

Economic Development Conference for the EDA Atlanta Region
July 21-23, 2026

Draft Agenda, as of 5.27.26. Subject to change

Monday, July 20

4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Conference Registration & Information Desk

12:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Pre-Conference Workshop for EDDs: Disaster Recovery and Resilience

Disaster recovery and resilience policy is undergoing a major transformation as federal agencies are rethinking how recovery funds are distributed, new funding partners are emerging, and communities are being asked to do more with limited resources. For Economic Development Districts (EDDs), navigating this evolving landscape provides both a challenge and an opportunity. This interactive pre-conference workshop, hosted by the Economic Development District Community of Practice (EDD CoP), will explore the evolving role of EDDs in disaster recovery, discuss funding opportunities, and examine innovative insurance and financing models. The session will also provide practical insights into how these policy and funding shifts may reshape long-term recovery timelines and create new opportunities to better align recovery efforts with broader economic development goals. ***No cost to attend, but pre-registration is required. Lunch will be provided.***

Tuesday, July 21

7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Conference Registration & Information Desk

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.

Continental Breakfast

9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Opening Plenary

10:00 – 10:15 a.m.

Networking Break

10:15 – 11:45 a.m.

Concurrent Sessions

- CEDS Refresher & Digital-Era CEDS
- Revolving Loan Funds (RLFs)
- Idea to Implementation: Building Successful EDA Projects

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Plenary Luncheon: EDA Atlanta State of the Region

1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Mobile Workshop: Data Centers and Regional Development

Experience an inside look at how digital infrastructure is shaping regional planning and economic development with this interactive mobile workshop to the QTS Atlanta 1 data center facility. Explore the critical role data centers play in supporting cloud computing, AI, and emerging technologies, while learning about site selection, power and utility coordination, workforce needs, and infrastructure investment. This workshop will examine how communities are balancing rapid growth, community needs and benefits, and long-term competitiveness, as demand for data infrastructure continues to expand. There is an additional fee of \$50; ***pre-registration is required***; limit of 19 participants.

1:15 – 2:30 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

- AI & EDDs
- CEDS Conversation Carousel
- GIS Tools for Regional Economic Development

2:30 – 2:45 p.m.

Networking Break

2:45 – 4:00 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

- AI & Workforce Development
- Economic Development Data for Impact
- Partnerships with Philanthropy
- Conversation Cafe: Tribal Engagement & Partnership

4:30 – 6:00 p.m.

Reception

Wednesday, July 22

7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Conference Registration & Information Desk

7:00 – 8:00 a.m.

Breakfast Buffet

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.

Morning Plenary

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Mobile Workshop: Atlanta Beltline and Ponce City Market

Experience and learn from two of Atlanta's transformational redevelopment projects. The Atlanta Beltline is a 22-mile multi-trail and greenspace loop built on former railroad corridors and connecting 45 neighborhoods. The Beltline also

serves as an economic catalyst, linking residential areas to major hubs such as the Ponce City Market – a revitalized food hall, retail center, and community anchor. *Attendees will have lunch on their own at Ponce City Market. There is an additional fee of \$50; **pre-registration is required**; limit of 24 participants.*

9:00 – 9:15 a.m.

Networking Break

9:15 – 10:30 a.m.

Concurrent Sessions

- Power Regions Part 1: Energy, Land-Use, & Data Centers
- EDD Financial Management
- Disaster Recovery & EDDs

10:30 – 10:40 a.m.

Networking Break

10:40 am – 12:10 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

- Power Regions Part II: Data Centers & Economic/Community Development
- Wealth Creation
- EDDs & Military Installation Partnerships

12:15 – 1:30 p.m.

Lunch on Your Own

1:00 – 4:00pm

Mobile Workshop: Georgia Tech AI and Smart Manufacturing

With increasing investments in revitalizing America’s manufacturing infrastructure, the Georgia Tech Manufacturing Institute (GTMI) is leading the charge with a mission to cultivate, scale, and integrate technology innovations in manufacturing into the market — and develop the workforce needed to maintain them. GTMI has been a national leader in advanced manufacturing technology for decades, convening industry leaders, government partners, and top researchers to collaborate on challenges and ensure rapid innovation that secures U.S. dominance in advanced manufacturing. *There is an additional fee of \$50; **pre-registration is required**; limit of 19 participants.*

1:45 – 3:00 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions (3)

- Brownfields
- Storytelling/Communications
- Freight/Ports/ Logistics

- Building Successful Projects Part II/ EDA Office Hours

3:00 – 3:15 p.m.

Networking Break

3:15 – 4:30 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions (3)

- Outdoor Recreation /Tourism
- EDA Grants Management
- Housing

Thursday, July 23

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 (3)

- Nuclear Energy & Economic Development in the Southeast
- Downtown Development
- EDDs Listening Session

10:00 – 10:15 a.m.

Networking Break

10:15 – 11:30 a.m.

Closing Plenary: Federal Policy Updates