

III. Programs of the Economic Development Administration

Public Works and Development Facilities Program

The Public Works and Development Facilities program, i.e., Public Works program, empowers communities experiencing economic decline and distress to revitalize, expand, and upgrade their physical infrastructure to attract new industry, encourage business expansion, diversify local economies, and support the generation or retention of higher-skill, higher-wage jobs.

The Public Works program supports locally initiated and developed projects that encourage long-term economic self-sufficiency and global competitiveness. Examples of infrastructure and development facility investments supported by this program include water and sewer system improvements; skill-training facilities; industrial and business parks; business incubators, multitenant manufacturing, and tourism facilities; and intermodal transportation enhancements, such as industrial access roads, rail spurs, airport expansions, and port and harbor improvements.

Public works investments are awarded to states, cities, or other political subdivisions; special purpose units of government; Indian tribes; and public or private nonprofit organizations working in cooperation with a local political subdivision. Public works investments support a variety of specific economic development strategies, including cluster-based, technology-led, specialized workforce development; diversification of natural resource dependent economies; community and faith-based social entrepreneurship; tourism and cultural heritage preservation; export development programs; commercialization and deployment of innovative technologies; and, redevelopment of brownfield sites.

Public works investments may also be used to upgrade or expand a region's economic infrastructure to support the next generation of industry or commerce, such as telecommunications infrastructure and other sustainable development activities including eco-industrial parks. Whenever possible, the program seeks to redevelop existing facilities and rehabilitate older industrial and commercial sites rather than developing greenfield sites, which are previously undeveloped sites, because such investments promote sustainable economic development by taking advantage of readily available infrastructure, labor force, and markets.

Investment Eligibility for Public Works Assistance

To be eligible for consideration, a public works investment must be located in an economically distressed area or, in the case of an investment located in a nondistressed area, it must provide substantial direct benefits to an economically disadvantaged area. In accordance with EDA's mission and authorizing legislation, distress is established by demonstrating one of the following criteria: high unemployment (at least one percent above the national average over a two-year period); low per capita income (eighty percent or less of the national average per capita income); or other economic indicators defined as "special need" (e.g., substantial out-migration, underemployment, natural or other major disasters, extraordinary depletion of natural resources, or destructive impacts of foreign trade).

In addition, a public works investment must also satisfy all of the following: (1) be consistent with a locally developed Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) that has been prepared for the area in which it will be located and that has broad community support; (2) improve opportunities for the successful establishment or expansion of industrial or commercial facilities in the area where it will be located; (3) fulfill a pressing need of the area and be started and completed in a timely manner; (4) not result in an increase of goods or services that exist in the market area; (5) have the required local matching share committed and available at the time of approval; and, (6) benefit the long-term unemployed and members of low-income families who are residents of the area to be served by the investment.

Analysis of Public Works Investments

In Fiscal Year 2004, EDA approved one-hundred-fifty Public Works investment totaling approximately \$205 million. The investment amounts ranged from a low of \$159,000 to a high of \$6 million. The average investment was \$1.37 million.

The Public Works program helps America's distressed communities and regions, both rural and urban, to overcome the problems of aging and inadequate infrastructure, which prevent economic growth, and to achieve lasting economic improvement by creating higher-skill, higher-wage private sector jobs.

Public Works investments focus on numerous different initiatives, including the following: entrepreneurial development; clean water; empowerment zones and enterprise communities; export development; technological innovation and infrastructure improvements; historic preservation; sustainable development; brownfields

redevelopment; core business infrastructure; diversification of natural resource-based economies; timber initiative; disaster response; workforce development; health-related infrastructure; product and building recycling; Mississippi Delta; American Heritage River; pre-disaster mitigation activities; regional competitiveness; and, faith and community-based social entrepreneurship.

The distribution of EDA's Fiscal Year 2004 Public Works investments by type of recipient was approximately as follows: city government \$82 million; county government \$21 million; public non-profit organizations \$51 million; special purpose authorities \$24 million; educational institutions \$16 million; Indian Tribes, tribal organizations and, other entities \$10 million.

