

EDA Methods and Tools

Strategic Planning

At the early stages of post-disaster recovery, EDA's disaster recovery grants can help eligible organizations create economic recovery and resiliency plans, sometimes with the assistance of EDA-funded disaster recovery coordinators.

Capital for Alternative Financing

Often in parallel with planning and technical assistance, EDA funding can be used to capitalize or recapitalize Revolving Loan Funds (RLFs) through non-profit and governmental entities to provide below market-rate loans to businesses to help provide gap financing and to support new business development.

Infrastructure Development

As recovery efforts progress, EDA funds can be used to finance construction of new infrastructure, or infrastructure repair, and enhancements to diversify economies and strengthen resilience to future disasters. Examples include business incubators, technology parks, research facilities, access roads, storm drainage, water treatment facilities to prevent business disruption and retain and create jobs in the impacted region, and other resilient infrastructure.

Resiliency

Economic resilience depends on the ability of businesses and communities to adapt to changing conditions in order to withstand and quickly recover from disruptive events. EDA funding can help communities develop a more robust, diversified, and resilient economy through planning, technical assistance, and core capacity building investments that help business, along with state, local, and tribal governments prepare for and bounce back from disasters.

Opportunity Zones

An important new tool in EDA's disaster recovery toolbox is Opportunity Zones, which were created under the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act to stimulate economic development and job creation by incentivizing long-term investments in disadvantaged areas across the country. EDA has added Opportunity Zones as one of our five Investment Priorities to help significantly increase the number of catalytic Opportunity Zone-related projects that communities submit to EDA and that EDA subsequently funds.

"Without assistance from EDA on several projects, the City of Minot would be years behind on its recovery efforts. The project funding from EDA has assisted the City in its resiliency efforts, bringing basic needs to residents across the City, while also creating more than 225 jobs. This would not be possible without EDA's generous assistance."

Lyndsay Ulrickson, Executive Director, Souris Basin Planning Council
on Minot floods of 2011

"EDA has provided support for the recovery of one of our state's scientific crown jewels, UT's Marine Science Institute in Port Aransas. This grant will enable MSI to not only rebuild, but to reach new heights as a leader in oceanic research."

Gregory L. Fenves, President,
University of Texas at Austin on
EDA's \$5 million grant to repair
and renovate UT's MSI that was
damaged by Hurricane Harvey.

EDA Regional Offices

Contact your regional EDA office for more information about the agency's disaster recovery and other program resources: www.eda.gov/contact

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U.S. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

Leading Economic Recovery Efforts in Disaster-Impacted Communities



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EDA's Mission



As the sole federal government agency focused exclusively on economic development, the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA) plays a critical, national role in supporting regional economic development efforts in economically distressed communities across the nation.

Guided by the basic principle that sustainable economic development should be locally-driven, EDA works directly with communities to help them build capacity for economic development based on local business conditions and needs. EDA's grant investments in infrastructure, strategic planning, access to capital and technical assistance are designed to leverage existing regional assets to support the implementation of economic development strategies that support business start-up, growth, and job creation.

EDA and Disaster Recovery

On behalf of the U.S. Department of Commerce, EDA leads the Economic Recovery Support Function (ERSF) under the Federal Government's National Disaster Recovery Framework (NDRF). In this role, EDA facilitates the effective delivery of federal economic development assistance to support long-term economic recovery planning and project implementation, economic diversification and economic resiliency. EDA is uniquely positioned to coordinate regional disaster recovery efforts in partnership with its extensive network of Economic Development Districts, University Centers, and other partners in disaster-impacted areas.



"EDA investments across Louisiana's Economic Development Districts (EDDs) contribute to the resiliency and economic success of our local communities. From ports to base reuse to high tech to workforce development investments, EDA's contributions in our eight EDDs strengthen local capacity. EDA's wide-ranging approach to economic development gives Louisiana the latitude to address the myriad of socio-economic problems in the state."

**Cheri Soileau, Executive Director, Imperial Calcasieu
Regional Planning and Development Commission**

www.eda.gov/disaster

Fiscal Year 2018 and 2019 Disaster Supplemental Funds

In FY 2018 and FY 2019, EDA received a total of \$1.2 billion in supplemental disaster appropriations (\$600 million each year) from Congress to help regions recover from economic harm and distress resulting from natural disasters in 2017-2019. With these funds, communities and regions hit hard by major disasters in the United States are rebuilding stronger, more resilient economies.

