



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 statutorily authorized 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 agency's International Trade and Economic Development Division (ITED) provides staffing for CERB. Collaboration between CERB and Commerce results in strategic investment of CERB resources to increase economic opportunities statewide.

Results and Achievements

- **Jobs:** Between 1982 and 2009, CERB has helped create and retain over 34,000 jobs that typically exceed county average annual wage rates. Beginning July 1, 2009, 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 2009, \$142 million of CERB investment has leveraged \$2.5 billion in private capital investment — a ratio of \$17 private dollars invested in business facilities and machinery for every CERB dollar.
- **Return on investment:** Since data collection began in 2004, CERB projects have produced an estimated \$34 million in state and local tax revenues from property, B&O and sales tax sources.
- **Responsible management:** There have been no defaults on CERB loans.

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.
- Between 1982 and 2009, CERB has supported the creation and retention of more than 34,000 jobs.

For More Information

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Services

For 2009-2011, CERB received \$6.253 million in appropriation authority to assist local governments and federally recognized Indian Tribes in meeting the infrastructure needs of business and industry.

Key program elements include:

Program Management and Board Support: After reviewing each local financing proposal and request, staff prepare an in-depth project staff analysis and financial recommendation for board action. Staff also negotiate and manage contracts, facilitate policy development, and track and report program outcomes. Staff plan and manage 12 CERB meetings each biennium, prepare the CERB Biennial Legislative Report, manage the Board's operating and capital budget appropriations, and manage the CERB project loan and grant portfolio.

Applicant Technical Assistance: Staff help each applicant identify project barriers, evaluate project feasibility, and develop funding and implementation strategies when the project is ready to proceed. Staff prepare a complete analysis of each project with recommendations to the board. Staff also help applicants work out emergent problems towards final contract development and project implementation.

Performance Measures

Staff track project outcomes for a period of five years after construction of the public project is completed. By statute, CERB reports biennially to the Legislature on the:

- Number of applications for CERB assistance
- Number and types of projects approved
- Grant or loan amount awarded to each project
- Projected number of jobs created or retained by each project
- Actual number of jobs created or retained by each project
- Number of delinquent loans
- Number of project terminations
- Cost per job for each project
- Wages and health benefits associate with projects
- Amount of state funds and total capital invested in projects
- Number and types of businesses assisted by funded projects
- Transportation infrastructure available for completed projects
- Local match and local participation obtained

