



**NARC**

*Building Regional Communities*

*National Association of Regional Councils*

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# EDA REAUTHORIZATION

## **The Economic Development Administration Supports Regions.**

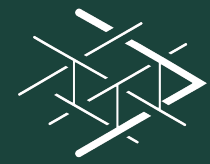
Since its inception in 1965, the Economic Development Administration (EDA) has helped local and regional stakeholders address pressing economic development needs, emphasizing job creation, disaster relief, and mitigating economic distress in rural and underserved areas. Communities have benefitted from EDA investments in job skills training, technical assistance, high-growth industry development, and infrastructure improvements designed to help attract and support businesses. Economic Development Districts (EDDs), regional councils, and councils of governments (COGs) are core constituencies of EDA. EDA provides funding to EDDs to implement their Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs), a locally developed long-term regional economic plan.

## **EDA is Essential to Regional Economic Development Efforts.**

EDA helps guide the locally based, regionally driven economic development planning process for a national network of more than 400 regional EDDs. EDDs are encouraged to leverage local partners from the public, private, and non-profit sectors to establish a strategic economic development. EDA funds investments in high-quality jobs in advanced manufacturing, science and technology, and emerging knowledge-based industries and in vital infrastructure such as water and wastewater systems, middle mile broadband networks, workforce training centers, and much more.

## **MAPC Promotes Regional Economic Development by Connecting Housing and Transportation**

The Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) is the EDD for the greater Boston region. Its most recent CEDs includes a goal to provide access to affordable, safe, and accessible transportation options. MAPC provides direct services to communities including rewriting zoning, developing economic strategic plans that support community development, and helping align land use regulations with an economic development plan. Adopting zoning changes near public transit stations to encourage more affordable housing reduces residents' transportation costs and provides increased access to opportunities while creating greater transit demand.



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## To support and fund the Economic Development Administration, Congress should:



**Increase EDA's Authorization to \$3 Billion:** Increasing EDA's annual authorized funding level will help ensure that EDA remains well-positioned to leverage its expertise and effectiveness in strengthening the nation's economic security. Over the past five years, EDA has received and activated approximately \$5.7 billion in supplemental funding, including over \$1 billion in disaster supplementals, in addition to its annual appropriations.



**Formalize EDA's Role in Disaster Recovery and Resilience:** Outline and designate EDA's significant role in post-disaster assistance for impacted communities by amending the Public Works and Economic Development Act (PWEDA).



**Increase EDA funding for Partnership Planning:** Significantly increasing EDA funding for planning assistance funding to EDDs is crucial. In many communities, current funding is barely enough to cover a single full-time position. Local jurisdictions rely on EDDs to oversee CEDS planning responsibilities, lead public input process, assist stakeholders navigating the grant process, and conduct other planning and local government advisory services.



**Lower the Local Match Requirement for Partnership Planning Funding:** EDDs and local entities that access planning funds must provide a 50 percent match. This is a significant burden on many communities. Reducing the match requirement would allow more communities to more easily access these important funds.

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