



## Background

The United States is a large and highly diverse country. While the US is well-known for its general affection for laissez-faire economics, federal, state, and local governments play active economic roles. Many of the federal government's economics-oriented agencies may be familiar to you. The [Securities and Exchange Commission](#) regulates securities markets. The [Food and Drug Administration](#) oversees the safety and quality of food and drugs.

The [Economic Development Administration](#) (EDA) may be a federal agency that is new to you. EDA implements federal laws and policies designed to generate new employment, help retain existing jobs, and stimulate industrial and commercial growth. EDA provides grants and technical assistance to local communities to create new employment, maintain existing jobs, and stimulate industrial and commercial growth. It provides direct financial investments through federal grants and loans. EDA offers financial and technical aid to communities in economic distress from social and economic conditions, natural disasters, climate change, or other adverse conditions.

Economic Development Districts (EDDs) are local means by which EDA implements its diverse programs. Economic Development Districts (EDDs) are locally defined organizations. Once defined, a local organization applies to EDA for approval as an EDD. They are often composed of multiple counties in a single state. But there is a wide variety of EDDs. Some cross state boundaries. What all EDDs share in common is a locally-based, regionally driven economic development planning process. EDDs foster regional collaboration by working with the public, private and non-profit sectors of the economy.

This semester we are working with the North Central New Mexico Economic Development District (NCNMEDD). Our primary contacts at NCNMEDD are Alison Turner, a Community Development Planner at NCNMEDD and recent MSSP graduate, and Aidan O'Hara, who has been preparing for this project since late July.

## NCNMEDD

The [textNorth Central New Mexico Economic Development District](#) (NCNMEDD) is the regional Council of Governments for local governments in Santa Fe, Rio Arriba, Taos, Colfax, Mora, San Miguel, Los Alamos, and Sandoval counties. Established in 1967, NCNMEDD assists local governments with community and economic development projects and initiatives. Of particular importance, NCNMEDD is the conduit for EDA funding. NCNMEDD also manages the Northern Pueblos and North East Regional Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPOs).

A significant portion of the NCNMEDD's effort goes into supporting grant and loan application preparation by organizations in the region, including county and municipal governments, Native American tribal and pueblo governments.

Grant applications focus primarily on community development block grants offered by the Economic Development Administration (EDA), the Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Eligibility for grant funding is calculated based on per capita income, unemployment, and labor market information.

## Objective

In these efforts, the availability of relevant data is essential. While data are available from a broad array of sources, data access has been a long-standing problem. NCNMEDD clients report that in some cases, the decision to pursue or not pursue a grant opportunity is driven by the availability of data and staff to organize, analyze, and present data. These are the resource that will be used to establish grant eligibility and to provide data-driven descriptions of the local conditions grant funding will address.

Since March 2020, Alison, Haviland and Allen Razdow have been working with Allen Razdow to investigate using his [Truenumbers](#) systme to streamline the data acquisition, organization, and analysis process. This project will continue this work with the goal of implementing a Truenumbers-based support system for NCNMEDD.