Example of EDA Public Works Program Investment

Southside Virginia Broadband Project is an example of an EDA Public Works program investment to initiate broadband internet access to a wide area of rural southern Virginia. EDA invested \$6 million to help construct approximately two hundred ninety-four miles of fiber optic backbone. EDA's assistance brings broadband access, for the first time, to thirty-five business, commercial and industrial parks, and through nine counties and three independent cities. With this access, those businesses will more readily reach global markets, and the fiber optic backbone will be a significant asset in attracting new technology-related businesses to the area. The new and expanding businesses are expected to create more than one thousand five hundred jobs and to generate over \$140 million in private investment.

Brownfields Redevelopment

Historically, the focus of EDA's brownfields redevelopment activities has always been on the economic reuse of the parcels. Typically, the bureau gets involved after sites have already been assessed and remediation performed. Under current statutory authorities, however, EDA is able to provide full-service, one-stop shopping in support of community brownfield revitalization needs including support for site assessment, market feasibility analysis, incidental remediation, and site redevelopment and reuse that furthers the economic development of the site.

Brownfields are real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. Brownfields may, at times, be more expensive to develop than greenfields because of the need to assess the conditions of the site and, sometimes, to

reclaim the land. Nonetheless, brownfields offer many other competitive development advantages, as well as other environmental benefits.

Benefits of Brownfields Redevelopment

Brownfields locations are attractive to private companies because of their proximity to existing transportation systems such as highways, rail lines, and rivers; markets, including both suppliers and customers; and readily available labor pools. Other brownfields redevelopment benefits include access to land with existing capital assets (e.g., buildings, power and telecommunications infrastructure, water, sewer, etc.), the availability of economic incentives, and unique redevelopment opportunities such as historic sites. Public-sector benefits include job creation, increased tax revenues, reduced urban sprawl, mitigation of health hazards, community and environmental stewardship, crime reduction, and prevention and elimination of neighborhood blight.

EDA's investments through its Public Works and Economic Adjustment programs help to revitalize, upgrade, and expand the physical infrastructure that is commonly needed for brownfields redevelopment. Such investments include the rehabilitation and reuse of older publicly owned buildings, as well as the construction of new infrastructure and facilities on reclaimed sites.

EDA's investments through its Planning and Technical Assistance programs support preliminary site development activities, such as area master planning, geographic information system brownfields inventories, and site specific market feasibility studies.

Analysis of Brownfields Redevelopment Investments

In Fiscal Year 2004, EDA approved twenty-seven brownfields redevelopment investments totaling \$24.5 million. Twelve of those, totaling approximately \$14.4 million, were public works investments. In Fiscal Year 2004, approximately three-quarters of EDA's brownfields assistance went to urban areas.

Example of EDA Brownfields Redevelopment Investments

EDA awarded a \$1 million Public Works program investment to Phase II of the Putnam Place Rehabilitation in Fitchburg, Massachusetts, to renovate an almost two-hundred square-foot building. The rehabilitated structure will

provide a high-bay, heavy-crane manufacturing space and eighty thousand square-feet of mixed-use manufacturing space, as well as office facilities. Putnam Place, a former turbine manufacturing plant that closed in 1998, demonstrates the effectiveness of EDA's assistance in the re-use of Brownfield sites to create multi-use, modern manufacturing space within distressed urban areas. It is anticipated that two-hundred-fifty new higher-skill, higher-wage jobs will be created and \$20 of million private investment will be leveraged by the EDA's investment in Putnam Place.

American Indian and Alaska Natives

Economic development of Indian communities and businesses has lagged behind the nation as a whole. Historically, Indian Country has experienced some of the nation's highest unemployment rates and lowest per capita incomes. Tribal lands are often located in geographically remote areas and lack adequate public infrastructure to support economic growth and development. In addition, Native American governments rarely have sufficient resources to self-fund investments that will lead to the creation of higher-wage, higher-skill jobs.

EDA has a long history of support for the economic development of Native American communities and Alaska Native villages. EDA has provided more than three-quarters of a billion dollars in assistance to native communities to promote and support their economic development from 1965 through 2004.

Analysis of EDA Investments to Native Communities

In Fiscal Year 2004, EDA made sixty-five investments totaling \$7.9 million across program areas to Native Americans and Alaska Native tribal governments and tribal organizations, including funding for the following: planning activities, university centers, business planning; marketing feasibility studies and support; improving infrastructure such as street paving, parking lot paving and lighting; constructing a manufacturing facility; extending an airport runway; and constructing a shop facility, which provides comprehensive training in construction trades to enable Native American tribes and Alaska Native villages to further develop their local economies.

