

Why WEDA?

Established in 1985, Wyoming Economic Development Association is a non-profit professional association representing economic development professionals and organizations, and affiliate members who support economic development. WEDA supports members with the necessary tools, connections and resources to help your community and organization thrive. We support all the Wyoming Economic Development Building Blocks and want to help you succeed in your work.

Our mission: Provide leadership and support to foster economic development in Wyoming.

Membership is *not* just for economic development professionals! If your business would benefit from a stronger, more diverse economy, membership in this organization is for you.

What are the Benefits?

Legislative Issue Advocacy

WEDA has a strong voice with the Wyoming legislature, relationships with legislators statewide, and has become the go-to resource regarding economic and community development issues for many of our elected officials.

WEDA contracts with a lobbyist who works with the board of directors, members and legislative committee to monitor and support legislation that has a positive effect on economic development in the state. WEDA develops white papers for priorities and tracks interim committee topics. During legislative sessions, the organization sends updates on issues being monitored and provides an end-of-session report. WEDA hosts a legislative reception at the beginning of the session.

Benefit: Enhance your legislative voice regarding the tools and resources that impact your community and your organization. Stay up-to-date on all legislative issues relevant to the impact you are making.

Bringing an Economic Development Voice and Sharing Successes

WEDA works diligently to build networks and relationships with other organizations and agencies in the state that deal with issues related to economic and community development. Whether that be the Wyoming Business Council, the University of Wyoming or one of the many associations in the state, we work with them to be sure that our local economic voices are part of the conversations and that the economic and community development perspective is considered. We also work to share with our members what is happening across the state that may impact your community or your work.

We also collect the successes of our members and share them through our ongoing electronic communications and through our annual Success Stories publication. Our local members are doing great things and we want our elected officials, state directors, and the members of our communities to know what you are accomplishing.

Benefit: Build stronger relationships with state leadership. Be part of the conversations that will impact your community. Share your successes!!

Skills and Knowledge Development

Connecting leaders in the industry with supportive partners is key to economic development success. WEDA hosts two conferences each year, provides ongoing education focused on community and economic development and connects members to other training opportunities. WEDA has built strong relationships with experts in the industry as well as professionals such as site selectors, industry experts and others that we work to connect to our members. We want to provide education and knowledge whether you are new to economic development or have been doing it for many years.

The training opportunities include the highly praised WEDA mentoring program, a monthly Prosperity Call that brings in economic development partners to discuss current issues and trends, conferences that provide access to experts and innovators in our state and in the industry.

Benefits: Build your knowledge skills and abilities. Connect to leaders in the industry locally and nationally. Access scholarships for education that meets your specific needs. Connect to Economic Development Training for all levels of staff.

Other Benefits of being a WEDA member:

- Ongoing electronic newsletters and notices
- Ability to vote in WEDA elections
- Ability to Serve on the WEDA board and further your voice
- Ability to serve on a committee and share your perspective with relevant stakeholders and partners
- Connections to other WEDA members across the state