Building Communities and Capacity: An Update from EDA

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Afternoon with the Districts

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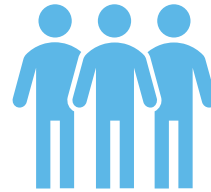
Networks Division Overview

EDA's growing Communities of Practice (CoPs), Economic Recovery Corps, and Equity Impact Investments initiatives bolster the capacity of economic development organizations from all angles.

peer-to-peer learning
Our Communities of Practice partners facilitate peer learning and connections among economic developers confronting similar challenges across different places. Each community captures, organizes, and scales promising practices at a national level.
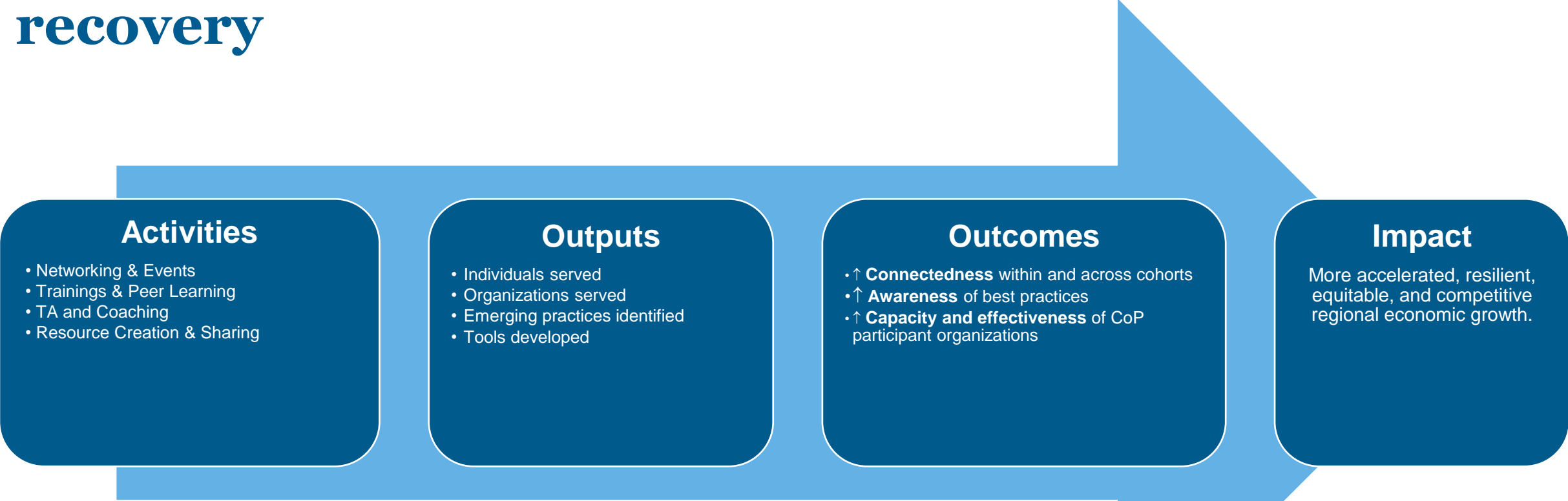
on the ground support
The new Economic Recovery Corps will promote national connectivity by placing over 65 Fellows within local economic development organizations. The Equity Impact Investments program will build capacity in over 120 community development organizations supporting underserved populations.
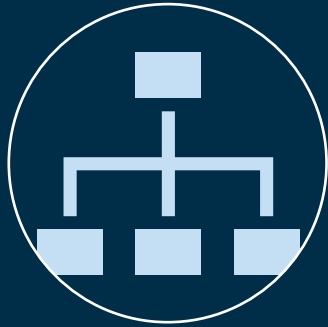
knowledge & insights
All EDA Networks programs and efforts will capture information and data real-time at a local level to scale future-focused and equitable economic development practices across the industry.

