

FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT

\$5 Million SBA Award to Strengthen Long Island's Defense Manufacturing Workforce

Nassau BOCES and Ignite Long Island partner under the Long Island Defense Manufacturing Resilience Initiative

The U.S. Small Business Administration has awarded \$5 million in federal grant funding to Nassau BOCES to train and expand the workforce serving Long Island's defense manufacturers. Nassau BOCES is one of just 11 organizations nationwide selected under the SBA's Empower to Grow (E2G) program, part of a \$50 million national effort to strengthen American manufacturing through technical schools and community colleges.

Nassau BOCES's Role

As prime recipient, Nassau BOCES receives \$3.3 million and leads the workforce development component: upgraded hands on training in welding, advanced electrical work, and industrial piping through the Long Island Defense Manufacturing Resilience Initiative, helping the region backfill the ranks of experienced machinists and skilled trades professionals as veteran workers retire. In partnership with Festo Didactic Inc., Nassau BOCES will create mobile training labs equipped with augmented and virtual reality technology, bringing upskilling directly to local manufacturers and introducing students in underserved communities to careers in defense manufacturing. Nassau BOCES also performs all financial management, grant administration, and day to day program operations, and monitors all subrecipients in accordance with federal requirements.

Ignite Long Island's Role

Ignite Long Island receives \$1.7 million as subrecipient and will work directly with area manufacturers, providing technical assistance to bring them into compliance with federal cybersecurity mandates for defense contractors.

"Ignite is excited to bring technical assistance to smaller businesses in the defense industrial base on Long Island through access to support with cybersecurity measures."

Jamie L. Moore, President, Ignite Long Island

About Empower to Grow

The E2G program provides eligible small businesses with free business courses, workshops, and one on one consulting aimed at expanding operations, growing employment, and improving competitiveness for government contracts.

As featured in Newsday: "Nassau BOCES gets \$5 million in SBA funding to grow defense manufacturing on Long Island" by Victor Ocasio, August 5, 2026. Read the full article at [newsday.com](https://www.newsday.com).

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