

# Economic Development Administration Strengthens Regional Economies

## Investing in People and Places:

EDA's support of locally-driven projects leads to job creation and retention while generating significant private investment. A recent example of EDA investment, which is completing construction in 2018, is the **Columbia Gorge Regional Airport Flex Building**. EDA funds to this project allows the region to retain a critical employer- Life Flight- and provide space for additional business growth. Without this investment, Life Flight would move out of the region, causing a loss in jobs important to our rural area and an anticipated loss of more than \$10 million in private investment. It is important from a health and safety standpoint, providing direct benefits to major medical providers, such as Mid-Columbia Medical Center, which indicated that the service has resulted in a change in wait time for trauma patients from 45-60 minutes for response, down to 7-8 minutes



*Flex Space finalizing construction*

## Planning for the Future:

Regional planning is crucial to advancing economic growth development through its investment in the **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy**. For five rural counties along the Columbia River of Oregon and Washington, Mid-Columbia Economic Development District coordinates this effort, convening local public and private leaders to identify and assess existing assets and liabilities as well as future opportunities and challenges facing communities in the regional economy. As a result, consistent exchange and dialogue engages public and private sector leaders throughout the region in charting a path forward for economic development.



## Advancing Rural Entrepreneurship

EDA investment is instrumental in supporting our rural economies. From establishing revolving loan funds which support **expansion of rural businesses to creation of the Gorge Broadband Consortium** and investments into broadband to connect rural communities, EDA funding and support for rural economic development is crucial to our success in the bi-state Columbia River Gorge region.

**For More  
Information:**



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