Economic Adjustment Program

The Economic Adjustment program was created in 1974 by an amendment that added Title IX to the Public Works and Economic Development Act, EDA's authorizing legislation. Known as Section 209, the Economic Adjustment program uses a flexible set of tools to respond to the special needs of communities facing the most severe economic difficulties, namely the temporary or permanent change of the local or regional economic structural base.

Despite a fundamentally strong U.S. economy, radical economic change at the local level, precipitated by long-term and sudden economic events, remains a common occurrence. Adverse economic impacts may result from foreign trade competition causing the actual or threatened closure of a principle industry or company, a catastrophic natural or terrorist disaster, or a military base closure. Other impacts may result from such environmental issues as the following: protection of the spotted owl, which led to EDA's Pacific Northwest Timber initiative; declines in salmon harvests, which led to EDA's Alaska-Norton Sound Fisheries initiative; and, long-term declines in the Appalachian coal industry, which led to EDA's Appalachian Coal initiative.

In each case, economic events and the subsequent economic impacts, seriously threatened the economic survival of these communities. EDA's Economic Adjustment program continues to be the only comprehensive federal assistance for many such distressed communities. By providing assistance for the development of regional strategic planning, EDA empowers communities at the grass-roots level, thus helping them to rethink their economic future. Communities can develop plans to stabilize their local economies and grow in new and sustainable directions. The program can also fund critical portions of local action plans, including the following: essential infrastructure; technical assistance for business transitions and local capacity-building; and, revolving loan funds to help jump-start new competitive businesses.

EDA's Economic Adjustment program supports the following three predominant types of investment activities:

- **Strategy or capacity-building investments** help communities organize and implement a planning process, resulting in a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). An EDA-approved CEDS is a prerequisite for implementing an economic adjustment infrastructure improvement or revolving loan fund (RLF) investment, as it is for other EDA programs;
- **Implementation investments** help communities implement one or more initiatives identified in their EDA-approved CEDS by funding projects to construct public works, develop technical assistance, or local capacity-building facilities; and,

- **Revolving loan fund** investments capitalize an intermediary to make loans to local businesses, which otherwise cannot access commercial credit.

Eligibility Criteria for Economic Adjustment Program Investments

EDA's economic adjustment assistance may be awarded if an area meets any one of the following economic distress factors: low per capita income; high unemployment; disaster declaration; plant closures and layoffs; outmigration; underemployment; military base closure or defense contracting cuts; extraordinary depletion of natural resources; negative impacts of foreign trade; or, other special need.

Analysis of Economic Adjustment Program Investments

The Economic Adjustment program received a Fiscal Year 2004 appropriation of approximately \$40.5 million. The program received another \$26.3 million transferred from the Department of Defense for defense adjustment projects. Approximately, an additional \$6.2 million was expended from monies recovered from a combination of program carryovers, recoveries of prior year obligations, and other intergovernmental reimbursables. EDA also received \$542,000 in appropriated funds for disaster assistance.

For Fiscal Year 2004, through the Economic Adjustment program, EDA awarded one hundred twenty-nine investments totaling approximately \$73.6 million. The investment amounts ranged from a low of \$12,000 to a high of \$5.7 million. The average investment was approximately \$570,000.

In Fiscal Year 2004, nineteen strategy or capacity-building investments were awarded for approximately five percent of the Economic Adjustment budget. One-hundred-seven implementation or construction investments were awarded for approximately eighty-seven percent of the program allocation. Three RLF recapitalization investments were awarded for about three percent of the program allocation, and one disaster mitigation investment represented five percent of the budget.

The majority of EDA's Fiscal Year 2004 Economic Adjustment assistance went to city and county governments, nonprofit organizations, special purpose units of local government, and higher education institutions. Excluding transfers from the Department of Defense, over fifty percent of Economic Adjustment investments were made in rural areas.

In Fiscal Year 2004, areas of funding emphasis included technology-led economic development with forty-seven investments totaling \$26.7 million; community and faith-based social entrepreneurship with thirteen investments totaling \$13 million; brownfields redevelopment with ten investments totaling \$9.7 million; and, manufacturing extension partnership with twenty-nine investments totaling \$8.1 million.

Example of EDA Economic Adjustment Program Investment:

The following investment description exemplifies the flexibility and effectiveness of the Economic Adjustment program and the achievements EDA realizes through it in communities across the nation.

