

WRITTEN STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD

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IN COLLABORATION WITH THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES



HEARING ON THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION BEFORE THE U.S SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

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INTRODUCTION

Chair Carper, Ranking Member Capito, and distinguished members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today on the important role that Economic Development Administration (EDA) investments play in creating long-term economic prosperity in counties including my own, Miami-Dade County.

My name is Eileen Higgins, and I serve as the District 5 Commissioner in Miami-Dade County, Florida, Chair of the County's Transportation, Mobility, and Planning Committee, and Vice-Chair of its Housing and Community Development Committee. I have the honor of serving in leadership and advocacy roles for the National Association of Counties (NACo), including Chair of the Transportation Steering Committee and as a member of its Housing Stability Task Force and Economic Mobility Leadership Network.

ABOUT AMERICA'S COUNTIES

Counties are highly diverse, not only in my state of Florida, but across the nation, and vary immensely in natural resources, social and political systems, cultural, economic and structural circumstances, public health and environmental responsibilities. Counties range in area from 26 square miles (Arlington County, Virginia) to 87,860 square miles (North Slope Borough, Alaska). The population of counties varies from Loving County, Texas, with just under 100 residents to Los Angeles County, California, which is home to close to ten million people. Of the nation's 3,069 counties, approximately 70 percent are considered "rural," with populations less than 50,000, with 50 percent of those having populations below 25,000. At the same time, there are more than 120 major urban counties, including my home of Miami-Dade County, Florida, which collectively house, and provide essential services to, more than 130 million people.

Many of our responsibilities are mandated by states and the federal government. Although county responsibilities differ widely, most states give their counties significant authorities. These authorities include construction and maintenance of roads, bridges and other infrastructure, assessment of property taxes, record keeping, running elections, and overseeing jails, court systems and public hospitals. Counties are also responsible for child welfare, consumer protection, economic development, employment/workforce training, land use planning, zoning and environmental protection.

Local and regional economic development is a critical component of these responsibilities. Day-to-day, counties tackle such challenges as unemployment and underemployment, and we work to develop equitable economic growth strategies to address the unique issues facing our communities. Additionally, counties play a major role in financing, administering and coordinating federal economic development programs. This includes the EDA, a key pillar of the intergovernmental partnership.

ABOUT MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

Miami-Dade County is home to roughly 2.7 million residents to whom we provide critical services, including road and bridge operation, transit and bus systems, public safety and emergency services, public housing, health and human services, water and sewer services, and more. We predominantly rely on local property taxes to ensure our many infrastructure responsibilities are met; however, we also value a

strong intergovernmental partnership and believe that working with our state and federal partners is key to meeting the challenges of today and seizing the opportunities of the future.

At roughly 2,400 square miles, Miami-Dade is larger than the states of Rhode Island and Delaware. According to the 2020 Census, it is the seventh most populous in the nation and among the most diverse in the country, where our residents speak 128 different languages.

By a standard measure of economic inequality (Gini coefficient), Miami-Dade has the second-largest gap in the nation between the haves and the have-nots. This is abundantly evident in the District I serve, which includes portions of the cities of Miami and Miami Beach. In its annual look at America's richest ZIP codes, Bloomberg, Inc. found that Fisher Island in Miami Beach is home to the country's wealthiest residents, with an average annual income of \$2.2 million. Juxtapose that with Little Havana in Miami, which has a high concentration of poverty, where families are dependent on public transportation and struggle to make ends meet. In Miami-Dade's outermost cities, which are furthest away from urban job centers, poverty is also very prominent. In Florida City, the county's southernmost municipality 40 miles south of downtown Miami, the poverty level exceeds 40%.

Tourism serves as a top driver of Miami-Dade's economy. From exploring the natural beauty of the Everglades to swimming at our beaches, Miami-Dade's economy has long been a hospitality-driven one. Jobs in hotels and restaurants are plentiful. They also don't pay well.

According to the United Way's 2018 Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed, or ALICE Report, nearly half of Miami-Dade's workers labor in service jobs in tourism, retail and food service, taking home an average of just \$26,532 per year, which is approximately 15% below the living wage determined by the County.

