Research and Evaluation Program

What does the Research and Evaluation Program do?

Through the Research and Evaluation program, EDA builds the knowledge base for sound, market-driven regional and local economic development.

This work is critical to ensure that EDA's initiatives and investments are consistent with current best practices in economic development.

Program evaluations ascertain EDA's impact on measures such as return on taxpayer investment, private capital investment leveraged, and the creation of higher-skill, higher-wage jobs.

Projects under the Research and Evaluation program may be carried out through grants or cooperative agreements, as well as through studies conducted in-house, to maximize the impact of this modestly funded program.

What does the National Technical Assistance Program do?

Providing timely information on best practices in economic development is critical to practitioners' efforts to alleviate economic distress and promote economic development. The National Technical Assistance program assists in formulating and implementing new economic development tools. These tools support local governments' efforts to partner with private industry and attract private investment to revitalize regions and local communities.

What criteria are used in determining which projects receive Research and Evaluation or National technical assistance grants?

- Potential usefulness for local, regional, and state economic development practitioners
- Soundness and completeness of analytical demonstration methodology and means of dissemination
- Value of proposed project in relation to cost
- Potential usefulness of the evaluation to EDA management and professional staff in determining the effectiveness of the EDA development program under study

What is an example of a successful Research and Evaluation or National Technical Assistance project?

For examples of successful projects, visit: http://www.eda.gov/tools/index.htm

For the Research and Evaluation or National Technical Assistance programs, where do I begin the grant application process?

Contact EDA headquarters in Washington, DC by emailing rnta@eda.gov.