



# **Building Communities and Capacity: An Update from EDA**

**An Afternoon with the Districts**

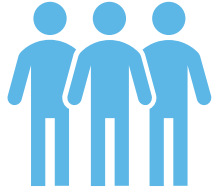
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# EDA's Capacity Building Portfolio

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.



## on the ground support

The [Economic Recovery Corps](#) will promote national connectivity and accelerate results by placing 65 Fellows within local economic development organizations. The [Equity Impact Investments](#) program equips EDOs and CBOs to build strong partnerships that foster inclusive development.



## 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.



## knowledge & insights

All EDA Networks programs and efforts will capture information and data real-time at a local level and [share learnings broadly](#) to help scale future-focused and equitable economic development practices across the industry.

# Economic Recovery Corps (ERC)

The **Economic Recovery Corps** promotes national connectivity by placing 65 Fellows within local economic development organizations across the U.S.

- ERC fellows help host organizations to execute regional economic development plans and projects in the communities they serve.
- Fellows and hosts are organized into peer-learning communities supported by ERC partners.
- The program will widely share promising practices, successes and lessons learned.



**Meet the ERC Fellows** and learn more about the Communities and Projects they support at: <https://economicrecoverycorps.org>

# Equity Impact Investment Program (EII)

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Recognizes the power of **strong partnerships** between economic development organizations (**EDOs**) and community-based organizations (**CBOs**) that serve underrepresented communities

The New Growth Innovation Network (NGIN) in partnership with IEDC, LISC and HCBU Community Development Action Coalition (CDAC), is providing tailor-made training and in-depth localized partnership support to:

- Create strong partnerships and coalitions to support inclusive development
- Build cross-sector knowledge and capacity to effectively collaborate on planning and program implementation
- Advance EDA's [Equity Investment Priority](#)

For more information, visit: [Equity.NewGrowth.org](https://Equity.NewGrowth.org)

# EDA Communities of Practice build space for exchange between and among cohorts to **build connections, expand knowledge, accelerate results**

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## ■ Systems

- [Economic Development Districts](#)
- [Revolving Loan Funds](#)
- [Indigenous Communities](#)

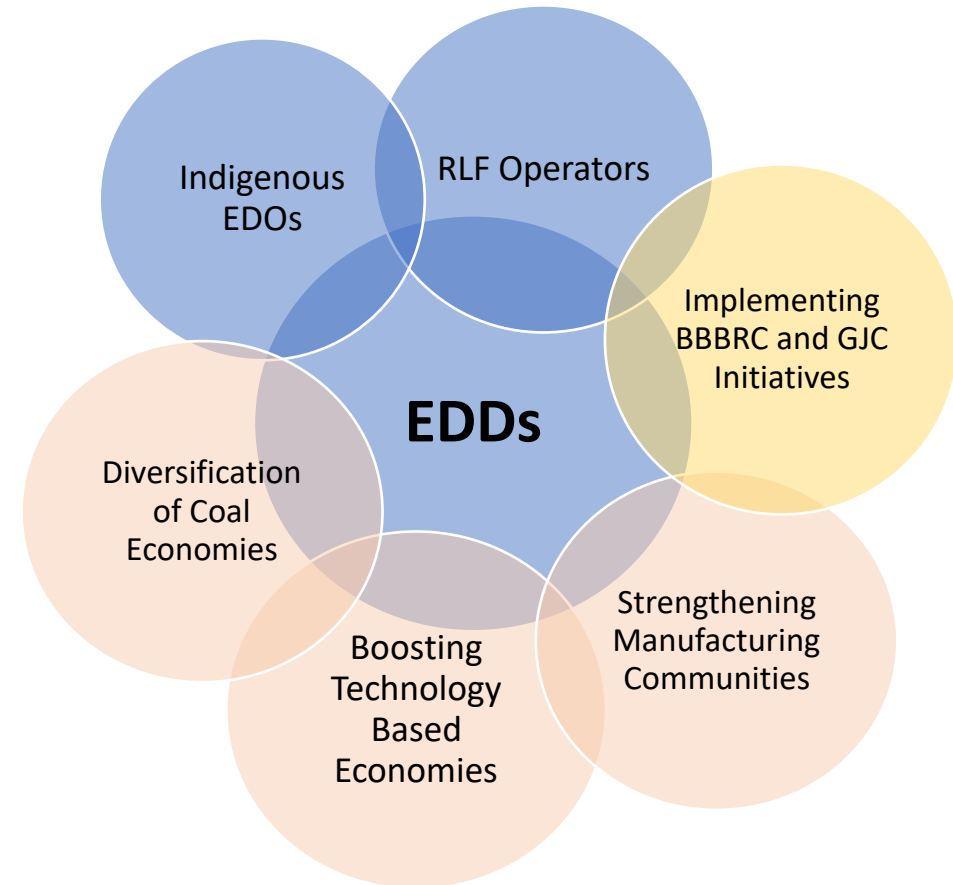
## ■ Topics

- [Building Resilient Economies in Coal Communities](#)
- [Strengthening the Manufacturing Base](#)
- [Technology-Based Economic Development](#)