EDA's Communities of Practice are fostering a more accelerated, resilient, and equitable economic recovery

Activities

- Networking & Events
- Trainings & Peer Learning
- TA and Coaching
- Resource Creation & Sharing

Outputs

- Individuals served
- Organizations served
- Emerging practices identified
- Tools developed

Outcomes

- ↑ **Connectedness** within and across cohorts
- ↑ **Awareness** of best practices
- ↑ **Capacity and effectiveness** of CoP participant organizations

Impact

More accelerated, resilient, equitable, and competitive regional economic growth.

www.eda.gov/strategic-initiatives/communities-of-practice

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Our new Communities of Practice span a range of systems, topics, and programs

systems
- Economic Development Districts
- Revolving Loan Funds
- Indigenous Economic Development

topics
- Coal
- Manufacturing
- Technology-Based Economic Development

programs
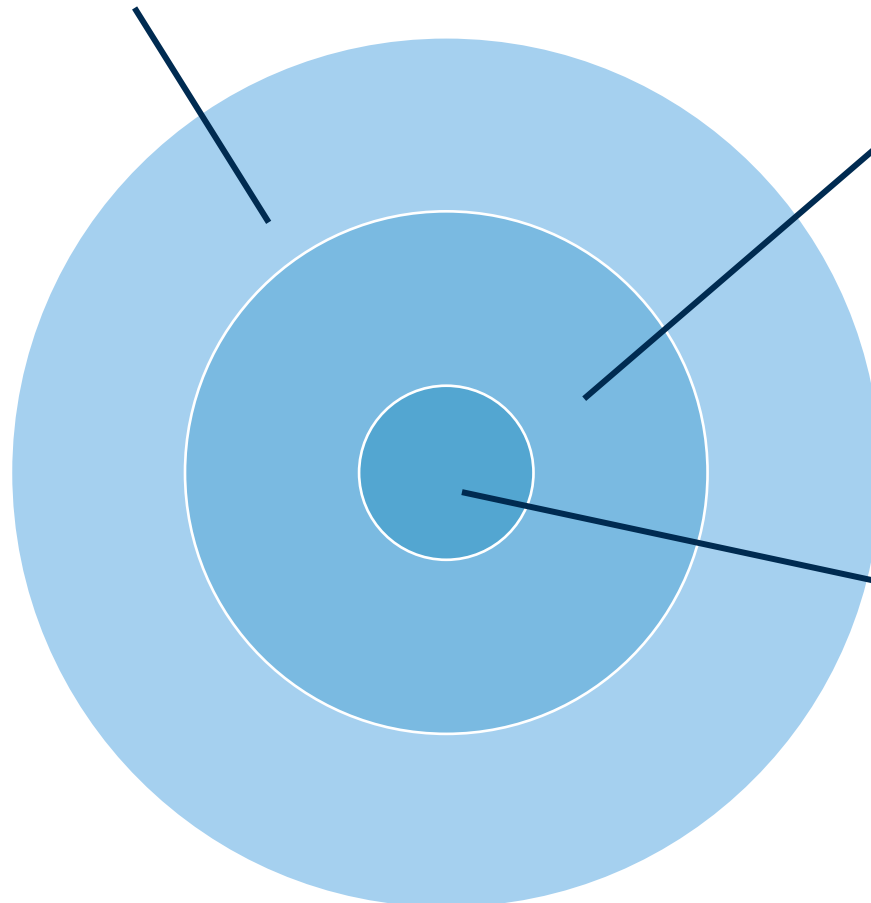- Build Back Better Regional Challenge
- Good Jobs Challenge

learnings

www.eda.gov/strategic-initiatives/communities-of-practice

EDD Community of Practice
an important piece of a larger effort

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Networks
connecting, and bolstering the capacity of, economic development organizations

Communities of Practice
capturing, organizing, and scaling practices at a national level

