



Department of Commerce

Innovation is in our nature.

Community Economic Revitalization Board

Funding public infrastructure to boost economic development capacity for business and job growth

Purpose

The Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB) is a statutory state board charged with funding public infrastructure improvements that encourage new business development and expansion in areas seeking economic growth. Eligible public facilities include: bridges, roads, domestic and industrial water, earth stabilization, sanitary sewer, storm sewer, railroad, telecommunications, electricity, transportation, natural gas, buildings or structures, and port facilities.

CERB's focus is on creating and retaining jobs in partnership with local governments. In addition to funding construction projects, CERB provides limited funding for studies that evaluate high-priority economic development projects.

CERB receives administrative support from the Washington state Department of Commerce. The program is one of several Economic Development Financial Assistance programs within the Technical and Financial Services Unit in the agency's Local Government & Infrastructure Division. Collaboration between CERB and the Department of Commerce results in strategic investment of CERB resources to increase economic opportunities statewide.

Fast Facts

- Board funds are prioritized to support publicly owned infrastructure linked to economic development outcomes.
- CERB investments spur business development and job growth.
- CERB has financed projects in 37 of Washington's 39 counties.
- Since 1982 CERB has supported the creation and retention of more than 33,000 jobs.

Results and Achievements

- **Jobs:** Between 1982 and October 2011 CERB has helped create and retain more than 33,000 jobs that typically exceed county average annual wage rates. All construction projects approved by CERB must create jobs with a median hourly wage higher than the county median hourly wage.
- **Private investment:** Between 1982 and 2011 \$158 million of CERB investment has leveraged \$5.8 billion in private capital investment — a ratio of \$34 private dollars invested in business facilities and machinery for every CERB dollar.
- **Return on investment:** CERB projects have produced an estimated \$80 million in new state and local tax revenue from property, B&O, and sales tax sources since data collection began in 2004.

For More Information

Jacki Skaught
 CERB Program Manager
 (360) 725-3161
jacki.skaught@commerce.wa.gov

CERB Financing Programs

For 2011-2013 CERB received \$5 million in appropriation authority to assist local governments and federally recognized Indian Tribes in meeting the public infrastructure needs of business and industry. CERB awards will consider the return to the public facilities construction loan revolving fund without putting an undue financial burden on the applicant. The CERB Board oversees three financing programs: Planning/Feasibility Grants; Committed Partner Construction Loans, and Prospective Development Construction Loans.

When awarding funds, the Board will consider the following:

- The relative benefits provided to the community by the jobs the project would create, not just the total number of jobs expected to be created after the project is completed, but also giving consideration to the unemployment rate in the area in which the jobs would be located;
- The rate of return of the state's investment, including, but not limited to, the leveraging of private sector investment, anticipated job creation and retention, and expected increases in state and local tax revenues associated with the project;
- Whether the proposed project offers a health insurance plan for employees that includes an option for dependents of employees;
- Whether the public facility investment will increase existing capacity necessary to accommodate projected population and employment growth in a manner that supports infill and redevelopment of existing urban or industrial areas that are served by adequate public facilities. Projects should maximize the use of existing infrastructure and provide for adequate funding of necessary transportation improvements; and
- Whether the applicant has developed and adhered to guidelines regarding its permitting process for those applying for development permits consistent with section 1(2), chapter 231, Laws of 2007.

The Board also gives priority to those projects which could result in a type of project eligible for CERB construction funds.

