

COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY PROJECT READINESS EVALUATION

South Central Connecticut Region

Bethany • Branford • East Haven • Guilford • Hamden • Madison • Meriden • Milford • New Haven • North
Branford • North Haven • Orange • Wallingford • West Haven • Woodbridge

The project readiness will be based on the evaluation tool developed by the Strategic Planning Committee, and be categorized as “ready to go” or “in planning.” Projects presented quarterly at the Project Roundtables will be evaluated by the committee. Only projects that are ready to go will then be ranked according to the priority level. All projects that are “ready to go” will need a minimum score of “?” “AND approval by the Roundtable Committee.

A. Infrastructure and Utilities

1. Roads and Highway Access			Score (12.5%)
	Roadways and access is adequate for project.....	5	
	Roadways and access need minor improvements.....	3	
	Roadways and access need major improvements.....	0	
2. Utilities			Score (15%)
	Electric.....	1	
	Water.....	1	
	Sewer Sanitary.....	1	
	Sewer Storm.....	1	
	Gas.....	1	
	Tel/Telecom.....	1	

B. Support and Commitment

1. Local/State support and approval			Score (15%)
	Project has local regulatory approval.....	2	
	Project has state approval.....	2	
	Project has local support (political).....	2	
2. Funding Commitment			Score (20%)
	All funds (excluding EDA) have been obligated/committed.....	8	
	Funds have been partially obligated/committed.....	4	
	Funds have not been obligated/committed.....	0	

C. Implementation

1. Construction			Score (20%)
	Construction will start within a year.....	8	
	Construction will start within 3 years.....	2	
	Construction will start within 5 years or later.....	0	
2. Planning and Permits			Score (17.5%)
	All planning and permits are complete (project is shovel ready).....	7	
	Project is in final planning stages.....	4	
	Project in conceptual design phase.....	3	
	Project is in initial planning phase/idea.....	0	

Total 40 (100%)

Ready To Go _____

In Planning _____

COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY PROJECT EVALUATION SCORE SHEET

South Central Connecticut Region

Bethany • Branford • East Haven • Guilford • Hamden • Madison • Meriden • Milford • New Haven • North
Branford • North Haven • Orange • Wallingford • West Haven • Woodbridge

The ranking of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) priority projects will be based on the system developed by the Strategic Planning Committee, and focus on projects that are “ready to go.” In order to be eligible and competitive for EDA funding, the following criteria must be met:

- At least one of the economic distress criteria must be met (for Public Works or Economic Adjustment investments):
 1. An unemployment rate that is, for the most recent twenty-four (24) month period of which data is available, at least one (1) percent greater than the national average unemployment rate; or
 2. Per capita income that is, for the most recent period for which data is available, eighty (80) percent or less of the national average per capita income; or
 3. A “*special need*” (certain unemployment or economic adjustment problems) as determined by the United States Economic Development Administration (EDA).
- Proposals must be based on a locally developed comprehensive economic development strategy (for Public Works or Economic Adjustment investments).
- Cost sharing or matching is required; generally, the amount of the EDA investment may not exceed fifty (50) percent of the total cost of the project.

The system, as follows, is based on these criteria as well as the priorities set by the EDA and the goals of the South Central Connecticut CEDS. Please note, each category is weighted to show importance of that category to the overall ranking. The system of assigning values to ready to go projects is intended to reduce subjectivity, and to achieve maximum economic benefit for the region and overall competitiveness when seeking federal funding.

READY TO GO PROJECT:

Category: _____

Project Name/Goal/Objective: _____

Project Description: _____

Municipality: _____

Total Project Cost: _____ EDA Funding Requested _____

Number of Jobs Created/Retained: _____

COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY PROJECT EVALUATION SCORE SHEET

A. Eligibility Criteria

1. Unemployment Rate:

Score (4%)

- 24 Month Unemployment Rate at least 150% of National Average.....5
- 24 Month Unemployment Rate between 110% and 149% of National Average.....3
- 24 Month Unemployment Rate between 90% and 109% of National Average.....1
- 24 Month Unemployment Rate below 90% of National Average.....0

Municipality	Years	24 Month Unemployment Rate	Percent of National Average	Points
Bethany	2009-2010	6.6%	69.5%	0
Branford	2009-2010	7.2%	75.8%	0
East Haven	2009-2010	9.2%	96.8%	1
Guilford	2009-2010	6.0%	63.2%	0
Hamden	2009-2010	8.1%	85.3%	0
Madison	2009-2010	5.8%	61.1%	0
Meriden	2009-2010	11.0%	115.8%	3
Milford	2009-2010	8.0%	84.2%	0
New Haven	2009-2010	12.2%	128.4%	3
North Branford	2009-2010	7.4%	77.9%	0
North Haven	2009-2010	7.4%	77.9%	0
Orange	2009-2010	6.3%	66.3%	0
Wallingford	2009-2010	8.0%	84.2%	0
West Haven	2009-2010	10.0%	105.3%	1
Woodbridge	2009-2010	5.3%	55.8%	0
Region (15)	2009-2010	9.0%	94.7%	n/a
Connecticut	2009-2010	8.6%	90.5%	n/a
National Average	2009-2010	9.5%		

