

Backgrounder: Fairfax County Economic Development Authority

The award-winning Fairfax County Economic Development Authority (FCEDA) promotes Fairfax County as one of the world's best business locations. The FCEDA is an independent authority chartered by the Commonwealth of Virginia. [A seven-member board](#) of Fairfax County business leaders oversees the work of the authority. The Authority is funded by the Fairfax County government.

The FCEDA mission statement, adopted by the FCEDA Board on November 9, 2016, is "to promote the competitive advantages of Fairfax County and influence the growth of a diverse and innovative ecosystem that enhances the tax base, creates demand for commercial space, and supports an extraordinary and equitable quality of life across Fairfax County."

The origins of the FCEDA go back to October 10, 1956, when the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors established an Economic and Industrial Development Committee. In 1964, the Virginia General Assembly enacted a law that allowed the Board of Supervisors to create an independent authority to drive an economic development effort in Fairfax County.

Following a 1976 "blue ribbon commission" report, the Board of Supervisors charged the FCEDA with developing and executing a business attraction and retention program in order to stimulate job creation and build the commercial tax base. The Board of Supervisors uses the commercial tax base to fund public services for a growing and diversifying population.

Today the FCEDA has three marketing divisions -- National, International, and Business Diversity -- that work with companies interested in starting, expanding and relocating businesses to Fairfax County. The FCEDA also has market intelligence, real estate services and communications divisions.

Business growth helps Fairfax County fund public services such as a top-ranked public school system that improve the quality of life. Fairfax County offers a well-educated workforce, diverse real estate opportunities, access to global markets through Washington Dulles International Airport, and a business community based on technology and professional services.

By any measure, the FCEDA has been successful in its efforts to promote Fairfax County as a business location. In 2007, a Time magazine columnist called Fairfax County "one of the great economic success stories of our time." In 2005, Site Selection magazine named the FCEDA one of the top 10 economic development groups in North America.

All funding for the FCEDA comes from the Fairfax County General Fund. In addition to its headquarters in Tysons Corner, Fairfax County's largest business district, the FCEDA has permanent offices in [Bangalore/Mumbai](#), [Berlin](#), [London](#), [Los Angeles](#), [Seoul](#) and [Tel Aviv](#) to assist with the marketing effort and handle the increasing number of international companies interested in establishing operations on the east coast of the U.S.