

## eCon Planning Suite

### e-Tutorial: Setting up Geographic Target Areas

Hello and welcome to the eCon Planning Suite online tutorials. This is one in a series of video tutorials demonstrating the functionality and components of the eCon Planning Suite.

At the end of this tutorial, you will be able to –

- Set up geographic target areas in the Con Plan in IDIS. These include:
- CDFI areas
- Local Target Areas
- Neighborhood or Community Revitalization Strategy Areas, and
- Other Target Areas

The process for adding each type of target area is quite similar. In this tutorial, we will demonstrate how to add Local Target Areas and NRSAs. The use of target areas can be an effective way of explaining both the needs and strategies for addressing priority needs in your jurisdiction.

Setting up target areas is done in the <SP-10 Geographic Priorities> screen. When establishing a target area, there are four options to choose from. First there is the option to add a CDFI Area. Community Development Financial Institutions or CDFIs are a special Treasury designation that receives regulatory flexibility under CDBG. Second you can add a Local Target Area. Local target areas are defined as any geography where the grantee will provide concentrated and coordinated efforts to improve conditions. Third, any HUD approved Neighborhood or Community Revitalization Strategy Area, or NRSA or CRSA, should be added. These areas give states and jurisdictions greater regulatory flexibility in revitalizing their most distressed communities and neighborhoods. All areas need to be approved by HUD. Finally, there is the option to add any other locally defined target areas, such as redevelopment areas using the Other Target Areas option.

To set up a Local Target Area, click <Add Local Target Area> Previously added Local Target Areas will appear on the list. To add a new one, Click <Add>. Type the Local Target Area's name. In this example, we will use Main Street Neighborhood. Using the dropdown menu, identify the Type of Revitalization Area, Commercial, Housing, Comprehensive, or Other. If Other, specify a type in the field provided. When complete, click <Save>. The newly created Main Street Neighborhood Target Area will now be listed on the screen. Click <Return to Geographic Area> to continue.

The Geographic Priorities page lists all the target areas entered in IDIS, including the recently-created Main Street Neighborhood. However, no areas are included in the Con Plan until you check Include and Click <Save>. An <Edit> button appears under the <Action> Column. You must click it to add additional information about the area.

Respond to the questions in the fields provided. Identifying the neighborhood boundaries, describing specific housing and commercial characteristics, how your citizen participation and consultation processes helped identify the area, what the priority needs of the area are, what the opportunities for improvement are, and what the barriers for improvement are. When done, click <Save and Return>. To review the information previously entered, click view under the action column. To revise further, click edit.

To review the information previously entered click <View> under the <Action> column. To revise further, click <Edit>. The process for setting up NSRAs is very similar. To add an NSRA, click <Add Strategy Area>. Previously added Strategy Areas will appear on the list. Click <Add>

Name the NRSA and enter a HUD Approval Date. When done, click <Save>. The newly created Downtown Strategy Area will now be listed on the screen. Click <Return to Geographic Area> to continue. As said before, all previously added Strategy Areas and other target areas are listed on this page. To include our NRSA in the Con Plan, check the Include box next to Downtown Strategy Area and click <Save>. To enter additional information about the Strategy Area, click <Edit> under the <Action> column and respond to the corresponding questions. Adding CDFIs and Other target areas is done in similar fashion.

Once you have set up and included all the target areas in the Con Plan, respond to the General Allocation Priorities question on the SP-10 screen. When finished, click <Save and Return>.

Thank you for participating in the online tutorial on setting up geographic target areas. For additional tutorials and resources, please go to the OneCPD Resource Library.