Racine County Economic Development Corporation and the Center for Advanced Technology and Innovation of Racine County Wisconsin, were awarded a \$125,000 EDA Economic Adjustment investment to create Regional Commercialization Management Model (RCMM), a regional technology-transfer model. EDA's investment promotes creativity and flexibility in the economic development of an area that has experienced shrinking job opportunities, including the loss of 3,000 jobs since 2000. RCMM acquires underutilized intellectual property, particularly product or process patents donated by private sector industries, and transfers it to newly organized companies, thereby providing opportunities to develop valuable new manufacturing technologies. In turn, the new technologies stimulate economic growth through commercialization strategies based on licensing arrangements. It is expected EDA's investment will generate approximately \$20 million in private investments and one-thousand-five-hundred new jobs in an area previously needing to adjust its economy. By identifying and implementing a creative model that provides the flexibility to adapt to changing manufacturing conditions, EDA's investment has a profound effect on the manufacturing base of Racine County.

Recovery from Economic Crisis

Areas of Special Interest

EDA Timber and Coal Initiatives assist impacted communities

In Fiscal Year 2004, under the Alaska Timber initiative, EDA awarded ten investments totaling \$6.5 million. Under the Northwest Timber initiative, EDA awarded thirteen investments totaling \$3.1 million. Under the Southeast

Timber initiative EDA assisted communities affected by declines in southeastern timber with three investments totaling \$2.9 million. And, under the Appalachian Coal initiative, EDA awarded six investments totaling \$5.5 million.

Disaster Mitigation

EDA disaster mitigation assistance provides pre-disaster planning and technical assistance, as well as infrastructure improvements to disaster-prone communities in order to reduce the adverse impacts of natural disasters on the local economy. Those EDA investments fund locally directed community activities and provide permanent solutions to reduce job-loss and promote economic vitality in hazard-prone communities.

In Fiscal Year 2004 EDA awarded a \$4 million investment for disaster mitigation efforts by communities in Florida following Hurricane Charley and Tropical Storm Bonnie.

Trade Adjustment Assistance Program

The Department of Commerce, including EDA, is strongly committed to supporting the policies of President George W. Bush that promote open trade, including Trade Promotion Authority. Trade with our international partners creates more good jobs for American workers and supports higher living standards for American families. While open trade builds prosperity and spurs economic growth, the reality is that some American firms are impacted by import competition. EDA is pleased to play a role in assisting eligible manufacturing and producing firms adjust to import competition through the Trade Adjustment Assistance for Firms program, as authorized by the Trade Act of 1974, as amended.

Investment Eligibility Criteria for Trade Adjustment Assistance

Only trade-injured manufacturers and producers are eligible to receive assistance under the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program. Service and retail firms are not eligible for assistance under the program.

Investments to operate Trade Adjustment Assistance Centers (TAACs) may be awarded to institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations or other appropriate entities. Seven institutions of higher education, three single-purpose nonprofit organizations, and one employers' association received funding in Fiscal Year 2004 to sponsor a TAAC. See Chapter IV for a listing of the TAACs.

Analysis of Trade Adjustment Assistance Investments

In Fiscal Year 2004, EDA awarded approximately \$12 million in TAA funding to the national TAAC network. EDA certified one-hundred-sixty-two firms as eligible to apply for assistance under the TAA program. EDA also approved adjustment proposals from one-hundred-sixty-five firms, which had an average of eighty-eight employees and approximately \$11.6 million in sales. Under the program, a firm must share in paying the costs of consultants' fees for implementing the technical assistance outlined in its adjustment proposal. The combined average cost to EDA and a firm for technical assistance implementation outlined in an adjustment proposal was \$96,500.

Examples of technical assistance tasks implemented from adjustment proposals approved in Fiscal Year 2004 are as follows:

