

CEDS at a Glance

What is a CEDS?

A Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is a regional strategy which reflects local economic development needs and priorities and recommends a regional approach to achieving sustainable economic development.

Why develop a CEDS?

-A CEDS is required to qualify for Economic Development Administration (EDA) assistance under its public works, economic adjustment, and most planning programs, and is a prerequisite for designation by EDA as an Economic Development District (EDD).

-The CEDS can be used as a regional strategy to coordinate economic development efforts.

Elements of the CEDS

- An analysis of economic and community development problems and opportunities including incorporation of any relevant material or suggestions from other government sponsored or supported plans;
- Background and history of the economic development situation of the area covered, with a discussion of the economy, including as appropriate, geography, population, labor force, resources, and the environment;
- A discussion of community participation in the planning efforts;
- A section setting forth goals and objectives for taking advantage of the opportunities of and solving the economic development problems of the area serviced;
- A plan of action, including suggested projects to implement objectives and goals set forth in the strategy; and
- Performance measures that will be used to evaluate whether and to what extent goals and objectives have been or are being met.

Legislation

Public Law 105-393, the Economic Development Administration Reform Act of 1998, a comprehensive amendment of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965, as Amended (PWEDA), requires a strategy to qualify for assistance under most EDA programs. Revisions to the regulation were published in December 2005 and impact EDD definitions, match requirements, availability of planning funds, and the CEDS committee membership.

CEDS is a precondition for:

- Public works and economic adjustment grants. To be eligible for assistance under the public works or economic adjustment programs, the applicant must accompany the application with a CEDS acceptable to EDA. The proposed project must be consistent with a the CEDS.

- Economic Development District (EDD) designation. As a prerequisite for designation, a proposed EDD must prepare a CEDS that is approved by EDA, as well as meet all other requirements for designation.

- Planning organizations. To receive EDA ongoing planning grants, EDDs and other eligible organizations must develop and maintain an ongoing CEDS process. The initial CEDS document, subsequent annual reports and revised CEDS, must be submitted for review and approval by the appropriate EDA regional office.



U.S. Department of Commerce
Economic Development Administration



COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES
CEDS
SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS

Note: This document provides a synopsis of the requirements for comprehensive economic development strategies. For further information, interested parties are directed to section 302 of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. § 3162) and EDA's regulations at 13 C.F.R. part 303. The document is intended to serve as a convenient source for requirements relating to the CEDS. Nothing in this document is intended to supersede or otherwise modify EDA's statute, regulations, policies or procedures.

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. EDA-funded CEDS

Pursuant to 13 C.F.R. § 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.

Strategy Committees representing Indian Tribes or States may vary.