

# FAQ

## **What is economic development?**

Economic development is all about helping communities grow stronger by creating jobs, attracting new businesses, and supporting the ones that are already there. It's the work that goes on behind the scenes to make sure a city or region is a great place to live, work, and invest.

## **What do economic development professionals do?**

People who work in economic development connect businesses with resources, promote their region to companies looking to expand, and help plan for future growth. They focus on things like bringing in new industries, making sure there's a skilled workforce, and improving the overall quality of life in the area.

## **How is economic development organized?**

Economic development organizations (EDOs) may be governmental or non-government organizations, and they operate at various levels: city, county, regional, state, and even federal. Each level plays a different role, but they all work toward a common goal.

## **What is NESA's role in economic development?**

NESA is a non-profit economic development organization that serves a nine-county region in South Carolina. Our purpose is to promote the economic growth of the region by supporting each of our counties' economic development objectives and by recruiting new industry to the region.

## **What counties does NESA represent?**

NESA serves nine counties in Northeastern South Carolina, including: Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Marion, Marlboro, and Williamsburg counties.

## **What does NESA actually do?**

NESA supports regional economic development in a variety of ways. We identify growing companies that may be looking to expand, market available real estate on behalf of our county partners, and provide them with research and data support. We also assist companies evaluating the region by supplying market insights, helping them find suitable sites, and coordinating communication with local stakeholders.

## **What does the apprentice actually do?**

The position offers hands-on experience in both the analytical and relationship-building sides of economic development. Some tasks involve gathering data, analyzing economic trends, and preparing formal responses to business inquiries. Other responsibilities take place in the field, such as participating in client visits, touring industrial sites, and attending networking events. The apprentice also helps maintain real estate listings, monitor industry activity, and assist with outreach to prospective companies.