The lack of high paying jobs in our community is exacerbated by our shortage of affordable housing, which has reached unprecedented levels in the wake of the COVID-19 Pandemic. According to the housing market update released by the Miami Association of Realtors in May 2023, the median price for single-family houses in Miami-Dade reached \$600,000, up from \$565,000 a year ago and from \$454,900 in December 2020 - a 25 percent increase in less than three years. The Miami Herald reported the struggles renters face in Miami where median rent for a one bedroom apartment reached \$2,900 in April 2023, having risen by 13.7% year-on-year.

The dueling economic challenges of low wages and high costs of living cannot be solved by local governments alone. Now, more than ever, counties across the country need to partner with the federal government to bring solutions forward. Infrastructure investments – especially in public transit, housing, and technology – directly benefit residents struggling to make ends meet, commute to jobs, and adapt to the post-pandemic services that are occurring online with more frequency.

FEDERAL INVESTMENTS SPUR COUNTY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NEEDS

In the past few years, the Federal government has been purposeful and visionary in its funding of important infrastructure, climate, and manufacturing investments. Hundreds of billions of dollars will expand public transportation, build bridges, speed the green energy transition, bring broadband to rural communities, make coastal areas more resilient, and revitalize domestic manufacturing in fields like semiconductors.

Miami-Dade County (County) looks forward to activating the opportunities presented through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), and the CHIPS and Science Act. However, we know these investments in physical infrastructure will not realize their full potential unless accompanied by meaningful investments in workforce infrastructure. We must have a workforce ready to build these projects at the onset and maintain them in the long run. From innovative new construction techniques, to maintaining electric vehicles, and to operating tech-enabled infrastructure, many of these jobs are unlike the ones we have today.

The U.S. Economic Development Administration's (EDA) commitment to fostering meaningful workforce development programs that prepare Americans for these higher-paying jobs is especially meaningful for Miami-Dade. As a traditionally tourism-driven economy, readying Miami-Dade's workforce for these jobs will require upskilling individuals with new knowledge and skills.

PREPARED TO PROSPER IN THE ECONOMY OF THE FUTURE

Miami-Dade County has created several programs designed to diversify our economy in order to attract companies that offer better paying jobs. South Florida offers a wonderful quality of life, but the County has had to answer one question over and over again: "Does Miami-Dade have the talent we need to locate here?" Each firm's definition of "talent" varied. Some needed skilled tradespeople. Others sought cybersecurity specialists. Others desired cloud computing knowledge.

As a community, we began to further refine how we develop our talent pool with skills that directly connect to what these companies specifically required. From new four-year degrees to certificate programs, the county's educational institutions, like Miami Dade College (MDC) and Florida International University (FIU), have worked diligently to align their educational and vocational programs with the jobs of the future and the skill sets workers need to excel in them.

Knowing that a key tenet of EDA's mission is intently focused on workforce development and training, MDC correctly saw an opportunity to apply for funding that could prepare our workers for the jobs of the 21st century. By awarding funding for MDC's Construction Trades Institute (CTI) and its Miami Tech Works program, the EDA has given residents across our community a viable pathway to the American Dream.

THE COUNTY ROLE IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Counties play a distinctive role in economic development as stewards of local economic prosperity and resiliency — which shapes the foundation of the broader regional, state and national economies. Counties are involved in a wide range of economic development activities, which are often dictated by governance structures set by state law. These activities range from infrastructure investments, workforce development, business recruitment and retention, regional marketing and branding, entrepreneurship and small business support.

All of these activities also involve short and long-term strategic planning efforts. Counties understand that strategic planning together with their intergovernmental, private and non-profit sector partners is necessary to build strong economies and, in the process, make their communities more resilient to unexpected events ranging from natural disasters to plant closures and long-term declines in specific industries.

Economic development is important for counties because it works to retain and grow jobs and investment within a community. The tax base that is created through this growth and investment is used by counties to provide essential services such as police and fire, road and bridge construction, transit operations, senior services, parks/recreation, library services, etc. Counties invest in economic development activities to ensure the delivery of these essential services, support job growth and maintain a healthy revenue base.