2. Per Capita Income:

Score (4%)

- Per Capita Income is less than 50% of the National Average.....5
- Per Capita Income is less than 80% of the National Average.....3
- Per Capita Income is greater than 80% of the National Average.....0

Municipality	Years	5 Year Average Per Capita Income	Percent of National Average	Points
Bethany	2005-2009	45,528	168.4%	0
Branford	2005-2009	41,744	154.4%	0
East Haven	2005-2009	28,820	106.6%	0
Guilford	2005-2009	48,459	179.2%	0
Hamden	2005-2009	34,057	125.9%	0
Madison	2005-2009	48,623	179.8%	0
Meriden	2005-2009	27,021	99.9%	0
Milford	2005-2009	38,549	142.6%	0
New Haven	2005-2009	21,176	78.3%	3
North Branford	2005-2009	35,494	131.3%	0
North Haven	2005-2009	36,968	136.7%	0
Orange	2005-2009	44,525	164.7%	0
Wallingford	2005-2009	33,399	123.5%	0
West Haven	2005-2009	25,722	95.1%	0
Woodbridge	2005-2009	72,472	268.0%	0
Region (15)	2005-2009	38,837	143.7%	n/a
Connecticut	2005-2009	36,468	134.9%	n/a
National Average	2005-2009	27,041		

COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY PROJECT EVALUATION SCORE SHEET

3. Project Determined to be a “Special Need” by the Region	Score (4%)
Project determined to be a Special Need by Committee.....	5
Project determined not to be a Special Need by Committee.....	0

“Special Need” – Means a circumstance or legal status arising from actual or threatened severe unemployment or economic adjustment problems resulting from severe short-term or long-term changes in economic conditions: Examples:

- Severe out migration or population loss
- Underemployment-employment of workers at less than fulltime or at less skilled tasks than their training or abilities permit
- Military base closures or realignments
- Natural or other major disasters or emergencies
- Extraordinary depletion of natural resources
- Closure or restructuring of industrial firms
- Negative effects of changing trade patterns
- Other circumstances set forth in an FFO

4. EDA funding percentage of total project cost	
EDA funding portion is less than 50% of total project cost.....	5 (4%)
EDA funding portion is 50% of total project cost.....	3
EDA funding portion is greater than 50% of total project cost.....	0

B. Priority

*EDA currently has 5 core evaluation investment priorities that are weighted accordingly; a detailed description is provided at the end of this document (including 6 original investment priorities).

1. Project meets EDA investment priorities (all that apply)	Score (24%)
National Strategic Priorities.....	9
Economically Distressed and Underserved Communities.....	7.5
Return on Investment.....	7.5
Collaborative Regional Innovation.....	3
Public/Private Partnerships.....	3

2. Project Promotes Regional Cooperation and Benefits	Score (4%)
Project would impact region-wide population.....	5
Project would impact adjacent communities.....	3
Project would only impact community where project located.....	0

3. Project meets CEDS Goals (all that apply)	Score (12%)
Regional Marketing and Communications.....	3
Transportation.....	3
Business Development.....	3
Workforce and Housing.....	3
Land Use and Planning, Policies and Regulations.....	3

4. Does the Project Directly Support one of the Regional Industry Clusters (CEDS)	Score (4%)
Advanced Manufacturing.....	5
Biosciences.....	5
Creativity, Arts and Tourism.....	5
Higher Education.....	5
Healthcare.....	5
Emerging Clusters and Opportunities.....	5

COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY PROJECT EVALUATION SCORE SHEET

5. Ratio of EDA Share of Project Cost to Number of Jobs Created and/or Retained	Score (4%)
EDA funding constitutes \$35,000 or less per job.....	5
EDA funding constitutes \$35,001 - \$75,000 per job.....	3
EDA funding constitutes \$75,001 - \$100,000 per job.....	1
EDA funding constitutes greater than \$100,000 per job.....	0

C. Project Readiness

1. Matching Funds	Score (4%)
Secured and account for 50 percent or more of Total Project Cost.....	5
Secured and account for less than 50 percent of Total Project Cost.....	3
Not Secured.....	0
2. Permitting	Score (4%)
All permits have been received.....	5
Permit applications have been submitted.....	3
No permit applications have been submitted.....	0
3. Start of Project	Score (4%)
Project will start within the next year.....	5
Project projected to start within next 3 years.....	1
Project projected to start within next 5 years or later.....	0

