



State Trade Expansion Program (STEP): taking small businesses global

The State Trade Expansion Program (STEP) grant is designed to help Connecticut's small business community thrive in the global marketplace by increasing the value of small business exports.



Program eligibility

This program is open to businesses that:

- Operate a registered business in Connecticut to manufacture, assemble and/or distribute a product, or provide an exportable service;
- Qualify as an "eligible small business concern" per one's NAICS code and the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) size standards;
- Have been in business for not less than 1 year ending on the date on which assistance is provided under the STEP program;
- Are operating profitably, based on their operations in the United States;
- Have demonstrated an understanding of the costs associated with exporting and doing business with foreign purchasers, including the costs of freight forwarding, customs brokers, packing and shipping; and,
- Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for disbarment, declared ineligible and/or voluntarily excluded from participation by any Federal department or agency.

Eligible expenses

Funds may be used for a variety of trade mission/trade show costs, including but not limited to registration/booth fee, furniture, graphics/signage, shipping, translation/interpreter fees, USDOC Commercial Service fees, international material/collateral translation and printing costs, website translation, export training registration fees and B2B matchmaking registration fees.

Ineligible expenses

Funds may NOT be used for the following: air/ground transportation, lodging, meals/beverages/gratuity, alcohol, compensation, wages or salary for any employee, capital goods/product samples/supplies, product giveaways/promotional items, phone/internet usage or website development. There may be other ineligible expenses.

For more information or to start an application, visit stepgrant.fluidreview.com.