

Excellence
In Economic
Development
Awards
2004

*“The role of government is to create conditions in which
jobs are created in which people can find work.”*

President George W. Bush



Excellence in Economic Development Awards 2004

Dear Colleagues:

President Bush has said, "The role of government is to create conditions in which jobs are created, in which people can find work." The twin goals of his Administration are to increase the productivity and wealth of the American economy; and to ensure that all communities share in economic opportunity.

The challenge for today's state and local officials and economic development organizations is to fashion action-oriented, market-based strategies to ensure they are positioned not just to compete, but thrive in the 21st century's global economy. The use of such best practices is a key strategy in achieving successful results.

EDA is proud to present the Excellence in Economic Development Awards 2004, which will highlight best practices nationwide, at the Economic Development Administration's National Conference, held June 8-10, 2004, at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC.

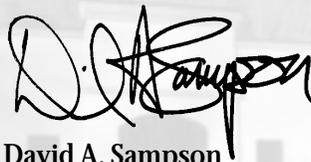
Nominations for the Excellence in Economic Development Awards 2004 will be accepted for the following categories:

- Excellence in Urban or Suburban Economic Development
- Excellence in Rural Economic Development
- Excellence in Enhancing Regional Competitiveness
- Excellence in Economic Adjustment Strategies
- Excellence in Technology-led Economic Development
- Excellence in Community and Faith-Based Social Entrepreneurship
- Excellence in Innovation

The competition is open to nonprofit organizations, local, state and regional government entities, universities and colleges. A highly qualified and independent panel of economic development practitioners, academics, and government representatives will make the award selections. The nomination criteria and application information follow.

If you have any questions please contact EDA's Office of Communications and Congressional Liaison at 202-482-2309. We look forward to receiving your nominations for the Excellence in Economic Development Awards 2004.

Sincerely,



David A. Sampson
Assistant Secretary
for Economic Development

Overview

The Excellence in Economic Development Awards 2004 recognizes innovative economic development strategies of national significance. The Awards are designed to showcase best practices and highlight outstanding results. Nominations are made in specific categories, provided below. A Selection Panel, appointed by the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development, then evaluates nominees. Award recipients will receive a commemorative award and will be invited to highlight their successful strategies at EDA's National Conference in June 2004.

This announcement describes the rules governing the Excellence in Economic Development Awards 2004 competition, including eligibility, selection criteria, nomination and selection processes, composition of the Selection Panel, and other information needed to submit a nomination.

Nomination Procedure

Nominations for the Excellence in Economic Development Awards 2004 may be submitted by any organization or individual, excluding members of the Selection Panel. A bona fide representative of the nominated organization must endorse the nomination. Unless EDA is informed otherwise, this individual will serve as the official representative of the nominee for purposes of requesting additional information and for advising outcomes of the evaluation process.

Nominations must be submitted in accordance with the instructions provided in this packet. Additional copies of the nomination materials and rules of the competition may be obtained directly from the Economic Development Administration, either on the agency's Web site, www.eda.gov, or by contacting: U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration, Office of Communications and Congressional Liaison, 1401 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20230; (202) 482-2309.

Eligibility

Eligible nominees include:

- Nonprofit organizations;
- Local, state and regional governments; and,
- Universities and colleges.

For profit firms and institutions are not eligible.

Nominated investments may include:

- Specific projects of national importance; or
- The cumulative activities of the nominee.

Selection Process

EDA employees review each nomination received for completeness and adherence to the rules of the competition. Each complete nomination is then forwarded to the Selection Panel, where it is reviewed by at least three members. Each review ranks the nominee on a numeric scale for each of the selection criteria.

The top three nominees in each award category advance as finalists. The Selection Panel ranks the finalists, for consideration by the Assistant Secretary for Economic Development, using the announced criteria. The Assistant Secretary then selects the winners. If no finalist in an award category achieves the level of excellence contemplated in this award, the Assistant Secretary may decide not to make an award in that category. Finalists will be announced on April 26, 2004. Winners will be notified by May 17, 2004.

