



CEDS Conversation Carousel

EDA Atlanta Economic
Development Training
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EDD CoP

Economic Development District
Community of Practice



More info at: www.nado.org/EDDCoP

This session is offered through the Economic Development District Community of Practice (EDD CoP), managed by the NADO Research Foundation to build the capacity of the national network of EDDs. To learn more, visit: www.nado.org/EDDCoP. The EDD CoP is made possible through an award from the U.S. Economic Development Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce (ED22HDQ3070106). The statements, findings, conclusions, and recommendations in this webinar are those of the speakers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Economic Development Administration or the U.S. Department of Commerce.



The State of the EDDs & CEDS Content Guidelines Updates (June 2023)



In the spring of 2023, the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) designed its 40th **Economic Development District (EDD)** and also released updates to the **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Content Guidelines**. The updates to the CEDS Content Guidelines are available [here](#) (PDF).

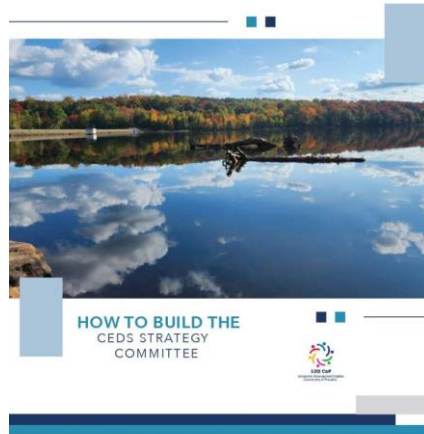
CEDS 101: What You Need to Know Right Now About the CEDS (March 2021)



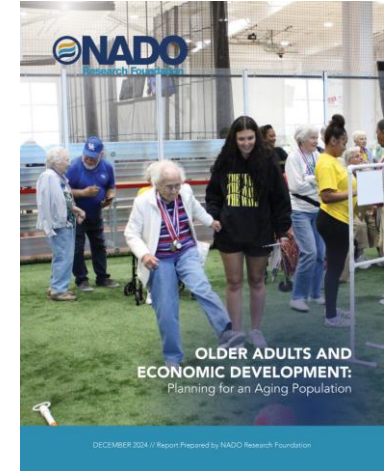
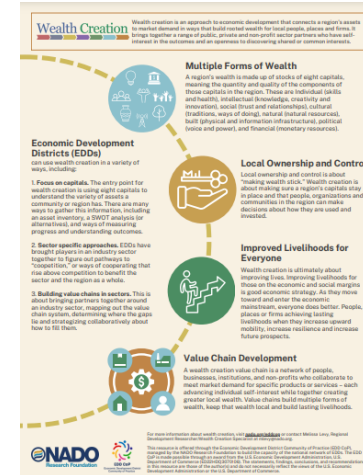
During the webinar, staff from the U.S. Economic Development Administration, NADO Research Foundation, and Southern Economic Development Conference (SEDC) covered CEDS fundamentals, best practices, and latest trends. The webinar is intended primarily for new staff working on the CEDS, though it may also be of interest as a refresher for CEDS veterans. Presentation slides are [available here](#) (PDF).



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DECEMBER 2024 // Report Prepared by NADO Research Foundation

Federal Grant Administration Webinar Series

11	September	SINGLE AUDIT READINESS AND SURVIVAL	2:00-3:30 p.m. ET
26	September	GRANT COST ALLOWABILITY 101	2:00-3:30 p.m. ET
02	October	INDIRECT COST RECOVERY FOR RDOs	2:00-4:00 p.m. ET
09	October	PURCHASING GOODS AND SERVICES WITH FEDERAL FUNDS	2:00-3:30 p.m. ET

LEARN MORE AND REGISTER FOR FREE AT:
[nado.org/edd-cop/calendar-edd-cop/](https://www.nado.org/edd-cop/calendar-edd-cop/)

This webinar series is offered through the Economic Development District Community of Practice (EDDCoP) supported by the NADO Research Foundation. To learn more, visit www.nado.org/EDDCoP. This EDDCoP is made possible through an award from the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) Department of Commerce (ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT). The webinar series findings, conclusions, and recommendations are those of the presenters and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Economic Development Administration or the U.S. Department of Commerce.



