



Joan McDonald
Commissioner



State of Connecticut
Department of Economic and
Community Development

May 17, 2010

To: CEDS Directors and Chairmen
Regional Planning Agencies
Brenda L. Sisco, Acting Secretary, Office of Policy & Management
Eric Coleman, Co-Chair, Planning and Development Committee
Brendan Sharkey, Co-Chair, Planning and Development Committee
Leonard Fasano, Ranking Member, Planning and Development Committee
William Aman, Ranking Member, Planning and Development Committee

From: Joan McDonald, Commissioner

SUBJECT: Basic Criteria for Economic Development Districts (EDDs)

On May 5, 2010, the General Assembly passed HB 5383 An Act Concerning Regional Economic Development. This is milestone legislation for regional economic development collaboration. As such, I am pleased to inform you that the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) has established basic threshold criteria that each economic development organization (EDO) must meet in order to receive DECD approval for your Economic Development District (EDD) application to the U.S. Department of Economic Development Administration (EDA). For your information, I have listed these criteria below:

1. Regions must meet minimum EDA distressed criteria for approval.
2. CEDS/EDO Plan must be compatible with:
 - a) State C & D Plan
 - b) State Responsible Growth Strategies
3. Each region shall have a minimum of twenty municipalities in the EDD.
4. No municipality can be a member of two CEDS/EDDs.
5. All communities within the EDD geographic area must participate and concur with strategies.
6. The CEDS/EDO management board must meet on a regular basis, at least one time per quarter.
7. DECD will have staff representation (non-voting) on CEDS/EDO management board.
8. The EDD must have at least one EDA qualifying municipality.

Once your CEDS region meets the minimum criteria, DECD will actively support your application to EDA for designation as an EDD. When approved, your EDD region may become eligible for additional federal funds to help support construction and rehabilitation of public infrastructure and facilities. Funds may also be available for technical and planning assistance. EDA and DECD both endorse submission of projects that will create long term sustainable jobs. Please review these criteria. Feel free to contact Ned Moore at the Office of Responsible Development (860) 270-8148 with comments or questions.