

# Economic Development Administration Introduction to Programs

Dwen Chester, Management & Program Analyst  
EDA Headquarters

Rural Partners Network Community Event, Charleston, West Virginia  
May 24-25, 2023



U.S. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

# US Department of Commerce

---

- The Department of Commerce's (DOC's) mission is to create the conditions for economic growth and opportunity for all communities. Through its 13 bureaus, the Department works to drive U.S. economic competitiveness, strengthen domestic industry, and spur the growth of quality jobs in all communities across the country.

- **Strategic Goals:**

1. Innovation
2. Equity
3. Resilience

#### DOC BUREAUS

Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA)  
Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS)  
U.S. Census Bureau

#### **Economic Development Administration (EDA)**

Office of the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs (OUS/EA)  
International Trade Administration (ITA)  
Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA)  
National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)  
National Technical Information Service (NTIS)  
National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)  
Office of the Secretary (OS)

## EDA's Mission

*To lead the federal economic development agenda by promoting innovation and competitiveness, preparing American regions for growth and success in the worldwide economy.*

Contact information is available at [www.EDA.gov](http://www.EDA.gov)

- Increase America's global **ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS**
- Support **COMMUNITY-LED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**
- Help communities develop **RESILIENT AND AGILE** local economies

## EDA's Investment Priorities

1. Recovery & Resilience
2. Equity
3. Technology-Based Economic Development
4. Environmentally-Sustainable Development
5. Workforce Development
6. Manufacturing
7. Exports & Foreign Direct Investment

# Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

---

A CEDS is a locally-driven strategic plan for regional economic development that is a result of a regionally-owned planning process designed to build capacity and guide the economic prosperity and resiliency of an area or region.

- One primary role of Economic Development Districts (EDDS) is to develop and maintain a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, or CEDS. NOTE: Depending on the state, EDDs may be called by other names such as Councils of Government, Area Development Districts, Regional Planning Commissions, etc.
- CEDS are submitted to EDA by EDDS. The link to EDDs is: <https://eda.gov/resources/directory/>
- Projects submitted to EDA must be in alignment with the local or regional CEDS and with EDA's Investment priorities. We strongly encourage applicants to contact their local EDD and get a copy of the most recent CEDS. To find your Economic Development District, please visit <https://eda.gov/grant-resources/directory/>
- In areas where an Economic Development District (EDD) does not exist, potential applicants should contact their Economic Development Representative (EDR) for their state or territory to help identify organizations that facilitate CEDS planning.
- The link to find your Economic Development Representative is: <https://eda.gov/contact/>

## Eligible Applicants / Recipients

- District Organization of an EDA-designated Economic Development District (EDD);
- Indian Tribe or a consortium of Indian Tribes;
- State, county, city, or other political subdivision of a State,
- Institution of higher education or a consortium of institutions of higher education; or
- Public or private non-profit organization or association acting in cooperation with officials of a political subdivision of a State

EAA and PW Applicants must show alignment with the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) or an equivalent plan.

***EDA is not authorized to provide direct financial assistance to individuals, small businesses, or for-profit entities.***

*See EDA Notice of Funding Opportunity for full details:*  
<https://www.eda.gov/fundingopportunities/>



# EDA PWEDA Programs

---

## Public Works Economic Development Act of 1965

- **Economic Adjustment Assistance** (<https://www.eda.gov/funding/programs/economic-adjustment-assistance>)

Provides a wide range of technical, planning, and public works and infrastructure assistance in regions experiencing adverse economic changes that may occur suddenly or over time. These adverse economic impacts may result from a steep decline in manufacturing employment following a plant closure, changing trade patterns, catastrophic natural disaster, a military base closure, or environmental changes and regulations.

- **Economic Development Planning Assistance Program** (<https://www.eda.gov/funding/programs/planning>)

The two categories of the Planning Assistance program are: (a) planning investments for District Organizations, Indian Tribes and other eligible entities; and (b) short-term planning investments to states, sub-state planning regions and urban areas. Eligible activities under this program include developing, maintaining, and implementing a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and related short-term planning activities.

- **Public Works Program** (<https://www.eda.gov/funding/programs/public-works>)

Helps distressed communities revitalize, expand, and upgrade their physical infrastructure. This program enables communities to attract new industry; encourage business expansion; diversify local economies; and generate or retain long-term, private-sector jobs and investment through the acquisition or development of land and infrastructure improvements needed for the successful establishment or expansion of industrial or commercial enterprises.