December 2025



Wisdom from the Field: 10 Practical Tips for EDD Staff to Improve Projects and Programs

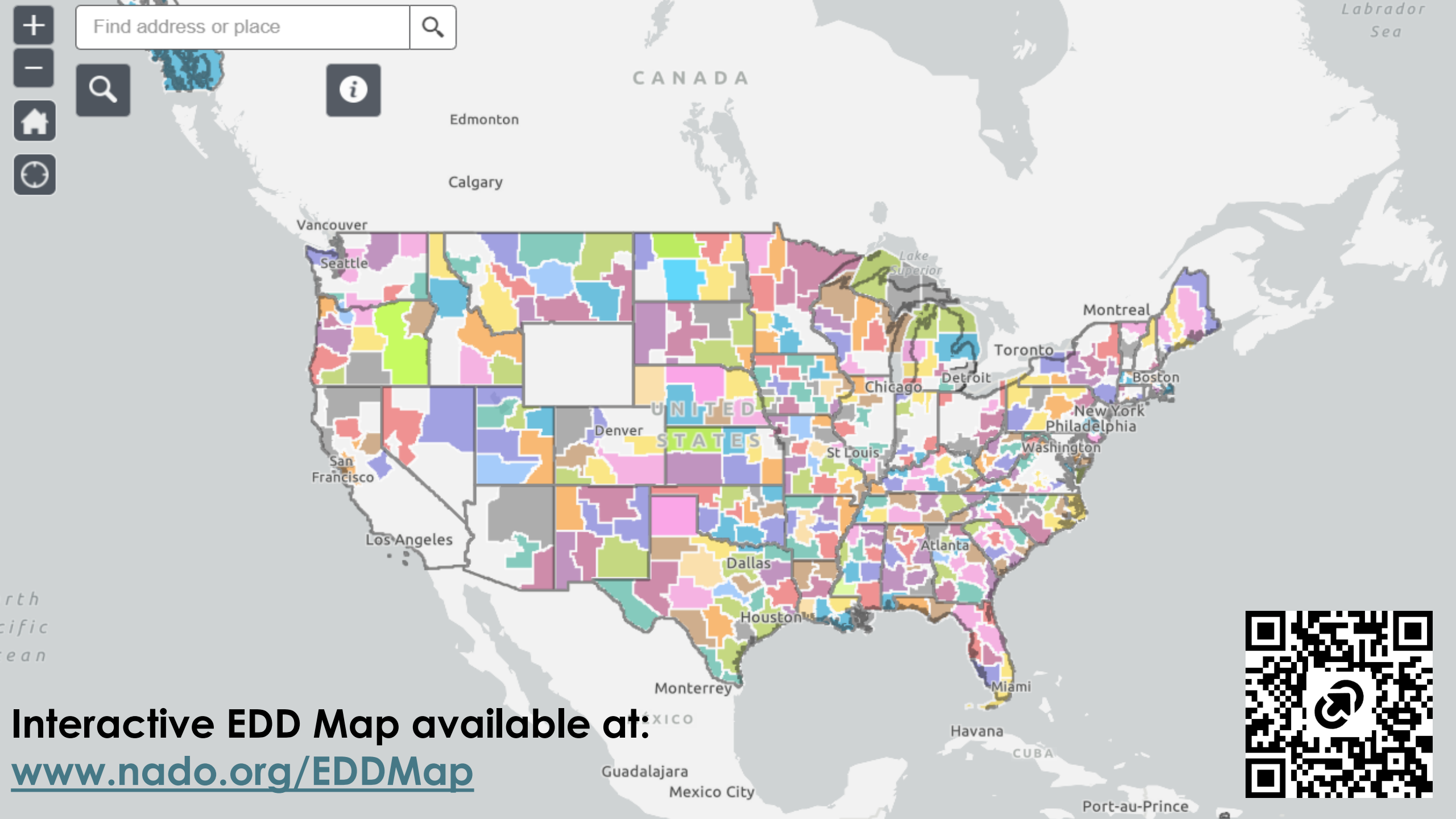
No one ever said doing regional economic development was easy. Whether navigating complex partnerships, aligning diverse community needs, or securing the right resources, EDD staff routinely face a wide range of challenges in their efforts to drive meaningful change. While there's no single roadmap for success, one of the best ways to chart a path forward is by learning from peers who've tackled similar hurdles.

