



Congressional Action Needed: Reauthorize the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration

In March 2024, the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW) unveiled the ***Economic Development Reauthorization Act of 2024 (S. 3891)***, a bipartisan bill that would reauthorize the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA) for the first time in 20 years.

Action is needed by legislators to pass Senate bill 3891, and to pursue the introduction and passage of similar legislation in the House.

Senate bill 3891 is a **bipartisan bill** that would authorize EDA's funding and programs for five years, from fiscal years 2025 through 2029. If passed, this bill would update important elements of EDA's statute, making the agency more effective, and enhancing the impact of its investment in local communities. Reauthorization of the EDA would positively impact communities across the country by making investments in small businesses, workers, residents, public infrastructure, and industrial and commercial development, resulting in stronger and more competitive regional economies.

Specifically, Senate bill 3891 would improve and reauthorize many of EDA's core programs including: Public Works; Partnership Planning; Training, Research, and Technical Assistance; Economic Adjustment Assistance; and Assistance to Coal Communities. It would also enhance or expand EDA's ability to make impactful investments into high-speed broadband, disaster recovery, workforce training, and predevelopment. Additionally, the bill would revise EDA's cost sharing requirements by increasing EDA's federal share and reducing local match, making it less burdensome for rural, small, and resource-challenged communities to apply and compete for EDA funding. These provisions would have far-reaching positive impacts on the economic competitiveness of communities nationwide.

The National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) encourages members of Congress to take swift action to **support Senate bill 3891** and the reauthorization of the EDA.

For more information, visit www.nado.org or email mburgoyne@nado.org