



Your Partner in Economic Development

Members Succeed Together



As the "Voice of Economic Development", WEDA is dedicated to developing, advocating for, and educating state and local leaders on economic development tools critical to growing local economies.

By joining WEDA, you can leverage key resources and training, impact state policies and build an extensive professional network of industry leaders and economic development professionals who share the same mission – **growing Wisconsin.**



WHY JOIN WEDA?

For over 45 years, the Wisconsin Economic Development Association (WEDA) has represented the economic development interests of both the private and public sectors through advocacy, education, and leadership on statewide initiatives. Driven by the needs of our members, we are committed to providing the resources and tools to promote economic prosperity in Wisconsin. WEDA is proud of our history, our growing list of accomplishments, and our past, current, and future efforts that make it possible for economic development professionals and organizations to be successful. We look forward to you becoming our newest member.

Welcome to the WEDA family!

Our members are professionals from every area of economic development

- Economic and Community Developers
- Architectural and Design Firms
- Bankers
- Chambers of Commerce
- City, County, and Towns Officials
- Community Planners
- Construction Services Companies
- Economic Development Consultants
- Engineering Companies
- Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing Contractors
- Non-profits
- Regional Planning Commissions
- Regional Economic Development Partners (EDOs)
- Residential, Commercial, and Retail Developers
- State Agencies
- Universities and Technical Colleges
- Utility Companies
- Workforce Development Professionals



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Wisconsin Basic Economic Development Course

The Wisconsin BEDC is a foundational, four-day course that offers participants a comprehensive understanding of the basic concepts, strategies, and practice of economic and workforce development. The course fulfills one of the prerequisites for the International Economic Development Council's Certified Economic Developer (CECd) professional credential.

Statewide Professional Conferences

WEDA holds two annual conferences – the Governor's Conference on Economic Development and the Best Practices Conference. Both events offer industry expert speakers, exciting workshops, and presentations on the leading economic development issues. In addition to countless networking opportunities that promote professional development, WEDA conferences offer continuing education credit opportunities.

WEDA Academy

The WEDA Academy aims to advance economic development through education and offers multiple training opportunities on the leading economic and community development issues of the day. The seminars are taught by recognized industry experts and provide continuing education credits. The Academy also offers an ED 101 course that provides economic development core training for communities and local elected officials.

NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

Professional and Social Events

From statewide conferences to award events and training courses, WEDA provides members with numerous opportunities to network with peers and industry experts – both personally and professionally. These networking encounters allow members to build their key contacts and learn best practices from top professionals in economic development.

Community and Economic Development Awards

The CEDA program was established by WEDA to celebrate businesses, organizations, and development projects and programs that are making significant contributions to Wisconsin's economy. This exciting annual event recognizes key accomplishments, offers unique networking opportunities, and provides important case studies that can spur additional economic growth.

CRA Network of Wisconsin

The CRA-Network was established by WEDA to connect organizations seeking financing for development projects with banks and other potential funders. The match-making program, staffed by experienced economic development professionals who understand project financing, offers an additional avenue to generate capital to help make key community development projects a reality.

ADVOCACY AND POLICY

Economic Development Advocacy

WEDA provides comprehensive, bipartisan government relations services, representing the legislative and regulatory interests of members before the Wisconsin Legislature and throughout state government. WEDA's direct lobbying and grassroots advocacy efforts aim to successfully promote policies and programs that provide members with the necessary tools to advance economic prosperity.

WEDA Legislative Day Event

WEDA's annual Legislative Day offers members a unique opportunity to influence critical economic development policy in Wisconsin. The free member-only event is the cornerstone of WEDA's Grassroots Advocacy program, providing members with the necessary tools to build strong relationships with state lawmakers and to become effective advocates for economic development in Wisconsin.

Legislative and Policy Updates

WEDA keeps members informed on the latest political and policy developments in the State Capitol, delivers updates on key economic development legislation, and provides access to WEDA's Legislative Bill Tracking Tool. Members also have an opportunity to serve on WEDA's Legislative Committee, which leads the charge on the development of the organization's legislative agenda.

RESOURCES AND INFORMATION

WEDA Publications and Communications

WEDA provides members with numerous publications and regular communications to keep them up to date on the latest economic development news and association activities. Publications include the WEDA Wire and Political News and Notes e-newsletters, as well as the WEDA Annual Report and Legislative Agenda.

Wisconsin Economic Development Institute

(WEDI) is a non-profit foundation established by WEDA to drive successful development efforts across Wisconsin. WEDI strives to provide critical information to improve economic conditions, create leading-edge policy research material, and identify opportunities and resources to address gaps in project development and economic growth.

Membership Value

WEDA membership offers discounted prices on just about every event, service or product offered by the association. In fact, the membership savings on attending or purchasing just one or two WEDA events or services pays back more than you spend on an individual or group membership.

JOIN US

WEDA membership is available to corporations, local units of government and individuals.

Our member benefits structure seeks to provide the greatest value for each dollar invested into our organization.

[Individual & Small Organization Membership](#)
[Corporate Investor Membership](#)

