Empowering Regions through the CEDS Process

June 2020
LOOKING BACK

U.S. Department of Commerce
Economic Development Administration

COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES
CEDS SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS

Note: This document provides a synopsis of the requirements by comprehensive economic development strategies. For further information, interested parties are directed to sections 335 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. § 3350) and EDA regulations at 13 C.F.R. parts 300 and 303. The document is intended to serve as a convenient source for requirements relating to the CEDS. Nothing in this document is intended to supersede or otherwise modify EDA statutes, regulations, policies, or procedures.

Introduction: A comprehensive economic development strategy (CEDS) is designed to bring together the public and private sectors in the creation of an economic roadmap to diversify and strengthen regional economies. The CEDS should outline the regional economy and serve as a guide for establishing regional goals and objectives, developing and implementing a regional plan of action, and identifying investment priorities and funding sources. The CEDS should be a dynamic and evolving document that provides a framework for ongoing assessment and planning to address the challenges and opportunities faced by the region.

Who should develop a CEDS? A Planning Organization seeking to formulate and implement a regional economic development program will benefit from developing a CEDS. Successful economic development efforts are based on CEDS that provide an economic roadmap to diversify and strengthen regional economies. The Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1980 (as amended (PWEA)) requires a CEDS in order to apply for investment assistance under EDA’s Public Works or Economic Adjustment Assistance Programs. At EDA’s discretion, EDA may accept CEDS that it has funded or in CEDS prepared independently of EDA investment assistance or oversight.

The following sections set out below on “Planning Organizations” and “Strategy Committees” cover the requirements for EDA-funded CEDS, while the remainder of this document pertains to technical requirements for CEDS. It should be noted that in determining the acceptability of a CEDS prepared independently of EDA investment assistance or oversight for projects under 13 C.F.R. parts 300 or 303, EDA may be in a position to determine that the CEDS is acceptable without it fulfilling every requirement set out in 13 C.F.R. § 300.7. In doing so, EDA shall consider the circumstances surrounding the application for investment assistance, including emergencies or natural disasters, and the fulfillment of the requirements of Section 302 of PWEA.

I. EDA-Accepted CEDS

Pursuant to 13 C.F.R. § 335.5, if EDA awards investment assistance to a Planning Organization to develop, review, or replace a CEDS, the Planning Organization must follow the procedures set forth in paragraphs (a) and (b).

1. Planning Organizations: A Planning Organization (as defined in 13 C.F.R. § 302.2) (local or state governmental units or Indian Tribes) may be eligible for EDA planning investment assistance. The purpose of such assistance is to develop a CEDS for a specified EDA-approved region. The Planning Organization is responsible for:

   a. Appointing a Strategy Committee (CEDS Committee).
   b. Developing and submitting to EDA a CEDS that complies with 13 C.F.R. § 335.7.
   c. Making a new or revised CEDS available for review and comment by the public for a period of at least thirty (30) days prior to submission of the CEDS to EDA for approval.
   d. Obtaining approval of the CEDS from EDA.
   e. Providing information to EDA regarding the CEDS in accordance with 13 C.F.R. § 335.7.
   f. In the event of any changes to the CEDS, informing EDA of such changes and obtaining approval of the new CEDS from EDA.
   g. In the event that EDA determines that a new CEDS is required, the Planning Organization must develop and implement a new CEDS.

2. Strategy Committee: The Strategy Committee is the entity identified by the Planning Organization as responsible for developing, reviewing, or replacing the CEDS. The Strategy Committee must represent the main economic interests of the region, and must include Private Sector Representatives (as defined in 13 C.F.R. § 335.5, with respect to any for-profit entity, the same senior management officer or executive holding a key decision-making position, or that person’s designee as a majority of its membership). In addition, the Planning Organization should ensure that the Strategy Committee includes:

   a. Public officials:
   b. Community leaders;
   c. Representative of private sector development interests;
   d. Representatives of higher education;
   e. Minority and low-income groups; and
   f. Private individuals.

Strategy Committees representing Indian Tribes or States may vary.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS): Content Guidelines: Recommendations for Creating an Impactful CEDS

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CEDS circa 2001 (left)
Southeast Alaska 2020 Economic Plan
Southeast Conference’s Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2016-2020

Updated September 2018

Annual Average Jobs
45,640 Jobs
Up 380 Jobs in 2017 +1%

Visitor Industry 17%
Seafood 8%
Government 29%
Trade 10%
Non-Gov't Health Care 6%
Construction 4%
Mining 6%
Other 6%

REGIONAL POPULATION
Decreased by 1,600 People to 72,915 -2%

LABOR FORCE
Decreased by 54 Jobs to 45,640 Jobs -0.1%

SOUTHEAST MARITIME: 6,275 Jobs
Private and US Coast Guard Maritime Employment & Workforce Earnings

Fishing & Seafood Processing
Jobs: 3,829
Wages: $216.5 M
Change in jobs 2014-17: +12%

Marine Tourism
Jobs: 1,079
Wages: $36.4 M
Change in jobs 2014-17: +18%

Prepared by Rain Coast Data
LOOKING BACK – CREATIVITY

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

River Valley Regional Commission - West Central Georgia

Buckeye Hills Regional Council (OH)

River Valley Regional Commission (GA)
Looking Back – Resilience

Southeastern MT Development Corp

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
2016 - 2020 Update

Southeastern Montana
The 2016 - 2020 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is a revision to the original 2004 report and a planning guide for Southeastern Montana. It also enables the Southeastern Montana Development Corporation to continue as a designated Economic Development District.

Goal 1: Coal, Energy, and Renewable Technology
Goal 2: High Tech Industry and Entrepreneurship
Goal 3: Manufacturing
Goal 4: High Skilled Labor
Goal 5: Agriculture and Outdoor Recreation/Tourism
Goal 6: Quality of Life

Colstrip Economic Diversification Strategy

Tomorrow's Town... Today!
• **Opportunity Zones** are designated low-income census tracts where tax incentives are available to encourage those with capital gains to invest in low-income and undercapitalized communities.

• **Twelve percent** of US census tracts are Opportunity Zones (8,700+ tracts). Governors (primarily) nominated the zones, which were officially designated by the US Department of the Treasury.

• Opportunity Zones are a **natural fit for EDA**

  ✓ Mission alignment
  ✓ Investment Priority
  ✓ Eligibility under Special Need
  ✓ New section in the CEDS Content Guidelines
Why focus on the CEDS?

1. “Investment Ready”
2. Regional Perspective
3. Right Platform

Key Elements:

1. Inventory/map the Opportunity Zones in the region
2. Identify key partners/collaborations
3. Recognize linkages with the data, goals/objectives, and priority projects within the CEDS
• **The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act)** provides EDA with $1.5 billion for economic development assistance programs to help communities “prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.”

  • The most up-to-date information on EDA’s CARES Act Recovery Assistance, including specifics on how long funds will be available, availability of competitive and non-competitive grants, nationwide special need eligibility, etc. can be found at: [https://www.eda.gov/coronavirus/](https://www.eda.gov/coronavirus/)
  
  • EDRs are available to answer additional questions regarding the application process. Find yours at: [https://www.eda.gov/contact](https://www.eda.gov/contact)

• **Key items of note for EDDs/Tribes:**

  • EDA-designated District organizations (EDDs) and Indian Tribes are eligible applicants
  • Development, update, or refinement of a CEDS remains an eligible activity
  • Except for a “Strategy Grant,” each proposed project must be consistent with the region’s current CEDS (if one exists)
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