



A Primer:

Economic Development Administration-University Center

UW-Extension Center for Community and Economic Development

What is the EDA University Center?

As an EDA University Center, the University of Wisconsin-Extension Center for Community and Economic Development (CCED) receives Federal financial support for research in specific topic areas of community and economic development in Wisconsin.

The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) competitive selection process resulted in funding of \$750,000 over five years for work and activities focusing on specific aspects of the state's community and economic development. The grant funds are distributed based on matching efforts in the CCED—every dollar from the EDA must be matched by University of Wisconsin-Extension spending on effort and activities for the University Center

Who is part of the University Center?

The research team at the University Center consists of researchers and staff from the UW-Extension Center for Community and Economic Development and the UW-Madison Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics. The expertise of the research team includes marketing, communications, entrepreneurship, labor markets, industrial organization, community assets, and community economic development strategies, among others.

The University Center Advisory Board includes twelve members. Board members are Extension educators, active members of local, regional and state economic development organizations, as well as those with experience in the private sector and industry. Together, the University Center Advisory Board and research team will identify the focal topics within our target areas for applied research and educational activities each year.

What will we do?

The University Center's research and educational team will advance research and community assistance, specifically focused on better understanding regional economic change, entrepreneurship, innovation, labor markets, economic resilience and proactive strategies to affect the local economy and community quality of life.

The University Center will conduct applied research resulting in evidence-based educational and outreach materials that will be disseminated across the state through publications, online platforms, and educational workshops. Alongside rigorous, peer-reviewed publications, topics will be analyzed in foundational, data-driven reports, policy briefs and factsheets. This tiered approach to publication is designed to suit the needs of several audiences including county Extension educators, local practitioners, policymakers, journalists, and residents of Wisconsin. In addition to publications and educational materials, the research team will host a series of educational workshops and professional development opportunities for economic development professionals throughout Wisconsin