



SEDE Network Charter

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Article I – Name and Purpose

Section 1: The name of the group shall be the State Economic Development Executives Network, hereinafter referred to as the "SEDE Network" or "Network."

Section 2: The purpose of the SEDE Network shall be to act as forum for the top-ranking state economic development and commerce organization's secretary, CEO, executive director, or commissioner, and their chief (or designated) deputy to exchange information, learn from one another, and advance the practice and impact of state- and territory-level economic development across the nation.

Section 3: The Network shall actively promote a nonpartisan approach to its discussions and activities relevant to the network participants.

Section 4: The Steering Committee as described in Article III shall select an appropriate management entity to provide staff services as needed in accordance with this charter and in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair.

Article II – Membership

Section 1: Membership in the SEDE Network shall be open to the top-ranking economic development official (secretary, CEO, executive director, or commissioner), and their chief (or designated) deputy of a state agency, quasi-public organization, or other state-government recognized organization with state- or territory-wide economic development and commerce responsibilities within the United States and its territories. Network membership eligibility begins upon appointment to the executive leadership position in an eligible agency or organization.

Section 2: Each state or territory seeking Network membership for its top-ranking economic development official or deputy shall submit an annual contribution to allow the executive to be considered a "member" of the Network. The Steering Committee shall establish each year's minimum contribution level at a rate based on state population as a proxy for ability to pay. The Steering Committee may establish event-based fees or an associate membership that adjusts benefits to reflect the ability of a participating state to contribute. Select SEDE Network

activities and benefits may be restricted to organizations that contribute financially to the Network.

Section 3: Individuals who are currently a SEDE Network member, as recognized as holding a position within an agency as described in Section 1 and meeting the contribution levels in Section 2, are permitted attendance to SEDE Network meetings and access to all SEDE Network activities, products, and materials.

Section 4: Upon approval of the chair, non-members and other participants may attend SEDE Network meetings as “recognized observers” or presenters. The SEDE Network may also sponsor events of which non-Members and other stakeholders may attend.

Article III – Governance

Section 1: The SEDE Network shall be governed by a Chair, Vice-Chair, and a Steering Committee, which consists of up to 14 members who are identified as the top official or deputy within their state economic development or commerce agency. SEDE will strive for an equal number of Steering Committee members representing states governed by Democratic and Republican Governors. The Steering Committee shall:

- a. Elect a SEDE Network Chair and Vice-Chair.
- b. Be composed of a politically and regionally balanced representation of individuals across the United States and its territories.
- c. Work collaboratively with the SEDE Network Chair, Vice-Chair, and the management staff to perform the following primary responsibilities:
 - Set the Network’s agenda,
 - Coordinate the Network’s activities,
 - Organize advocacy as appropriate,
 - Facilitate convenings of the Network,
 - Recruit Committee members and executive positions, and
 - Selection and high-level oversight of the management entity.
 - Review accomplishments and an annual work plan, including a budget.
 - Set eligibility requirements for membership in the Network and attendance at Network meetings.
 - Set parameters for other revenue raising options, including sponsorships.

Section 2: Eligibility requirements shall be set for the Chair and Vice-Chair positions within the SEDE Network.

- a. The SEDE Network Chair must meet the following criteria:
 - i. Must be a current member of the Steering Committee for a minimum of one (1) year.

- ii. Must be the top economic development official (e.g., CEO, Executive Director, Commissioner, or Secretary) at the lead public statewide economic development organization in their state.
- b. The SEDE Network Vice Chair must meet the following criteria:
 - i. Must be a member of the SEDE Network and a member of the Steering Committee for a minimum of one (1) year.
 - ii. To the extent possible given mid-term changes in governorships, works in a state whose governor is a member of a different party from the governor in the chair's state.

Section 3: The Steering Committee will hold elections for the Chair and Vice-Chair by electronic means or at the final Steering Committee meeting prior to, or as close as possible to, July 1 (or sooner if necessary due to vacancies) based on a slate of candidates presented to the Steering Committee. Whenever possible, decisions will be made by consensus but, when necessary, a formal vote may be taken. A simple majority of those voting will be sufficient for a decision to be formalized.

Section 4: The Chair and Vice-Chair will assume their positions on July 1 or the first day of the month following the vote and serve in their respective positions until June 30 of the following calendar year. The positions will be held for one year. The Chair and Vice-Chair are eligible for re-election for one additional term. Individuals on the Steering Committee serve for two years but may be re-elected if they remain in their state leadership position.

Article V – Meetings and Events

Section 1: The SEDE Network shall hold at least one in-person SEDE Network meeting per year. The Network may conduct additional meetings, whether in-person or electronically, at the discretion of the Chair, Vice-Chair or Steering Committee participants.

Section 2: The Network may sponsor events in which non-Member participants and other stakeholders may participate.

Article VI – Amendments

Section 1: Amendments to this charter may be offered by any SEDE Network participant by submission to the Chair. The Chair shall transmit the proposed amendment to the Steering Committee and it will be discussed in a subsequent in-person or virtual Steering Committee meeting. Amendments to this charter may be approved by a vote of the Steering Committee with two-thirds of members approving the proposed change