EDA may amend the selection process from one year to the next, but shall not alter the rules for a given year after the initial announcement is made. EDA staff and the Selection Panel reserve the right to contact nominees in order to verify information submitted or to obtain additional information necessary to evaluate the nomination. Nominees are under no obligation to provide this information, but should recognize that failure to provide the information may lower their chances of being selected as a winner.

Selection Panel

In any given year, the Selection Panel is composed of seven individuals, selected by the Assistant Secretary for Economic Development, and includes the following:

- 2 representatives of the nonfederal economic development practitioner community;
- 1 member from academe;
- 3 representatives of the Economic Development Administration; and,
- 1 at-large member.

Selection Panel members may not be employees, officers, consultants, or contractors of any nominated organization. In the event such a conflict of interest is discovered, either the Selection Panel member must be removed from the selection process or the nominated organization shall withdraw its entry. The Assistant Secretary may replace any Selection Panel member who resigns. The term of the Selection Panel members shall be one year.

Award Categories for Excellence in Economic Development Awards 2004

Winners of the EDA Excellence in Economic Development Award 2004 will be announced at the EDA National Conference held June 8-10, 2004 at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC.

Excellence in Urban or Suburban Economic Development

Nominee utilizes innovative, market-based strategies to improve urban or suburban economic development results.

Excellence in Rural Economic Development

Nominee utilizes innovative, market-based strategies to improve rural economic development results.

Excellence in Enhancing Regional Competitiveness

Nominee enhances regional competitiveness and supports long-term development of the regional economy.

Excellence in Economic Adjustment Strategies

Nominee helps communities plan and implement economic adjustment strategies in response to sudden and severe economic dislocations.

Excellence in Technology-led Economic Development

Nominee supports technology-led economic development and reflects the important role of linking universities and industry and technology transfers.

Excellence in Community and Faith-Based Social Entrepreneurship

Nominee advances community and faith-based social entrepreneurship in redevelopment strategies for areas of chronic economic distress.

Excellence in Innovation

Nominee incorporates innovative strategies for maximum results.

Seven Selection Criteria

1. The nomination is market-based.

The nomination should capitalize on the community's unique regional assets and strengths to build comparative advantages for future business investment.

2. The nomination is proactive in nature and scope.

The nomination should support and advance innovation and increased productivity. Provide evidence to demonstrate how the nomination has enhanced a community's success in achieving a high and rising standard of living.

3. The nomination looks beyond the immediate economic horizon, anticipates economic changes and diversifies the local and regional economy.

The nomination should be part of an overarching, long-term regional strategy that includes expanding existing industry clusters and developing emerging, new clusters. Provide measurable evidence that the nomination has created conditions for sustained productivity.

4. The nomination maximizes the attraction of private-sector investments

The nomination should demonstrate that it has attracted private-sector investments to a community that otherwise would not have been attracted.

5. The nomination has demonstrated a high-rate of sustained success.

The nomination should have a high level of local, state, and private matching funds. Explain how large local, private participation indicates a high level of commitment to the nomination for sustained, excellent performance and higher market-based credibility by the private-sector.

The nomination should have a high degree of commitment among locally-elected officials. Provide demonstrable evidence of the active commitment to the nomination by local officials.

The nomination should have a significant commitment of human resources talent to ensure achievement of projected outcomes. Provide demonstrable evidence of strong leadership to support the economic development strategy, initiative, or investment of the nomination.

6. The nomination resulted in an environment where higher-skill, higher-wage jobs were created.

The jobs created or retained by the nomination should be higher than the average wage and skill level for the community. Provide measurable evidence that the goal of the nomination to achieve a high and rising standard of living has been achieved.

7. The nominee maximized Return on Taxpayer Investment.

Nominations should generate a return for the taxpayer by attracting private capital investment and high wage jobs that promote regional prosperity through the consumer demand they create. Provide demonstrable evidence that the nominee promoted economic self-sufficiency; provided the resources for building, safe healthy, and attractive communities; and minimized poverty.

