



IEDC Economic Recovery and Resilience Volunteer Program

The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) is the world's largest membership organization serving the economic development profession. For over fifteen years, IEDC has been working in disaster-affected communities and has developed volunteer programs for economic resilience and recovery. IEDC currently works with eligible communities across the U.S. and territories in the EDA Atlanta, Austin, Denver, Philadelphia, and Seattle Regions.

In the wake of hurricanes and other disasters, offers of volunteer assistance have poured into IEDC from its international network of economic development professionals and experts. Thanks to support from the U.S. Economic Development Administration, IEDC can deploy these volunteers to provide economic development and recovery assistance in affected regions. The Economic Recovery and Resilience volunteers are experienced economic developers and subject matter experts. Many have hands-on experience with economic recovery and have provided advisory services to other communities.

How Does It Work?

- Your organization identifies a specific need. IEDC helps develop a scope of work and identifies an IEDC volunteer(s) with matching skills to work with you on-site or via advisory calls and virtual engagements.
- The volunteer expert(s) can help with such activities as:
 - Advising and developing action plans for implementing economic recovery
 - E-commerce and virtual engagement strategies
 - Strategic planning and identifying an economic development vision for your community
 - Assessing economic diversification strategies
 - Advising on the creation of an economic development organization or program
 - Branding, communication and marketing strategies
 - Crisis communications strategies
 - Downtown and main street revitalization
 - Strengthening workforce development or entrepreneurship programs
 - Assisting with the development of small business finance tools
 - Assisting with strategies to help businesses reopen

Remote Services

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated travel restrictions, IEDC has developed a range of remote technical assistance services in order to continue providing much-needed support to its program areas now facing dual disaster impacts. These include:

- **Virtual Volunteer Assistance:** IEDC matches a volunteer(s) to a project, who provides technical assistance through a series of advisory meetings (via phone or virtual platforms) and information sharing via email, etc. The volunteers typically can complete a 40 hour project over the span of the assignment.

- **Mentoring Sessions:** Community partners can participate in virtual mentoring with experienced practitioners and consultants. Sessions are usually 90 minutes and address economic recovery or resilience topics specifically related to the partner organization's situation.
- **Group Mentoring Sessions and Information Exchanges:** Communities with similar interests or needs can participate in a larger, interactive mentoring session with an IEDC expert volunteer(s), and participate in facilitated information exchange sessions to share best practices and experiences.
- **Virtual Trainings:** IEDC provides online training opportunities on a wide range of economic development topics, matching instructors and developing course materials to address the community's recovery needs. These trainings can be developed for EDO staff, local leaders, or a wider range of economic development stakeholders, and incorporate a mix of presentations and interactive group exercises.
- **Webinars:** IEDC develops regular webinars on economic recovery and resilience topics. In addition to content produced by subject matter experts and industry leaders, community partners have the opportunity to share best practices and learn from each other's disaster recovery journeys.
- **Customized Research:** Drawing on its clearinghouse library of economic development resources and the expertise of its staff and network, IEDC provides short-term research support on topics requested by the community.

Are you interested in a volunteer for your community?

Please reach out to the following regional contacts for more information. Additional resources and economic recovery information can be found at RestoreYourEconomy.org. IEDC's economic recovery program brochure can be accessed [here](#).

EDA Atlanta Region

Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina: Dana Crater: dcrater@iedconline.org

Kentucky, Tennessee: Delaney Luna, dluna@iedconline.org

EDA Austin Region

Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas: Todd Lang, tlang@iedconline.org

EDA Philadelphia Region

Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands: Zytha Kock, zkock@iedconline.org

EDA Seattle Region

County of Hawai'i, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands: Delaney Luna, dluna@iedconline.org

EDA DENVER: IEDC Economic Recovery Technical Assistance Opportunity

Through IEDC's economic recovery and resilience programs, disaster-affected communities in the EDA Denver Region are now eligible to receive no-cost assistance from expert panels of economic development professionals beginning in 2021.

How it Works:

- Your organization identifies economic recovery or resilience needs that could use expert technical assistance or capacity building.
- IEDC works with you to develop a scope of work, goals, and deliverables for a technical assistance project.
- IEDC prepares a panel of experienced economic development professionals to assist you.
- The expert panel conducts a 3-4 day site visit to your community, which involves:
 - Interviews and focus groups with community stakeholders.
 - Tours of the community and relevant sites.
 - Presentation of initial thoughts and recommendations.
- The panel provides a final report within 8-12 weeks of the visit.
- Within a year, IEDC will conduct a follow-up consultation to advise on progress and implementation.

IEDC expert panels may assist with identifying strategies that focus on one or more of the following economic development functions:

- Strategic planning
- Economic diversification strategies
- Business retention, expansion and attraction
- Entrepreneurship and small business development
- Real estate redevelopment and land-use
- Downtown and neighborhood revitalization
- Marketing, branding, and communications
- Workforce development
- Financing and funding programs
- Organizational or program development
- Infrastructure development
- Industry and technology-led strategies
- Talent attraction strategies

Who is Eligible?

Municipalities, counties, regions, and communities located within counties that received [FEMA Major Disaster Declarations](#) between October 1, 2017 and September 30, 2019 and the economic development organizations who serve them are eligible for assistance. Counties must be located in the following states: Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota.

How to Request: Please submit your information through this [form](#). IEDC will accept requests on a rolling basis.

Questions? Please email Delaney Luna at dluna@iedconline.org or visit www.RestoreYourEconomy.org to learn more.

Economic Development Administration: Research and National Technical Assistance (RNTA)

IEDC is offering no-cost technical assistance to communities, and to track their progress in addressing the impacts of COVID-19 on their community. This assistance is made possible by CARES Act funding through the EDA.

How it Works:

Through this program, communities will engage with IEDC for a 15-month period, including a technical assistance engagement with an economic development expert, and three check-ins with IEDC staff. The end result will be a technical assistance report and recommendations for the regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs).

The technical assistance will be in an area of the community's choosing, and may include economic recovery planning and preparing technical strategies to address economic dislocations caused by the coronavirus pandemic, consistent with priorities of the CARES Act for Recovery Assistance.

Who is Eligible?

All communities across the United States are eligible to participate, regardless of size, or affiliation with IEDC. IEDC is able to offer technical assistance to eight communities.

Questions? Please email Emily Brown at ebrown@iedconline.org or visit www.restoreyoureconomy.com to learn more.

How to Request: Please fill out the form [here](#).