



But Is It Economic Development?

Most projects in our region contribute to economic development in some way – sometimes it just takes a little extra explanation to make that impact clear. As you think about how your project supports economic growth, look at the list below and use your answers to help tell that story in your narrative.

General Impact

1. How does this project contribute to the region's overall economic growth?
2. Does it align with local or regional economic development goals?
3. Will it create or retain jobs? If so, how many and what types?
4. Does it promote entrepreneurship, business expansion, or workforce development efforts?

Business & Industry Development

1. Does this project help existing businesses grow or attract new businesses to the area?
2. Will it improve infrastructure (broadband, roads, or utilities) that supports economic growth?
3. Does it encourage investment in key industries or emerging sectors?
4. Will it strengthen local supply chains and keep more dollars circulating within the community?

Workforce & Talent Development

1. Does this project enhance workforce skills or create new training opportunities?
2. Does it expand access to quality job opportunities for a range of residents?
3. Will it help attract or retain young professionals and skilled workers in the region?

Community & Quality of Life

1. Does the project improve quality of life in a way that makes the region more attractive for businesses and residents?
2. Will it support placemaking efforts, such as revitalizing downtowns or enhancing public spaces?
3. Does it address barriers to economic mobility (housing, childcare, transportation)?

Collaboration & Long-Term Viability

1. Will it generate sustained economic activity or long-term revenue for the community?
2. Does it leverage partnerships with local governments, non-profits, or private-sector stakeholders?