Information about the pitch fest will be shared at a later date.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Small and medium-sized companies located in Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry and Will counties that are existing exporters or new-to-export with fewer than 500 employees are encouraged to apply.

The application process involves two steps – an initial online Client Assessment and a formal Grant Application review of export plans, capabilities and potential. Companies that pass the Client Assessment phase will be invited to submit more comprehensive information about their plans to go global as part of the Grant Application process. If potential barriers to maximizing export potential are identified during the Client Assessment, companies may be referred to export service providers to assist them in formulating international export plans.

WHAT GRANTS MAY COVER

The 2016 Grant Program awards may be used for the following services including, but not limited to:

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

- Interpreter services in foreign markets
- Participation in group and individual trade missions and related costs and fees
- Participation in U.S. Department of Commerce certified trade shows and related costs and fees
- Professional customer “matchmaking” services
- U.S. Department of Commerce Gold Key Service

COMPLIANCE

- International certifications
- Legal fees associated with intellectual property protection, trademark protection and registration
- Product compliance certification

CONSULTING

- Customized market research and analysis
- Export/international business plan development
- Export readiness assessments
- One-on-one export counseling

EDUCATION

- Export training programs
- Professional development

FINANCING

- International credit reports
- Letter of credit fees

MARKETING

- Development of international product marketing campaigns
- Professional translation of marketing collateral and websites
- Web presence/e-commerce

TRAVEL

- Economy class international airfare for one individual including related taxes and fees

Companies may utilize grant funding for multiple services and activities. Final use of funds must be pre-approved by the Metro Chicago Exports Program Manager.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: The Grant Application deadline is May 27, 2016. No applications will be accepted past this date.

WHERE TO APPLY: www.metrochicagoexports.com

AWARD NOTIFICATIONS: Winners will be notified of their grant award on or around July 11, 2016.

LISA REIJULA: 312.589.5773 | lreijula@metrochicagoexports.com
TOM HULSEMAN: 312.589.5789 | thulseman@metrochicagoexports.com