**HOW MEP CENTERS CAN HELP STATES MITIGATE**

**IMPACTS ON MANUFACTURERS**

1. **The MEP National Network is in all 50 states and Puerto Rico which has allowed it to build an unparalleled knowledge of and access to multiple U.S. supply chains.**

The National Network’s database containing over one third of all U.S. manufacturers has an already developed online 10-minute assessment tool to triage specific challenges facing manufacturers which can help manufacturers get answers and access to assistance quickly.

Your local MEP Center can also help coordinate access to local, state and federal resources for your manufacturers and facilitate connections with legal, finance and workforce resources as well.

1. **U.S. domestic manufacturing capabilities and capacities exist right now to produce literally any product needed in response to the current health and economic crises.  The MEP National Network has a proven Supplier Scouting process.**

The systematic MEP service has been in operation for over a decade and can be immediately mobilized.  Initially began in response to national domestic production needs stimulated by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.  Since 2009, MEP Centers have been assisting U.S. manufacturers to transition their excess production capabilities and capacities into the production of difficult-to-supply products needed by a diverse array of supply chains. The supplier scouting service can:

* Identify suppliers of critical supplies on a national level
* Perform supplier qualification and capacity assessment
* Identify manufacturers to enforce Defense Production Act and/or willing to shift/pivot production to critical supplies

1. **Owners are convened in manufacturing councils by the MEP National Network on a regular and ad hoc basis across the country and are particularly successful in rural communities.  These meetings between manufacturers presents opportunities for the manufacturers to learn from their peers and greatly enhance the adoption of advanced technology adoption.**

MEP is easily able to utilize electronic platforms to convene small groups of manufacturers to support information sharing during these times to facilitate needed communication between business owners.