

NONPROFITS

CFDA celebrates 10-year initiative anniversary with grant renewal announcement

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The trade association, which touts more than 450 American members, is recognizing its longest-standing public-private partnership by initiating a new round of the FMI Grant Fund. Image credit: CFDA

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

The Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA) is recognizing its longest-standing public-private partnership.

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Initiated in 2013, the Fashion Manufacturing Initiative (FMI) was founded in partnership with New York City's Economic Development Corporation in the interest of supporting local apparel production this year the program hits 10 years in existence. In honor of the occasion, the CFDA is soliciting a new round of the FMI Grant Fund, a mechanism that aims to uplift and advance technology and innovation, as well as workforce development and business growth.

Luxury launches into action

Now live, applications for the 2023 FMI Grant Fund will remain open through March 15, 2023.

New York City manufacturers developing and/or producing finished fashion products including clothing, accessories, and jewelry, in addition to those companies producing innovative fashion materials, are encouraged to apply for funding.

Applicants looking to apply must also adhere to social compliance audits, city/financial reviews and requirements and certain funding parameters, in order to be considered.



The Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA) Awards. Image credit: CFDA

For the partially matching grant fund, the CFDA contributes two-thirds of the total \$150,000 per recipient offered.

Other industry leaders, including the FMI's Premier Underwriter, the Ralph Lauren Corporation, make the grant possible, having invested more than \$4.2 million over the span of seven rounds of grants, plus additional FMI programming, reaching some 3,500 jobs since the start.

Interested parties can learn more about the grant and are welcome to apply at https://cfda.smapply.org/prog/2023_fmi_grant_fund_-_manufacturer_application/.

The CFDA touts more than 450 American members. Last year, the appointment of a new chairman marked a novel era for the trade association ([see story](#)).

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