

USC Price

Sol Price School of Public Policy
Center for Economic Development

UNIVERSITY

University of Southern California

CENTER DIRECTOR

Leonard Mitchell

CENTER LOCATION

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Parkway, Los Angeles, CA
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CENTER SINCE 2022

CENTER ACTIVITIES

- Capacity Development
- Applied Research
- Information Dissemination

CLIENTS

- Entrepreneurs and innovators
- Small- and medium-sized manufacturers
- Cities and Counties

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The mission of the USC Sol Price School of Public Policy is to improve the quality of life for people and their communities, here and abroad. We achieve this mission through education and research that promote innovative solutions to the most critical issues facing society.

Overview

The USC Center for Economic Development (CED) serves as a leader in facilitating sustainable economic development opportunities throughout Southern and Central California. The Center partners with community-based organizations, public agencies, and private entities to enhance their functional capacity by tapping the energy, enthusiasm, and talent of USC faculty, staff, and students.

The mission of CED is to provide technical assistance to economically distressed communities within the 19-county Southern and Central California region, offer clinical experience to graduate students, and prepare students for future professional opportunities. To achieve this mission, CED focuses on three vital and interrelated functions: clinical training; capacity development and community outreach; and applied research.

Capacity Development

CED will leverage the Advanced Manufacturing Partnership for Southern California (AMP SoCal), a federally designated manufacturing community since 2014. The next step for this powerful collaboration of industry, academia, and government is to pivot and utilize the University Center program to add community to the collaboration and to include other advanced manufacturing industry sectors and an additional nine counties in Central California to form the AMP So Cal Network covering the 19-county region of Southern & Central California.

The AMP SoCal Network will be a multidisciplinary forum in which ideas and strategies about innovation, creativity, and equity can be tailored to local needs. CED will convene the AMP SoCal Network to develop collaborative strategies for 21st century job creation and business development in innovative industry cluster sectors including and not limited to advanced manufacturing, biotech, lithium recovery and processing, desalination, offshore wind power generation, and the circular economy.

Applied Research

CED will develop capacity development resources using learning communication and visualization techniques such as artificial reality and virtual reality modalities that in combination can facilitate a broader and deeper impact. These resources will be used with regional planning efforts, entrepreneurs, future business management, etc. to enhance their capacity development.

Geographic Focus

19-county Southern and Central California



Information Dissemination

CED will maintain a website, social media, and mailing list to communicate with stakeholders and promote successes.

Key Objectives

- Assist Southern & Central California EDR to increase the capacity of organizations to attract private capital investments and create high-skill/high-wage jobs
- Serve as a conduit for directing USC assets and resources of its partners (UCs, CSUs, Community Colleges, AMP SoCal, etc.) to assist distressed communities in developing their capacity
- Mobilize university and partner assets to provide a broad range of services to meet the specific requests of municipalities, non-profits, potential EDA grantees, and tribal communities
- Consult with stakeholders to identify economic problems and opportunities