This resource shares ten pieces of advice from Economic Development District staff whose 2025 NADO Impact Award-winning projects show how vision, planning, and collaboration can lead to meaningful results. These insights offer practical guidance for moving initiatives from concept to completion, reflecting the creativity, determination, and problem-solving needed to advance economic and community development. Whether you're starting a new effort or working to complete an existing one, these lessons provide real-world encouragement from those who've successfully navigated the path.



September 2025

Visit: www.nado.org/EDDCoP



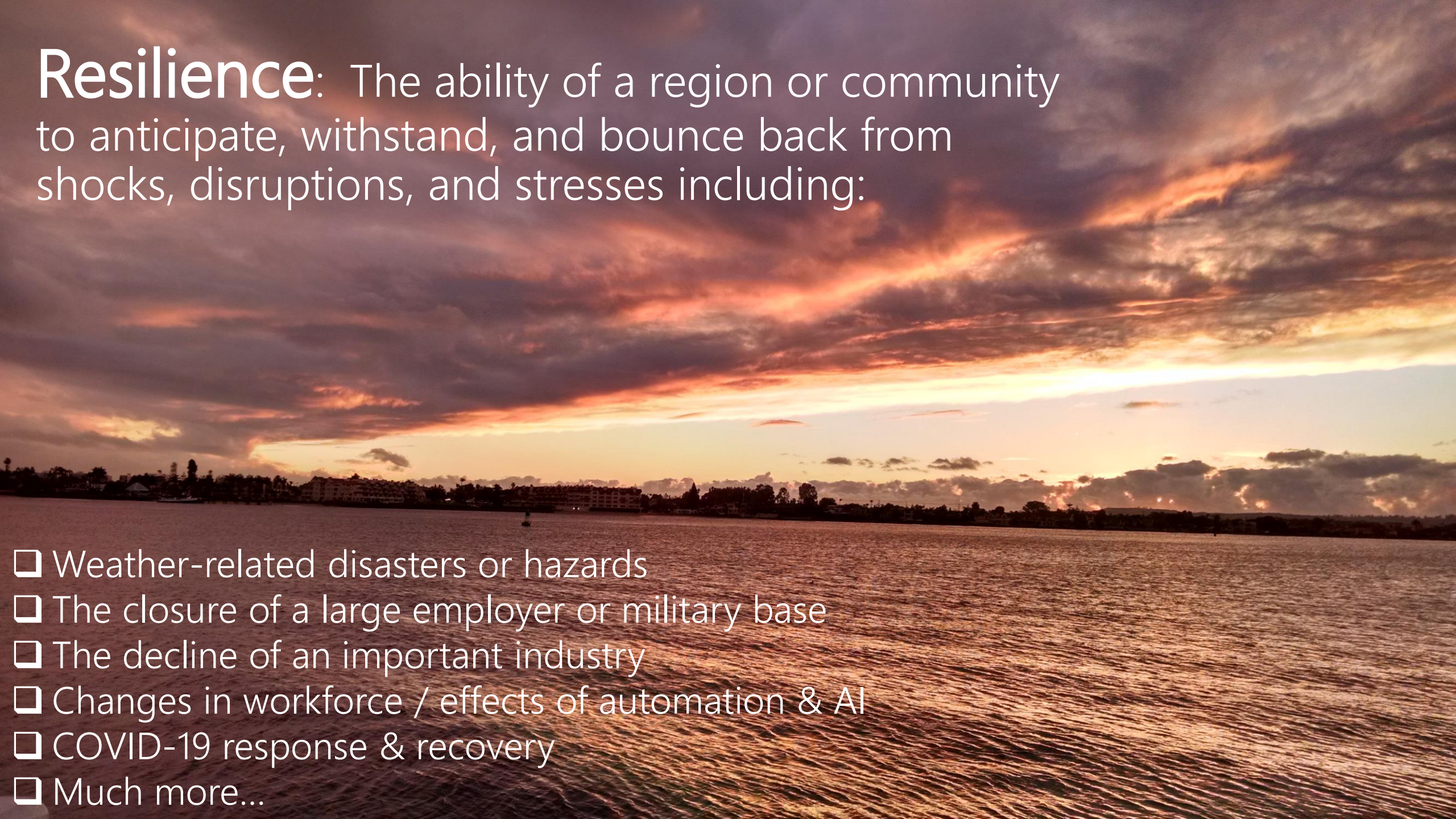
Interactive EDD Map available at:
www.nado.org/EDDMap