Counties are best positioned to be regional conveners for economic development initiatives due to the legitimacy and accountability they have as formal governments covering both incorporated and unincorporated areas. This enables counties to exercise leadership in collaboration with local public and private entities and address common economic development challenges.

POINTS FOR CONSIDERATION

Looking towards reauthorization of EDA, my testimony will provide you with ideas on how Congress can optimize the Economic Development Administration to ensure they have the best tools possible to assist counties to diversify and strengthen their regional economies.

In collaboration with the National Association of Counties (NACo), I offer the following recommendations for your consideration:

- Increase EDA's annual authorized funding level to adequately meet program demand.
- Provide robust support for capacity building and pre-development technical assistance.
- Amend the EDA's economic distress formula to ensure EDA funds continue to reach the communities most in need of their intervention and support.
- Formalize and uplift EDA's role in disaster recovery and resiliency.
- Amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act (PWEDA) of 1965 to specify that EDA investments into high-speed broadband development are eligible uses.

Increase EDA's annual authorized funding level to adequately meet program demand.

The need for congressional action to increase EDA's annual authorized funding level cannot be overstated. Since EDA was last reauthorized in 2004, the economic challenges communities and the nation face have dramatically evolved. Whether it's the recent proliferation of technology disrupting industries, cyclical financial downturns, frequently occurring natural disasters, supply chain constraints and other economic shocks, local communities are facing increasing threats to their economic stability and prosperity.

In severely distressed communities, despite our best effort, local investment alone is insufficient to adequately address these economic shocks, making the intergovernmental partnership and federal intervention critical. The federal government, and EDA specifically, are uniquely situated to invest at scale what is required to help counties recover and eventually achieve long-term economic growth.

The EDA is the nation's indispensable agency for supporting economic growth and resilience for communities large and small. EDA's current authorized funding level does not accurately reflect the demonstrated need and demand for economic development leadership and resources that exists across America's counties and regions.

Given its track record of leveraging additional investments and catalyzing new economic opportunities for all communities, Congress should significantly increase its annual investment in EDA to enhance the reach and impact of the agency and its core programming.

EDA has proven its capacity to handle large volumes of grant applications supported by elevated funding levels. Over the past five fiscal years, EDA has received and activated approximately \$5.7 billion in supplemental funding, including over \$1 billion in disaster supplementals, in addition to its annual appropriations. Increasing EDA's annual authorized funding level will help to ensure that EDA remains well-positioned to leverage its expertise and effectiveness in strengthening our nation's economic security.

Provide robust support for capacity building and pre-development technical assistance.

In today's increasingly complex economic landscape, sustaining and growing economic activity and investments is a focal point for county leaders across the nation. Whether attracting growth to leverage already established community-based assets or diversifying the local economy to mitigate economic disruptions caused by major events, a comprehensive economic development plan is necessary. Many times, large urban counties like Miami-Dade, benefit from higher staffing levels and financial resources to be able to properly design, plan and carry out new initiatives to bring inclusive growth and opportunities to many segments of our communities. This is not to say we don't also need financial or technical assistance to carrying out innovative economic development initiatives, but I acknowledge that not all counties are as large as Miami-Dade. Many rural, small, and even some urban counties simply do not currently have the institutions, expertise or capacity to plan, design, coordinate or implement new initiatives.

Inclusive economic growth must not exclude smaller, rural counties, and we have many, many rural counties right in Florida. It's imperative that federal agencies, like EDA, provide robust technical assistance to smaller or more distressed counties as they seek funding and approvals to implement crucial projects that will enable their communities to thrive.

More specifically, Congress should consider increasing the funding level for Partnership Planning Grants. Currently, each individual Economic Development District (EDD) only receives about \$70,000 annually in the form of "Partnership Planning" dollars from EDA to carry out the various functions within the planning process. In most communities, this barely covers one full-time employee, while a typical EDD covers numerous jurisdictions. One staff person supporting an entire region severely limits operational efficiency. Counties rely on EDD's to oversee Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS) planning responsibilities, lead public input process, assist stakeholders navigate the grant process, and conduct other planning and local government advisory services.

