



Disaster Preparedness and Economic Resilience: Key Considerations for EDDs

EDD CoP Webinar
March 4, 2025





EDD CoP

Economic Development District
Community of Practice



More info at: www.nado.org/EDDCoP

This webinar is offered through the Economic Development District Community of Practice (EDD CoP), made possible through an award from the U.S. Economic Development Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce (ED22HDQ3070106). The statements, findings, conclusions, and recommendations are those of the participants and trainers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Economic Development Administration or the U.S. Department of Commerce.



In the spring of 2023, the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) (administered by NADO's Economic Development District (EDD)) and also released updates to its **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS Content Guidelines)**. This webinar briefing provides a reflection on the state of the national network of EDDs and information about the updated CEDS Content Guidelines that highlight equity, climate resilience, and workforce development. Presentation slides are [available here](#) (PDF).

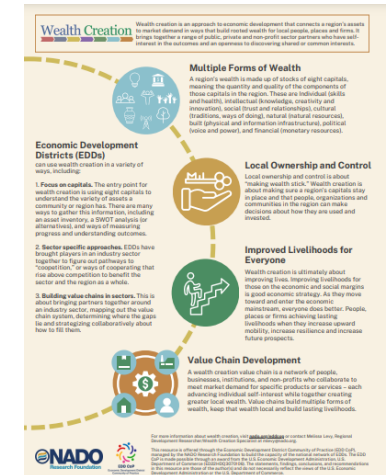
CEDS 101: What You Need to Know Right Now About the CEDS (March 2021)



During this webinar, staff from the U.S. Economic Development Administration, NADO Research Foundation, and Southeast Conference (SEC) covered CEDS fundamentals, best practices, and latest trends. This session is intended primarily for new staff working on the CEDS, though it may also be of interest to a researcher for CEDS systems. Presentation slides are [available here](#) (PDF).

HOW TO BUILD THE CEDS STRATEGY COMMITTEE

POSITIONING YOUR REGION FOR SUCCESS: INCORPORATING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND UPSKILLING INTO THE CEDS



MAKING IT COUNT: ACHIEVING, MEASURING, AND REPORTING RESULTS WITH DATA
TIP SHEET
NADO Research Foundation

11 September SINGLE COST 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
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Sourced from recommendations and strategies created by successful EDDs, the following resource will walk you through the steps to set up your own help-ups and promote help-ups, for creating reliable coverings for your region.

HAZARD MITIGATION & CEDS INTEGRATION

TIP SHEET
NADO Research Foundation

OLDER ADULTS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Planning for an Aging Population

DECEMBER 2024 // Report Prepared by NADO Research Foundation

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Resilience is the ability of a region or community to *anticipate, withstand, and bounce back* from any type of shock, disruption, or stressor it faces. These shocks can include natural disasters, hazards, and the impacts of a changing climate, but also man-made economic disruptions such as the closure of a region's large employer, the decline of an important industry, changes in the workforce, and shifts in population trends. The power of resilience planning is that it focuses both on emergency response – how to deal with the immediate impact of a disruptive event – as well as how to prepare and organize in advance and rebuild afterwards with a coherent framework.



Visit: www.cedscentral.com/resilience.html

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(Link in the Chat!)

Virtual Office Hours:

Disaster Preparedness and Economic Resilience

Thursday, March 6, 2 p.m. ET





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Today's Presenter:



David Dodd

Founding President & CEO
International Sustainable Resilience Center

Disaster Preparedness and Economic Resilience: Key Considerations for EDDs

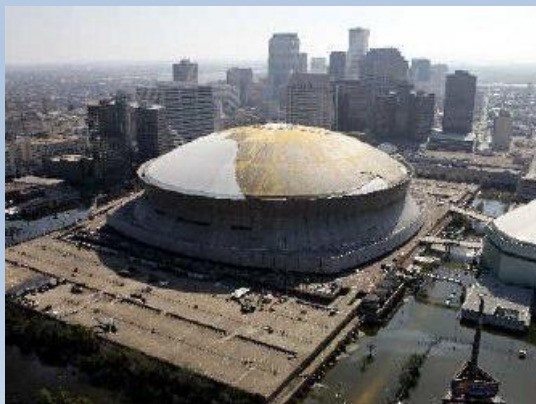
David A. Dodd, CEcD/FM/HLM

International Sustainable Resilience Center, Inc



What IS Economic Resilience?

