

Coalition in Support of the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA)

March 27, 2026

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Vice Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jerry Moran
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and
Related Agencies
United States Senate
Washington, DC, 20515

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and
Related Agencies
United States Senate
Washington, DC, 20515

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and
Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Grace Meng
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and
Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

RE: FY 2026 Appropriations for the U.S. Economic Development Administration

On behalf of the undersigned organizations committed to fostering economic growth across the United States, we respectfully urge you to support no less **than \$595 million** for the U.S. Department of Commerce's **Economic Development Administration (EDA)** in Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 appropriations, **which is the authorized funding level** for EDA's core programs for FY 2026. EDA plays a unique and critical role in the federal portfolio as the only agency focused exclusively on locally driven economic development, ensuring that communities across the nation have the necessary resources to spur innovation, attract investment, and create jobs.

For decades, EDA has strengthened local economies by funding critical public works projects that create jobs and lay the foundation for long-term economic growth. These investments include upgrading water and wastewater systems, expanding broadband access, constructing business incubators, revitalizing industrial parks, and improving transportation infrastructure. By addressing essential infrastructure needs, EDA helps communities attract private investment and enhance economic opportunities. Additionally, with its recent reauthorization for the first time in 20 years, EDA's funding levels reflect a strong bipartisan commitment to economic development at the highest levels.

EDA also plays a key role in disaster recovery, assisting communities as they rebuild following natural disasters such as hurricanes, wildfires, floods, and tornadoes. Through targeted grants, EDA provides funding to restore critical infrastructure, support business recovery, and develop long-term economic recovery strategies. This

assistance ensures that affected regions can rebuild stronger and more resilient economies. Furthermore, over the past five years, EDA has effectively deployed almost \$6 billion in economic development funding, driving more than \$67 billion in private investment, demonstrating its capability to manage resources efficiently and maximize impact at both the local and national levels.

Despite these successes, demand for EDA funding continues to exceed available resources, highlighting the need for increased investment. Continued robust funding in FY 2026 will enable EDA to further support public works projects and disaster recovery efforts, ensuring that communities of all sizes have access to the resources needed to rebuild and grow.

Bipartisan legislation was signed into law on January 4, 2025, that reauthorized EDA and its core programs. The *Economic Development Reauthorization Act of 2024* includes an authorized funding level of \$595 million in FY 2026 for core EDA programs, which was negotiated and passed with broad bipartisan support as part of the *Water Resources Development Act (Public Law No. 118-272)*.

For these reasons, we urge you to provide at least \$595 million for EDA in FY 2026 to support its mission of fostering economic development and disaster recovery. Thank you for your leadership and continued commitment to strengthening America's communities. We welcome the opportunity to discuss this request further and look forward to working with you in support of EDA's vital work.

Sincerely,

National Association of Counties
National League of Cities
International Economic Development Council
National Association of Development Organizations
National Association of Regional Councils
Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition
Local Initiatives Support Corporation
University Economic Development Association
Outdoor Recreation Roundtable
Rural Organizing