

Professional Credentials for Community & Economic Developers

Name	Certifying Organization	Credential Designates...	Steps to Earning Designation	Estimated Cost (Members)
American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP)	American Planning Association	Achievement of the academic qualifications, relevant work experience, and mastery of essential skills required to serve as an effective community planner.	1) Meet education/experience requirements. 2) Submit application. 3) Exam. 4) Be an APA member	Cost of education: varies Exam registration fee: \$305 Planning Experience Assessment Fee: \$305
BRE Professional (BREP)	Business Retention and Expansion International (BREI)	Individual is a BRE professional and certifies that they have the knowledge and experience to lead economic development activities in his or her community. BREP is the advanced level certification. There is also a BRE Coordinator (BREC) credential that is obtained by taking a BRE Fundamentals course.	1) Be a current member of BREI and hold a current BRE Project Coordinator certification. 2) Education - 2 core plus 4 CE courses, experience and participation in 2 BREI activities. 3) Submit application	Cost of education: varies BREI Membership: \$100 Certification fee: \$250 Recertification fee: \$125
Certified Association Executive (CAE)	American Society of Association Executives (ASAE)	Individual has demonstrated the wide range of knowledge essential to manage a qualifying organization (nonprofit organization, e.g. trade association, professional society, individual membership organization, philanthropic organization, tribal organization, or an association management company (AMC).	1) Complete experience, bachelor's degree, and professional development eligibility requirements. 2) Complete application. 3) Exam	Cost of education and professional development: varies Application fee: \$500 (ASAE members)/\$750 (non-members)
Certified Chamber Executive (CCE)	Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE)	Achievement of knowledge in the four core chamber management areas: Management; Planning and Development; Membership, Communications and Revenue; and Operations.	1) At least 6 years senior level chamber management, 2) Two years' experience must be at the chamber, 3) Must currently be employed in a senior-level chamber management position, 4) Write 3 essays, 5) Exam, 6) Oral Presentation/Interview.	Cost of Professional Development Points: varies Application fee: \$450 (ACCE members)/\$650 (Non-members) Designation fee: \$250/\$350
Certified Economic Developer (CEcD)	International Economic Development Council (IEDC)	Excellence in the Economic Development profession and broad depth of knowledge in ED competencies.	1) At least 4 years of FT ED experience. 2) Education – six (4 core, 2 elective) professional development courses – or graduate from OU EDI. 3) Attend CEcD Exam Essential Workshop. 4) CEcD Exam Process Primer. 5) Exam	Cost of Professional Development Courses: varies Application/Exam fee: \$610 (IEDC member)/\$850 (non)

Name	Certifying Organization	Credential Designates...	Steps to Earning Designation	Estimated Cost (Members)
<u>Certified Economic Research Professional (CERP)</u>	Council for Community and Economic Research (C2ER)	Excellence in economic research and embodies the applied skills of economic, demographic, industry, and workforce analysis. Individuals are research professionals who demonstrate a mastery of economic and related data analysis, and their ability to utilize these skills in applied research.	1) Complete certification requirements in education, experience, professional development and projects. 2) Submit application and portfolio. 3) Select and complete research project. 4) Present project findings to the Certification Committee and C2ER membership.	Cost of Professional Development and education: varies Membership fees: \$380 (C2ER or LMI Institute)
<u>Economic Development Finance Professional (EDFP)</u>	National Development Council (NDC)	Individual has the knowledge and skills essential for making economic development deals: business credit and real estate finance analysis techniques, loan packaging procedures, negotiating and problem solving skills, and deal structuring techniques.	1) Take four course training series (5 days each course). 2) Pass the exam at the end of each course.	Cost of each course: \$1,850
<u>Economic Gardening Certification (EGc)</u>	National Center for Economic Gardening	Individual is eligible to run certified Economic Gardening programs and to apply to be on the national team. EG programs provide strategic research and frameworks to help local companies scale up. It is the original “grow your own” program.	1) Take the nine-chapter certification course online (self-paced).	Cost of training: \$1,600
<u>Entrepreneurship Development Professional (EDP)</u>	International Economic Development Council (IEDC)	Designed for professionals who work with entrepreneurs and small businesses as well as those that support them via programs, networks and approaches that foster small business and entrepreneurial growth.	1) Minimum 2 yrs. FT paid experience 2) Education - 4 core courses and 1 elective. 3) Exam Essentials Workshop. 4) Exam	Cost of Professional Development Courses: varies Application/Exam fee: \$610 (IEDC member)/\$850 (non)
<u>Institute for Organization Management (IOM)</u>	U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation	Institute for Organization Management was designed to enhance individual performance, elevate professional standards, and recognize association, chamber of commerce, and other nonprofit professionals who demonstrate the knowledge essential to the practice of nonprofit management.	1) Participate in the Institute’s program which consists of four, 5-days long, sessions – generally completed over 4 years (topics cover advocacy, media training, membership, finance, legal issues, human resources...)	Cost of each weeklong session: \$1,545 (member)/\$1,995 (non)

Name	Certifying Organization	Credential Designates...	Steps to Earning Designation	Estimated Cost (Members)
Main Street America Revitalization Professional (MSARP)	Main Street America Institute (MSAI)	A professional in the field of downtown and commercial district management with expertise in preservation-based community development techniques through the lens of the Main Street Approach.	Currently in flux	Currently in flux
Master Economic Development Practitioner (MEDP)	Texas Christian University, University of Southern Mississippi, University of New Mexico, and Valdosta State	This is a designation that signifies that the person has graduated from the Advanced Economic Development Leadership Program . Participants who complete the course receive a diploma from the universities. The program targets mid and senior-level economic development professionals such as state commerce directors, rural and urban practitioners, utility economic developers, and site selection consultants, among others.	1) Complete the application (must have 5+ years of experience and have completed a basic course). 2) Attend the two weeks of training (one week in the fall, and one week in the spring). 3) Graduation is held at the end of the second week. Program is limited to 48 participants each year.	\$1,795 (Includes two weeks of training, all materials, daily lunches, graduation reception/dinner) plus room/travel
Professional Community and Economic Developer (PCED)	Community Development Council (CDC)	Individual has met standards of competence for community development professionals.	1) Three years at a Community Development Institute (CDI). 2) Accrual of eight "points" from work, education and/or training. 3) Exam.	Cost of 3 yrs. CDI: approx. \$1,950 plus room/travel Application fee: \$225

Other related credentials:	Certifying Organization	Credential Designates...
Certified Exit Planning Advisor (CEPA) FKA Accredited Business Planning Advisor (ABPA)	Exit Planning Institute	Certifies qualified professional advisors in the field of exit planning.
Certified Independent Professional Municipal Advisor (CIPMA)	National Association of Municipal Advisors (NAMA)	Municipal advisors and professional staff display an elevated dedication to continuing education and ethics in their work for state and local governments, entities, and obligated persons.
Certified Key Account Executive (CKAE)	National Rural Electric Cooperative Association	Establishes that key account executives at electric co-ops have attained certain knowledge of and experience in the key account competencies.
Certified Destination Management Executive (CDME)	Destinations International	Senior executives, who blend theory with experience and application of knowledge to help tourism industry leaders thrive in a constantly changing environment. The program focus is on vision, leadership, productivity and implementing business strategies.
Development Finance Certified Professional (DFCP)	Council of Development Finance Agencies (CDFA)	The DFCEP Program is designed to produce graduates with a comprehensive knowledge of development finance concepts, tools and applicability as well as a deep understanding of the entire development finance spectrum.