



EDA Update



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EDA Plays Vital Role in Post-Disaster Long-Term Economic Recovery

Natural disasters over the last several months prompted Congress to appropriate \$100 million to EDA through its Economic Adjustment Assistance Program (as part of the \$2.65 billion FY 2008 Disaster Supplemental Appropriations Act). Communities that received a federal Presidential disaster declaration starting January 1, 2008, and continuing through incident periods occurring until June 30, 2008, are eligible for funding. The funding supports the development and implementation of long-term, regionally-based economic redevelopment strategies. EDA's six regional offices, located in Atlanta, Austin, Chicago, Denver, Philadelphia, and Seattle, will administer these disaster assistance grants.

EDA is the primary Department of Commerce bureau to assist with post-disaster economic recovery – although it does not have "first responder" duties or capabilities. In disaster situations, EDA typically offers four services:

1. Economic Impact Assessment: EDA assists the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) through a mission assignment protocol to help evaluate the economic impact of the disaster.
2. Strategic Planning: EDA offers financial resources and technical assistance to help regions to organize, develop and implement a recovery strategy following a disaster.
3. Infrastructure Development: EDA offers grant funds to build new infrastructure (e.g. business incubators, technology parks, research facilities, basic utilities such as water treatment) to retain or attract jobs to the region. *NOTE: EDA cannot rebuild existing public infrastructure damaged during the disaster; that is FEMA's responsibility.*
4. Business Loans: Through EDA's Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) program, non-profit and governmental entities can apply to establish an RLF which in turn makes below market-rate loans to businesses to help recovery.

When responding to the needs of communities with sudden and severe economic distress, EDA has focused on assisting state and local interests in designing and implementing strategies to adjust and rebuild the economic infrastructure. EDA stresses that planning and implementation should take place and be driven at the local level where needs are best analyzed and met.

A portion of the supplemental funds have already been put to immediate use. Recent grants include:

- a \$3 million investment to Iowa for statewide economic planning, which will create a blueprint for recovery;
- a \$250,000 grant to the West Virginia Office of Emergency Services to develop a study of sustainable economic recovery in the event of future natural disasters;
- a \$250,000 investment to Maine to develop a business-focused disaster mitigation and recovery plan;
- funds dedicated to both Missouri (over \$780,000) and Nebraska (\$500,000) to develop natural disaster recovery strategies;
- providing \$800,000 to Wisconsin to facilitate disaster recovery efforts in several counties in southern and southeastern Wisconsin that flooded over this past summer;
- funding for Indiana and Illinois, \$400,000 and \$500,000 respectively, to develop a flood recovery strategy; and,
- a \$300,000 grant to the Arkansas Economic Development Commission and the Institute for Economic Advancement at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock for economic recovery efforts in the 62 counties that suffered flood and tornado damage resulting from the 2008 natural disasters.

By providing timely disaster recovery assistance, in support of long-term state and

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APA's Economic Development Toolbox Part Seven: Economic Development Indicators

Economic development indicators can be a valuable tool for developers and communities if they are carefully developed and presented in a manner that is easily understood. In the APA's Toolbox, <http://www.planning.org/eda/#7>, key criteria for selecting indicators such as validity; relevance; consistency and reliability; measurability; clarity; comprehensiveness; cost-effectiveness; and attractiveness to the media are presented. Understanding how the indicators can best be used also helps a community and region better realize its economic development vision. The Toolbox also lays out how to make this determination and is a useful guide to help practitioners make the most of the data they collect and present, to support their activities and goals.

Coming Soon!

October 19-20, 2008

APA's 2008 Federal Policy & Program Briefing, Washington, DC [\[Website\]](#)

October 19-22, 2008

IEDC 2008 Annual Conference, Atlanta [\[Website\]](#)

November 17-23, 2008

Global Entrepreneurship Week [\[Website\]](#)

EDA's Reauthorization

EDA is pleased to announce that the Department of Commerce submitted to Congress a legislative proposal to reauthorize EDA for five years. EDA's current authorization expires

local economic development needs, EDA is bolstering the economic viability and competitiveness of America's regions in today's worldwide marketplace.

To learn more about the Supplemental Appropriations Disaster Relief Opportunity, please visit www.eda.gov.

