



**Draft Agenda
Arlington, VA
March 21, 2018**

February 21 draft – subject to change

- 12:00 pm** **Check-in and pick-up lunch**
- 12:15** **Welcome / Introductions / Goal-setting**
Brett Schwartz, Associate Director, NADO Research Foundation
- 1:00** **A Conversation with EDA**
It has been three years since EDA released its updated CEDS Content Guidelines. Staff from EDA will reflect on the progress made since then and discuss current and future planning and funding opportunities. Come prepared to share your experiences with the CEDS and provide feedback on the process.
David Ives, Planning Coordinator/Interim Director, Performance & National Programs Division, U.S. Economic Development Administration
- 1:30** **CEDS Best Practice Snapshots**
During these short presentations, learn from your peers across the country about innovative and effective approaches to CEDS planning, outreach, and implementation. Topics may include engaging with your CEDS committee, stakeholder collaboration, new platforms for disseminating the CEDS, and more.
Bret Allphin, Development Director, Buckeye Hills Regional Council (OH)
Kevin Byrd, Executive Director, New River Valley Regional Commission (VA)
Nicole Griensewic Mickelson, Exec. Director, Region Nine Development Commission (MN)
Jeff Hagan, CEO, Eastern Upper Peninsula Regional Planning & Development Comm. (MI)
Sarah Thompson, Executive Director, Southwestern Commission (NC)

- 2:30** *Networking Break*
- 2:45** **Stakeholder Engagement: If You're Not at the Table, You're on the Menu**
Ensuring that you get the right people at the table is vital to building an effective CEDS. Even more important is keeping those stakeholders engaged, both during the planning process and in implementation. Learn strategies for engaging stakeholders – including local elected officials - and how to ensure that you get buy-in from those in your region.
Nathan Ohle, Executive Director, Rural Community Assistance Partnership, Washington, DC
- 3:15** **Harnessing Data to Support Your CEDS**
Accessing, interpreting, and incorporating the right data are some of the most important tasks in writing an effective and compelling CEDS. Learn about some of the latest free data tools from StatsAmerica available to support your work.
Carol Rogers, Deputy Director & CIO, Indiana Business Research Center, Indianapolis, IN
- 3:45** *Networking Break*
- 4:00** **Peer Consulting and Problem Solving**
Tapping into the knowledge and expertise of all workshop attendees, participants will serve as both consultant and client in an interactive "[Troika Consulting](#)" session. In groups of three, share your challenges, problem-solve together, and discover new approaches to strengthening your CEDS.
- 5:00** **Final Reflections**
- 5:15** **Adjourn**
- 5:30** **Networking Happy Hour in Hotel Lobby Bar**



Please e-mail NADO RF Associate Director Brett Schwartz at bschwartz@nado.org with any questions.

This workshop is part of NADO RF's [Stronger CEDS, Stronger Regions](#) program, supported through a grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration.