

Economic Development Finance

Friday, August 20, 2021



Instructors:

Nancee Robles, Executive Director

California Tax Credit Allocation Committee and California Debt Limit Allocation Committee

Nancee Robles began her role as Executive Director of the Tax Credit Allocation Committee and Interim Executive Director of the California Debt Limit Allocation Committee in March 2021. In these roles, she provides financing resources for tax credits and bond allocation to keep California's affordable housing and exempt facilities moving forward. Prior to this, Nancee was the Executive Director of the California Pollution Control Financing Authority. Before then, she served as the Acting Executive Director and former Chief Deputy Executive Director and Chief Compliance Officer for the California Infrastructure and Economic Development Bank (IBank), a division of the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development. Prior to joining IBank, Nancee worked for the California Alternative Energy and Advanced Transportation Financing Authority (CAEATFA), and the State Treasurer's Office. Preceding her State service, Nancee spent over 30 years in the private sector banking industry. Nancee earned a Bachelor of Science from California State University at Sacramento and an Executive MBA from California State University at Monterey Bay.

Emily Burgos, Senior Program Manager

California Debt Limit Allocation Committee

Emily Burgos currently is the Senior Program Manager at the California Debt Limit Allocation Committee. Prior to this role, she began managing the Small Business Finance Center (SBFC) at IBank in 2016 combining her technical expertise of credit enhancement programs with her strong interest in economic development. In addition to the many transactions supported by the SBFC, Emily worked on creating and launching the Jump Start Loan Program. This direct loan program aims to foster entrepreneurial opportunity among low-wealth individuals in low-wealth communities. Prior to her role at IBank, Emily was a Senior Business Development Specialist at GO-Biz in the Business Investment Services team working directly with local Economic Development organizations to facilitate confidential statewide site selection searches and incentive navigation for businesses. Emily's work experience also includes working as an Analyst in California Pollution Control Financing Authority's (CPCFA) California Capital Access Program (*CalCAP*) where she was tasked with researching a credit enhancement program model called Collateral Support.



***Craig Schlatter, Director of Community Development
City of Ukiah***

Craig Schlatter has nearly two decades of experience in community and economic development and currently serves as the Community Development Director for the City of Ukiah. Craig holds a Master's Degree in Economics from Illinois State University's Stevenson Center for Community and Economic Development, where he started his career as a Brownfields Redevelopment Fellow. Over the past 15 years, first at the Community Development Commission of Mendocino County and now at the City of Ukiah, Craig has designed, administered, and implemented multiple State Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program activities, including design of the City of Ukiah's first Business Assistance program in 2010. Craig also has developed private-public partnerships for economic development and climate resiliency projects and focused on innovating new approaches to accessing financing for economic development projects in rural and underserved communities.

Course Description:

This advanced course will examine the various financing tools and funding sources available for economic development through local government, the State of California, and the Federal government. The session will discuss the role of local government in the financing process for various types of economic development projects and programs including real estate development, infrastructure, land use planning, business attraction incentives, and business loans. Specific tools to be covered in this course include State and Federal grants and financing programs, California-specific local government financing programs (property tax increment and special taxes), revolving loan funds, and other economic incentives and mechanisms that encourage private investment. The session will use case studies that feature best practices in structuring project and program finance options. The session will also provide an overview of the banking review process, risk factors, and lending for private development financing. In addition, the session will address challenges in working with multiple funding sources with different requirements and expected returns (jobs, new investment/tax revenue), and will also discuss accountability for the use of public subsidies.

Course Core Competencies:

- Federal funding sources relevant to economic development (e.g., Community Development Block Grants, Rural Business Enterprise Grants, Economic Development Administration programs, Environmental Protection Agency Brownfield Grants, and certain infrastructure grants that can support economic development)
- Federal tax incentives relevant to economic development (Opportunity Zones, New Markets Tax Credits, Historic Preservation Tax Credits)
- California-specific funding sources and financing tools available to local governments (Enhanced Infrastructure Financing Districts, Community Revitalization and Investment

Authorities, Community Facilities Districts, Property Based Improvement Districts, Transactions and Use Taxes, and other special taxes)

- Grants and financing programs available from the State of California (Infrastructure Bank programs, Cal Competes, Cap and Trade programs, and other financing options)
- Revolving loan funds and other tools for incentivizing business investment
- Private development financing
- How to structure a project or program's financing, how to establish and measure returns on investment, and ways to mitigate potential risk

Student Outcomes:

After successful completion of this course, students will:

- Understand what local, State, and Federal financing programs are available to assist with economic development
- Understand how to model a project or program's financing structure and how to make various funding sources work together
- Understand how to establish and measure returns on investment for financing economic development projects and programs
- Understand the role of tax credits and other incentives in the economic development finance process
- Understand what criteria banks use to evaluate lending for economic development projects or business loans, and how to mitigate risk

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