Louisiana receives over \$9 million from EDA

As part of its ongoing commitment to promote economic recovery post-disaster, EDA awarded over \$9 million in the state of Louisiana. Towns, cities, foundations and associations will receive technical assistance targeted to the areas affected by Hurricane Gustav.

The funds are being utilized for economic development planning, infrastructure improvements and business loans across the state.

Specific investments include:

- \$2.5 million to the State of Louisiana Economic Development to provide a variety of services and activities to restore commerce and quality of life to pre-disaster levels;
- \$1.5 million to the Town of Rayville for road infrastructure;
- \$1.2 million to the Greater Ouachita Port Commission for port infrastructure;
- \$1 million to the Saint Bernard Port Commission for port infrastructure;
- \$700,000 to the Terrebonne Parish Port Commission for port infrastructure;
- \$500,000 to the Acadiana Regional Development District for Revolving Loan Fund recapitalization;
- \$460,000 to the Regional Business Development Loan Corporation for Revolving Loan Fund recapitalization;
- \$450,000 to the International Economic Development Council for technical assistance;
- \$303,500 to the Regional Planning Commission for disaster recovery;
- \$250,000 to the Tri-District Planning & Development District for Revolving Loan Fund recapitalization;
- \$250,000 to the UNO Foundation for university research and technology park planning; and
- \$200,000 to the Louisiana Association of Planning & Development Districts for rural economic development assistance.

These investments are similar to many EDA has made throughout the years for the support of post-disaster economic recovery efforts. While EDA is not a first responder, it has played an active role in strengthening economies affected by disasters such as the Midwest floods in 1993 and 1997, as well as Hurricane Floyd (2000), the Florida hurricanes in 2004, and the 2005 Gulf Coast hurricanes.

These investments continue to solidify EDA's role in building sustainable economies that enhance innovation, competitiveness and provide higher-wage, higher-skill jobs across the United States.

Promoting Sources of Growth : The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)

The 200,000-square mile Appalachia region spans across 13 states with approximately 23 million people. This unique geographic area – nearly 50 percent rural — brings unique challenges in terms of economic development and sustainability.

The ARC, a federal-state partnership, promotes self-sustaining economic development and quality of life opportunities for the people of the region through collaboration and partnerships. These partnerships create thousands of new jobs, improve local water and sewer systems, increase school readiness, expand access to health care, assist local communities with strategic planning, and provide technical, managerial, and marketing assistance to emerging new businesses. EDA and ARC have a longstanding partnership in assisting rural communities prepare for economic growth in the 21st century.

September 30, 2008. The proposed reauthorization legislation is good news for the economic development community because it includes new provisions that offer investment recipients more local control over revolving loan funds and construction grants. These provisions demonstrate how EDA is listening to, and acting upon, the economic development community's calls for improved EDA's programs to meet the changing needs of the 21st century economy.

Please monitor www.eda.gov for more information as this legislation progresses through Congress.

ARC has two distinct programs – the Area Development Program and the Highway Program. Through these two initiatives ARC funds hundreds of projects that address the four primary goals identified in its 2005–2010 Strategic Plan:

1. Increasing job opportunities and per capita income in Appalachia to reach parity with the nation;
2. Strengthening the capacity of the people of Appalachia to compete in the worldwide economy;
3. Developing and improving Appalachia's infrastructure to make the region economically competitive; and
4. Building the Appalachian Development Highway System to reduce Appalachia's isolation.

Highway Program:

ARC's Highway Program focuses on the completion of the Appalachian Development Highway System (ADHS) which was authorized by Congress in the Appalachian Development Act of 1965. The ADHS was designed to:

- Generate economic development in previously isolated areas;
- Supplement the interstate system and connect Appalachia to the interstate system; and
- Provide access to areas within the region as well as to markets in the rest of the nation.

Area Development Program:

The Area Development Program is focused on bringing Appalachia's people in top America's economic mainstream. This program focuses on three key areas:

- Promoting a diversified regional economy through strategies that help communities create and retain businesses and jobs;
- Helping communities develop an educated, skilled workforce and create access to affordable, quality health care; and
- Supporting the development and improvement of infrastructure, including water and sewer services, and the development and use of Internet access.

For more information about the ARC or to view their grant opportunities, please visit www.arc.gov.



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