- Economic Resilience is the ability of a community's businesses and economic development efforts to better withstand, and recover more quickly from, adverse incidents of any kind
 - Incidents include natural and manmade disasters, pandemics, economic upheavals, civil unrest, acts of terror, armed conflict, and cyber attacks
 - Resilience includes response, recovery, & risk mitigation



Mastering CEDS Resilience Component

- CEDS integrates resilience into regional planning to ensure economic durability
- Focuses on steady-state initiatives (long-term economic stability) and responsive initiatives (post-disruption resilient recovery)
- Vital for regions facing natural and man-made disasters, economic shifts, infrastructure challenges, and other hazards such as cyber threats, terrorism, future pandemics, and geopolitical economic shocks (tariffs, conflict)

Three-Pronged Approach to Resilience

- 1. Planning for resilience:
 - Identify economic vulnerabilities.
 - Develop strategies for long-term durability.
- 2. Establishing information networks:
 - Foster collaboration among stakeholders from public, private, education, and non-profit.
- 3. Creating "Resilient Recovery":
 - Stakeholder-driven, resilience-embedded strategies through collaboration with private, nonprofit, local, state, and Federal organizations.

Steps to Implement Economic Resilience

1. Organize: Convene a Disaster Resilience Task Force
2. Assess: Perform a comprehensive resilience assessment
3. Identify: Based on assessment, identify shortcomings
4. Gain Knowledge: Direct and Indirect Research, Advice
5. Secure Resources: Funding, Expertise, Assistance
6. Take Action: Create a step-by-step action plan

These steps should be integrated into CEDS resilience section



Importance of Identifying Vulnerabilities

- Economic challenges include:
 - Dependency on single industries.
 - Workforce education gaps.
 - Infrastructure deficiencies (e.g., broadband access).

Recognizing these weak points helps mitigate risks.



Anticipatory Focus & Early-Warning Tools

Implement tools to predict disruptions:

- Economic dashboards and reports.
- Collaboration with emergency management agencies. Business Emergency Operations Centers enable swift reaction to potential challenges.



Building Mechanisms for Flexibility

Ensure:

- Availability of emergency funds for business
- Disaster-tested recovery plans for local governments using tabletop simulations
- Workforce adaptability through retraining programs, dislocation funds via Dept of Labor



Promoting a Positive Regional Vision

Promote	- Promote strengths to attract investments
Highlight	- Highlight assets and opportunities.
Encourage	- Encourage proactive resilience measures.
Frame	- Frame shocks as opportunities for reassessment.

Establishing Information Networks

Collaborate across sectors to:

- Share information and data post-disruption.
- Mobilize support for recovery efforts.
- Enhance preparedness through role awareness.

Best practice example: <https://labeoc.org/>

- The eight EDDs in Louisiana are engaged with the Louisiana Business Emergency Operations Center to provide real-time communications during disasters, and programs to help businesses prepare

Pre-Disaster Recovery Planning

Develop comprehensive strategies to:

- Align economic development with hazard mitigation.
- Prioritize major employers for quick recovery.
- Support local procurement and hiring during recovery.

Best Practices Example: The Coastal Procurement Assistance Center—Equips local contractors to participate in recovery efforts:

<https://www.louisianactac.org/>

Components & Development Practices

- Components:
 - Diversify industries to stabilize regional economies using Cluster-based development
 - Use FEMA Building Science Disaster Impact Program to track business data and assess impacts.
 - Support workforce adaptability with skill development programs.
- Development practices:
 - Avoiding floodplain development.
 - Preserving natural buffers.
 - Protecting critical infrastructure

Resilient Recovery Strategies Should:

- Define roles and responsibilities.
- Prioritize actions for community recovery.
- Integrate with regional economic development goals.
- Focus on “Resilient Recovery” —Integrating resilience throughout the recovery process

Example: Oklahoma Resilient Recovery - Capital Area Economic Development District supported this effort:

[https://www.eda.gov/sites/default/files/filebase/archives/2021/files/about/disaster-recovery/Oklahoma Economic Resilience Strategy Report FINAL print.pdf](https://www.eda.gov/sites/default/files/filebase/archives/2021/files/about/disaster-recovery/Oklahoma_Economic_Resilience_Strategy_Report_FINAL_print.pdf)

