



INTERNATIONAL  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
COUNCIL

## Certified Economic Developer (CEcD) Exam Update Announcement

As stewards of the Certified Economic Developer (CEcD) exam and designation, The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) reviews and analyzes its processes and policies regularly to ensure the test is meeting the needs of the profession. Beginning in January 2016, small changes will be implemented in the administration of the exam. While candidates will continue to be tested on all economic development competencies, the elective content will be compressed to make preparation for the exam more manageable.

### Planning to take the CEcD exam? Here is what you need to know:

**1)** The Introduction to Economic Development manual will be updated and expanded to provide more comprehensive coverage of each of the competencies. This expanded Introduction to Economic Development manual will be available in early fall 2015 to align with the new exam rolled out in January 2016. Already have the 2011 version of the Intro manual? Send it back to us at 734 15<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Suite 900, Washington, DC 20005 Attn: Emily Bell and we'll send you the new version when it's ready *free of charge*.

**2)** Candidates sitting for the exam beginning in January 2016 will **not** need the complete set of IEDC training manuals. To study for the exam, candidates will need the following core competency manuals:

- Introduction to Economic Development
- Business Retention & Expansion
- Credit Analysis/Finance
- Real Estate Development & Reuse

and two (2) of the following elective competency manuals:

- Economic Development Strategic Planning
- Economic Development Marketing & Attraction
- Entrepreneurial & Small Business Development Strategies
- Managing Economic Development Organizations
- Neighborhood Development Strategies
- Technology-led Economic Development
- Workforce Development

**3)** In the Multiple Choice/Short Answer section of the exam, candidates will be tested on content from the four (4) core manuals and two (2) chosen electives. Candidates must select the electives at the time of exam application. Some candidates may choose their electives based on completed coursework, others may wish to be tested further on elective competencies based on professional experience. While either reason for selection is completely acceptable, candidates choosing the latter will still be required to complete the [professional development requirements](#) in order to be eligible to sit for the CEcD exam. In addition, IEDC recommends the procurement of the corresponding training manuals for each of the selected competencies. Because questions from the Multiple Choice/Short Answer questions come directly from the manuals, it is extremely difficult to pass this section on experience alone.

**4)** The essay section of the exam requires candidates to answer a total of five (5) questions. The Business Retention & Expansion, Credit Analysis/Finance, and Real Estate Development & Reuse questions will be required. Candidates will be able to choose two (2) of the seven (7) elective questions for a total of five essays.

### Questions?

Visit [www.iedconline.org](http://www.iedconline.org) or contact Emily Bell at [ebell@iedconline.org](mailto:ebell@iedconline.org).