

# U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration



## COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES (CEDs)



Calvin Edghill,  
South Atlantic Area Director  
Economic Development  
Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce  
Economic Development Administration  
**COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES**  
**CEDS**  
**SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS**

---

**Introduction:** A comprehensive economic development strategy (CEDS) is designed to bring together the public and private sectors in the creation of an economic roadmap to diversify and strengthen regional economies. The CEDS should analyze the regional economy and serve as a guide for establishing regional goals and objectives, developing and implementing a regional plan of action, and identifying investment priorities and funding sources. A CEDS integrates a region's human and physical capital planning in the service of economic development. Integrated economic development planning provides the flexibility to adapt to global economic conditions and fully utilize the region's unique advantages to maximize economic opportunity for its residents by attracting the private investment that creates jobs for the region's residents. A CEDS must be the result of a continuing economic development planning process developed with broad-based and diverse public and private sector participation, and must set forth the goals and objectives necessary to solve the economic development problems of the region and clearly define the metrics of success. Finally, a CEDS provides a useful benchmark by which a regional economy can evaluate opportunities with other regions in the national economy.

**Who should develop a CEDS?** A Planning Organization seeking to formulate and implement a regional economic development program will benefit from developing a CEDS. Successful economic development efforts are based on CEDS that provide an economic roadmap to diversify and strengthen regional economies. The Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965, as amended (PWEDA), requires a CEDS in order to apply for investment assistance under EDA's Public Works or Economic Adjustment Assistance Programs. At EDA's discretion, EDA may accept CEDS that it has funded or CEDS prepared independently of EDA investment assistance or oversight. The following sections set out below on "Planning Organizations" and "Strategy Committees" cover the requirements for EDA-funded CEDS, while the remainder of this document pertains to technical requirements for CEDS. *It should be noted that in determining the acceptability of a CEDS prepared independently of EDA investment assistance or oversight for projects under 13 C.F.R. parts 305 or 307, EDA may in its discretion determine that the CEDS is acceptable without it fulfilling every requirement set out in 13 C.F.R. § 303.7. In doing so, EDA shall consider the circumstances surrounding the application for investment assistance, including emergencies or natural disasters, and the fulfillment of the requirements of Section 302 of PWEDA.*

**A. Pursuant to 13 C.F.R. EDA-funded CEDS § 303.6,** if EDA awards Investment Assistance to a Planning Organization to develop, revise, or replace a CEDS, the Planning Organization must follow the procedures set forth in paragraphs A.1 and A.2.

**1. Planning Organization:** A Planning Organization (as defined in 13 C.F.R. § 303.2), typically an Economic Development District (EDD) or Indian Tribe, may be eligible for EDA planning investment assistance. The purpose of such assistance is to develop a CEDS for a specific EDA-approved region. The Planning Organization is responsible for:

- Appointing a Strategy Committee (CEDS Committee);
- Developing and submitting to EDA a CEDS that complies with 13 C.F.R. § 303.7;
- Making a new or revised CEDS available for review and comment by the public for a period of at least thirty (30) days prior to submission of the CEDS to EDA;
- Obtaining approval of the CEDS from EDA; • After obtaining approval of the CEDS, submitting to EDA an updated CEDS performance report annually.

The performance report, in addition to reporting progress on CEDS implementation, should also discuss community and private sector participation in the CEDS effort. Any performance report that results in a change in the technical components of the EDA-approved CEDS must be available for review and comment by the public for a period of at least thirty (30) days prior to submission of the performance report to EDA; • Submitting a copy of the CEDS to any Regional Commission if any part of the EDA-approved EDD region is covered by that Commission; • Submitting a new CEDS to EDA at least every five (5) years, unless EDA or the Planning Organization determines that a new CEDS is required earlier due to changed circumstances.

**2. Strategy Committee:** The Strategy Committee is the entity identified by the Planning Organization as responsible for developing, revising, or replacing the CEDS. The Strategy Committee must represent the main economic interests of the region, and must include Private Sector Representatives (defined in 13 C.F.R. § 300.3, with respect to any for-profit enterprise, as any senior management official or executive holding a key decision making position, or that person's designee) as a majority of its membership. In addition, the Planning Organization should ensure that the Strategy Committee also includes:

- Public officials; • Community leaders; • Representatives of workforce development boards; • Representatives of institutions of higher education; • Minority and labor groups; and • Private individuals.

# What is a CEDS?

---

- A comprehensive economic development strategy (CEDS) is designed to bring together the public and private sectors in the creation of an economic roadmap to diversify and strengthen regional economies.

# Who should develop a CEDS?

---

- A Planning Organization seeking to formulate and implement a regional economic development program will benefit from developing a CEDS.

# Strategy Committee Requirements

---

- The Strategy Committee must represent the main economic interests of the region, and
- Must include Private Sector Representatives as a majority of its membership.