

What Is An Economic Development District (EDD)?

As an Economic Development District (EDD), Strafford Economic Development District is a federally designated organization charged with the maintenance and implementation of a regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The District received its designation in 2015 and is in the early stages of the formation and development process. Strafford Regional Planning Commission, the District's parent entity, has maintained its CEDS document with limited funding support since 2011. The Designation application process, which commenced in 2013, represents a 'win' for regional cooperation and collaboration in economic development. The region is now eligible for a 50% matching partnership planning grant to fund the program and staff.



What is a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy?

The 2011-2016 Strafford Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy outlines a regional strategy for economic development and prosperity. This includes an analysis of relevant data and trends impacting or expected to impact the region, and also a list of regional economic development projects.

Economic Development Administration (EDA) Coordination

The Economic Development District of the Strafford Region is a sub-organization of Strafford Regional Planning Commission and serves all communities in Strafford County as well as several adjacent communities in Carroll County. Acting as a coordination entity between public, private, and non-profit organizations, Strafford EDD will work to align regional economic development projects with EDA funding opportunities.

As a Point of Contact (POC) between local entities and the EDA, SRPC will provide assistance to applicants on grant applications after staff establish an alignment between project goals and EDA priorities exists.

Economic Development District staff will continue to coordinate the activities of the CEDS Strategy Committee, which is responsible for the annual maintenance of the CEDS document, including new regional economic development projects and an analysis of regional data and trends.

What Does EDD Mean For You?

The designation of Strafford Economic Development District means that member communities will continue to be active partners of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) development process.

This regional CEDS, now approved by the EDA, is the formal mechanism through which regional entities are eligible to receive Economic Development Assistance Grants.

Additionally, designation represents the EDA's recognition of the region's economic distress, a key criteria in the evaluation of requests for grant assistance.

What Is The Economic Development District Doing in 2015?

Strafford Economic Development District is committed to the implementation of the goals and actions of the 2011-2016 Strafford Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. As part of that commitment, the District will work in 2015 alongside its Board of Directors and CEDS Strategy Committee to identify local sources of match for EDA planning assistance. Staff will be carrying out the following work plan in 2015:



- **Regional Collaboration, Assistance, and Support**
 - Provide technical assistance to local governments and non-profits to align economic development goals and priorities and work on regional economic development initiatives
 - Continued assistance to qualified local governments and non-profits with EDA grant applications
 - Point of Contact (POC) for public, private, and non-profit agencies and organizations preparing applications for funding
 - Service to area governments, agencies, organizations, and other entities through the development of maps, data, fact sheets, and other materials
- **Performance Based-Planning**
 - Continued annual maintenance of the regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)
 - Completion of annual regional project solicitation activities
 - Development of performance-based planning model for regional economic development planning in the Strafford Economic Development District
- **Public Involvement and Coordination**
 - Presentations and representation in local communities, regional organizations, and statewide entities
 - Community outreach and education through media activities and website
 - Holding of quarterly Economic Development District Board of Directors/CEDS Strategy Committee meetings
 - Identification of economic development projects potentially eligible for EDA funding
- **Organizational Development and Training**
 - Development of Economic Development District bylaws
 - Formation of Economic Development District Board of Directors
 - Development of an annual Economic Development District workplan
 - Development of an annual District budget
 - Continued staff development and professional training
 - Submission of funding request to the EDA for economic development planning funds