# EDA Revolving Loan Fund

EDA makes Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) grant awards to establish Revolving Loan Funds (RLFs) that make loans to businesses that cannot otherwise obtain traditional bank financing. These loans provide access to capital as gap financing that enables small businesses to grow and lead to new employment opportunities with competitive wages and benefits. Each RLF Recipient must develop and maintain an RLF plan to demonstrate how the fund fits specific economic development goals and how it will adequately administer the RLF throughout its lifecycle. The economic development priorities of each revolving loan fund (RLF) are defined in the RLF Plan that guides the lending strategy within its defined lending area. Most RLFs make general business loans focused on creating and retaining jobs while leveraging other sources of capital, while some RLFs focus lending on certain sectors or industries

Potential borrowers must demonstrate that credit is not otherwise available on terms and conditions that permit the completion or successful operation of the activity to be financed. RLF loans most often focus on working capital loans for operating expenses, EDA regulations for RLFs restrict uses of capital to loans for economic development purposes. EDA RLF award amounts generally range from \$500,000 to \$2.0 million.

## *RLF Community of Practice*

The National Development Council (NDC) in partnership with Drexel University's Nowak Metro Finance Lab and the Community Reinvestment Fund (CRF) with support from EDA has launched a Community of Practice to strengthen the capacity of approximately 400 RLF operators. EDA Eligible Applicants are eligible to apply for an EAA award to establish an RLF. **While individuals and for-profit entities are not eligible to establish an EDA RLF, individuals and for-profit entities are eligible to apply for and receive loans from an RLF established by an eligible entity.**

For more information: <https://ndconline.org/ndc-eda-supported-revolving-loan-fund-community-of-practice/>; To register: <https://ndconline.org/ndc-eda-supported-revolving-loan-fund-community-of-practice/>

Contact: [RLF-CoP@NDOnline.org](mailto:RLF-CoP@NDOnline.org)

# Competitive Programs

---

- **Build to Scale (B2S)** builds regional economies through scalable startups and includes three competitions supporting entrepreneurship, acceleration of company growth and increased access to risk capital across regional economies. <https://www.eda.gov/funding/programs/build-to-scale>
- **Economic Recovery Corps** is a network of fellows to add human capital to local organizations focused on improving economic resilience and competitiveness in distressed regions across the country. <https://www.eda.gov/funding/programs/economic-recovery-corps>
- **Recompete Pilot Program** is an economic development initiative that will provide grant funding to distressed communities across the country to create and connect workers to good jobs and support long-term comprehensive economic development by helping to reduce the high prime-age (25-54 years of age) employment gap. <https://www.eda.gov/funding/programs/recompete-pilot-program>
- **STEM Talent Challenge** aims to build STEM training systems to strengthen regional innovation economies by creating and implementing talent development strategies that complement their region's innovation economy. <https://www.eda.gov/funding/programs/stem-challenge>
- **Regional Technology and Innovation Hubs (Tech Hubs)** are an economic development initiative to drive technology- and innovation-centric growth that leverages existing R&D strengths and technology demonstration and deployment capacities (public and private) within a region to catalyze the creation of good jobs for American workers at all skill levels equitably and inclusively. <https://www.eda.gov/funding/programs/regional-technology-and-innovation-hubs>
- **University Centers** enable institutions of higher education and consortia of these institutions to establish and operate University Centers (UCs) focused on leveraging university assets to build regional economic ecosystems that support innovation and high-growth entrepreneurship, resiliency, and inclusiveness. <https://www.eda.gov/funding/programs/university-centers>



# EDA and Assistance to Coal Communities

The U.S. Economic Development Administration's (EDA) Coal Communities Commitment was \$200 million from the Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) program and \$100 million from the Build Back Better Regional Challenge (BBBRC) — to support coal communities as they recover from the coronavirus pandemic, and to help them create new jobs and expand opportunities for local businesses and members of the community. EDA significantly exceeded this commitment, allocating \$551.8 million of funding to coal communities across its six American Rescue Plan programs. Funding includes \$208.3 million and 89 projects from EAA; \$242.9 million across nine BBBRC phase 1 awards; and five BBBRC winners. EDA invested an additional \$100.5 million from EDA's other American Rescue Plan grant programs that benefit coal communities. <https://www.eda.gov/funding/programs/assistance-to-coal-communities>

The **Building Resilient Economies in Coal Communities** (BRECC) Initiative is BRECC Network: a national peer-learning, capacity building, and resource-sharing network of coal-reliant communities seeking to diversify and grow their local and regional economies.