The Most **Impactful** CEDS Are:

Creative
Engaging
Diven by Data
Storytellers

A dramatic sunset over a body of water. The sky is filled with dark, heavy clouds that are illuminated from below by the setting sun, creating a vibrant orange and yellow glow. The sun is a bright, glowing orb on the horizon, partially obscured by the clouds. The water in the foreground is dark and reflects the colors of the sky. In the distance, a city skyline is visible, with several buildings and structures silhouetted against the bright horizon. The overall mood is serene yet powerful, capturing a moment of natural beauty and urban life.

Resilience:

The ability of a region or community to anticipate, withstand, and bounce back from shocks, disruptions, and stresses including:

- ☐ Weather-related disasters or hazards
- ☐ The closure of a large employer or military base
- ☐ The decline of an important industry
- ☐ Changes in workforce / effects of automation & AI
- ☐ COVID-19 response & recovery
- ☐ Much more...

Latest CEDS Guidance (April 2025)

- **In-Process CEDS:** CEDS that are under development (i.e., in any stage of development prior to EDA final approval) should have all references to and sections about equity and/or climate removed from the document.
- **Previously-Approved CEDS:** CEDS that have been previously approved (prior to the change in Administration) by EDA do not need to be changed or altered in order to remove references or sections related to climate or equity. While voluntary changes to remove such language outside of the regular 5-year update process will be allowed (e.g., as part of an annual update), no changes will be required before the regular 5-year update. However, as part of the regular 5-year update, it will be expected that grantees make changes to their CEDS as noted above for in-process CEDS.



EDA Investment Priorities

- **Critical Infrastructure**
- **Workforce**
- **Innovation & Entrepreneurship**
- **Economic Recovery Resilience**
- **Manufacturing**

<https://www.eda.gov/funding/investment-priorities>



(Free) Data Tools and Models from Argonne National Laboratory

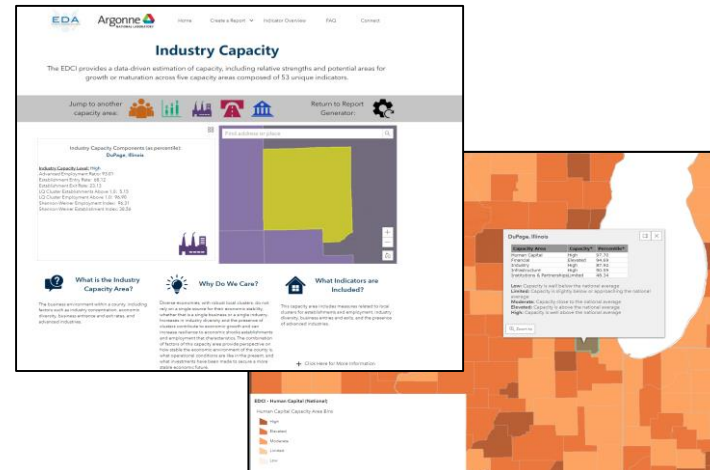
<https://www.anl.gov/dis/national-economic-research-resilience-center>

