



Economic Development Training for the EDA Atlanta Region

July 21-23, 2026

DRAFT AGENDA, as of June 16, 2026

Monday, July 20

4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Registration & Information Desk Open

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.

Registration & Information Desk Open

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.

Continental Breakfast

9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

Opening Plenary

Economic Development Spotlights Across Georgia

10:00 – 10:15 a.m.

Networking Break

10:15 – 11:45 a.m.

Concurrent Sessions

CEDS Refresher & Digital-Era CEDS

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

In 2025, more than \$61 billion was invested in data center construction across the United States. 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

CEDS Conversation Carousel
Storytelling & Communications
AI Ready EDDs

2:30 – 2:45 p.m.

Networking Break

2:45 – 4:00 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

AI Ready Regions
Building Partnerships with Funders
Disaster Recovery

4:30 – 6:00 p.m.

Networking Reception

Wednesday, July 22

7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Registration & Information Desk Open

7:00 – 8:00 a.m.

Breakfast Buffet

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.

Morning Plenary

Private Sector Spotlights

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Mobile Workshop: Atlanta Beltline & 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: Data Centers, Land-Use, & Energy
EDD Financial Management
Conversation Cafe: Tribal Engagement & Partnerships

10:30 – 10:40 a.m.

Networking Break

10:40 am – 12:10 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

Power Regions Part II: Data Centers, Community Impact, and Economic Development
Wealth Creation & Regional Food Systems
EDDs & Military Installation Partnerships

12:15 – 1:30 p.m.

Lunch on Your Own

1:00 – 4:00pm

Mobile Workshop: Georgia Tech AI & 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

Brownfields
GIS Tools for Regional Economic Development
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 Outdoor Recreation & Tourism EDA Grants Management Housing Conversation Cafe: EDD Management & Building Successful Staff

Thursday, July 23

7:30 – 11:00 a.m.	Registration & Information Desk Open
7:30 – 8:30 a.m.	Good Conversations Breakfast Buffet
8:45 – 10:00 a.m.	Concurrent Sessions 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