



Connecticut Economic Development Association (CEDAS)
BEST PRACTICES IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & LAND USE PLANNING
A Program for Municipal Accreditation

CEDAS Best Practices Certification Program

CEDAS created the Best Practices Certification Program in 2019:

- To encourage best practices in municipal economic development and land use to spur continuous improvement;
- To create an open resource library of model development examples that can be used by municipalities to update their policies and practices.

This program is intended to drive communities to pursue excellence in land use and economic development practices and to recognize the communities that have established best practices. In pursuit of these best practices, planners and economic developers can use this program to engage community stakeholders in discussions about achieving higher standards and developing creative, community-specific ways to implement them.

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS:

The program involves a certification system for good planning and economic development. The Best Practices criteria were developed with significant input from various municipal economic developers and planners, including members of CEDAS and the CT Chapter of the American Planning Association (CCAPA).

The Best Practices Certification Program requires an application to be completed documenting various economic development and land use practices, policies, and programs taking place at the local level. The application contains four components:

1. Communications & Marketing
2. Coordination & Collaboration
3. Organizational Capacity & Strategy
4. Policies & Programs

EVALUATION CRITERIA & SCORING SYSTEM

Presentation of the Application will be scored based on the organization of the application, clarity of narrative, and grammar.

POINTS BREAKDOWN	TOTAL POINTS	PERCENT OF TOTAL
Communications	65	26%
Coordination & Collaboration	60	24%
Organizational Capacity & Strategy	70	28%
Policies & Programs	35	14%
Community Choice	10	4%
Presentation of Application	10	4%
	250	100%



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The total possible number of points is 250. In 2022, certification will be awarded according to the following levels:

- Gold Certification: 200-250 points**
- Silver Certification: 150-199 points**
- Bronze Certification: 100-149 points**

CERTIFICATION

CEDAS Best Practices certification lasts for three years, and we encourage 2019 Certified Communities to recertify in 2023.

EVALUATION PROCESS

Applications will be evaluated by a committee of professionals with broad and expert knowledge in economic development, land use planning, and community engagement. While municipal budgets and community size will be noted, the committee will seek to recognize those submissions that have best exemplified the elements noted in the Best Practices criteria.

We understand that each community is unique, and we encourage your creativity in documenting how you feel your community satisfies the criteria. Communities must respond to each question, even if the answer is N/A. A Community Choice category is provided, with the opportunity to showcase innovative activities you have undertaken that may not be included within the recommended submission criteria.

HOW TO APPLY

Communities interested in applying should go to www.cedas.org

Applications must be submitted by 5:00 pm on May 5, 2023. Submissions received after this date and time will not be eligible for consideration.

2023 SCHEDULE:

March 1, 2023	Application period open
March 23 and April 6, 2023	Zoom Application Information Session
May 5, 2023	Application Period closes
May 8th to July 19th, 2023	Review of Applications, Selection of 2023 Certified Municipalities
July 21, 2023	Email of awarded position
October 2023	CEDAS Best Practices Awards Presentation (location TBA)

QUESTIONS?

Questions regarding the program should be directed to the program development committee c-chairs Thomas Madden, AICP, or Jessica Vonashek at cedasprograms@gmail.com.

For more information on the program, visit: www.cedas.org.