

STATEWIDE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES

The entities included in this section are primarily involved in economic and community development and serve communities and regions throughout the State of Alabama.



State Government Entities

4



University-Based Entities

11



Other Statewide Entities

17



STATE GOVERNMENT ENTITIES

ALABAMA DEVELOPMENT OFFICE (ADO)

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MISSION

To lead and coordinate economic development resources in order to facilitate quality job opportunities throughout all of Alabama.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Primary Activities

- Active recruitment of new industry
- Support of existing industry expansion in the state
- Promotion of trade with other countries

Goals

- To raise the per capital income in Alabama
- To improve the quality of life for Alabama citizens
- To reduce unemployment
- To promote the advantages and increasing industrial growth in Alabama

Divisions

- The Industrial Recruitment division attracts industry to Alabama and encourages and promotes foreign manufacturing investment in the state.
- The International Trade division provides marketing assistance to benefit as many Alabama firms as possible.
- The Research and Communications division provides technical support and information that ADO's other divisions and external agencies and organizations need to market the state to industrial clients.
- The Small Business Advocacy division fosters the growth of Alabama's small business operations by providing information to businesses and ensuring that the needs of small business owners are addressed regularly.
- The Alabama Film Office promotes the state of Alabama to the film and video industry as a site for on-location production of feature films, television, music videos, industrial and corporate training films, and commercials.

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS (ADECA)

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MISSION

ADECA's mission is to serve all Alabamians by effectively utilizing resources in order to meet economic and community needs. ADECA provides information on planning, economic development, employment, training and community services. ADECA administers federal funds to provide community grants for a variety of purposes. Through administering these funds, ADECA enables communities with considerable needs to build basic infrastructure, such as water and sewer systems.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Divisions

- Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC): The development organization for the Appalachian program in Alabama functions within the Governor's Office. Administration responsibilities for the development programs of the ARC are assigned by the Governor to the Director of the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA). As such, the Director serves as an Alternate State Member of the Commission.

The ARC is a federal-state partnership that works with the people of Appalachia to create opportunities for self-sustaining economic development and improved quality of life.

The Appalachian Regional Commission's Area Development and Highway Programs address the four goals identified in the Commission's strategic plan:

- Increase job opportunities and per capita income in Appalachia to reach parity with the nation
- Strengthen the capacity of the people of Appalachia to compete in the global economy
- Develop and improve Appalachia's infrastructure to make the Region economically competitive
- Build the Appalachian Development Highway System to reduce Appalachia's isolation

Each year, ARC provides funding for several hundred projects throughout the Appalachian Region in support of these goals.

- Office of Workforce Development: The Workforce Development Division of ADECA administers training programs for adults, dislocated workers, and youth under the Workforce Investment Act. The division offers the school-to-career program, migrant seasonal farm worker training programs, and the welfare-to-work training program for the State.
- Enterprise Community Program: The purpose of the Empowerment Zone and Enterprise Community Program is to enhance the economic structure of impoverished areas through infrastructure and resource development and mobilization.

- Resources for Economic Assistance Programs (REAP):
 - Renewal Community Program: Alabama's Renewal Community program provides federal tax incentives/deductions for employers (businesses) located, locating, or expanding into designated renewal community census tracts within the State of Alabama. Incentives may be gained by employing residents of the designated renewal community, investing in equipment, construction of a facility, or purchasing an asset in the renewal community and retaining it for a period of five years. Alabama's designated renewal communities include Greene and Sumter Counties; Mobile, Mobile County, and Prichard; and the Southern Alabama Renewal Community (made up of Census tracts in Butler, Lowndes, Dallas, Hale, Monroe, Conecuh, Marengo, Perry and Wilcox Counties).
 - Delta Regional Authority (DRA): The Authority encourages the development of new jobs and basic improvements to enhance quality of life. The DRA works to strengthen economies by improving education, infrastructure, transportation and businesses with an emphasis on private enterprise. ADECA oversees the program in Alabama and works with local, state and regional agencies to implement DRA goals.
 - Office of Minority Business Enterprises (OMBE): The OMBE's primary objective is to serve and promote the interest of small and minority-owned and female-owned businesses. The office provides information on procurement and contracting opportunities with federal, state, county and city agencies and assists in meeting state procurement opportunities. Additionally, the office provides certification for minority and female owned businesses.
 - Community and Economic Development Programs:
 - Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) include: Competitive Fund, Community Enhancement Fund, Planning Fund, and Economic Development Fund
 - Emergency Shelter Grant Program (CSBG)
 - Technical Assistance: ADECA provides information on contracting and tax incentive availability and potential contact points for further information. Additionally, its technical assistance section makes available information on business start-ups; loans and other small business related issues. In addition to assisting small business, the section also handles requests for information from local governments.
- Other ADECA Divisions
 - Communications and Information
 - Office of Water Resources
 - Energy, Weatherization and Technology
 - Financial Services
 - Law Enforcement and Traffic Safety
 - Surplus Property

