An Overview of the NADO Research Foundation’s

*Stronger CEDS,* *Stronger Regions* Program
The NADO Research Foundation

Founded in 1988, the **NADO Research Foundation** is the non-profit research affiliate of NADO.

Shares **best practices** in latest developments and trends in small metropolitan areas and rural America through training, peer exchanges, publications, and other resources.

**Focus Areas:**

- Rural Transportation
- Regional Resilience
- Sustainable Communities
- Capacity Building
- Leadership Development
Stronger CEDS, Stronger Regions
Program Overview

Three-year capacity building and technical assistance program funded through EDA HQ to:

➢ Enhance and expand NADO RF’s resources on CEDS planning, development, and implementation

➢ Provide customized trainings and technical assistance to EDDs and other regional organizations on all things CEDS

➢ Amplify EDA’s message about the value of the CEDS in promoting broader regional economic and community development goals
NADO RF will continue to assist EDDs as they undertake regionally-owned planning processes to craft impactful, technically-sound strategies guiding economic development that will also position them to serve as leaders at the forefront of regional and national resilience efforts:

- Best practices guide / case studies of innovative approaches to the CEDS
- Customizable materials to better promote the CEDS in your region to your stakeholders
- Training on latest data tools and other resources
- In-person and remote training (webinars and conference calls)
- Regional convenings and workshops
- Information exchange
Results of Recent *CEDS Snapshot*

Nearly 100 EDDs responded to our *CEDS Snapshot* to share their experiences with the CEDS, lessons learned, and areas for improvement. This information will be used to craft our future programming. Some general observations:

- **Strongest sections** = SWOT analysis, Regional Overview, and Vision/Goal/Strategies

- **In need of improvement** = Data and performance measurement, resilience planning, and outreach and engagement

- Many districts are integrating the CEDS with other planning processes, including transportation, workforce, disaster recovery and response, and larger statewide efforts

- **Key areas where districts are looking for support** is in planning for economic resilience; stakeholder engagement; data (accessing it, understanding it, and using it); better engaging and utilizing their CEDS Committee; and training new staff on the CEDS process
What types of additional support and resources are you looking for to improve your CEDS?

Let us know!