

Economic Development Administration Planning Performance Awards First Quarter of Fiscal Year 2008

At the discretion of the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development, a recipient of investment assistance, located in an EDA-funded Economic Development District, or the EDD, may receive a planning performance award in an amount not to exceed 5 percent of the investment. Fiscal Year 2007 was the first year that EDA issued planning performance awards to those EDA investment recipients whose projects demonstrated outstanding collaboration and effectiveness in the planning phase of a project. Recipients of Planning Performance Awards must use their award to increase EDA's share of the cost of an EDA-funded project, thereby decreasing the dollar amount of the local match.

Sandy K. Baruah, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development, announced the following EDA Planning Performance Award recipients for the First Quarter of Fiscal Year 2008, during the week of January 14, 2008

Recipient: **Georgia Tech Research Corporation, Office of Economic Development and Technology Ventures, supporting Georgia Tech Innovation Institute, Atlanta, Georgia**

Award Amount: \$4,228

Investment Description:
Collaborative plan to support regional innovators.

Planning Performance Achievements:
The Georgia Tech Innovation Institute supports innovators by expanding entrepreneurial development and commercialization of new technologies. Specific assistance programs include: innovator profiling, cataloging university-based innovator assistance programs, development and providing to innovators online self-help toolkits, development and delivery of workshops targeted to individuals with active patents and development and piloting of a technology evaluation assessment tool.

Recipient: **Mid-Region Council of Governments (MR COG), New Mexico**

Award Amount: \$7,500

Investment Description:
Collaborative plan to create the New Mexico Association of Regional Councils.

Planning Performance Achievements:
MR COG demonstrated strong leadership in the creation of the New Mexico Association of Regional Councils, which will increase effectiveness of all seven of New Mexico's Economic Development Districts. During the state's legislative session, MR COG collaborated effectively on transportation, regional water plans and agriculture to help assure future economic development successes. Finally MR COG collaborated to promote the NM Rail Runner Express in Albuquerque and facilitated its integration into the regional economic development strategy.

Recipient: **Ravalli County Economic Development Authority
(Ravalli County) Hamilton, Montana**

Award Amount: \$1,000

Investment Description:
Plan to implement initial phase of a business plan for an entrepreneurship center.

Planning Performance Achievements:
Ravalli County demonstrated leadership in the creation of the regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, including the key concept of "economic gardening."

Recipient: **Mississippi Development Authority (MDA)
Jackson, Mississippi**

Award Amount: \$200,000

Investment Description:
Collaborative plan to implement recovery initiatives following Hurricane Katrina.

Planning Performance Achievements:

MDA's collaborative planning achievements following Hurricane Katrina included coordinating planning recovery initiatives for eighteen impacted coastal communities, operating four business assistance centers and restoring the state's business and tourism image. To accomplish those achievements, MDA effectively collaborated with EDA, numerous other federal, regional and state agencies, including the Mississippi Governor's Commission for Recovery, Rebuilding and Renewal, and particularly the Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District.

Recipients: **Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation** (Tribes)
Pendleton, Oregon
Eastern Oregon University, Rural Oregon Institute
(University) LaGrande, Oregon
Greater Eastern Oregon Development Corporation
(Corporation) Pendleton, Oregon

Award Amounts: \$2,000 Tribes
\$5,500 University
\$2,850 Corporation

Investment Description:
Collaborative plan to develop a business park.

Planning Performance Achievements:
The Tribes, University and Corporation earned individual awards in recognition of their collaborative achievements to prepare the master plan for development of a business park. The park is expected to generate \$10 million in private investment and its first tenant is a global management and technology services firm. Approximately 200 high-paying jobs will be created in the park, for which the Tribes helped to establish workforce development programs at the University to train their members.