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS (DIR)

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MISSION

The mission of the DIR is to effectively use tax dollars to provide workforce development and protection services for a more positive economic environment for Alabama employers and workers.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

DIR provides services which have considerable impact on the economic well-being of all Alabamians. It is a core partner in Alabama's Career Center System, which provides one-stop employment and training services as mandated by the Workforce Investment Act.

The Alabama DIR helps:

- Potential employees to find new jobs
- Employers to find the workers they need
- Both employers and workers to resolve workers' compensation issues

Divisions

There are five operational divisions in the department, which work to improve the quality of life for Alabama citizens as well as improve the business climate for Alabama employers:

- Alabama State Employment Service (Web: <https://joblink.alabama.gov/ada/>)
There are 36 employment offices located throughout the state to provide hiring assistance with the ultimate goal of job placement. Through these offices, the Employment Service:
 - Allows job seekers to register for work with the Alabama State Employment Service in order to create resumes, search job listings and apply for jobs
 - Allows employers to post jobs and to search job seekers' resumes, including application and resume review, applicant processing, and testing
 - Assists in job referral, employability development activities, and job development as well as occupational and training information
- Unemployment Compensation (UC)
 - Built around one central idea: a worker who loses their job, through no fault of their own, deserves financial help.
 - Enables employers to keep their workforce together during short-term layoffs
 - Aids individuals by providing them with basic sustenance money until they become re-employed.
 - Both groups also profit because unemployment insurance helps stabilize local economies during a recession
 - UC program administration is funded by Federal Unemployment Taxes (FUTA).

- Workers' Compensation (WC)
 - Humanizes the Alabama workplace through its protective effort for employees and employers
 - Administers the Alabama Workers' Compensation law providing compensation for job-related injuries and occupational diseases
 - Expands and encourages safety in the workplace for all workers
- Labor Market Information (LMI)
 - Collects and analyzes labor market data for dissemination to employers, economic developers, those researching job markets, and other interested individuals
 - Serves as the primary source responsible for providing information about Alabama's population, employment, unemployment, and wages.
 - Uses data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics programs, including Current Employment and Wages, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, and Occupational Employment Statistics. The Bureau of Labor Statistics is the principal fact-finding agency for the Federal Government in the broad field of labor economics and statistics.
- Mining and Reclamation
 - Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation
 - Restores land and water resources which have been adversely affected by past coal mining
 - Conducts reclamation on abandoned surface mines, coal processing areas, and underground mine entries
 - Makes an aggressive effort to reduce the backlog of public safety hazards and environmental problems from past mine activities
 - Mine Safety and Inspection
 - Inspects all working places in mines to ensure compliance with state laws which protect the safety of persons working in the mining industry
 - Coordinates rescue efforts in the event of a mine disaster and investigates fatal mine accidents
 - Provides training programs to miners in mine safety, rescue and first aid
 - Surface Mining of Non-fuel Minerals
 - Ensures that lands mined for non-fuel minerals are reclaimed in accordance with state law (Ex. sand, gravel, clay, and bauxite)
 - Issues mining permits, ensures that mine sites are properly bonded for reclamation purposes, and conducts periodic inspections

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRIES

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VISION

The Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries seeks to: (a) provide timely, fair and expert regulatory control over products, business entities, movement, and application of goods and services for which applicable state and federal law exists and (b) protect and provide service to Alabama consumers. Department personnel will actively work to initiate and support economic development activities and promote domestic and international consumption of Alabama products.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Divisions

The Department of Agriculture and Industries provides services through its three major divisions:

