



Industries of Ideas: Project Overview

What is the Problem We're Trying to Solve?

How is AI going to affect my state's industries and workers? Federal investments in new and emerging technologies—such as AI, additive manufacturing, or quantum computing— are transforming our companies and jobs. **We need better economic insights** about how these new “idea industries” are emerging because traditional data sources aren't telling us what we need to know, and new information sources may not be reliable.

What is CREC's Approach to the Problem?

We are working with top academic researchers and state Departments of Labor and Education across the country to build a trusted prototype data infrastructure that can help better answer the questions you're asking. How are new technologies changing the products companies offer, the jobs and earnings they create, and the structure of our state economies? How are the skill needs of our key industries changing and how are cross-cutting shifts affecting our economic development priorities?

The data infrastructure we are creating has a laser focus on developing new insights by:

- Tracing the people engaged in basic and applied research and the skills they bring to the workforce
- Identifying concentrations of skill across employers, industries, and locations to help us anticipate potential impacts on the current and future workforce (e.g., where new ideas will create new demand for reskilling, upskilling, and new skill acquisition)
- Positioning stakeholders to create data products that answer actionable local economic developer questions using trustworthy data.
- Starting with AI and building a new data infrastructure that supports products and insights into critical and emerging technologies across a wide array of industries in places across the country

Who are the Partners?

The National Science Foundation (NSF) through the Technology, Innovation, and Partnership (TIP) Directorate is funding this effort because the agency wants to understand how its investments are impacting regional firms and jobs in specific technology areas. Read about it [here](#). Partners include:

- University of Michigan Institute for Research in Science
- Ohio State University
- New York University



State Economic Development Executives (SEDE) Network

Helping State Economic Development Leaders Thrive

- National Association of State Workforce Agencies
- Education Commission of the States
- Center for Regional Economic Competitiveness (CREC)

What is CREC's Role?

- Convene two advisory groups of business and economic development leaders (national & regional) who will champion this work
- Host a webinar in November to share what the project is and solicit feedback from economic development professionals
- Produce an economic developer's guide on developing information systems for technology insights
- Ensure that the products that are developed for this project are timely, local, trustworthy, and actionable for immediate use by economic developers

How Can You Get Involved?

- Help us identify appropriate advisory group members. We are looking for state and regional economic development leaders as well as business leaders to serve on the advisory groups
- Provide feedback on the data products that we're developing to ensure that they meet your needs
- Help us expand the work by introducing us to potential partners to amplify our efforts and our findings
- Request to join the Industries of Ideas newsletter for updates on 2025-2026 activities
- Look for CREC's bulletins about forthcoming webinars as well as our planned April "Industries of Ideas" conference in Washington DC

Contact Us

Contact Allison Forbes, CREC Senior Vice President, aforbes@crec.net, 703-504-2872

Scan the QR Code below!