Specific instructions for submitting nominations for Excellence in Economic Development Awards 2004

1. Include a statement of **no more than five (5) pages** describing the contributions of the nominee's program(s). The statement should address each of the seven selection criteria provided on page five.
2. Include a maximum of three letters of support **with** the nomination.
3. All nominees are required to include **six** photocopied sets of the complete nominations.
4. Print photographs submitted with a nomination cannot be returned; digital photographs may be provided.
5. Nominations must be received by Wednesday, March 10, 2004.
6. Submit complete nominations via one of the following methods:
 - E-mail: awards@eda.doc.gov
 - U.S. Mail: U.S. Department of Commerce, EDA, Office of Communications and Congressional Liaison, Room 7824, 1404 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20230
 - Delivery Services: Due to mail issues in Washington, DC, applicants are encouraged to submit information by a courier service of their choice.
7. Additional copies of the Excellence in Economic Development Awards 2004 nomination brochures and nomination forms may be downloaded from the EDA Web site at www.eda.gov. Additional copies may also be requested by calling EDA Headquarters, Office of Communications and Congressional Liaison at 202-482-2309.

Key Dates

Nominations must be received by	March 10, 2004
Notification of finalist.....	April 26, 2004
Notification of winners.....	May 17, 2004

Nomination Form

Award for Excellence in Economic Development 2004

Organization name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State and ZIP Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

Web address: _____ e-mail: _____

Check one category:

- Excellence in Urban or Suburban Economic Development
- Excellence in Rural Economic Development
- Excellence in Enhancing Regional Competitiveness
- Excellence in Economic Adjustment Strategies
- Excellence in Technology-led Economic Development
- Excellence in Community and Faith-based Social Entrepreneurship
- Excellence in Innovation

For Agency Use Only. Logged by: _____

Date received: _____

timely receipt of application

statement included

_____ letters of support included

Date sent to Panel: _____

Check one category:

- This is a nomination for the organization's overall efforts
- This is a nomination for the specific program or project of the organization named below:

Check one response:

Yes or No EDA is hereby authorized to publish a summary of this nomination, should it qualify as a finalist.

Check one response:

Yes or No EDA is hereby authorized to publish this nomination's contact information, including address, phone, fax, e-mail and Web site.

Nominee Certification

Please Print Name of Nominee Representative: _____

Signature of Nominee Representative: _____

I certify that I have the authority to represent the nominee organization in public matters. I also certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the substantive statements in this application are true. I understand that if this application is found to contain substantive and willful misrepresentations, the nominee will be disqualified from the award competition

Title of Nominee Representative: _____

Contact Information for Nominee Representative:

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State and Zip Code: _____

Confidentiality

The selection scores and content deliberations used to select finalists and winners will not be disclosed except to the extent provided by law.

Endorsements

The Award for Excellence in Economic Development is honorary only, and does not constitute an endorsement of any revenue producing goods, publications, or services the winner may offer.

Additional copies of the Excellence in Economic Development Awards 2003 application brochures can be downloaded from the EDA Web site at www.eda.gov. Additional copies may also be requested by calling EDA Headquarters, Office of Congressional Liaison and Communications at 202-482-2309.

Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, no person is required to respond to, nor shall any person be subject to a penalty for failure to comply with, a collection of information subject to the requirements of the Paperwork Reduction Act, unless that collection of information displays a currently valid OMB Control Number. The OMB Approved Number for this Collection is 0610-0097.

The information is used by EDA to recognize outstanding economic development activities of national importance and to determine those applicants best meeting the pre-announced criteria. No confidentiality for the information submitted is promised or provided except that which is exempt under 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(4) as confidential business information.

The public reporting burden for this collection is estimated to average 3 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to: Economic Development Administration, Herbert C. Hoover Building, Washington, D.C. 20230, and to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs of Management and Budget, Washington, D.C. 20503.



Mission Statement of the Economic Development Administration

The mission of the Economic Development Administration (EDA) is to help our partners across the nation (states, regions, and communities) create wealth and minimize poverty by promoting a favorable business environment to attract private capital investment and create higher-skill, higher-wage jobs through world-class capacity-building, planning, infrastructure, research grants and strategic initiatives.

EDA was established under the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3121).

EDA is committed to providing financial assistance to meet the economic development needs of distressed communities throughout the United States.

