



INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COUNCIL

2025 IEDC POLICY PRIORITIES

Strengthen Federal Community, Workforce and Economic Development Programs

IEDC supports fully funding the U.S Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA).



Specifically, IEDC supports over and above the \$545 million funding allocation for EDA in the FY 2026 appropriations process. We also advocate for \$10 million in appropriations to be dedicated to the expansion of EDA's Economic Recovery Corps (ERC) program, which is vital for building capacity in economically distressed places and in preparing the next generation of economic developers. We also support continued funding for the Tech Hubs program and Recompete Pilot program which are helping to bolster regional innovation and economic growth. Finally, we recognize and advocate for EDA's significant role in disaster recovery, underscoring its unique capacity to aid communities in times of crisis.

IEDC supports \$4.2 billion in funding for the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG).



Administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the CDBG program is a cornerstone for economic development, particularly in underserved communities. CDBG funding supports essential infrastructure projects—such as water, wastewater, and sanitation systems—that are foundational for economic growth and public health. By investing in these critical areas, CDBG lays the groundwork for future economic expansion, enhancing the quality of life in communities across the nation.

IEDC supports a long-term reauthorization of the Farm Bill with specific focus on the Rural Development Title.



We support a Farm Bill that enhances rural development and local capacity building, including baseline funding of \$50 million for the Rural Prosperity Partnership (RPP) which would foster innovative, locally driven solutions to rural development challenges.

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IEDC supports reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).



Specifically, we call for federal workforce development policies that recognize the integral role economic development practitioners play in advancing human capital. WIOA should prioritize workforce investments that support business recruitment, retention, and expansion efforts across diverse regions and demographics.

IEDC supports comprehensive tax reform legislation that promotes economic growth and investment.



Specifically, we strongly support preserving the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds, which are critical for financing public infrastructure projects that drive long-term economic development. IEDC also advocates for the permanent extension of the New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) program which is essential for incentivizing long-term investments in communities that have experienced economic divestment and are undergoing significant transformation, fostering new opportunities for economic revitalization.

ABOUT INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (IEDC)

The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) is the world's largest association for economic developers. With more than 5,000 members, IEDC is the leading voice for economic developers and the economic development profession. Economic developers work for a wide range of organizations, including non-profits, the public sector, including cities, counties, states, and federal agencies, public-private partnerships, corporations and chambers of commerce and promote economic well-being and quality of life for their communities, driving economic prosperity for communities of all sizes across the world. Learn more at www.iedconline.org.