



Contact: Joe McKinney  
NADO Executive Director  
202.921.4441 | [jmckinney@nado.org](mailto:jmckinney@nado.org)

For Immediate Release  
October 25, 2021

## **Economic Development Districts of Idaho Receives National Association of Development Organizations 2021 Impact Award**

WASHINGTON, DC – The Economic Development Districts of Idaho (EDDI), a coalition of five regional community and economic development organizations working throughout Idaho, collectively received a 2021 Aliceann Wohlbruck Impact Award from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) for the Statewide Economic Disaster Resiliency and Planning Framework that was produced in response to the economic disaster caused by COVID 19.

The Economic Development Districts of Idaho is comprised of the Panhandle Area Council (Hayden), Clearwater Economic Development Association (Lewiston), Region IV Development Association (Twin Falls), Southeast Idaho Council of Governments (Pocatello) and East Central Idaho Planning and Development Association (Rexburg). Together, the EDDI partnered to develop a strategic economic response and resiliency plan and associated framework for the EDDI to use in responding both as a state collaborative and within each respective region.

This framework provides a consistent planning format for each district to use in developing and implementing short and long-term economic development plans to prevent, prepare for, and respond to economic disasters like the COVID 19 pandemic and the resulting economic injuries impacting Idaho communities.

Each of the EDDI committed staff and financial resources toward the completion of the project, and additional funds from the Idaho Department of Commerce and from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) – Rural Development office were also secured. Throughout the project, the EDDI garnered support for the initiative from the Region 10 Federal Emergency Management Agency, Idaho Transportation Department, Idaho Department of Commerce, USDA- Rural Development, Economic Development Administration, and others.

David Doran, Executive Director of Southeast Idaho Council of Governments, and President of the Economic Development Districts of Idaho noted, “This project demonstrates how the development of unique partnerships between regional economic districts, state agencies, federal partners, and others, can leverage funding and resources. These plans address regional economic recovery, maintain consistency in all of the Idaho District’s regional plans, and tie recovery and resiliency strategies to state and federal efforts.”

Deb Smith Economic Development Planner for the Clearwater Economic Development Association stated, “These economic disaster recovery and resiliency plans, while individual to each region, provides us with an understanding of how our regional economies are linked throughout the state and allows us to holistically approach COVID-19 recovery.”

NADO is a Washington, DC-based membership association of regional development organizations that promote programs and policies that strengthen local governments, communities, and economies through regional cooperation, program delivery, and comprehensive strategies. The association’s Impact Awards program recognizes regional development organizations and their partners for improving the economic and community competitiveness of our nation’s regions and local communities.

Award-winning projects were recognized during NADO’s 2021 Annual Training Conference, held in Portland, OR on October 16-19. The 2021 class of award recipients consists of 102 projects from 70 organizations spanning 24 states. These projects are presented in an interactive “Story Map” developed by NADO that includes project summaries, partners, and images. The Story Map is available online at: [https://www.nado.org/2021\\_impactawards/](https://www.nado.org/2021_impactawards/)

“During the past 20 months, regional development organizations across the country have shown just how valuable they are in supporting the local communities they serve,” said 2019-2021 NADO President Kevin Byrd, Executive Director of the New River Valley Regional Commission, located in Radford, VA. “From COVID-19 response and recovery initiatives, to workforce and economic development projects, to social services programs and much more, the 2021 NADO Impact Awardees highlight the many ways our members work on the ground every day to improve quality of life in their regions.”

The NADO Impact Awards are presented in honor of the late Aliceann Wohlbruck who was NADO’s first executive director and served 24 years as a tireless champion for regional approaches to economic development in rural communities.

###

*Since 1967 the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) has provided advocacy, education, networking, and research for the national network of 540 regional development organizations. NADO members provide professional, programmatic, and technical assistance to over 2,300 counties and 15,000 municipalities.*