EDD Community of Practice
equipping Economic Development Districts to achieve their economic development goals

our invitation to you

engage → share → learn → implement

Importance of EDDs

EDDs are critical to EDA. . .and vital to regional economic development capacity building:
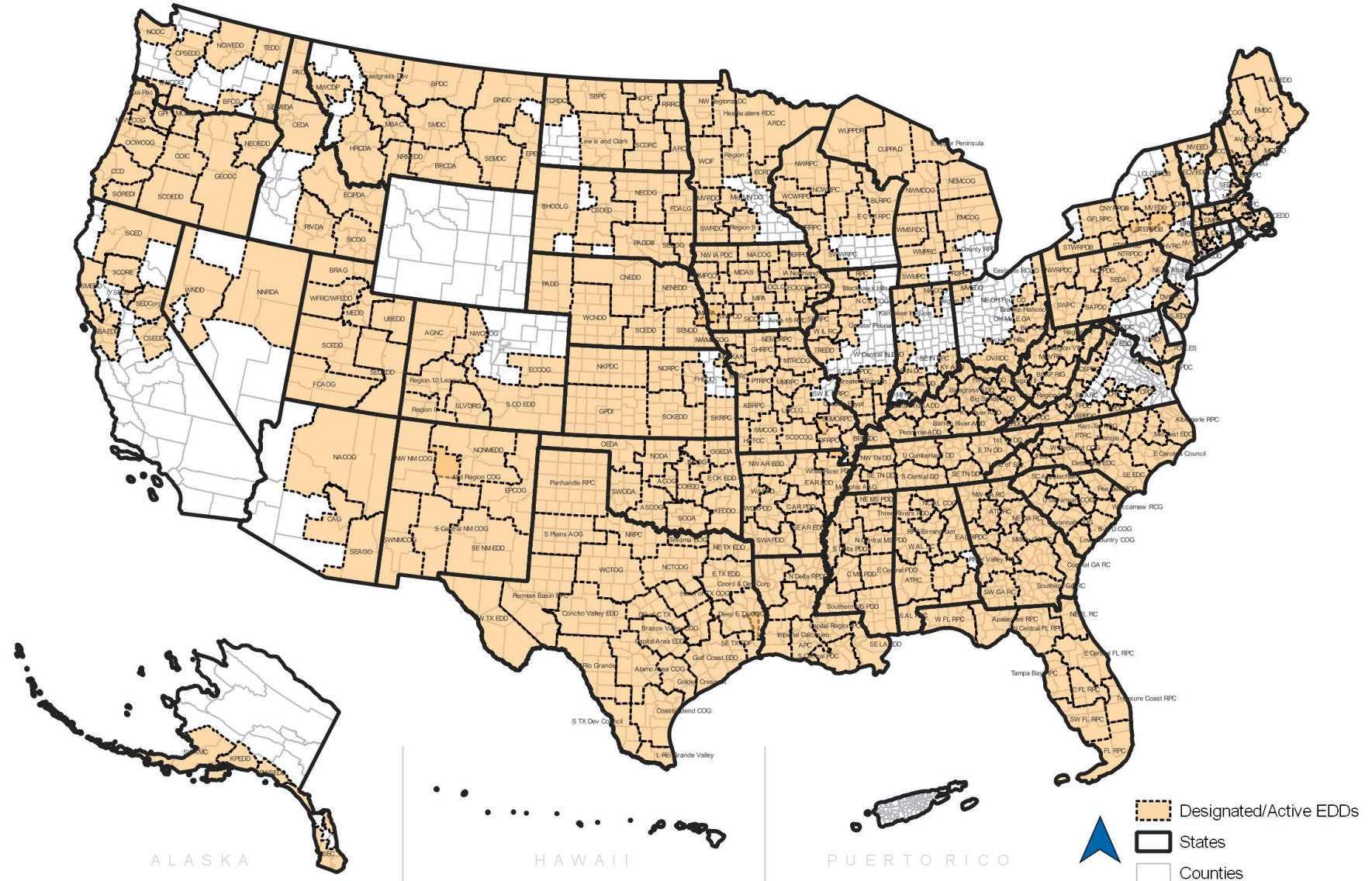
- "Institutional Partnerships" (program design, grantmaking, implementation, information-sharing/convening, etc.)

