

The U.S. Economic Development Administration Puts America First

The Economic Development Administration (EDA), an agency within the U.S. Department of Commerce, puts American businesses and workers first by fueling economic growth, supporting private sector job creation for American workers, investing in Made-in-the-USA products, and defending national economic security. Working in partnership with EDA, local partners known as Economic Development Districts (EDDs) implement projects in their towns and regions that leverage private sector investment, support local companies and industries, and provide opportunities for American workers and businesses.

EDA Puts American Businesses and Workers First

- **Creating American Jobs and Strengthening U.S. Industries:** EDA programs strengthen American businesses, foster the creation of private sector jobs for American workers, support entrepreneurs, and invest in Made-in-the-USA products.
- **Making Deals with Business Leaders to Operate in American Communities:** EDA programs help local communities make their industrial sites more attractive to businesses. This helps American communities make deals with companies and business leaders, convincing them to locate their factories, warehouses, and manufacturing plants in American towns, not foreign countries.

EDA Strengthens the American Economy

- **Defending National Economic Security:** EDA makes common-sense, targeted investments to foster the growth of American industry clusters and supply chains. This protects our economic security, which strengthens our national security.
- **Outcompeting China and Foreign Competitors:** EDA invests in domestic production and the reshoring of American manufacturing. EDA programs reduce reliance on Chinese and foreign manufacturing, ensuring that America leads the future of global trade.
- **American Towns Taking Back Control:** Towns facing challenging economic conditions brought about by industry losses, economic downturns, offshoring, and trade deals of the past are taking back control of their economic futures, thanks to EDA investments.

No Wasted Federal Spending

- **No Wasted Federal Spending – EDA Leverages Private Investment:** Every \$1 of EDA funding attracts \$15 in private investment¹. Instead of relying on big government, EDA strategically invests limited amounts of federal funding in order to unlock much larger private sector investments.

¹ Source: <https://www.eda.gov/archives/2021/performance/>

- **Instead of Raising Taxes, EDA Makes Strategic Investments:** Instead of raising taxes to pay for projects, EDA unleashes private-sector dollars and American ingenuity to power the economy.

Towns Make Their Own Decisions, Instead of Big Government

- **Putting American Communities First, Instead of Government Bureaucracy:** EDA project and investment decisions are driven by real people who are residents in the communities where projects will happen. American towns decide for themselves what they need, instead of big government and federal officials in DC. EDA funds are invested predominantly in rural America and working-class communities.
- **Economic Development Districts (EDDs) Communicate the Real Needs of their Towns and Regions:** local community organizations known as Economic Development Districts (EDDs) host local meetings with American workers, residents, business owners, and families who collectively decide which projects are most important for their towns. Then, EDDs communicate these local decisions back to EDA, so that EDA can prioritize the common-sense needs of real American people and places.
- **EDDs Implement Projects and Leverage Private Investment:** local EDDs station economic development professionals throughout the country who implement local projects; leverage private sector funding; broker deals with local industry partners; ensure the readiness of industrial sites for businesses; responsibly steward federal funds; and help create jobs.

Action Needed from Policymakers:

Support EDA Programs, Which Will Unlock Private Sector Investment

- In Fiscal Year 2026, Congress should provide at least **\$595 million for EDA** in annual appropriations, which is the authorized funding level for EDA. This authorization level was determined in EDA reauthorization legislation which recently passed with broad bipartisan support.
- In Fiscal Year 2026, Congress should provide at least **\$100 million for EDA Partnership Planning** in annual appropriations. This funding goes to local Economic Development Districts (EDDs), to help them identify and plan the projects that their towns need most. EDDs station economic development professionals throughout the country. EDDs listen to the input of real American workers, families, businesses, and residents and take local messages back to EDA and DC, instead of allowing bureaucrats to drive decisions.
- Making these federal investments unlocks billions in private sector dollars to fuel the American economy.

About NADO: The National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) advocates for local economic development practitioners across the country. To learn more, visit www.NADO.org.