FY 2019 Disaster Supplemental

In August 2019, EDA published the FY 2019 Disaster Supplemental Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), making \$587 million available for grant investments to regions located in, or serving, one or more communities impacted by Hurricanes Florence, Michael, and Lane; Typhoons Yutu and Mangkhut; wildfires; volcanic eruptions; earthquakes; and other natural disasters occurring in calendar year 2018, and tornadoes and floods occurring in calendar year 2019.

Who is eligible to receive disaster recovery grants?

EDA's Regional Offices award disaster assistance grants under the agency's Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA) Program.

Eligible applicants under the EAA program can include: District Planning Organizations, Indian tribes, state, county, or city governments, institutions of higher education, and public or private non-profit organizations.

EDA is not authorized to provide EAA grants to individuals or for-profit entities. Requests from such entities will not be considered for funding.

What specific activities are eligible for Disaster Supplemental funding?

Through the EAA Program, EDA can support both the development of disaster recovery strategies/plans and the implementation of recovery projects, including construction activities, capitalizing RLFs, entrepreneurship development, and technical assistance. All projects must be consistent with at least one of EDA's Investment Priorities, which can be found at: www.eda.gov/about/investment-priorities.

When can you apply?

Now! Disaster Supplemental proposals and applications are accepted and reviewed by EDA on an ongoing basis until the cancellation of the current NOFO or all available funds have been expended.

Where do you apply?

Proposals and applications must be submitted to www.grants.gov or to the appropriate EDA Regional Office. Applicants can locate the funding opportunity, which includes program and evaluation criteria, on Grants.gov using Funding Opportunity Number "EDA-2019-DISASTER."

For more information, please visit: www.eda.gov/disaster-recovery/supplemental/. To find contact information for the EDA Economic Development Representative (EDR) covering your state, please visit: www.eda.gov/contact.

A History of Support: EDA and Disaster Recovery

EDA has a long history of successfully supporting locally-led disaster recovery and resiliency efforts.

In fact, since the early 1990s, EDA has received a total of \$2.5 billion in supplemental appropriations from Congress to support long-term economic recovery and economic resiliency in the aftermath of disasters.

Here are some examples of our work:

- In the 1990s and early 2000s, EDA received a series of disaster supplemental appropriations for significant natural disasters impacting communities during this period.
- In FY 2008, EDA received two disaster supplemental appropriations for a total of \$500 million to support the economic recovery of communities significantly impacted by hurricanes, floods, and other natural disasters, including a multi-state flood disaster in the Midwest and Gulf Coast Hurricanes Katrina, Ike, and Gustav.
- In FY 2010, EDA received \$5 million to support economic recovery from the Gulf Coast Deepwater Horizon oil spill and \$49 million to support economic recovery activities as part of the 2010 Storm and Flood Assistance Disaster Supplemental Appropriation.
- In FY 2012, EDA received \$200 million to support disaster relief, long-term recovery, and restoration of infrastructure in areas that received a major disaster designation in 2011.
- EDA, in FY 2018 and FY 2019, received a total of \$1.2 billion (\$600 million each year) in supplemental funding to help regions build back from catastrophic disasters including Hurricanes Irma, Maria, Harvey, Michael, Florence; wildfires; Typhoons Yutu and Mangkhut; and other disasters.
- EDA has also served on the ground, in partnerships with other federal agencies and local leaders, in several disaster locations, including Florida, Texas, Puerto Rico and the USVI, helping communities recover and build back stronger for the future.

Visit EDA's website for more information about the agency's disaster activities and supplemental funding: www.eda.gov/disaster-recovery.

"The workshop spotlighted the reason why EDA plays a key role in our region's recovery from natural disasters by helping our communities get quick answers about specific projects that will help them become more resilient and restore their local economies. EDA leads the way on convening the entire spectrum of state and federal funding partners."

Chuck Wemple, Executive Director, Houston-Galveston Area Council referring to an EDA organized economic recovery workshop following Hurricane Harvey

"The University of Puerto Rico and the University of the Virgin Islands have signed an historic Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that strengthens the recovery initiatives in the Caribbean region after the devastating impacts of hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017. This MOU is an example and a direct result of the commitment that the U.S. Economic Development Administration has with recovery efforts of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands."

**Ubaldo Cordova Figueroa,
Executive Vice President,
University of Puerto Rico** on the signing of a historic MOU between the University of Puerto Rico and the University of the Virgin Islands