- Planning for public sector capacity building
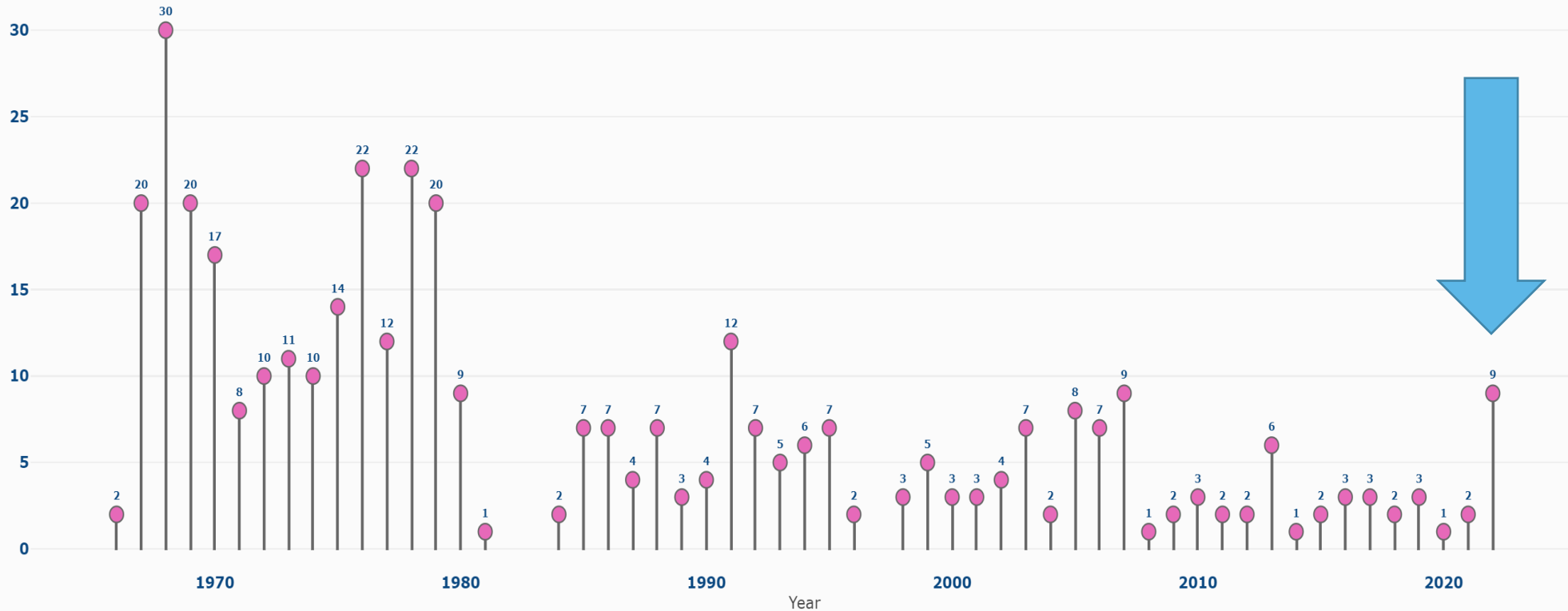
Growth/Expansion of EDDs

By the Numbers:

- **400**
  designated/active EDDs

- **6**
  cross-state EDDs

- **85%**
  of counties covered by
  an EDD

ALASKA   HAWAII   PUERTO RICO

Legend:
- - - Designated/Active EDDs
— States
Counties

Growth/Expansion of EDDs (contd.)

By the Numbers:

- **12** (approx.) "regions" in the EDD designation pipeline in 2023

Upcoming for the EDDs

1. EDD Community of Practice (CoP)

2. Budget update: *consistency and conversions*

3. New tools/resources:

   - **National Economic Resilience Data Explorer (NERDE)** (https://www.anl.gov/national-economic-resilience-data-explorer-nerde)

   - **Economic Development Capacity Index (EDCI)** (https://www.anl.gov/dis/economic-development-capacity-index)

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CEDS Content Guidelines Updates

- New/updated sections of the CEDS Content Guidelines:
  - **Equity**
  - **Climate Resilience**
  - **Workforce Development**
  - **Broadband**

- Goal = more economic development implementation projects focused on bolstering these key areas

- As usual: heavy on "recommended resources". . .and no "one-size-fits-all" approach

- Planned release = very soon

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Questions?

Thank you & please reach out!

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