In addition to increasing funding for Partnership Planning Grants, **Congress should reevaluate the local match percentage associated with the program**. Currently, in order to access these planning funds, the EDD or local entity must provide a 50 percent match. That 50 percent match can be prohibitive for many less resourced communities. As counties, we understand the importance of showing our local

commitment to the work by bearing a percentage of the financial responsibility for projects and planning, but, given that this is a federally mandated process, the federal government should be responsible for a larger percentage.

Lastly, Congress should increase annual investments into the Research and National Technical Assistance (RNTA) program. Collectively, these two programs provide counties and their regional partners with vital resources such as technical assistance to support the CEDS process or conducting feasibility studies to prevent costly mistakes and unwise investments. Additional funding for these programs will ensure that more communities receive sufficient pre-development support to drive intentional investments that create long-lasting sustainability.

Amend the EDA's economic distress formula to ensure EDA funds continue to reach the communities most in need of their intervention and support.

Currently, EDA's economic distress formula requires communities to invest as much as 50 percent of the total project cost via cost share, with EDA providing federal funding for the remaining 50 percent of the total project cost. By strictly basing the local cost share requirements on the project cost, without taking into consideration important variables like population size, wealth, or tax base, creates a disproportionate burden on the rural and distressed communities EDA was founded to support. The 50 percent match requirement provides a serious barrier for communities that have less resources, locking them out of much needed economic development opportunities. For example, the public works and infrastructure-related investments needed to attract new industries to a small community are more expensive in less "built up" rural counties due to lack of a tax base, prior investment, and proximity.

We understand that EDA's guidance for the most distressed communities permits that the maximum allowable federal investment rate of 80 percent, but some counties find this lower cost share still presents an insurmountable barrier. Congress should include direction for EDA's economic distress formula to be reconstituted so that all communities with eligible projects -- and especially distressed communities -- are eligible to receive a higher overall percentage of federal funding.

Additionally, in cases where a major disaster or emergency has been **declared under the Stafford Act**, **EDA should be required to increase the federal share to 100 percent of the project cost**, waiving all match requirements for any funding appropriated for the purpose of disaster or emergency response.

Formalize and uplift EDA's role in disaster recovery and resiliency.

Under the National Disaster Recovery Framework, EDA is the lead agency under the Economic Recovery Support Function, meaning that it "provide a structure to facilitate problem solving, improve access to resources, and foster coordination among state, local and federal agencies, tribes, territories nongovernmental partners and stakeholders." EDA is well-situated to perform this duty because of its pre-established relationships with counties and other local-level stakeholders, but also because of its expertise in economic development planning and infrastructure support that is predominantly focused on building economic strength and stability.

In recognition of its key role in disaster recovery, Congress continues to rely on EDA for post disaster economic recovery activities, as evidenced by the increased frequency and scope of supplemental

appropriations following disasters. Yet, its formal role is still somewhat ambiguous. I recommend that there should be a more detailed outline in the statute describing EDA's role in post-disaster assistance.

Furthermore, a reauthorization should further formalize EDA's role by including the establishment of an EDA Office of Disaster Resilience & Recovery. This new office would be used to preserve institutional knowledge and leadership within EDA and provide stability to localities on the ground during times of severe distress.

Additionally, EDA has successfully utilized the flexible hiring authority Congress provided to the agency in an effort to aid EDA's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This authority **should be made permanent**, allowing EDA to effectively, and quickly, respond to disasters, thus helping communities prepare for and mitigate the associated negative economic impacts.

Amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act (PWEDA) of 1965 to specify that EDA investments into high-speed broadband development are eligible uses.

Throughout America's history, the most prosperous communities and people thrived based on their proximity to strategic infrastructure - like rivers and waterways, railways, roads and airports. In the 21st century, it's access to high-speed broadband. Yet, according to the recently released data from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), over eight million homes and businesses currently don't have any access to high-speed broadband. In rural or economically distressed counties, the lack of reliable, high-speed internet significantly prohibits a county's ability to attract new industries, support and grow current businesses, and create new, high-paying career opportunities for residents. In an increasingly digitally reliant world, access and adoption of broadband is a critical component of any successful economic development plan.

