



Economic Development District Designation

DRCOG Board of Directors work session August 7, 2024



What's an EDD?

- **EDA** designation
- Help lead **locally-based, regionally driven** economic development planning process
- Leverages **public, private and non-profit engagement** to create and implement a **strategic blueprint** for regional collaboration
- Provides **administrative and technical assistance** and other resources for local communities





How does designation occur?

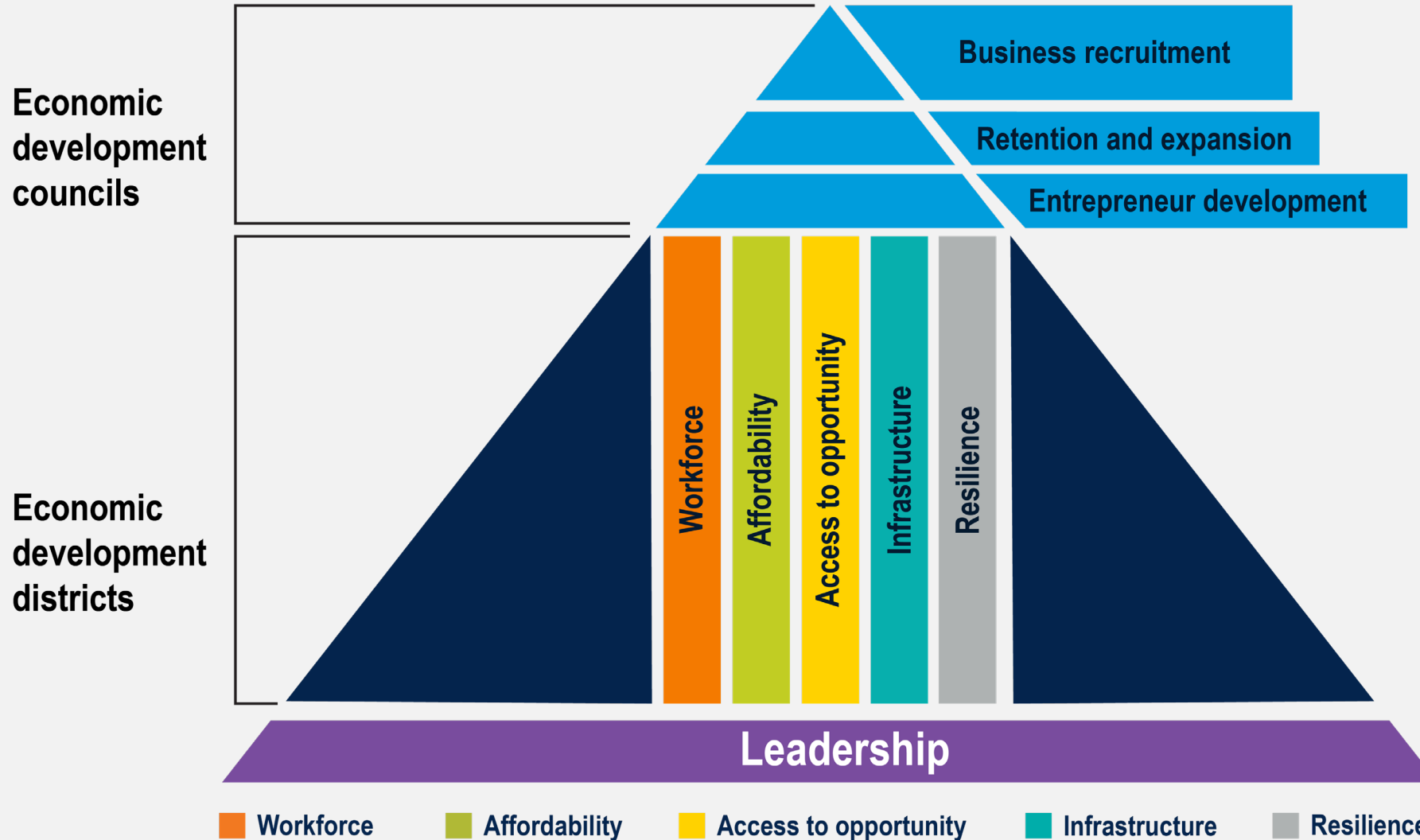
- Must have an EDA-approved **CEDS**
- Meets EDA **regional distress criteria** in at least one geographical area within **designated region**
- **Serves and represents** entire geographic region



Will this duplicate something that already exists?

- No, the CEDS has already demonstrated that this enhances current efforts.
- The following graphic underscores the difference.

Economic development pyramid



Workforce Affordability Access to opportunity Infrastructure Resilience

What's the cost/benefit analysis

Benefits

- Provides funding to DRCOG for staff and/or capacity
- Allows DRCOG to provide administrative and technical support to local communities
- Accesses additional data and technology resources

Costs

- Requires cash match (which can be in-kind)
- Relatively small amount of funding
- Quarterly reports
- Annual update to CEDS

Peer comments

- “**ECCOG** has been an EDD since 2009 and the benefits far outweigh the reporting requirements! Reports do take time and work but are semi-annual and annual only. Maintaining the CEDS to guide your EDD is time consuming but worth it as you qualify for many grants and funding opportunities through the CEDS and your EDD.”
- **NWCCOG** “our members clearly see the value in being designated as an EDD”
- **Wasatch Front Regional Council** “...the primary benefit of having the EDD is that it provides an organized forum for engaging private-sector stakeholders as well as public-sector economic development entities in our work.”

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

- “Its useful for extending and deepening our planning work.”
- “Helps leverage our work in transportation in news ways. For example, we're about to move forward with a freight study in part with EDA funds unlocked by being an EDD.”
- “....this will allow us to convene a number of other stakeholders not usually in our orbit.”
- “It’s been a great collaboration with our region's economic development organizations. “
- “Being an EDD allows us to help support their work with our existing suite of programs along with the new EDA opportunities. So far, it's been received as welcome assistance, not as a duplication of efforts.”

Mid-America Regional Council

- “The designation allows us to work with economic development organizations, chambers and others.”
- “MARC is often looked to for economic data and analysis, and our work on the CEDS has allowed us to integrate our regional plans with those of other regional organizations.”
- “The relationships have helped us in securing EDA and other funds over the years.”
- “The initial focus was on helping small communities with planning and economic development projects.”
- “Now it helps connect our work around affordable housing, transportation, workforce development, and other initiatives with our economic development partners.”
- “EDA’s local representatives often call on us to help the applicants in strengthening their proposals.”

The Details

- Composition and membership of EDDAC – the Economic Development District Advisory Council.
- Meeting cadence
- Roles and Responsibilities (final decisions rest with DRCOG Board)
- EDA odds and ends

Thank you

Questions?

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