

Planning Program

What does the Planning Program do?

The Economic Development Planning Assistance program provides essential investment support to district organizations, Native American organizations, states, sub-state planning regions, urban counties, cities and other eligible recipient to assist in planning. The two categories of the Planning Assistance program are: (a) planning investments for District Organizations, Indian Tribes and other eligible entities; and (b) short-term planning investments to states, sub-state planning regions and urban areas. Eligible activities under this program include developing, maintaining, and implementing a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and related short-term planning activities.

Why are planning grants important?

Locally-owned strategic planning is critical to facilitating regional economic development efforts. Effective planning creates a road map, which practitioners and policymakers can use to identify and take the actionable steps necessary to realize their desired economic vision. This is central to the bottom-up strategy of working with local communities to help them meet goals set and achieved locally with support from EDA.

How do planning grants relate to Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS)?

EDA supports Partnership Planning investments to facilitate the development, implementation, revision, or replacement of Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS), which articulate and prioritize the strategic economic goals of recipients' respective regions.

How does a district organization go about obtaining their designation as an Economic Development District (EDD)?

The district organization will work with EDA's designated regional office to provide a socio-economic background of the region and an economic justification for EDD designation.

What criteria are used in determining which projects receive planning grants?

- The project's demonstrated alignment with at least one of EDA's current investment priorities as published on EDA's website at www.eda.gov
- The project's potential to increase the capacity of the community or region to promote job creation and private investment in the regional economy
- The likelihood that the project will achieve its projected outcomes
- Ability of the applicant to successfully implement the proposed project, including the applicant's financial and management capacity and the applicant's capacity to secure the support of key public and private sector stakeholders

How do I get more information on how to apply?

The Federal Funding Opportunity (FFO) is available at www.eda.gov/ffo.htm. To discuss any project proposals in further detail, contact your EDA Regional Office.

