



EDA and EDDs: Partners in Strengthening Regional Economic Development

“State of the EDDs”

NADO/DDAA 2023 Washington Conference

03/13/23

Importance of EDDs

EDDs are critical to EDA. . .and vital to regional economic development capacity building:

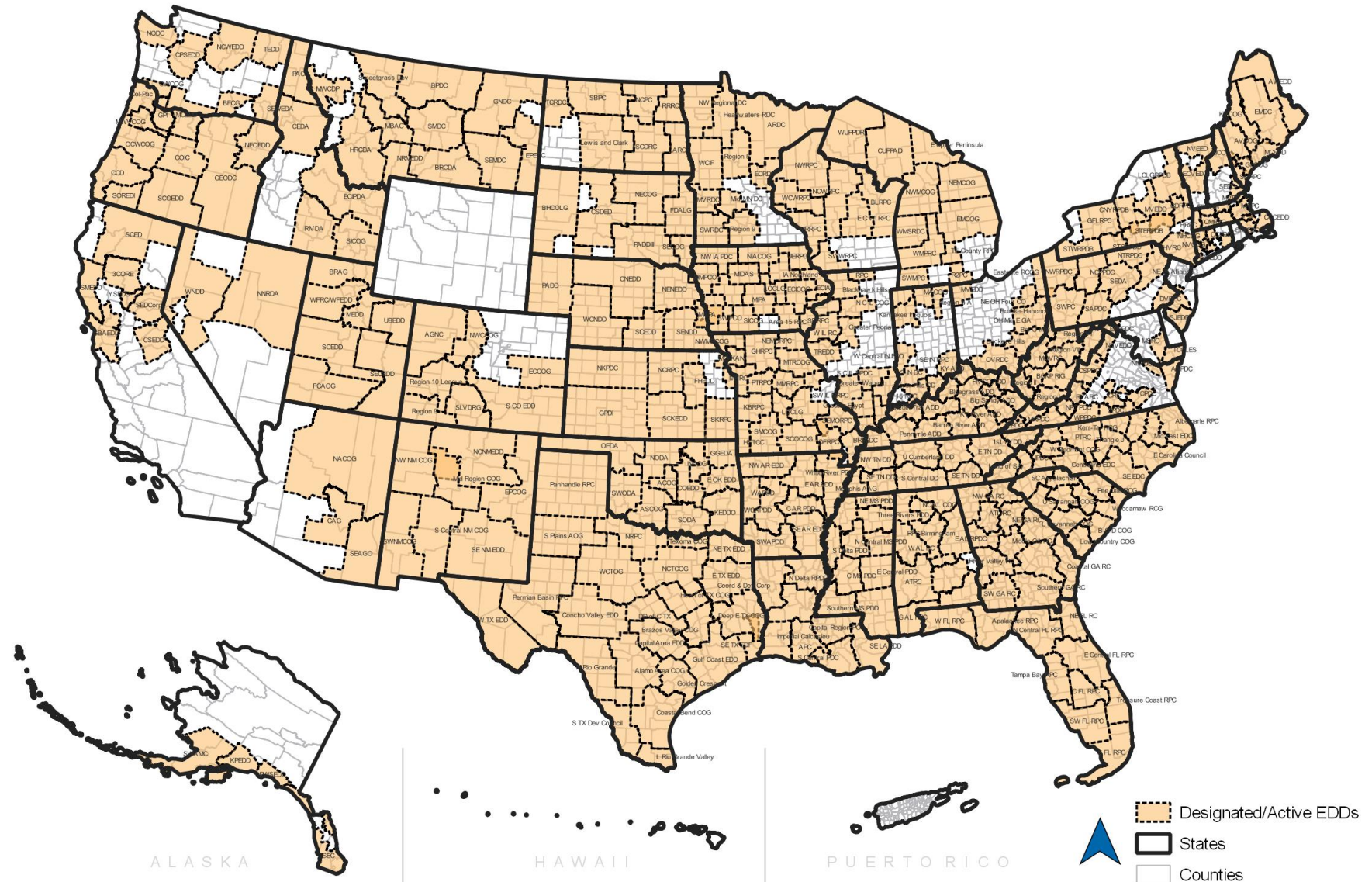
- “Institutional Partnerships” (program design, grantmaking, implementation, information-sharing/convening, etc.)
- Planning for public sector capacity building



Growth/Expansion of EDDs

By the Numbers:

