

**Economic Development Administration
Planning Performance Awards
Third Quarter of Fiscal Year 2008**

The week of July 28, 2008, Sandy K. Baruah, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development, announced two EDA Planning Performance Award recipients for the third quarter of Fiscal Year 2008.

Recipient: City of Princeton, Illinois (Princeton)

Location: Princeton, Illinois

Planning Performance Award Amount: \$33,750

EDA Original Investment Amount: \$675,000

Investment Description:

In 2005, EDA invested \$675,000 to upgrade infrastructure necessary to attract a telecommunications firm as the first tenant in Princeton's technology park.

Description of Planning Performance Award Achievements:

In 2003, Princeton embarked on initiatives to transition from its traditional-manufacturing and agriculture-based economy to a knowledge-based economy. In 2005, to support those initiatives, EDA invested \$675,000 to fund infrastructure improvements necessary to secure a telecommunications firm as the first tenant in Princeton's technology park. Princeton earned an EDA Planning Performance Award for its active participation in activities of the Economic Development District, its fulfillment of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs), and its exceptional collaboration among federal, regional, state, and local entities to implement regional economic development activities.

Recipient: Central Arizona Association of Governments (CAAG)

Location: Gila and Pinal Counties, Arizona

Planning Performance Award Amount: \$2,196

EDA Original Investment Amount: \$43,923

Investment Description:

In 2006, EDA invested \$43,923 in CAAG to enable the rural counties of Gila and Pinal, Arizona, to develop and implement a regional tourism strategy by building on the region's rich military history.

Description of Planning Performance Award Achievements:

EDA funded CAAG's effort to identify 20 forts and camps, sites of 17 military engagements, 10 museums that include military-related exhibits, and nine memorials and monuments. CAAG earned an EDA Planning Performance Award for its broad collaboration with public and private organizations, including the Economic Development Districts (EDDs) and the San Carlos Apache Tribe, marking the first time that a Native American community contributed to the EDD's economic development efforts. CAAG also distributed 165,000 brochures in local and international markets, which resulted in a 40 percent regional increase in tourism and a 100 percent increase in international tourism inquiries.