



**BYLAWS OF THE COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
STRATEGY (CEDDS) COMMITTEE
OF
GULF COAST ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, INC.**

ARTICLE I – NAME

This document shall constitute the Bylaws of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDDS) Committee of the Gulf Coast Economic Development District, Inc. (“GCEDD”).

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

The CEDDS Committee is established to support the GCEDD Board in its federally mandated responsibility to develop, implement, and evaluate the region’s Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDDS) in alignment with Economic Development Administration (EDA) requirements.

The committee provides subject matter input, establishes performance data, tracks progress toward regional goals, and recommends updates to the GCEDD Board to ensure that the CEDDS remains a dynamic, relevant, and actionable regional plan.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Composition

The CEDDS Committee shall consist of at least three (3) members selected from among the GCEDD Board or other regional stakeholders who represent the public, private, nonprofit, or education sectors and demonstrate an understanding of regional economic development issues.

Section 2. Appointment

Members shall be appointed by the GCEDD Board President in consultation with the Executive Committee and GCEDD staff.

Section 3. Term of Service and Vacancy

Members shall serve two-year terms and may be reappointed without limit. If a



member resigns or is removed, a new member shall be appointed to complete the remainder of the unexpired term.

Section 4. Officers

The Committee shall elect a Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary from among its members annually. The Chair will lead meetings and serve as the primary liaison to GCEDD staff and the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE IV – ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The CEDS Committee shall provide:

1. **Strategic Oversight**
Review the CEDS document and ensure continued alignment with regional priorities, federal EDA guidance, and economic development trends.
2. **Performance Evaluation**
Establish metrics and review key performance indicators as established in the CEDS Evaluation Framework. Evaluate whether progress is being made toward stated goals and objectives.
3. **Data Review**
Analyze updates provided by GCEDD staff regarding program performance, grant alignment, regional development initiatives, and stakeholder engagement.
4. **Recommendations**
Propose mid-course corrections, project ideas, or resource alignment strategies for improving CEDS outcomes. Provide formal recommendations to the GCEDD Board when applicable.
5. **Stakeholder Engagement**
Serve as a communication bridge between GCEDD staff and broader stakeholder groups, helping to share findings, gather feedback, and reinforce regionalism.
6. **Grant Support**
Assist in affirming that regional projects and grant applications are consistent with CEDS goals, especially where required by the EDA.



ARTICLE V – MEETINGS

Section 1. Frequency

The CEDS Committee shall meet semi-annually, with one meeting in the first half of the calendar year and one in the second half. Additional meetings may be called by the Committee Chair or GCEDD Executive Director (or their designee) as needed.

Section 2. Format and Notice

Meetings may be conducted in person, virtually, or in a hybrid format. Written notice of meetings shall be provided at least three (3) business days in advance.

Section 3. Quorum and Voting

A quorum shall consist of two (2) members. Actions shall be approved by a majority vote of members present.

Section 4. Staff Support

GCEDD staff shall provide administrative support, including data preparation, meeting materials, and documentation of proceedings.

ARTICLE VI – REPORTING

A summary of each meeting, including progress updates, observations, and recommendations, shall be compiled by staff and submitted to the GCEDD Board at its next scheduled meeting. The Committee's input shall inform the annual evaluation of the CEDS and any required updates.

ARTICLE VII – AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the CEDS Committee, subject to final approval by the GCEDD Board. Proposed amendments must be circulated to Committee members at least three (3) days in advance of a vote.