D. Commitment

1. Member of Regional Economic Xcelleration	Score (12%)
Project Applicant is a contributing member of REX.....	15
Project Applicant is not a contributing member of REX.....	0
2. Project Supports Community Plans	Score (4%)
Project listed in PCD or other community plan.....	5
Project not listed in any community plan.....	0
3. Public Sector Commitment	Score (4%)
Project has commitment of funds from Public Sector.....	5
Project has no Public Sector Funding (excluding EDA).....	0
4. Private Sector Commitment	Score (4%)
Project has commitment of funds from Private Sector.....	5
Project has no Private Sector support.....	0

Total 125 (100%)

COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY PROJECT EVALUATION SCORE SHEET

U.S. Economic Development Administration Investment Priorities

<http://www.eda.gov/InvestmentsGrants/InvestmentPriorities.xml>

Within the parameters of a competitive grant process, all projects are evaluated to determine if they advance global competitiveness, create jobs, leverage public and private resources, can demonstrate readiness and ability to use funds quickly and effectively and link to specific and measureable outcomes. To facilitate evaluation EDA originally established the following investment priorities:

Collaborative Regional Innovation

Initiatives that support the development and growth of innovation clusters based on existing regional competitive strengths. Initiatives must engage stakeholders; facilitate collaboration among urban, suburban and rural (including Tribal) areas; provide stability for economic development through long-term intergovernmental and public/private collaboration; and, support the growth of existing and emerging industries.

Public/Private Partnerships

Investments that use both public and private sector resources and leverage complementary investments by other government/public entities and/or non-profits.

National Strategic Priorities

Initiatives that encourage job growth and business expansion in clean energy; green technologies; sustainable manufacturing; information technology (e.g., broadband, smart grid) infrastructure; communities severely impacted by automotive industry restructuring; natural disaster mitigation and resiliency; access to capital for small and medium sized and ethnically diverse enterprises; and, innovations in science, health care and alternative fuel technologies.

Global Competitiveness

Investments that support high-growth businesses and innovation-based entrepreneurs to expand and compete in global markets.

Environmentally-Sustainable Development

Investments that encompass best practices in “environmentally sustainable development,” broadly defined, to include projects that enhance environmental quality and develop and implement green products, processes, and buildings as part of the green economy.

Economically Distressed and Underserved Communities

Investments that strengthen diverse communities that have suffered disproportionate economic and job losses and/or are rebuilding to become more competitive in the global economy.

U.S. Economic Development Administration Core Evaluation Criteria

<http://www.eda.gov/PDF/Helpful%20Hints%20for%20EDA%20Applications.pdf>

Although the previous six are pointed to as EDA’s original investment priorities, for the purposes of the Strategic Planning Committee’s evaluation process, the weighted investment priorities will follow the five core evaluation criteria (used internally by EDA when determining value of a project, and what the investment priorities have morphed into under the current administration). EDA will evaluate applications based on their ability to satisfy the following core evaluation criteria, with each criterion assigned the weight indicated:

1. National Strategic Priorities. (30%)

EDA seeks to fund applications that encourage job growth and business expansion, as well as promoting one or more of the following initiatives:

- Technology-led economic development,
- Support to small- and medium-sized businesses,

COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY PROJECT EVALUATION SCORE SHEET

- Global competitiveness and innovation,
- Responses to economic dislocation because of auto industry restructuring or natural disasters,
- Commercialization of research, and/or
- Environmentally sustainable development.

2. Economically Distressed and Underserved Communities. (25%)

EDA seeks to fund applications that strengthen diverse communities that have suffered disproportionate economic and job losses or long-term severe economic distress, and/or are rebuilding to become more competitive in the global economy.

3. Return on Investment. (25%)

EDA seeks to fund applications that demonstrate a high return on EDA's investment by demonstrating that the project will:

- Lead to the creation and/or retention of jobs, particularly high wage jobs for a particular community,
- Serve as a catalyst for private sector investment, and/or
- Are likely to stimulate economic development by demonstrating a high probability of leading to actionable projects or identifying specific benchmarks that will measure progress towards outputs.

**Please note that the first two criteria above will be applied to applications for Construction Assistance, and the third to applications for Non-Construction Assistance.

4. Collaborative Regional Innovation. (10%)

EDA seeks to fund applications that support the development and growth of innovation clusters based on existing regional competitive strengths, which may be demonstrated by the extent to which an investment will:

- Promote collaboration among multi-jurisdictional leadership,
- Link and leverage regional assets, and/or
- Implement or build upon effective planning efforts.

5. Public / Private Partnerships. (10%)

EDA seeks to fund applications that use both public and private sector resources, and/or leverage complementary investments by other government/public entities and/or non-profits.