National Economic Resilience Data Explorer



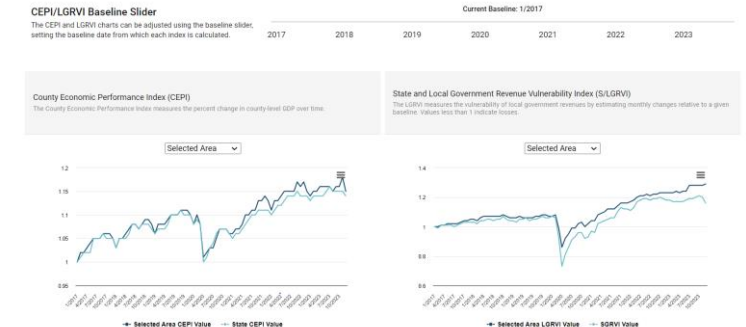
Baseline economic context

Economic Development Capacity Index

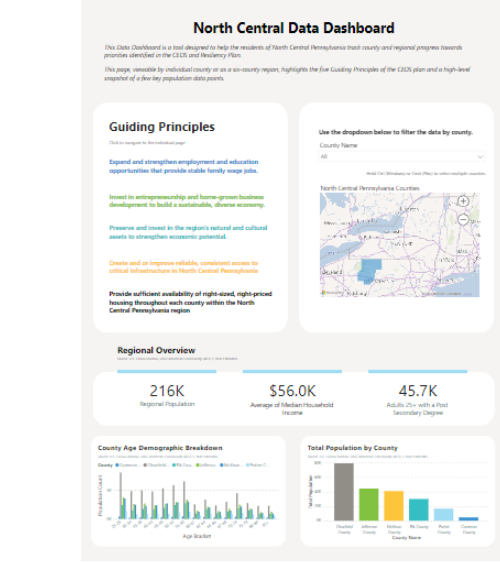


Assessment of county-level capacity, strengths, and opportunities for investment

Economic Performance and Government Revenue Indices



Near-real time measures of economic activity



Spreadsheet on Online / Digital CEDS Examples

Online / Interactive CEDS

	A	B	C
1	Organization	State	Link to Online CEDS
2	Barren River Area Development District	KY	Website: https://planning.bradd.org/comprehensive-economic-development-strategy/
3	Blackhawk Hills Regional Council	IL	https://ceds.blackhawkhills.com
4	Catawba Regional Council of Governments	SC	Website: https://catawba.digitalceds.com/
5	Central Arkansas Planning & Development District	AR	Website: https://www.capdd.org/ceds
6	Centralina Council of Governments	NC	Website: https://centralinaedd.org/economic-strategy/
7	Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission	PA	Story Map: https://www.dvrpc.org/economic/ceds/
8	East Central Iowa Council of Governments	IA	Website: https://www.envision-eastcentraliowa.org/regional-plan
9	Heart of Texas Council of Governments	TX	Website/Interactive Map: https://www.hotcoq.org/hotedd/ceds
10	Kentuckiana Regional Planning and Development Agency	KY	Website: http://kipdaceds.org/
11	Kisatchie-Delta Regional Planning and Development District	LA	Website: https://trello.com/b/M0exbxHr/ceds-online-kisatchie-delta-regional-strategy
12	Land of Sky Regional Council	NC	Story Map: https://losrc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Cascade/index.html?appid=3db8474da7e24f36b59e
13	Mid-Shore Regional Council	MD	Website: https://ceds.midshore.org/
14	North Central Pennsylvania Regional Planning & Development Commission	PA	Website: https://ceds.ncentral.com/
15	Northern Neck Planning District Commission	VA	Website: https://www.northernneck.us/cedsonline/



<https://tinyurl.com/mwwwv38ux>



Stronger CEDS, Stronger Regions

CEDS Resource & Training Archive

www.CEDSCentral.com



Stay in Touch!

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Conversation Carousel Instructions

In the Conversation Carousel, you will speak 1:1 with different partners about your CEDS

Choose a seat in the inner or outer circle that is directly across from another person

There are 4 discussion prompts. You will have 10 minutes to discuss each topic with each partner.

After 10 minutes, move one chair to right for a new discussion prompt and partner

After the 4 rounds, you will have 5 minutes to share What you have learned as a group



A carousel with several white horses and a wooden floor. The horses are decorated with colorful patterns and are mounted on a wooden platform. The carousel is illuminated by warm lights, and the background shows a building with a large archway.

Share one aspect of your CEDS planning process that has been especially effective. Can this be replicated elsewhere?

What aspect of your CEDS can be improved? What steps are you taking to address this?

Round #1



In what ways has the CEDS helped your region become more economically resilient , and what emerging risks or opportunities are shaping your next steps?

Round #2



A photograph of a carousel with several white horses and a wooden floor. The carousel is ornate with a canopy and lights. The horses are decorated with colorful patterns and are in various poses. The background is slightly blurred, showing the interior of a building.

How are you engaging your community and stakeholders in your CEDS work, and what communication or storytelling approaches have helped build momentum?

Round #3

A carousel with several white horses and a wooden floor. The horses are decorated with colorful patterns and are mounted on a wooden platform. The carousel is surrounded by a wooden fence and has a wooden floor. The background is a light blue sky with white clouds.

What indicators or data sources have been most helpful in tracking progress on your CEDS, and where do you still need better information?

Round #4



Report Outs & Reflection

