

2025 Economic Development Priorities

The Central Puget Sound Economic Development District has identified the following priority areas of focus in 2025 for sustaining the region's economy. These priorities are submitted to the U.S. Economic Development Administration as part of the annual update for the [Regional Economic Strategy](#), which serves as the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). These priorities inform agency implementation efforts and support near-term activities by regional partners and legislative efforts.

Strengthen the state's economic development ecosystem. Invest in programs that support business recruitment, retention and expansion including state Associate Development Organizations (ADOs). Support efforts that drive industry cluster development, permit streamlining, and the region's entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystem.

Strengthen workforce development efforts to meet the needs regional workers and employers. Connect local students to higher educational opportunities, align training programs with the needs of regional employers, and scale up training programs to fill job openings.

Continue to invest in regional infrastructure that supports economic development, including broadband. Support adequate funding for foundational infrastructure such as broadband and the state's Public Works Assistance Account.

Continue to modernize the region's transportation system. Continue to invest in transportation infrastructure such as ferries, high speed rail, and commercial aviation service. Support emerging transportation technologies such as vehicle automation and electric aviation.

Expand housing and childcare options in the region to meet the needs of residents and workers. Develop analysis and strategies to increase regional housing supply, lower housing costs and drive innovation to meet the needs of residents and workers. Support efforts to expand childcare capacity in the region.

Expand the region's clean energy industry to address global climate change and grow regional jobs. Continue to develop clean energy technologies in the region such as aerospace biofuels, offshore wind, hydrogen, fusion, and other emerging technologies to help meet the region's energy needs.

Strengthen state support for military installations, the defense sector and military affairs in Washington. Support the modernization of the region's military installations and operations, and better quantify ongoing economic benefits of the military and defense sector.

Support local arts, culture and tourism organizations and workforce. Support efforts to strengthen local arts, culture and tourism organizations and work to preserve the arts and culture workforce.