Currently, only certain broadband-related activities are eligible for assistance under EDA's core program - the Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance Programs (PWEAA). PWEAA funds can be used for feasibility planning, broadband infrastructure and digital skills training. Yet, the funding cannot be used for broadband adoption, research and financing activities. EDA is uniquely positioned to provide strategic direction and funding for broadband access and adoption and should be given further flexibility to seek out new capabilities and partnerships in doing so. Therefore, **PWEDA should be amended to make expand the eligible use of funds, and therefore EDA's role, in specified broadband activities**.

EDA ACTIVATES WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

The U.S. Economic Development Administration's (EDA) commitment to fostering meaningful workforce development programs that prepare Americans for these higher-paying jobs is especially meaningful for Miami-Dade. As a traditionally tourism-driven economy, readying Miami-Dade's workforce for these jobs will require upskilling individuals with new knowledge and skills. The EDA-supported Construction Trades Institute and Miami Tech Works initiative are illustrative in how innovative federal/local partnerships are propelling workers into good jobs that lead to great careers.

THE CONSTRUCTION TRADES INSTITUTE: RAPID ACCESS TO HIGHER PAYING JOBS

Miami Dade College, founded in 1960, has emerged as a prime example of community efforts in workforce development. Recognizing the rapid transformation of Miami-Dade's workforce needs, MDC sought to address these challenges by establishing the Construction Trades Institute (CTI). In pursuit of this ambitious initiative, MDC applied for and successfully secured an EDA grant, amounting to \$1.8 million, complemented by local matches totaling over \$450,000.

The primary objective of the CTI is to construct a facility that offers hands-on experience to individuals as they obtain certifications and licenses as plumbers, HVAC technicians, welders, electricians, and other skilled trades. By equipping students with state-of-the-art facilities and a cutting-edge curriculum, the CTI endeavors to train up to 200 students annually once it reaches its full development potential.

The construction of the CTI is currently underway. Once completed, the institute will incorporate GPRO (Green Professional) certifications, which encompass various aspects of sustainable construction such as solar panel installation and LEED certification. This addition aligns with the overarching goal of preparing Miami-Dade's workforce for the nation's transition to green infrastructure jobs.

The CTI garnered support from construction companies that face a shortage of certified workers that are needed for the delivery of infrastructure projects, water and sewer upgrades, and housing construction. Close industry connections also foster an adaptable curriculum model to upskill existing workers as the CTI can nimbly deploy new training programs for innovative construction techniques or evolving building materials.

EDA's initial investment made the construction of the CTI facility possible, but its significance extends far beyond the physical structure. Because many CTI certifications can be completed in under a year, graduates will quickly gain access to higher paying jobs though the Institute's partner employers. Goodpaying construction and infrastructure jobs have long provided a gateway to the middle class. This EDA partnership with the Construction Trades Institute accelerates individuals on that path.

MIAMI TECH WORKS: UNLOCKING TECH CAREERS IN DIVERSE COMMUNITIES

While EDA support for the Construction Trades Institute is equipping our workforce with the skills needed to access higher-paying jobs in construction and infrastructure, it is also supporting Miami-Dade's transition to a vibrant tech hub.

Local technology companies have high expectations that Miami-Dade will actively cultivate the talent they require to grow their operations. These discussions led to a consortium of local government, academic institutions, and business executives collaborating on a proposal that was awarded a \$10 million grant through the EDA's Good Job Challenge. Called "Miami Tech Works", the program seeks to strengthen the regional approach to provide the local community with a full pathway to employment in the growing Miami tech ecosystem. Miami Tech Works partners have launched an industry-led, tech-sector initiative to bring together a critical mass of business leaders with education and training providers to align academic programs with industry needs.

Miami Dade College (MDC) spearheaded the team's Good Jobs Challenge grant application and is the backbone in this ambitious program to close the gap between companies looking for tech talent and residents striving to transition into high-paying tech jobs.

"For more than 60 years, Miami Dade College has been preparing Miami's talent for the jobs of the future — and today, as the local technology ecosystem grows and ushers in a new wave of innovation, we stay true to our commitment to offering educational opportunities that meet the growing demands for a skilled workforce," said Madeline Pumariega, MDC President. "With monetary support from the EDA, we are creating the programs needed to meet those private sector demands while our students fill high demand tech jobs."