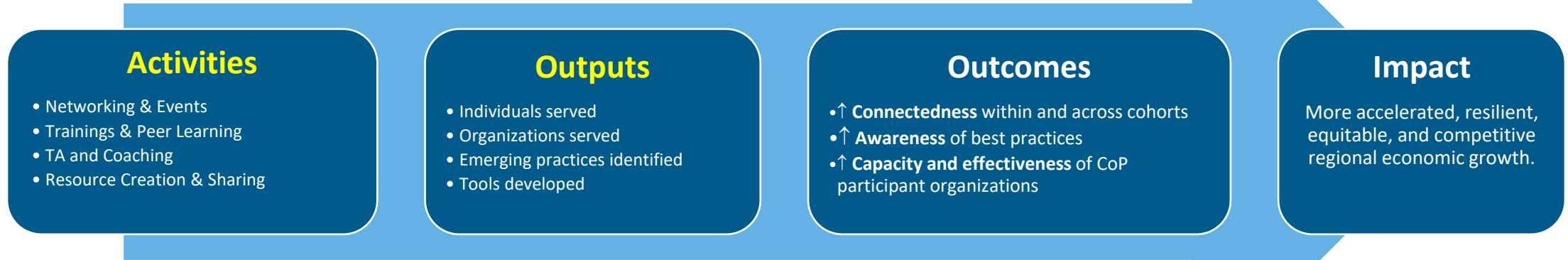
## ■ Programs

- [Build Back Better Regional Challenge](#)
- [Good Jobs Challenge](#)

*Our CoPs span a range of systems, topics and programs*



# EDA's CoPs in Year 2: Building Toward Impact



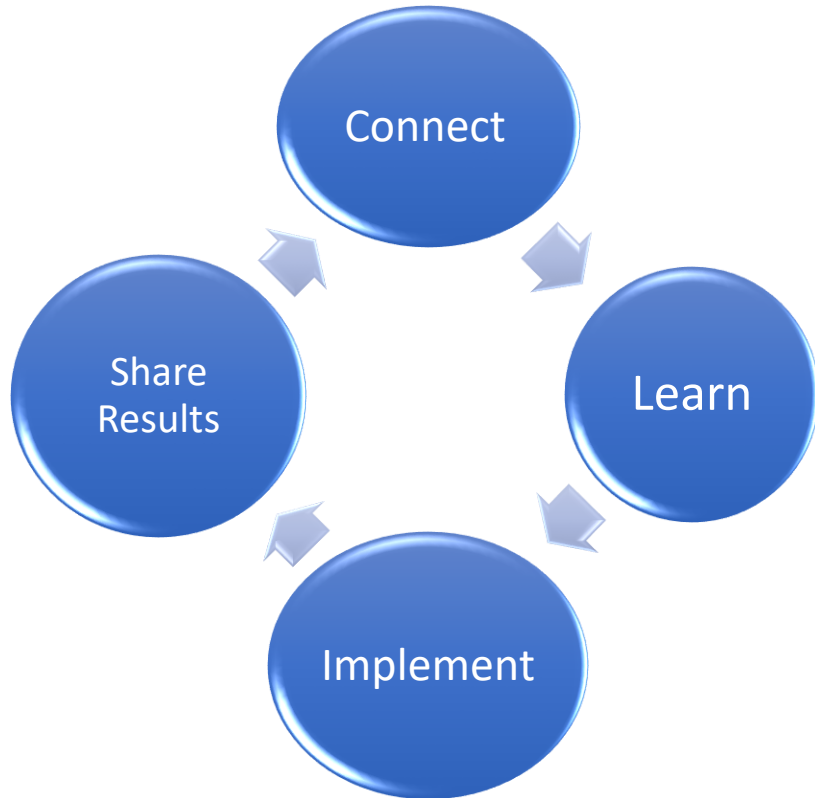
- Virtual Portals, LinkedIn Groups, and affinity groups forming within CoPs to deepen engagement, share solutions, take collective action.
- Peer Learning Series launched for RLFs, Coal Communities, Regional Coalition leaders, Wealth Creation, new EDD staff
- Promising practices and expert insights shared through podcasts, blog posts, case studies and research briefs
- Resource libraries, tip sheets, decision frameworks, funding opportunity bulletins and other resources disseminated

## All CoPs, FY24 YTD:

- Webinars, Workshops and Conference Sessions held: 80+
- Individuals Participating: 3720
- Organizations served: 1629

# Feedback Loops Improve Practice, Accelerate Impact

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## OBJECTIVES

- Effective channels for sharing ideas, experience and expertise on emerging needs and approaches
- Expanded network of peers, resources and collaborators
- Increase knowledge on how to advance strategies and achieve results
- Accelerate implementation and impact

## QUESTIONS – OUTCOMES AND IMPACT:

- What themes and insights are we capturing?
- How is your capacity to address to current challenges and issues – as strategists, planners, conveners, collaborators - changing?
- What's the impact?

