U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA): Support Essential Seed Capital/Gap Financing for Local Job Creation

**ACTION NEEDED:**
Urge your members of Congress to support at least $333 million in funding for the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) as Congress considers funding for FY 2021. EDA funding is important to counties because it helps local communities achieve long-term economic growth based on local and regional priorities.

**BACKGROUND:**
The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) is the only federal agency with a mission solely focused on private sector job creation in distressed areas. EDA has achieved an impressive track record of making strategic investments and building partnerships that help regions and communities respond to shifts in international markets, address severe unemployment challenges and recover from plant closures, major natural disasters and other chronic, sudden or severe economic hardships.

At a time when the nation must make the public sector investments necessary to compete in the global economy, the flexibility, partnership structure and accountability of EDA’s programs should be at the forefront of the federal toolbox.

The agency's portfolio of economic development infrastructure, business development finance, regional innovation strategies and public-private partnerships are tailored to support the unique needs of each region.

EDA-funded projects are awarded on a competitive basis and typically require a 50 percent local match and significant private sector investment, helping to ensure projects have local support and are part of a broader regional strategy.

EDA received $333 million in funding under the FY 2020 omnibus. This is $29 million above the FY 2019 level. NACo members are encouraged to contact their members of Congress to support at least $333 million in funding for EDA as they move forward with the FY 2021 appropriations process.
KEY TALKING POINTS

EDA focuses solely on private sector job creation and economic growth. EDA investments promote high quality jobs, especially in advanced manufacturing, science and technology and emerging knowledge-based industries and sectors.

EDA’s infrastructure investments are targeted at essential facilities and assets like water and wastewater systems, middle mile broadband networks, workforce training centers, business incubators, intermodal facilities and science and research parks.

EDA’s grants are awarded on a competitive basis, based on regional comprehensive economic development strategies (CEDs), and are developed and prioritized by local communities. This helps ensure that projects have significant local support and are part of a broader regional plan, rather than isolated, uncoordinated local projects.

Under federal law, EDA projects typically require a 50 percent local cost share and significant private sector investment, ensuring that local leaders and businesses are committed to the project’s success.

EDA grants are critical for county economic development, particularly in rural areas, where such resources are often scarce.

“EDA’s engagement, financing and support have been integral to our economic revitalization following the coal mining industry downturn… Without assistance provided by EDA, we would still be facing intense economic difficulties.”

- April 19, 2019
Commissioner John Messner (Gunnison County, Colo.), testifying before a U.S. House of Representatives subcommittee.

For further information, contact Daria Daniel at 202.942.4212 or ddaniel@naco.org.
# Committees of Jurisdiction

## U.S. House Appropriations Committee

### MAJORITY:
- Nita Lowey (D-N.Y.), Chairwoman
- Marcy Kaptur (D-Ohio)
- Pete Visclosky (D-Ind.)
- José Serrano (D-N.Y.)
- Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.)
- David Price* (D-N.C.)
- Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-Calif.)
- Sanford Bishop (D-Ga.)
- Barbara Lee (D-Calif.)
- Betty McCollum (D-Minn.)
- Tim Ryan (D-Ohio)
- Dutch Ruppersberger (D-Md.)
- Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-Fla.)
- Henry Cuellar (D-Texas)
- Chellie Pingree (D-Maine)
- Mike Quigley* (D-Ill.)
- Derek Kilmer (D-Wash.)
- Matt Cartwright (D-Pa.)
- Grace Meng (D-N.Y.)
- Mark Pocan (D-Wis.)
- Katherine Clark* (D-Mass.)
- Pete Aguilar* (D-Calif.)
- Cheri Bustos (D-Ill.)
- Ed Case (D-Hawaii)
- Charlie Crist (D-Fla.)
- Lois Frankel (D-Fla.)
- Ann Kirkpatrick (D-Ariz.)
- Brenda Lawrence* (D-Mich.)
- Norma Torres* (D-Calif.)
- Bonnie Watson Coleman* (D-N.J.)

### MINORITY:
- Kay Granger (R-Texas), Ranking Member
- Harold Rogers (R-Ky.)
- Robert Aderholt (R-Ala.)
- Michael Simpson (R-Idaho)
- John Carter (R-Texas)
- Ken Calvert (R-Calif.)
- Tom Cole (R-Okla.)
- Mario Diaz-Balart* (R-Fla.)
- Tom Graves (R-Ga.)
- Steve Womack* (R-Ark.)
- Jeff Fortenberry (R-Nebr.)
- Charles Fleischmann* (R-Tenn.)
- Jaime Herrera Beutler (R-Wash.)
- David Joyce (R-Ohio)
- Andy Harris (R-Md.)
- Martha Roby (R-Ala.)
- Mark Amodei (R-Nev.)
- Chris Stewart (R-Utah)
- Steven Palazzo (R-Miss.)
- Dan Newhouse (R-Wash.)
- John Moolenaar (R-Mich.)
- John Rutherford* (R-Fla.)
- Will Hurd (R-Texas)

*Indicates member serves on the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies Subcommittee

## U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee

### MAJORITY:
- Richard Shelby* (R-Ala.), Chairman
- Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.)
- Lamar Alexander* (R-Tenn.)
- Susan Collins* (R-Maine)
- Lindsey Graham* (R-S.C.)
- Roy Blunt* (R-Mo.)
- Jerry Moran* (R-Kan.)
- John Hoeven (R-N.D.)
- John Boozman (R-Ark.)
- Shelley Moore Capito* (R-W.V.)
- John Kennedy* (R-La.)
- Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-Miss.)
- Steve Daines (R-Mont.)
- Marco Rubio* (R-Fla.)
- James Lankford* (R-Okla.)

### MINORITY:
- Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), Ranking Member
- Patty Murray* (D-Wash.)
- Dianne Feinstein* (D-Calif.)
- Richard Durbin* (D-Ill.)
- Jack Reed (D-R.I.)
- Jon Tester (D-Mont.)
- Tom Udall (D-N.M.)
- Jeanne Shaheen* (D-N.H.)
- Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.)
- Chris Coons* (D-Del.)
- Brian Schatz* (D-Hawaii)
- Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.)
- Chris Murphy* (D-Conn.)
- Joe Manchin* (D-W.V.)
- Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.)

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