

DRAFT: Feb 25, 2025

**Economic Development Conference for the EDA Denver Region
April 15 – 17, 2025
Denver, CO**

Tuesday, April 15, 2025

7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Conference Registration & Information Desk

9:00 – 10:00 a.m. Opening Plenary: Collaborations Across the EDA Spectrum

10:00 – 10:15 a.m. Networking Break

10:15 – 11:45 a.m. Concurrent Sessions

- RLF Management
- Best Practices in Rural Economic Development: Attracting and Retaining Businesses
- Rural Economic Development and Housing
- AI and Economic Development

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Plenary Lunch

1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Mobile Workshop

National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL): Established in 1977, [NREL](#) is the U.S. Department of Energy's only national research lab solely dedicated to securing America's energy future through renewable energy and energy efficiency. Through cutting-edge facilities and world-class research staff, NREL helps power the future through energy innovations which have created jobs, boosted economic growth, and strengthened energy security. NREL also provides technical assistance to communities of all sizes to help solve energy challenges and implement innovative solutions. ***Pre-registration and \$40 additional fee required; limited to 20 attendees.***

1:15 – 2:45 p.m. Concurrent Sessions

- Next Level CEDS
- Using Defederalized RLF Funds
- Local and Regional Food Systems
- Rural Innovation and Tech-based Entrepreneurial Ecosystems

2:45 – 3:00 p.m. Networking Break

3:00 – 4:30 p.m. Concurrent Sessions

- EDD and State Economic Development Agency Connections
- EDDs and Child Care
- De-mystifying Match Requirements

5:00 – 6:00 p.m. Welcome Reception

Wednesday, April 16, 2025

7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Conference Registration & Information Desk

7:00 – 8:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast

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8:00 – 9:30 a.m. Morning Plenary with EDA Denver Regional Office Staff
Overview of EDA Program Staff followed by table-top discussion groups by program area: RLFs, UCs, Planning Grants, Engineering, and Project Development

9:30- 9:45 a.m. Networking Break

9:30-11:30am Mobile Workshops

Mi Casa Resource Center: With over 48 years of dedicated service, [Mi Casa Resource Center](#) is committed to advancing the economic prosperity of the Latino community across the Denver region. Mi Casa strives to educate, train, and support youth and adults toward economic success, while fostering positive community change. Mi Casa is serving as a regional lead in implementing the \$11.4 million Good Jobs Challenge project awarded by EDA in 2022 to support workforce solutions for the business community and vulnerable jobseekers in Denver. ***Pre-registration and \$40 additional fee required; limited to 30 attendees.***

MSU Denver Advanced Manufacturing Sciences Institute: Welcome to the 4th Industrial Revolution! It's a new day for manufacturing in Colorado and across the nation, as digital technology (such as AI) is transforming manufacturing by making it leaner and smarter – and jump-starting an industrial revival. [Metropolitan State University of Denver's University Center and Advanced Manufacturing Sciences Institute](#) are at the forefront of this revolution through skills training, research, and technical assistance. ***Pre-registration and \$40 additional fee required; limited to 45 attendees.***

9:45 – 11:00 a.m. Concurrent Sessions

- OMB Guidelines-Overview for Non-Finance Program Staff
- Resilient Economies in Energy Communities
- EDA Projects: From Idea to Award

11:00 – 11:10 a.m. Networking Break

11:10 am – 12:15 p.m. Concurrent Sessions

- OMB Guidelines-Procurement
- Building Partnerships across EDDs & Tribal
- Creative Placemaking, Outdoor Recreation, & Tourism Economies

12:15 – 1:30pm Lunch on Your Own

1:30 – 4:00pm Mobile Workshop

Colorado State University Spur Campus: The [Colorado State University \(CSU\) Spur Campus](#) at Denver's National Western Center celebrates the proud tradition of Colorado agriculture, while 'spurring' innovative and global impact through community-centric, experiential, and lifelong learning opportunities. Research and programming at Spur promote agricultural literacy, foster agribusiness entrepreneurship, advance sustainability of rural and urban food systems, and enhance the health and well-being of communities. ***Pre-registration and additional fee required; limit to 25 attendees.***

1:45 – 3:00pm Concurrent Sessions

- OMB Guidelines-Negotiating Indirect Cost
- Philanthropy and EDA Stakeholders: Breaking Barriers and Building Relationships

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- Strategic Planning for Your Organization

3:00 – 3:15pm Networking Break

3:15 – 4:30pm Plenary Session: Federal Legislative Update

The change in the Administration will have implications for federal grant programs and services, including those managed by grantees across the EDA Denver Region. Attend this session to learn about the latest developments on Capitol Hill and in DC from both the national and regional perspectives.

- Speaker: Joe McKinney, Executive Director, NADO
- Speaker: Rick Hunsaker, Executive Director, Region XII COG (IA) and President, NADO

Thursday, April 17, 2025

7:30 – 11:00 a.m. Conference Registration & Information Desk

7:30 – 8:30 a.m. Good Conversations Breakfast Buffet

8:45 – 10:00 a.m. Concurrent Sessions

- Attracting, Retaining, & Nurturing EDD Staff
- CO-WY Innosphere: Merging Climate, Technology, and Economic Development
- University Center Showcase: Partnerships to Promote Economic Development

10:00 – 10:15 a.m. Networking Break

10:15 – 11:15 a.m. Concurrent Sessions

- Conversation Café: Tips and Tools for Successful EDD Management
- Brownfields as an Economic Driver
- Safe Streets for All: Transportation and Economic Development Nexus

11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Closing Plenary: EDA Denver: State of the Region & Looking Forward

- Moderator: Rick Hunsaker, Executive Director, Region XII COG (IA) and President, NADO
- Angela Martinez, Director, EDA-Denver Regional Office

1:00 – 3:00 p.m. EDA Economic Development District Peer Reviews