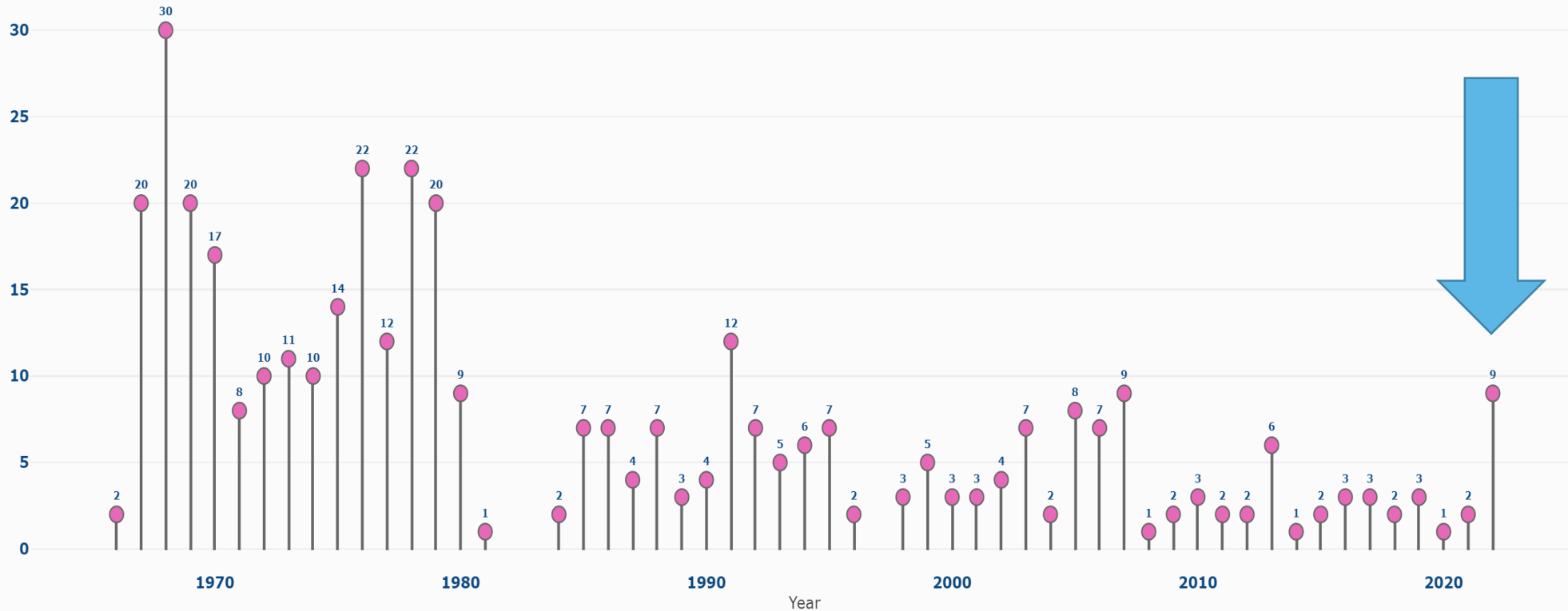
- **400**
designated/active EDDs
- **6**
cross-state EDDs
- **85%**
of counties covered by
an EDD



Growth/Expansion of EDDs (contd.)

EDD Designation by Year

● Economic Development Districts



By the Numbers:

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



Value of Being an EDD

1. The EDD receives annual funding from EDA to support development/implementation of the CEDS. This helps to **establish a long-term partnership with EDA** (i.e., preventing a “one-and-done” funding exercise).
2. If an EDA implementation project is within an EDD, the project may be located in part of the EDD that does not meet one of the distress criteria, so long as the project provides “substantial direct benefit” to a different geographic area of the EDD that does meet one of the distress criteria.
3. The EDD has the privilege of administering implementation projects for low-capacity eligible entities within the EDD on a generally non-competitive basis.
4. Areas designated as an EDD were more likely to recover more quickly from the pandemic than areas that did not have this designation. (Argonne National Laboratory, *initial* Effective Framework Analysis, 2022)
5. There are higher levels of EDA investment inside of EDD areas per capita than areas outside of EDDs. Between 2010 and 2019, more than 78 percent of EDA grants and 73 percent of total project investment went to areas covered by an EDD, while only 52 percent of the population live in areas with an EDD. **Per capita, the number of EDA grants and amount of total project cost invested in EDD areas is more than three times the number of grants and investments outside of EDD areas.** (Urban Institute, *upcoming* EDA Geography Brief, 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>)



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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