-Designated a FEMA best practice

Role of EDDs

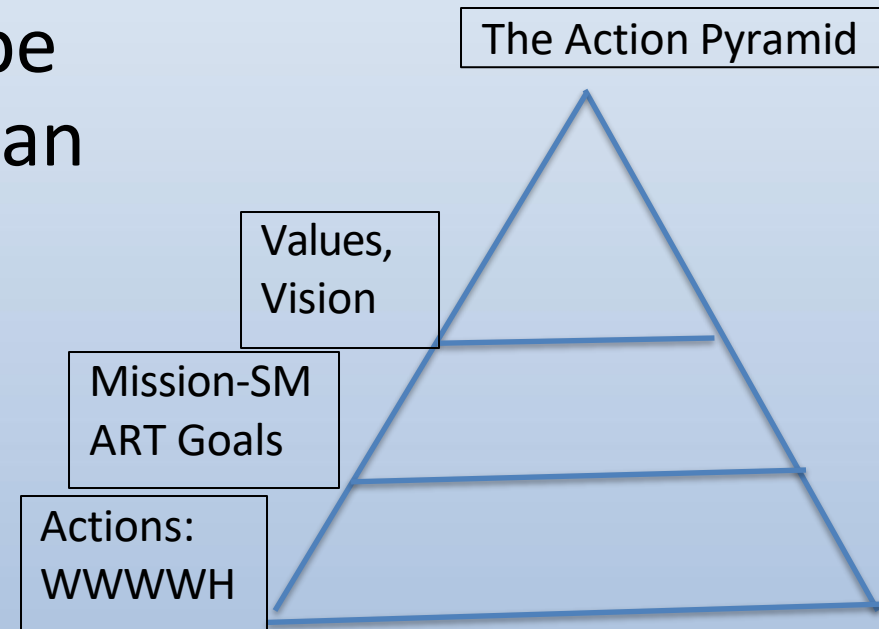
EDDs should lead efforts to:

- Coordinate recovery initiatives.
- Serve as data hubs for economic resilience.
- Liaise with federal, state, and local agencies.

Best Practice Example: Yuba-Sutter CA EDC, an EDD north of Sacramento, has a robust CEDS resilience effort including workforce, housing, supply chains, and healthcare, among others: <https://www.chooseyubasutter.com/strategy>

An Action Plan is Essential in CEDS

- The Action Plan is the heart of the CEDS
- The Resilience Action Plan should be inserted into overall CEDS action plan
- Key elements should include:
 - Identification of regional vulnerabilities.
 - Clear resilience goals.
 - Measurable objectives and actionable projects to address identified weaknesses.



Measuring Economic Resilience

Utilize tools like:

- Economic Diversity in Appalachia tool for industry analysis: <http://economicdiversityinappalachia.creconline.org/>
- Argonne National Laboratory's National Economic Resilience Data Explorer (NERDE): <https://nerde.anl.gov/> and Economic Development Capacity Index (EDCI): <https://disgeoportal.egs.anl.gov/EDCI/>
- Benchmark data against national averages to track progress.

FEMA Resilient Recovery Tools

- Cost-Benefit Analysis-Required for Hazard Mitigation Grants:
<https://www.fema.gov/grants/tools/benefit-cost-analysis>
- Natural Hazard Risk Assessment Program (HAZUS):
<https://www.fema.gov/flood-maps/products-tools/hazus>
- Hazard Loss Library—Assessments, Tools, How-to Use:
<https://hazards.fema.gov/hazus-loss-library/about>
- Recovery/Resilience Resource Library:
<https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/practitioners/recovery-resilience-resource-library>
- Risk MAP—GIS-based multihazard risk estimating tool
<https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema-risk-map-phase-1-factsheet.pdf>

Additional Resources

Explore other resources:

- IEDC's <https://restoreyoureconomy.org/> for recovery tools
- FEMA's BEOC guide for business recovery:
https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_business-emergency-operations-center-guide.pdf
- NADO's CEDS Central Resilience page:
<https://www.cedscentral.com/resilience.html>

Conclusion

- As disasters continue to wreak havoc on our nation, resilience in CEDS can ensure long-term economic stability by reducing impacts and accelerating recovery
- Incorporating resilience into CEDS is crucial for sustainable regional prosperity
- Deer in the Headlights—A personal story



Questions? THANK YOU!

Contact Me Anytime!

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