The key educational partners in Miami Tech Works include top higher education institutions known for successfully educating Miami-Dade's diverse racial and ethnic population. Florida International University (FIU) is the area's public research university and is the top institution in the U.S. in enrolling and graduating Hispanic students with bachelor's degrees. Florida Memorial University is South Florida's only historically Black university. MDC ranks first in the U.S. for Hispanic students earning Associate degrees and 3rd in the number of Black students earning Associate degrees.

These institutions have committed to expanding or launching certificate programs, Associate degrees, and Bachelor degrees that upskill or re-skill workers to meet the specific needs of the technology industry. For example, MDC will expand opportunities for underserved communities to engage in high quality cybersecurity training or gain industry-specific certifications like cloud computing. FIU's Experiential Learning in Technology (ELT) program provides on-demand training that prepares participants for high-demand technology fields. These and future programs are designed to perfectly match the requirements needed for the high-paying technology jobs that exist locally.

To jumpstart the process, the Miami Tech Talent Coalition was launched to create a sustainable pipeline of skilled tech workers by bridging the gap between employers and talent by establishing clear career pathways in technology. Over 170 companies have already joined the coalition since its launch in February 2023. In these few short months, the Miami Tech Talent Coalition has already created 100 tech internships that never existed before.

Kaseya, a key member of the Tech Talent Coalition, is one of the many companies offering these entry-level internships. The company's Chief Executive Officer, Fred Voccola, recognized the significance of the EDA's Good Jobs Challenge. He said, "As one of the largest tech companies in South Florida, Kaseya is pleased to work with Miami Dade College and other premier higher education institutions on a variety of internship programs. We fully support the reauthorization of the Economic Development Administration grants that will continue to help young college students get real-world experience in America's burgeoning tech sector. Fully funding tech opportunities for tomorrow's workforce should continue to be a top priority for the Federal government and we support all such efforts to foster and create new jobs."

The EDA Good Jobs Challenge grant investment was the catalyst needed to activate a structure with dynamic links between the private sector, local government, and educational institutions to foster a flourishing tech sector in South Florida and beyond that affords opportunities to Miami-Dade's diverse workforce.

CONCLUSION

As Congress considers proposals to rebuild our nation's infrastructure, support economically distressed and rural communities, facilitate disaster recovery, and invest in drivers of economic growth, EDA remains a strong federal partner to assist in these endeavors. EDA has a proven record of success and

has been an essential partner, and I encourage you to support reauthorization and increased funding for the agency.

Chairman Carper, Ranking Member Capito and distinguished members of the committee – thank you for having me here today. We appreciate your attention to this vital program. Counties across America look forward to working together to strengthen our communities and enhance our economies. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify today on behalf of America's 3,069 counties.

SUMMARY: EDA IMPACT IN MIAMI-DADE AND BEYOND

In summary, the U.S. Economic Development Administration's support in Miami-Dade County has proven to be a strong accelerator for fostering a workforce that can meet the diversity of employment needs for companies wanting to grow in South Florida and beyond.

EDA funding is helping match home-grown talent with actual jobs in the region, and these jobs are good jobs for residents that have historically lacked access to these economic opportunities. From the Construction Trades Institute's swift pathways to high paying blue collar jobs to the exciting technology careers accessed through Miami Tech Works programming, the EDA has proven its capability and adaptability in deploying seed funds to jumpstart local workforce development efforts across industries.

In addition, as Miami-Dade County and counties across the United States seek the federal investments from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Inflation Reduction Act, and CHIPS and Science Act, we know we cannot simply have a good project; we must also have the workforce ready to build, operate, and maintain it. The EDA's investments in workforce development may well be the connective tissue that gets these investments across the finish line in record time by accelerating the upskilling and retraining of the millions of people who will become the future of America's infrastructure workforce.

By nurturing talent, fostering industry partnerships, and activating federal initiatives, the U.S. Economic Development Administration's programming is a vital link in realizing the vision of a well-equipped and highly skilled workforce that can thrive in the modern economy.

Miami-Dade County and NACo strongly encourage the U.S. Economic Development Administration's reauthorization accompanied by robust financial support for its program areas as we continue to grow our domestic economy in a manner where all American workers have full access to good jobs that lead to economic mobility and prosperity.