UNITED STATES

Overview

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| Population *(specify date)* and territory | 334,233,854 (as of Jan 1, 2023), 3,533,038.28 mi² |
| Administrative structure *(unitary/federal)* | Federal |
| Regional or state-level governments *(number)* | 50 states and 14 territories |
| Intermediate-level governments *(number)* | 3,031 (Census of Governments, 2017)  Note: The above data reflects County governments. Also note: The Census of Govt’s is conducted every 5 years. The 2022 census datasets have yet to be released. |
| Municipal-level governments *(number)* | 35,748 (Census of Governments, 2017)  Note: The above data reflects Subcounty Governments (Municipal and Townshhip Governments). Also note: The Census of Govt’s is conducted every 5 years. The 2022 census datasets have yet to be released. |
| Share of subnational government in total expenditure/revenues (2021) | 40.6% of total expenditure  57.8% of total revenues  [Source: [Subnational governments in OECD countries: key data, 2023 edition](https://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=SNGF)] |
| Key regional development challenges | Inequity, broadband/digital infrastructure, access to capital, bridging the urban-rural divide |
| Objectives of regional policy | Achieve equitable economic development outcomes across the United States  Build the foundation for long-term, sustainable economic development. |
| Legal/institutional framework for regional policy | Federal economic development policies/programs across several federal agencies as well as state and local government policies/programs. |
| Budget allocated to regional development (i.e., amount) and fiscal equalisation mechanisms between jurisdictions (if any) | There are no set allocations, but most recently available data show the USG spent $27 billion on community and regional development in FY 2019. There are no fiscal equalisation mechanisms in the U.S. |
| National regional development policy framework | While there is no overarching national regional development policy framework per se, the US Economic Development Administration (EDA) leads the federal economic development agenda. |
| Urban policy framework | Led by U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Office of Community Planning and Development. |
| Rural policy framework | Led by United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) - Rural Development. |
| Major regional policy tools (e.g., funds, plans, policy initiatives, institutional agreements, etc.) | EDA grants (capacity-building and infrastructure)  HUD Community Development Block Grant program (CDBG)  USDA Rural Development grant programs  White House Domestic Policy Council |
| Policy co-ordination tools at national level | White House Domestic Policy Council  EDA, serving as the lead of the federal economic development agenda, coordinates federal economic development policies and programs through its Economic Development Integration (EDI) initiative.  Rural Partners Network (rural.gov) |
| Multi-level governance mechanisms between national and subnational levels (e.g., institutional agreements, Committees, etc.) | Federal grants to subnational governments.  Regulatory framework as it applies to subnational governments |
| Policy co-ordination tools at regional level | State and Local government economic development departments/ offices  Regional Planning Organizations [e.g.: EDA funded Economic Development Districts (EDDs)] |
| Evaluation and monitoring tools | Federal agencies are required to evaluate and monitor impacts of programs through the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA). |
| Future orientations of regional policy | Example: EDA’s grant making Investment Priorities:   1. **Equity:** Economic development planning or implementation projects that advance equity across America through investments that directly benefit 1) one or more traditionally underserved populations, including but not limited to women, Black, Latino, and Indigenous and Native American persons, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders or 2) underserved communities within geographies that have been systemically and/or systematically denied a full opportunity to participate in aspects of economic prosperity such as Tribal Lands, Persistent Poverty Counties, and rural areas with demonstrated, historical underservice. 2. **Recovery & Resilience:** Economic development planning or implementation projects that build economic resilience to and long-term recovery from economic shocks, like those experienced by coal and power plant communities, or other communities impacted by the decline of an important industry or a natural disaster, that may benefit from economic diversification-focused resilience. 3. **Workforce Development:** Economic development planning or implementation projects that support workforce education and skills training activities directly connected to the hiring and skills needs of the business community and that result in well-paying, quality jobs (PDF). 4. **Manufacturing:** Economic development planning or implementation projects that encourage job creation, business expansion, technology and capital upgrades, and productivity growth in manufacturing, including efforts that contribute to the competitiveness and growth of domestic suppliers or to the domestic production of innovative, high-value products and production technologies. 5. **Technology-Based Economic Development:**   Economic development planning or implementation  projects that foster regional knowledge ecosystems that support entrepreneurs and start-ups, including the commercialization of new technologies, that are creating technology-driven businesses and high-skilled, well-paying jobs of the future.   1. **Environmentally-Sustainable Development:**   Economic development planning or implementation projects that help address the climate crisis including through the development and implementation of green products, green processes (including green infrastructure), green places, and green buildings.   1. **Exports & FDI:** Economic development planning or implementation projects that enhance or build community assets to support growth in US exports or increased foreign direct investment. |
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Recent policy developments

The United States has always had a focus on policies that address place-based needs. Most recently, there has been a greater emphasis on equity, especially for historically underserved geographies and populations. This includes rural areas, tribal lands, and minorities such as Black, Latino, and American Indian populations. The U.S. is taking a whole of government approach to address regional inequalities. In terms of new initiatives, a key example is EDA’s recent $3 billion American Rescue Plan program to meet the urgent needs of American communities for economic recovery and resiliency in face of the pandemic. In 2022, EDA made 780 grants awarded through six innovative programs to support transformational American Rescue Plan projects.

EDA’s American Rescue Plan grant programs include:

1. [Build Back Better Regional Challenge](https://www.eda.gov/arpa/build-back-better): $1 billion awarded to 21 regional coalitions (5-8 component awards per coalition), each of which received between $25 million and $65 million to transform their regional economy by growing an industry sector. EDA also gave awards to 60 phase 1 finalists to support the development of their ambitious projects.
2. [Good Jobs Challenge](https://www.eda.gov/arpa/good-job-challenge): $500 million awarded to 32 industry-led workforce training partnerships to invest in innovative approaches to workforce development that will secure job opportunities for more than 50,000 Americans.
3. [Economic Adjustment Assistance program](https://www.eda.gov/arpa/economic-adjustment-assistance): $500 million awarded to 256 diverse projects —including but not limited to enabling infrastructure, workforce development, business facilities and planning grants — to address the economic development needs of communities today while preparing them for the future by in investing in enabling infrastructure, workforce development, business facilities, and planning grants.
4. [Indigenous Communities program](https://www.eda.gov/arpa/indigenous): $100 million awarded to 51 grantees to support economic development projects in Indigenous communities for similar types of projects as described under Economic Adjustment Assistance. Across all six American Rescue Plan programs, inclusive of the Indigenous Communities program, EDA awarded a total of 127 grants totalling $448 million.
5. [Travel, Tourism & Outdoor Recreation program](https://www.eda.gov/funding/programs/american-rescue-plan/travel-tourism): $750 million awarded to 185 grantees to help support regions hard hit by declines to these industries through projects to build new tourist attractions (museums, event venues, hiking trails, campgrounds, etc.), develop tourism-related economic plans, and support workforce training in the tourism sector.
6. [Statewide Planning, Research & Networks](https://www.eda.gov/arpa/research): $1 million planning grants to each of the 59 U.S. states and territories and $31 million to 14 research and networks (also known as Communities of Practice) grantees.