# A Connected Network Supporting Regional Economic Development



Economic Development Districts

Tribal Planning Partners



EDA University Centers



New Growth Innovation Network  
POWERING INCLUSIVE ECONOMIES



The American Manufacturing Communities Collaborative





# RNTA and Beyond



## Research & Evaluation (R&E)

**Goal:** Provide critical, cutting-edge research, and best practices to internal (EDA Staff) and external stakeholders (regional, state, and local economic development practitioners)

### Example Activities

- Development of Data Tools and Platforms
- Evaluation of economic development programs, policies, and strategies
- Research to inform federal economic development policies



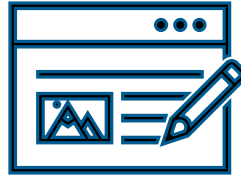
## National Technical Assistance (NTA)

**Goal:** Provide targeted support through outreach, training, and information dissemination to communities across the US

### Example Activities

- Training
- Resource creation and dissemination
- Assistance with implementation of economic development best practices and proven techniques

# RNTA Portfolio projects span a range of topics and programs



## Topics/Focus Areas

- EDDs
- Nuclear Host Communities
- Rural Innovation
- Persistently Poor Communities
- Predevelopment
- University Centers
- Plan Alignment: EDDs and States
- Data Tools and Resources



## Programs

- Build Back Better Regional Challenge
- Good Jobs Challenge
- Travel, Tourism & Outdoor Recreation
- Disaster
- University Center

# RNTA supporting UC program

The logo for UC Hub, featuring the text "UC Hub" in white on a dark blue rectangular background.

UC Hub



## Award Information

- Operated by **Civic Roundtable**
- Timeline: October 2023 – February 2025
- Status: Beta version launched! Rolling out to all UCs in May!

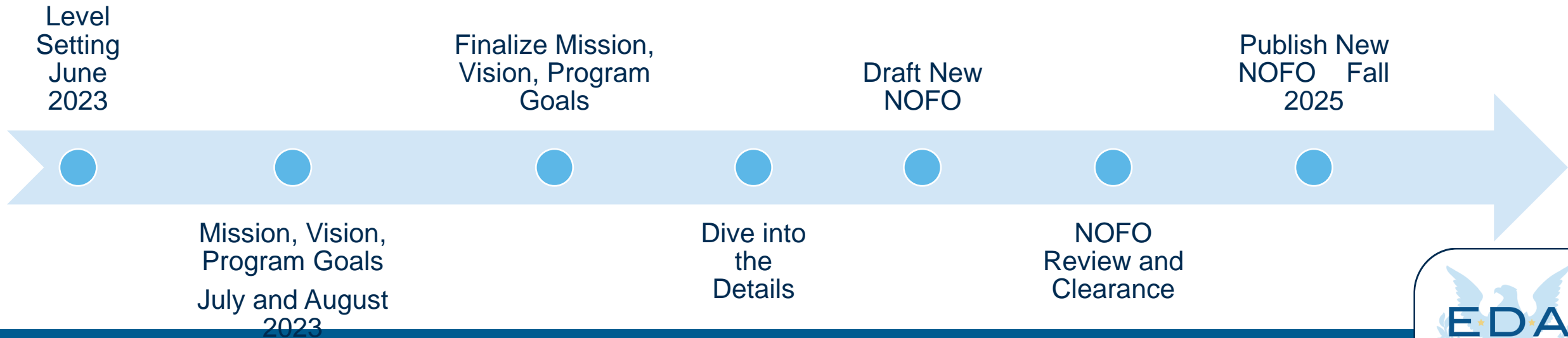
## Award Information

- Operated by **Virginia Polytechnic and State University and University Economic Development Association (VT/UEDA)**
- Timeline: July 2021-June 2024
- Status: Ongoing webinars for UCs, particularly newer meet and greet opportunities; online resource available; Planning for UEDA Summit!



# Moving Towards a Better UC Program

- Next NOFO not until FY26 – Using this time wisely!
- New Mission, New Vision
- Building on the last couple of years of conversations and interactions with current University Centers and EDDs at regional conferences and EDA partner gatherings



# Bringing it all together for greater impact

- Capacity building partners and beneficiaries
- Tools and resources developed to support your work
- Technical assistance tools and resources intended to help increase your economic development impact
  - ❖ How can that impact be measured?
  - ❖ How are you currently measuring your impact?

# Connect with Us!

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