- Coalition: an intensive learning and leadership-building community for ~20 leaders from coal-reliant communities designed to identify and support exemplar communities that have demonstrated efforts toward economic resilience and transition.
- Action Challenge: an intensive technical assistance and peer learning program for ~15 communities designed to expand the network of coal community models for diversification planning and to build the pipeline of future economic development and revitalization projects.
- Storytelling Campaign: A national campaign to share coal community experiences with a broad audience.
- Audience: Intergovernmental and cross-sectoral stakeholders from coal-reliant communities, with a focus on local leaders

For more information: <https://www.naco.org/BRECC>

# EDA and Disaster Recovery/Disaster Supplemental Funding

The [Federal Emergency Management Agency](#) (FEMA) established the [National Disaster Recovery Framework](#) (NDRF) to facilitate coordinated interagency capacities across all disaster-related mission areas: Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response, and Recovery. The NDRF established a total of six Recovery Support Functions (RSF) to facilitate interagency and inter-governmental “problem solving, improve access to resources, and foster coordination among State and Federal agencies, nongovernmental partners and stakeholders.

On behalf of the Department of Commerce, EDA serves as coordinating agency for the Economic Recovery Support Function (ERSF). EDA leads, coordinates and oversees primary and support federal agencies, all of which share a role in the provision of grants, loans, training and other forms of assistance to support economic recovery and resiliency efforts in disaster-impacted communities and regions.

Through the FY 2023 EDA Disaster Supplemental NOFO (<https://www.eda.gov/strategic-initiatives/disaster-recovery/supplemental/2023>) EDA will award investments in regions experiencing severe economic distress or other economic harm resulting from Hurricanes Ian and Fiona, and of wildfires, flooding, and other natural disasters occurring in calendar years 2021 and 2022 (42 U.S.C. §§ 3149(c)(2), 3233. With the support of these funds, American regions and communities hard-hit by major disasters are rebuilding stronger, more resilient economies.

- Not applicable to COVID-19 disasters
- Applications sought under EDA’s Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) program
- Goal of funding is to be flexible and responsive to the economic development needs and priorities of local and regional stakeholders, including those seeking assistance recovering from Federally declared disasters
- Funds will be awarded to assist a wide variety of activities related to disaster recovery, including economic recovery strategic planning grants, and public works construction assistance
- Contact your state Economic Development Representative for more information and/or technical assistance.

## EDA Regions



**Atlanta:** Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee

**Austin:** Arizona, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas

**Chicago:** Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin

**Denver:** Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming

**Philadelphia:** Connecticut, Delaware, Washington, DC, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, **West Virginia**, and Territories: Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands

**Seattle:** Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Washington State, and Territories: American Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Republic of Marshall Islands, Republic of Palau

## REGIONAL OFFICES

### Atlanta Regional Office

*Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee*

**Phone: 404-730-3002**



### Austin Regional Office

*Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas*

**Phone: 512-381-8144**



### Chicago Regional Office

*Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin*

**Phone: 312-353-8143**



### Denver Regional Office

*Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, North Dakota, Nebraska, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming*

**Phone: 303-844-4715**



### Philadelphia Regional Office

*Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands*

**Phone: 215-597-4603**



### Seattle Regional Office

*Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Federated States of Micronesia, Rep. of Marshall Islands, Rep. of Palau*

**Phone: 206-220-7660**





**EDA**

**Economic Development  
Representatives**

1. Close to the community
2. Expert in the program (eligibility, goals, match, etc.)
3. Able to provide technical assistance:  
Start to Finish
4. Project Pitch Person

Visit [www.eda.gov/contact](http://www.eda.gov/contact)

For EDA funding technical assistance,

West Virginia's  
Economic Development Representative:  
Tracey Rowan, [trowan@eda.gov](mailto:trowan@eda.gov)

**Disaster Recovery Contacts:**

National Disaster Recovery Coordinator:  
Naomi Friedman, [nfriedman@eda.gov](mailto:nfriedman@eda.gov)

Management & Program Analyst  
Dwen Chester, [dchester@eda.gov](mailto:dchester@eda.gov)

**Questions?**

**THANK YOU!**



U.S. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION