



ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
PARTNERSHIP of
NORTH CAROLINA



LET US INVEST IN YOUR EXPORTING AMBITIONS

The **State Trade Expansion Program (STEP)** is specifically designed to help small businesses in North Carolina fund costs associated with international trade. As a qualifying participant in STEP, you can be reimbursed for thousands of dollars of expenses that your business would normally have to pay out-of-pocket. Because it's grant money, you are under no obligation to repay any amount. In other words, the cost of doing business internationally becomes much less costly.

QUALIFYING EXPORTERS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR UP TO \$24,000 IN REIMBURSEMENTS FOR BUSINESS-BUILDING ACTIVITIES SUCH AS:

Up to
\$3,000

for eligible travel associated with exhibiting at a qualifying tradeshow

Up to
\$5,000

for booth costs for exhibiting at a qualifying trade show

Up to
\$6,000

for qualifying export services and marketing media which aid in reaching foreign markets

Up to
\$10,000

for qualifying website localization and e-commerce fees



STEP monies are awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis and there is a set amount put aside for exporter reimbursement (available only until September 29, 2023). Make sure you receive what the SBA and State of North Carolina want to give you. Remember, this is money given to you that you never have to give back! Confirm your eligibility today. **Visit edpnc.com/STEP**



*STEP offset my company's costs to join a productive aerospace trade mission to Turkey. We had **40 meetings** – with airlines, maintenance and repair companies that work on Turkish aircraft but don't have a seat service, distributors or sales companies that may want to add our service to their portfolio. **It would have taken us 10 trips** to Turkey over two years to do what we did in five days on this mission."*

–Kelvin Boyette, CEO,

Latitude Aero in Greensboro, provider of airline seat cleaning and refurbishing

Contact

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Eligible companies must: be organized or incorporated in the US; operate in the state of North Carolina; meet the SBA's size standards for a Small Business Concern (typically 500 employees or less); have been in business for no less than 1 year; be in good standing with the federal government (have not been debarred); be an export-ready US company seeking to export goods or services of US origin or have at least 51% US content; and have access to sufficient resources to bear the costs associated with trade.