- In California, a manufacturer of high technology video transport equipment received \$36,495 in program assistance to design engineering of new products. The introduction of these products generated \$1.5 million in new sales.
- In Georgia, a producer of southern yellow pine lumber received \$41,395 in program assistance for site preparation, installation, start-up and training costs associated with separate process control equipment for their drying kiln and saw operations. The firm realized a two percent reduction in process waste in the drying kiln stage and expects a ten percent reduction in process waste in the saw operation. Those improvements helped to retain two jobs and increase sales by more than \$100,000.
- In Indiana, a precision machining company was awarded \$76,000 to implement two productivity improvements projects. Those improvements resulted in monthly cost savings of \$80,000, which returned the firm to profitability and enabled it to add three new employees.
- In New York, a manufacturer of motion controls and networked drives received \$65,200 in program assistance to obtain ISO 9000:2000 certification and the CE mark, which is required for sales in the European Union. The firm now actively pursues sales in Europe and is currently considered for two projects, which have estimated sales totaling \$5 million.
- In Wisconsin, a metal fabricating firm received \$33,400 in program assistance to revamp its marketing materials, including Web site, printed materials, and a CD to demonstrate the firm's capabilities. With those improved marketing materials the firm secured new contracts to assemble passenger rail cars for regional transportation entities in Illinois and Virginia.

- In Oregon, a grass and flower seed producer received \$9,640 in program assistance for Web site enhancements, thus making it more user friendly for current and potential customers. Since launching its enhanced Web site, the firm realized a substantial increase in the number of orders, which provided total sales of \$1.7 million, an increase of two-hundred-seventy-seven percent.
- In Colorado, a custom electrical cable manufacturer received \$14,261 in program assistance to train and certify its workers to industry standard practices and to develop an inventory software system to ensure that critical components are always on-hand. These improvements advanced sales to \$3.3 million and increased employment by fifty percent.

Economic Development Planning Program

The Economic Development Planning program provides essential investment support to Economic Development Districts (EDDs), Native American organizations, states, sub-state planning regions, urban counties, cities, and other eligible applicants to assist in planning. The two categories of the Planning program are: Partnership Planning investments for Economic Development Districts, Indian Tribes, and other eligible areas; and, Short Term Planning investments to states, sub-state planning regions, and urban areas.

Eligible activities under this program include preparing and maintaining a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, implementing the elements of the strategy, and providing planning and technical assistance services to communities and local governments within the organization's jurisdiction. EDA investments are normally awarded on an annual basis and priority consideration is given to currently funded entities with satisfactory performance.

Note: Only current recipients of Partnership Planning Investments are provided in the state by state directory of Economic Development Districts printed in Chapter IV.

Analysis of all EDA Economic Development Planning Investments

In Fiscal Year 2004, EDA awarded investments under the District Partnership Planning program, which totaled \$17.6 million to two-hundred-eighty districts. One of the investments supports fourteen districts in Kentucky. An additional fifty-three investments totaling approximately \$2.5 million were made under the Indian Partnership Planning program. Four Partnership Planning program investments totaling approximately \$230,000 were made to

eligible areas partnerships. Under the Short Term Planning Program, EDA approved fifty-eight investments totaling approximately \$3.7 million.

Partnership Planning Investments for Economic Development Districts, Indian Tribes, and Other Eligible Areas

Partnership planning investments provide support for the formulation and implementation of local economic development programs and strategies designed to create higher-skill, higher-wage jobs and to increase income for the unemployed and underemployed in areas of economic distress. EDA investments enhance economic development planning capability, support the formulation of development policies, and assist in building local institutional capacity.

Example of an EDA District Planning Program Investment:

An EDA District Planning program investment of \$51,000 was awarded to the Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council (COIC) for the purpose of assisting local communities and officials in Crook, Deshutes, and Jefferson Counties in their efforts to develop long-term investment strategies, recruit and maintain businesses, and advance the region's infrastructure. Results of this planning effort between the public and private sectors are illustrated by the expansion of a fuel cell manufacturer located in Bend, Oregon. The firm added nineteen new higher-wage jobs with an additional twenty-five slated for late 2006. COIC also assisted in the construction of an approximately ninety-thousand square-foot production facility for a manufacturer of aircraft parts, which will create approximately twenty new higher-skilled, higher-wage jobs by December 2006. Additionally, in the city of Prineville, COIC provided project development assistance for the expansion of a secondary wood product manufacturer, which created forty-four new jobs. EDA has provided planning assistance to central Oregon since 1981, including assistance to the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs whose members serve on the COIC Board.

Partnership Planning for Native American Tribes and Alaska Native Villages

In Indian Country and in Alaska Native Villages, preliminary planning and analysis are critical to the successful implementation of economic development investments that will lead to the creation of higher-wage, higher-skill jobs. In Fiscal Year 2004, EDA awarded fifty-three investments totaling \$2.5 million under its Partnership Planning program to Native American and Alaska Native governments. EDA expects to award a similar amount in Fiscal Year 2005. These planning investments provide financial assistance to Tribal governments to prepare and maintain

comprehensive economic development strategies. By carefully crafting economic development strategies that reflect local priorities, Native American and Alaska Native governments better position themselves to direct their limited economic development resources to their optimal uses.

