State Economic Development Executives

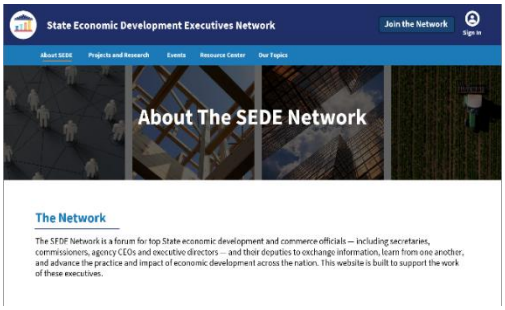
2025-26 Accomplishments to Date

July 2025 - October 2026

The Center for Regional Economic Competitiveness (CREC), along with 32 state economic development organizations, continues to support the State Economic Development Executives (SEDE) Network. Many SEDE activities, resources, and initiatives as well as related CREC state products are available through the links provided or on the SEDE website at: stateeconomicdevelopment.org.

Meetings and Key Issues

- Hosted two SEDE Network meetings to discuss key issues facing states and featured many opportunities for networking among the state leaders. Attendees discussed topics including:
  - Adjusting to new federal policies and workforce development strategies (Washington, D.C.)
  - Implementing energy projects and workforce solutions (New York City, NY).
- Addressed key SEDE issues per meeting discussions through webinar, blogs, white papers and an emerging energy/economic development Community of Practice.



Web Content, Bulletins and Reports

- Redesigned the monthly newsletter State Developments Snapshot.
- Published 13 blogs including:
  - *Building More Adaptive State Economic Development Systems*
  - *Building the Electro-Industrial Investment Pipeline*
  - *Data Centers, Community Tradeoffs, and Regional Competitiveness*
  - *The 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act*
  - *Child Care as Economic Infrastructure*
  - *Strategies to bridge housing gaps*
  - *Trends in state incentives*
  - *Incentivizing Innovation*
  - *Tariffs and State Economic Development Policies*.
  - Additional blogs can be found on the SEDE Website.
- Posted and updated contact information for the SEDE Leaders on the SEDE database.
- Revised the state incentive database which details more than 2,500 state finance programs.
- Updated strategic plans in the State and Local Economic Development Strategies database.
- Created a state research catalog, building from the database of research previously funded by EDA's Statewide Planning Grants.
- Updating State Economic Development Organizational Structure profiles, which now includes state economic development salary information.
- Revamping the appearance of the SEDE website, including adding a member area to house all member exclusive benefits in one digital location.

Presentations to Key Audiences and Partnerships

- Worked with partners to host four webinars for the SEDE Network:
  - *Strategies to Bridge Housing Gaps and Fuel Economic Development*
  - *Strategies to Attract and Develop Rural Workforces*
  - *Understanding Opportunity Zones*
  - *Leveraging University Economic Development Partners*.
- Invited SEDE network to webinars hosted by partners and focused on:
  - Energy (Midwestern Governor's Association and Brookings)
  - Opportunity Zones (Economic Innovation Group)
  - Apprenticeships (Apprenticeships for America)
  - Manufacturing Innovation Institutes (DoD/MIIs).
- Presented SEDE and incentive information at NCSL.
- Partnered with RMI to launch economic development and energy Community of Practice in collaboration with 10+ states.
- Connected Brookings with state leaders to discuss new approaches to state economic development.



Subject Matter Expertise

- Continuing project with DoW on workforce and supply chain issues. Products include:
  - Series of State Intelligence Briefs to connect state assets to defense needs
  - Industry analysis of critical technology sectors
  - Dashboard of key workforce indicators
- Worked with states to analyze economic development programs and strategies:
  - Developing state CEDS plan,
  - Evaluating state programs related to DOE grant,
  - Analyzing impacts and operations of state incentive programs,
  - Assisting states with SSBCI program design and delivery, and
  - Partnered with regional organizations to improve alignment with state.
- Responded to member inquires related to:
  - Partner organizations activities like IEDC and SSTI
  - Incentive program comparisons
  - National site selection and economic development conferences and meetings
  - State laws relating to the Chinese ownership of land
  - Salary comparisons between states for selected positions.
- Worked with The Pew Charitable Trusts and the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) to transition the State Incentive Evaluators Network to its new NCSL home and ensure an ongoing forum for incentive evaluators.
- Fully transitioned SEDE from grant funding to membership supported.