- Executive Division - Handles the administrative functions for the department.
- Agriculture and Animal Production Division - Includes five sections:
 - The Animal Industry section is responsible for protecting the health of livestock and poultry in Alabama, administering programs to prevent, control, and eradicate diseases. Veterinary diagnostic laboratories identify and investigate diseases of livestock, poultry, wildlife, and companion animals.
 - The Plant Industry section is responsible for the prevention, control, and eradication of pests affecting agricultural interests. This section also audits, inspects, certifies, registers, and issues permits on honeybees, feed, fertilizer, liming materials, and seeds in Alabama. Inspectors also inspect all state-bonded gins and warehouses, peanuts, grains, fruits and vegetables, and nuts.
 - The Agriculture Promotions section provides outreach, marketing, mediation services, and market news; assists farmers markets; and collaborates with land grant universities, farmer organizations, USDA, and others to improve agricultural production.
 - The Alabama Agricultural Mediation Program (AAMP) is a USDA-certified state program that offers mediation services to Alabama agricultural farmers, their creditors, and USDA agencies.
 - The Agriculture Statistics section functions under a cooperative agreement between the Department of Agriculture and Industries and the National Agricultural Statistics Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Enumerators and statisticians gather, analyze, and publish statistics in many agriculture-related areas.
- Food Safety Division - Includes three sections:
 - The Food Safety section has regulatory responsibilities that assure safe, wholesome and properly labeled food products for Alabama consumers.

- The *Weights and Measures* section is responsible for enforcing weights and measures laws to ensure that consumers are getting their money's worth by inspecting weights, gasoline pumps, grocery store scales, large vehicle scales, and other measuring devices.
- The *Pesticide Management* section certifies pesticide applicators and enforces the regulations that govern their operation.

In addition, the Department is home to the Center for Rural Alabama. The Center for Rural Alabama was created to coordinate, oversee, and manage efforts to bring expanded economic opportunity to rural areas of the state

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, TAX INCENTIVES DIVISION

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MISSION

The Alabama Department of Revenue will efficiently and effectively administer the revenue laws in an equitable, courteous, and professional manner to fund governmental services for the citizens of Alabama.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

The Department of Revenue administers several tax incentives available for existing industries, expanding industries, and new industries locating in Alabama.

- Income Tax Capital Credit
- Property and Sales Tax Abatements
- Other Incentives Available in Alabama Business Taxes
- Income Tax
- Property Tax
- Sales and Use Tax
- Business Privilege Tax

In addition, the Department provides information for new industries through its:

- Tax Incentives for Industry Booklet
- Summary of Alabama Taxes and Tax Incentives
- Taxpayer Assistance Brochure



UNIVERSITY-BASED ENTITIES

ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (ECDI)

Auburn University & Alabama Cooperative Education System

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MISSION

The mission of ECDI is “to promote economic prosperity and improved quality of life for communities throughout Alabama.”

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Goals

ECDI has four primary goals:

- **Education and Training:** Improve the practice of economic and community development in Alabama through targeted educational programs.
 - Conduct Intensive Economic Development Training Course
 - Conduct Alabama Rural Roundtable
 - Administer Alabama Community Leadership Network (ACLN)
 - Conduct Alabama Prosperity Forum (*A series of short courses focusing on areas in which Alabama economic and community development professionals have expressed a desire for more training*)
 - Provide County Extension Coordinators with training in economic and community development
 - Administer the state’s only Graduate Minor in Economic Development
- **Research and Communication:** Conduct research and disseminate findings on issues related to economic and community development in Alabama.
 - Disseminate economic development information, articles, toolkits, tutorials and current research through the ECDI website
 - Publish and disseminate research on topics relevant to Alabama economic and community development policy and practice
 - Conduct economic impact, economic forecast, demographic, workforce competency, occupational, and career cluster analyses for Alabama economic and community developers
- **Connections and Partnerships:** Facilitate communication, coordination, and partnerships among Alabama’s economic development community, Extension, and Auburn University.
 - Provide administrative support for the I-85 Corridor Alliance
 - Participate on economic and community development advisory boards throughout the state

- Support and facilitate Auburn University and Extension faculty and staff engagement in community and economic development projects, programs and initiatives
- Maintain strong relations and provide support to tourism agencies and organizations throughout the state – and coordinate the development of rural tourism partnerships
- **Consultation and Engagement:** Help build and strengthen economic and community capacity in Alabama communities through a) leadership development, b) civic engagement, c) strategic planning, and d) economic development.
 - Administer Extension RC&D grant program
 - Administer Rural Alabama Initiative grant program
 - Provide leadership and support for the Alabama Communities of Excellence program
 - Support and expand the Alabama Agri-Tourism Trail
 - Facilitate community and regional strategic planning, assessment and asset mapping efforts throughout the state
 - Facilitate deliberative forums, roundtables, and town meetings
 - Provide leadership development guidebook for Alabama communities
 - Support regional efforts to promote tourism and retiree attraction

UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (UCED)

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OVERVIEW

UCED was founded as an umbrella organization that draws from the resources of The University of Alabama to support the state's public and private economic development initiatives. The Center facilitates this support by providing access to university technical resources and the specialization of faculty and professional staff. A major emphasis of the UCED is community development. UCED clients are Alabama local governments and civic leaders.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

- UCED provides technical assistance to civic and elected leaders for economic development and planning through partnerships with state and federal organizations, agencies and Alabama institutions.
- UCED provides leadership and support to the Alabama Communities of Excellence and Your Town Alabama, both non-profits providing guidance to Alabama communities and civic and elected local leaders.
- UCED provides relevant training (topics and content) to local civic and elected leaders in support of local and regional economic development and planning.

CENTER FOR BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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OVERVIEW

The Center for Business and Economic Development is one of six consulting and research divisions of Auburn Montgomery Outreach. Founded in 1976, the Center functioned as an integral part of Auburn Montgomery's School of Business until 1982. The Center's primary focus during its early years was supervisory and management training. In 1982, the Center's mission was redefined to emphasize test development, selection procedure validation, and equal employment opportunity. The Center's first project under its new mission was a substantial validation and litigation support effort for the United States Air Force arising from a Title VII lawsuit. Over 250 job analyses and content validation studies were performed between 1982 and 1985. Since that time, the Center has worked with numerous private and public sector organizations to develop and validate employee selection procedures. In addition, the Center has provided consulting services to many of these clients in the areas of management training, organization development, and performance management.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

The Center for Business and Economic Development provides comprehensive consulting in the areas of human resources management, organization development, grant management/evaluation, and economic and community development. Staff members have experience and expertise in: Job Analysis, EEO Litigation Support, Employee Selection, Performance Management, Organization Development, Economic Impact Analysis, Classification and Compensation, and Strategic Planning.

CENTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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OVERVIEW

The Center for Economic Development at JSU concentrates on providing specialized assistance to business and government. Examples of services provided include economic impact studies, marketing surveys, employee attitude assessment, training, and personnel and pay plan development. In addition to the Center's consultants, the faculty is involved in providing expertise to area businesses and governments. The Center publishes a monthly newsletter, *JSU Economic Update*, which provides data on the economy of northeast Alabama.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

- **Government Services:** The Center for Economic Development is dedicated to assisting governments as they work to resolve complex issues and problems. Types of managerial and operational services offered by the CED include: Personnel and Organizational Analysis, Financial Analysis, Consumer Opinion Studies, Community Marketing, Economic Base Study, Feasibility Study, Impact Analysis, Law Enforcement Analysis, Computer Needs Assessment, Retiree Attraction, and Safety Analysis.
- **Business Services:** Jacksonville State University maintains a strong commitment to economic growth and the continuing development of a business environment that fosters the creation of jobs, increases in investment, and the expansion of Alabama's industrial base. As an integral part of the University's business outreach program, the CED offers Business Services Consulting to provide a direct link between the academic and business communities.

Utilizing a professional staff and the College of Business faculty, the Center provides management expertise and technical assistance on a contractual basis. Some of the Center's recent projects include the following: Organizational Assessment Studies, Impact Studies, Personnel and Organizational Analysis, Safety Programs, Statistical Process Control, Existing Business Retention / Expansion, and Financial Analysis.

- **Business Research:** The Business Research Bureau of the JSU Center for Economic Development provides an array of services to meet the needs of businesses, individuals, and governments, including:
 - **Consumer Opinion Surveys:** The Bureau will design survey instruments customized to meet the specific needs of a community. After interviewing consumers, the Center prepares an analysis that summarizes its findings and provides recommendations.
 - **Community Marketing Plans:** The Business Research Bureau can assist communities by developing a marketing plan custom-made to reflect the strengths and attractive features of the community.

CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (CIBED)

Troy University

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PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Centers

CIBED is comprised of four centers:

- **Small Business Development Center (Troy Campus)**
The SBDC offers one-to-one consulting, training, information and government bidding opportunities to small businesses in a ten-county area of southeast Alabama. The SBDC provides services to small businesses in:

- Consulting: The TROY SBDC provides free consulting to help new entrepreneurs evaluate their business ideas and existing businesses remain competitive in today’s dynamic, global marketplace. SBDC consultants have advanced degrees and varied backgrounds with years of practical experience. The Center’s consultants provide assistance in the following areas: Developing Business Plans and Loan Proposals, Creating Marketing Strategies, Identifying Funding Sources, Marketing to the Government, and Starting a Business.
- Training: The SBDC offers affordable training seminars on business topics including business planning, marketing, finance, management, taxes and government contracting. These seminars are designed to help broaden business knowledge of customers with diverse levels of experience.
- Financing: The SBDC provides information about and guidance with Small Business Administration loan and grant programs to assist small businesses.
- Center for Business and Economic Services (Troy Campus) and Center for Business and Community Partnering (Montgomery Campus)
These Centers conduct applied research and provide services to businesses and government agencies throughout Alabama. Activities include applied research, educational activities, management consulting, and publishing the *Troy University Business and Economic Review* semiannually. The Centers support the economic development of small businesses through two subsidiary programs – the SBDC and the Small Business Institute (SBI). The SBI links business students and faculty together with businesses to provide research projects for small firms. Students receive practical knowledge and earn class credits
- Center for Economic Education (Dothan Campus)
 - Troy’s Center for Economic Education seeks to promote and increase the economic literacy of local, state, and national entities. The Center places emphasis on its role in preparing today’s youth in order to effectively create more savvy consumers, productive workers, informed voters and globally-minded individuals. It also stresses a need to target local educators in order to accurately disseminate this information. The Center is committed to this task by offering workshops, training seminars, resources and assistance. Through this partnership, the Center works to increase economic literacy throughout Alabama.
 - The Center for Economic Education acts as a liaison between the business community, Troy University, educational administrators and local educators to provide tangible data and materials to increase the economic literacy of students. It targets all K-12 students through its initiative. The Center works to provide these resources at no charge to the teachers.

UAH OFFICE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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MISSION

The mission of the Office for Economic Development at UAH is to facilitate the creation of jobs and economic prosperity by building innovative and competitive companies and industries. The Office specializes in corporate and economic development strategies regarding high-tech, automotive, aerospace and logistics industries.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Centers

The Office for Economic Development contains the following:

- Continuous Improvement & Alabama Technology Network (ATN): Nationally recognized center for lean manufacturing. Clients include Mercedes, Boeing and many suppliers to the automotive and aerospace industries. The ATN also provides lean and quality implementation and training to manufacturers throughout the state.
- Small Business Development Center (SBDC): National leader in government procurement counseling. In 2002, clients were awarded \$680 million in government contracts.
- Economic Development Strategy, Industry Clusters and Innovation: Leader in developing industry cluster maps and working with cities, counties and regions to formulate economic development strategies.
- Office for Infrastructure, Logistics and Transportation (OILT): Assessing the infrastructure and logistical needs for growing Alabama industry.
- Center for Innovation in Strategic Supply Chains: A leader in supply chain optimization, integration, optimization and lean logistics.
- Administration of Industry Associations: Alabama Automotive Manufacturers Association (AAMA)
Alabama Aerospace Industry Association (AAIA)



OTHER STATEWIDE ENTITIES

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION OF ALABAMA (EDAA)

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MISSION

The mission of EDAA is to educate, network and positively impact economic development in Alabama

OVERVIEW

EDAA is a membership-based organization focused on promoting economic growth in Alabama. Economic development professionals throughout the state, along with individuals and companies in related economic development fields, work together with the EDAA staff and board of directors to help positively influence state legislation and industrial growth within the state.

Currently, EDAA has over 500 members, including directors and staff members from local economic development associations, as well as other individuals involved in economic growth in Alabama. Members enjoy the benefits of networking opportunities, professional development and legislative representation.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP OF ALABAMA (EDPA)

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PURPOSE

EDPA is committed to quality economic growth throughout Alabama. EDPA provides project and proposal support, including general economic development research, available site and building information, and multimedia state presentations.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Marketing

- Strategic marketing to target industries
- Trade shows and events

- Promotional Materials
- Website Management
- Media Relations
- *Partners Magazine*

Business Information

- Proposal development
- Buildings, sites and communities database
- PowerPoint slide library
- Collaborative research projects with other economic developers
- Target Industry Research

Foundations for Growth Industry Program

- Confidential database for existing industry information
- Strategic tool to find growth opportunities
- Assistance in designing local existing industry programs
- Analytics on workforce and infrastructure needs
- Training for community interviewers