

THE CEDS STRATEGY COMMITTEE



PURPOSE

“A key element in the process is the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee (Strategy Committee). Established by the planning organization, the Strategy Committee is the principal facilitator of the CEDS process and is responsible for developing and updating the CEDS. The Strategy Committee should broadly represent the main economic interests of the region.”

US ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

COMMITTEE ROLES

1. Actively contribute knowledge in areas of expertise
2. Collaborate with other members on interdisciplinary topics
3. Vet direction of strategies and implementation capacity

MEMBERSHIP REPRESENTATION

- The public sector
- Private interests
- Nonprofits
- Educational institutions
- Community organizations

KEY COMPONENTS OF A BALANCED CEDS COMMITTEE

REPRESENTATION OF DIVERSE INTERESTS

Ensure the committee reflects the various economic sectors, demographics, income, and geographic areas within the region.

BALANCED PARTICIPATION

Strive for a mix of individuals with expertise in economic development, planning, policy, and community engagement.

CAPACITY FOR COLLABORATION

Select individuals who are willing to actively participate in the planning process and commit to working together to achieve common goals.



CEDS STRATEGY COMMITTEE REGULATIONS

“The Planning Organization must appoint a Strategy Committee. The Strategy Committee must represent the main economic interests of the Region, which may include Indian tribes, the private sector, State and other public officials, community leaders, private individuals, representatives of workforce development boards, institutions of higher education, minority and labor groups, and others who can contribute to and benefit from improved economic development in the relevant Region. In addition, the Strategy Committee must demonstrate the capacity to undertake a collaborative and effective planning process.”

Title 13 Code of Federal Regulations Subpart B – Partnership Planning Assistance 303.6(b)(1)

[https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-13/part-303#p-303.6\(b\)\(1\)](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-13/part-303#p-303.6(b)(1))

CEDS STRATEGY COMMITTEE MAY INCLUDE:

- **Private Sector:**
 - Business owners
 - Industry leaders
 - Chamber of Commerce representatives
- **Public Sector:**
 - Elected officials
 - Government agency staff
 - Regional planning commissions
 - Workforce Investment Board representatives
- **Community Organizations:**
 - Non-profit leaders
 - Community development corporations
 - Social service providers Board representatives
- **Labor and Minority Groups:**
 - Union representatives
 - Workforce advocacy groups
- **Education Sector:**
 - Workforce development program leaders
 - Career and technical education representatives
 - College administrators
 - University administrators
- Indian tribes
- Community leaders
- Utility providers
- Private individuals and others who contribute and benefit from improved regional economic development

TIME COMMITMENT

The CEDS planning process is due to be completed by November 2025

1 Organizing meeting (90 minutes | virtual/hybrid)

An organizing meeting will be held in February 2025. This will be the kickoff to the CEDS. We will discuss the overall approach to the process and also begin conversations around the core issues that are impacting the business climate, community development, and opportunities for the future. We will also further discuss the role of the CEDS Strategy Committee in this process.

2 Strategy development sessions (5-6 over the year | 90 minutes | virtual/hybrid)

Throughout the process of creating of the comprehensive economic development strategy, CEDS committee members will be called together to review progress to data and help provide input on stakeholder engagement and other parts of the strategy as appropriate.

3 Meeting to review and refine the action plan matrix (90 minutes | virtual/hybrid)

The CEDS action plan matrix consists of all the recommendations for new policies, programs and initiatives that are part of the plan. It also designates lead organizations that will be responsible for carrying out these activities, resource requirements, timelines and accountability and performance measures. Your role will be to assist in the review of this document.

4 Meeting to finalize plan prior to 30-day comment period (90 minutes | in person)

At this point in the process, the plan needs to be reviewed a final time to prepare for the 30-day public comment period. At this meeting the Committee and FCEDC will give final sign off before public release.

POST-CEDS PLANNING

After the completion of the 2025 CEDS, we anticipate that the Committee will be called back to annually review the status of goal areas within the CEDS.

We anticipate one large conference call and then smaller group follow ups as necessary to gather additional information on specific goal areas.

CEDS Committee members may be asked to look within their organization for updates and report back to the larger group.

WHAT IS A COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY?



A comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is a program of the United States Commerce Department's Economic Development Administration (EDA). The EDA is the only federal agency whose mission is solely focused on economic development. It provides funding in the form of grants and loans as well as technical assistance to state and local government and economic development organizations. Its programs include:

- Public infrastructure
- Technology-based development
- Innovation and entrepreneurship
- Community facilities
- Business attraction and expansion assistance
- Workforce initiatives for disadvantaged communities

As part of its disbursement of funds, it encourages communities to collaborate at a regional level to develop fully integrated strategies to support economic growth.

A CEDS is a prerequisite for designation as an EDA Economic Development District (EDD). Once this happens, municipalities at all levels are provided priority consideration when applying for funds, not only for EDA's programs, but many other federal sources of funding, such as transportation, labor, health, etc.

The CEDS process must include representation from public, private and non-profit sectors and typically involves an exercise to define expectations, a series of stakeholder engagement activities, data analysis of the regional economy and the creation and prioritization of action items and performance measures.

The shelf-life of a CEDS is five years, at which point it is necessary to assess progress and identify changes that need to be made.

The CEDS document, which is submitted to the EDA, is meant to be a blueprint for activity that will bring about greater economic prosperity. The document includes the following items:

- Summary background of the economic conditions of the region
- SWOT analysis
- Strategic direction/action plan
- Evaluation framework with performance measures
- Resiliency plan for recovery from natural and economic disaster

A CEDS is meant to integrate with and complement other economic development plans. Rather than being "owned" by any one agency, a CEDS consists of plans of action that may be undertaken by multiple players.