

## Great Lakes Regional Training Initiative

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The EDA University Centers in the Chicago Region recently initiated the Great Lakes Regional Training Initiative (GLRTI) to assist regions in the six states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin by promoting technical and

training assistance needs. GLRTI makes valuable university resources available and provides training programs to economic development professionals in all six states.

The goal of this initiative is to respond to the training and technical assistance needs within the six-state region. With a plethora of resources that the EDA Chicago Region University Centers have to offer, including developmental, educational, and technology based resources. This innovative collaboration seeks to advance economic development in the Midwest region.

[The University Centers in Illinois](#), the [East Central Illinois University Center](#), and the [Purdue Center for Regional Development](#), seek to promote and foster entrepreneurship and contribute to regional collaboration. Michigan State University operates a University Center for Regional Economic Innovation (REI), at the [Center for Community and Economic Development](#), leveraging higher education assets to support development in order to create economic innovation. Minnesota Crookston's University Center focuses on job creation, capital investment, business recruitment, and job retention. Cleveland State University's economic development center is housed in the Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs which provides research and technical assistance. The [Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs at Ohio University](#) provides business assistance and capital access. The five university partners that form the [Wisconsin Center for Commercialization Resources](#) focus on facilitating the commercialization process from start to finish. All of these university centers use their funding to assist organizations in regions that show a great need. As a whole, GLRTI is better able to assist the needs of the Great Lakes region than each center would be able to individually.

Any insight, recommendations, or feedback on training and technical assistance needs are welcome to be shared with GLRTI's team members at [the GLRTI website](#). Connect with us on [LinkedIn](#). Additionally, GLRTI is in the process of developing a training program that addresses the needs of economic development professionals in the region. To accomplish this, gaps between currently available training and the needs of practitioners must be identified. Please take GLRTI's brief survey (5-10 minutes) [by clicking here](#), to assist in identifying training needs and

to lend your voice to shaping this new regional initiative.