Short Term Planning Investments to States, Sub-State Planning Regions, and Urban Areas

Short Term Planning investments support significant new economic development planning, policymaking, and implementation. They also establish comprehensive economic development planning processes cooperatively with the state, political subdivisions of the state, and economic development districts. Investments under this program are generally for a twelve-month period and assistance may be renewed for two additional years.

Economic development planning and implementation activities such as economic analyses, defining economic development goals, identifying project opportunities, and formulating and implementing development programs may be supported under this program. Other eligible activities include establishing and maintaining a comprehensive economic development planning process, coordinating multi-jurisdictional planning efforts, developing institutional planning capacity, and identifying approaches for diversifying the local economy. Any state receiving assistance under the program is required to maintain a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy developed in cooperation with its political subdivisions and economic development districts.

EDA Technical Assistance Program

Local Technical Assistance Program

The Local Technical Assistance program helps leaders in the public and non-profit sectors, especially those in distressed communities, gain essential information for making decisions on local economic development issues. Investments funded under this program most commonly assist communities in undertaking specific planning studies or analyzing the feasibility of an economic development investment, such as a business incubator or an industrial park for creating new or retaining existing jobs in the local economy. However, the strength of the Local Technical Assistance program lies in its flexibility to address a broad range of local economic development needs and priorities. EDA investments under this program can assist communities in preparing downtown revitalization strategies,

tourism marketing plans, and export marketing programs for locally produced goods and services. It can also help in conducting targeted studies about economic development, such as an analysis of local labor skills and needs.

Analysis of Local Technical Assistance Investments

EDA awarded \$2 million in Local Technical Assistance to fund thirteen investments, two of which were supported with funds transferred from the Department of Defense.

University Center Technical Assistance Program

Institutions of higher education house a wealth of resources, including faculty, staff, computer facilities, laboratories, and libraries. The University Center Technical Assistance program helps institutions of higher education establish and operate outreach programs that use their own and other resources to provide technical assistance that addresses economic development needs and opportunities in their service areas, especially in distressed communities.

The majority of EDA University Centers assist non-profit organizations in analyzing and implementing economic development projects and programs. Other University Centers focus their programs on providing private sector firms with technology transfer assistance to help create or stabilize job opportunities. In Fiscal Year 2004 EDA funded fifteen University Centers sponsored by minority-serving institutions; six are sponsored by historically Black colleges and universities, seven by Hispanic-serving institutions, one by a Tribal college, and one by a Hawaiian Peleponnesian college.

Analysis of University Center Technical Assistance Investments

EDA renewed its financial assistance investments to eighty-four EDA University Centers in Fiscal Year 2004. Several EDA University Centers received investments in a prior fiscal year and, therefore, were not due for renewal in Fiscal Year 2004. Other University Centers were funded on an interim basis until EDA held the competition for University Center awards in their particular region. The investment in EDA University Centers in Fiscal Year 2004 was approximately \$7.1 million.

Note: In Fiscal Year 2004, EDA implemented a competition for investments awarded to University Centers. The first round of competition was held in EDA's regional offices in Austin and Denver. In Fiscal Year 2005, EDA conducted a second round of competition for University Center funding in its regional offices in Chicago and

Philadelphia. In Fiscal Year 2006 the competition will be implemented in EDA's regional offices in Atlanta and Seattle. Therefore, only current recipients of EDA University Center investments are provided in the state-by-state directory printed in Chapter IV.

Research and National Technical Assistance Program

The Research and National Technical Assistance Program develops a comprehensive base of information about economic development issues; disseminates information to local, state and national economic practitioners; and, evaluates the performance of economic development programs. Information dissemination investments make crucial information on economic development programs, projects and emerging issues available to practitioners through targeted newsletters, Web sites, conferences, and other media. Research investments examine existing and emerging issues in economic development, and then document the results for practitioners and policymakers. Evaluation investments assess the economic impact of funding under EDA's programs to measure each program's effectiveness and to make recommendations for improvements. Two Research investments totaling \$296,000 and two National Technical Assistance investments totaling \$563,371 were awarded in Fiscal Year 2004.

