

**VIRGINIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPERS ASSOCIATION
2018 COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AWARDS (CEDA)**

The CEDA program is designed to recognize outstanding communities in the Commonwealth for efforts in advancing the economic viability of their community through economic and community development programs. CEDA winners will be chosen based on the accompanying criteria and population categories. A program explanation, evaluation criteria and nomination form follow. The 2018 VEDA Community Economic Development Awards (CEDA) will be presented during VEDA's Spring Conference in Richmond, April 13, 2018. One winner may be selected from each of the five (5) population categories.

AWARD POPULATION CATEGORIES - The CEDA may be given to one community from each of the following five population categories: (population will be based on the most recent published decennial census)

- Population less than 5,000 (I)
- Population of 5,001 to 15,000 (II)
- Population of 15,001 to 40,000 (III)
- Population of 40,001 to 100,000 (IV)
- Population of over 100,000 (V)

For the purpose of this award, a "community" shall be defined as any unincorporated town or city, incorporated town or city, county/parish, formally established multi-jurisdictional region, metropolitan statistical area, or state. The "community" should reflect work responsibility of the VEDA member submitting the entry. A maximum of five awards will be given, one in each of the population categories listed above. Each project has to fall under one or more of the four criteria detailed in this document under "Purpose."

PURPOSE/CRITERIA - The VEDA Community Economic Development Awards Committee recognizes exceptional contributions of communities in the Commonwealth of Virginia for the following efforts:

- Business Retention and Expansion
- Business Recruitment
- Community Development
- Community Involvement

All nominations must fit under at least one of the above criteria and more than one criterion may apply. Nominees are grouped according to population and evaluated among other similarly-sized communities.

ELIGIBILITY/NOMINATION - Nominations may be submitted by any VEDA member for communities based on the population category and criteria provided above. To make a nomination, upload a brief description of the economic development efforts and accomplishments (projects and programs). Within this description, address the awards criterion of innovativeness, transferability, community commitment, measured objectives, and secondary benefits. **NOMINATIONS MUST BE LIMITED TO NO MORE THAN FOUR CONVENTIONALLY FORMATTED 8.5" x 11" PAGES** and **MUST BE UPLOADED ELECTRONICALLY AS ONE PDF DOCUMENT.** *Photographs, graphics, or other supporting information must be included in the 4-page maximum PDF document.*

JUDGING/EVALUATION CRITERION - The VEDA CEDA Awards Committee, representing community and economic development leaders from around the state, will review and evaluate all complete nominations and will select Virginia's 2018 CEDA Award winners. The Committee will judge the awards based on the following points criteria. The number of points possible for each criterion is indicated in parenthesis with a total of 100 points possible. Each nomination's score will be the average of the Committee member's combined scores:

- **INNOVATIVENESS** (25 points possible) - The program or project demonstrates innovative approaches to institutional, financial, technical or legal aspects of economic and community development.

- **TRANSFERABILITY** (20 points possible) - The program or project shows potential use by other economic and community development agencies or practitioners for similar opportunities or solutions. The program or project should be readily transferable to comparable situations in other communities.
- **COMMUNITY COMMITMENT AND LEVERAGE** (20 points possible) - The program or project makes it possible for others to achieve a greater impact by joining public/private participation or by intergovernmental or state/local involvement to leverage resources. Support from volunteers should be demonstrated and not just success of paid staff/consultants. Examples of this participation may include, but are not limited to: tax abatements; tax increment financing; creative financing; enterprise zones; public improvement districts or other federal grants; state programs; and creative deal packaging.
- **MEASURED OBJECTIVES** (20 points possible) - Results demonstrate a specific objective that the program or project was able to achieve. Measures of the program's value can include: jobs created; additional monetary investment in the community; jobs retained or improved; specific community development issue was identified and addressed; and additions to the tax base created by the program or project.
- **SECONDARY BENEFITS** (15 points possible) - Project or program also produces demonstrable ancillary benefits to the community or region. *(Example: a new company in town provides jobs but they also support community projects in terms of time and money. Or, a new park or arts center addresses needs to make the community more attractive for new businesses.)*

Note: The Committee reserves the right to set a minimum level of points achieved in order to receive the award.

Nominations must be submitted online no later than 5 pm on February 23, 2018.