

A photograph of a beach scene. In the foreground, a large, smooth, light-brown stone is stacked on top of another similar stone. This stack is surrounded by a variety of smaller, smooth, rounded stones in different colors like brown, grey, and orange. In the background, the ocean waves are visible, and the sky is a clear, light blue. A bright yellow banner is superimposed across the middle of the image, containing black text.

# **Enhancing State-Regional Partnerships:** A Closer Look at Economic Development Districts and the CEDS

July 25, 2022

# Enhancing State and Local EDD Engagement to Support COVID-19 Recovery and Resiliency

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# Welcoming Remarks

**Rachel Adams**

Program Manager

State International Development Organizations (SIDO)



# Thanks for Joining the Webinar!

- Questions or comments can be submitted via the questions box on the right side of your screen in drop down menu
- A recording of the webinar will be made available soon at [www.nado.org](http://www.nado.org) & also e-mailed to all registrants
- Please take a moment to complete the post-webinar survey to provide helpful feedback
- Contact Rachel Adams at [radams@csg.org](mailto:radams@csg.org), Mereb Hagos at [mhagos@crec.net](mailto:mhagos@crec.net) or Brett Schwartz at [bschwartz@nado.org](mailto:bschwartz@nado.org) with any questions about the webinar or project

# Today's Presenters

**David Ives**, Deputy Director, Performance, Research and National Technical Assistance Division  
U.S. Economic Development Administration

**Mereb Hagos**, Program Manager  
Center for Regional Economic Competitiveness

**Brooxie Carlton**, Assistant Commissioner, Rural Development  
Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development

**Joe Barker**, Executive Director  
Southwest Tennessee Development District

**Brett Schwartz**, Associate Director  
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**David Ives**

Deputy Director

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U.S. Economic Development Administration





# EDA, Planning and the CEDS

*Enhancing State-Regional Partnerships: A Closer Look  
at Economic Development Districts & the CEDS*

07/25/22



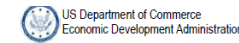
# EDA Overview

- EDA provides grant-based investments to units of state and local government and non-profits in communities and regions suffering from economic distress.
- EDA investments are intended to help communities and regions build the capacity for economic development.
- EDA has a traditional suite of grant programs – ranging from upfront strategic planning, through predevelopment activities, to implementation.
- EDA's core funding has been supplemented to help communities and regions recover from the pandemic. . .including approximately \$4.5 billion in additional funding over the last two years.
- EDA's customers are served by six regional offices (+ HQ).

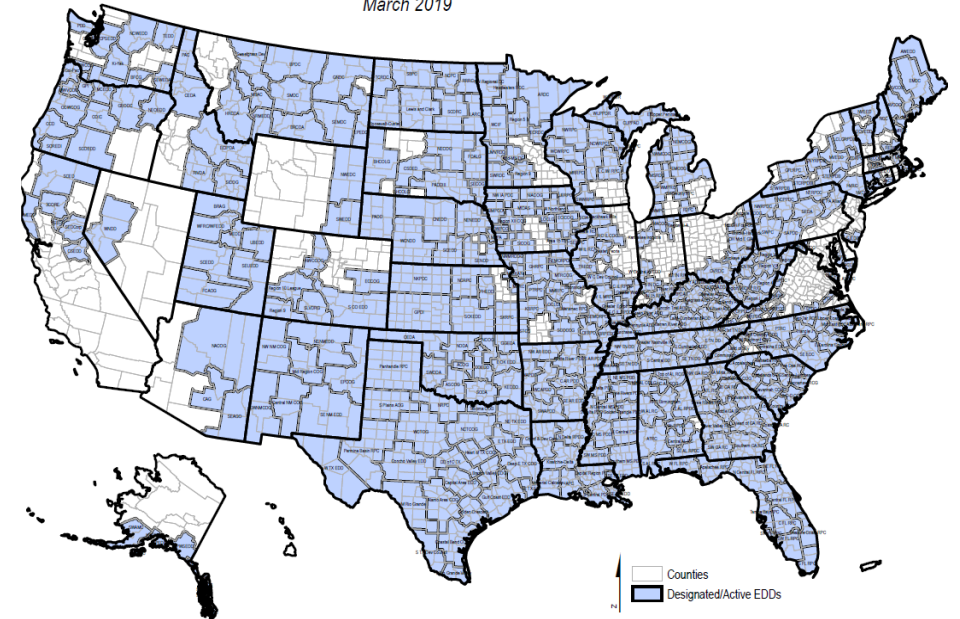


# Planning Program and Economic Development Districts (EDDs)

- EDA believes that **good economic development starts with good economic development planning.**
- EDA's **Planning Program** assists local and regional organizations with their short- and long-term economic development planning efforts
  - requires implementation projects to align with an asset-based strategic plan – prevents “one-off” projects
  - other agencies getting on board
- **Economic Development Districts (EDDs)** are EDA-designated (and funded) regional organizations formed to undertake regional economic development planning; responsible for implementing and updating a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)
  - EDDs are one of EDA's most important and valued partners/stakeholders
  - EDDs also serve as “boots-on-ground”; foster information sharing



*Economic Development Districts (EDDs)*  
March 2019



# Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS)

- A CEDS is a **strategy-driven plan** for regional economic development, but it's also. . .
- . . .a **collaborative planning process** that incorporates a broad array of perspectives -  
- it brings together firms, institutions, and local governments to better understand, position and leverage regional assets to enhance economic competitiveness.
- CEDS is the first step in building a region's **economic development capacity**; helps determine what is critical for economic success.
- **Common content areas**: summary background, SWOT analysis, action plan, and evaluation framework – also must include economic resilience (i.e., the ability of a community or region to withstand or quickly recover from major disruptions/shocks to underlying economic base). . .**but very much individualized**.
- **CEDS Content Guidelines** ([www.eda.gov/ceds](http://www.eda.gov/ceds)) provide recommendations on the required sections of the CEDS; includes suggested tools, resources and best practices.



# Key Takeaways

- Economic development is inherently regional. . .primary focus of the EDDs and the CEDS:
  - Communities are interdependent -- often share similar opportunities and challenges
  - Impacts (both positive and negative) cross jurisdictional boundaries
  - Communities can accomplish more when they work together
- Plan alignment is critical – across platforms or between state and regional plans; prevents duplication *and* increases impact
- More information on EDA can be found at <https://www.eda.gov> and more information on EDA's Planning Program and the CEDS can be found at <https://www.eda.gov/ceds>





We are in a Golden Age for the CEDS



From this... ..to this!







# Stronger CEDS, Stronger Regions

CEDS Resource & Training Archive

[www.CEDSCentral.com](http://www.CEDSCentral.com)

**Mereb Hagos**  
Program Manager  
Center for Regional Economic Competitiveness





## **Joe Barker**

Executive Director  
Southwest Tennessee  
Development District



## **Brooxie Carlton**

Assistant Commissioner, Rural Development  
Tennessee Department of Economic and  
Community Development



A photograph of a stack of five smooth, light-brown stones balanced on a beach. The stones are stacked vertically, with the top stone being the smallest and the bottom stone being the largest. The beach is covered in a variety of colorful pebbles in shades of brown, tan, grey, and blue. In the background, the ocean waves are visible, and the sky is a clear, light blue. A yellow banner with the text "Questions and Conversation" is overlaid on the middle of the image.

# Questions and Conversation