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**NEWS
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City of El Paso Earns Three Awards for Advancing Economic Opportunity and Workforce Growth

EL PASO, Texas—The City of El Paso has earned three 2026 Excellence in Economic Development Awards from the International Economic Development Council (IEDC), receiving Gold, Silver and Bronze honors for initiatives that strengthen economic resilience, expand entrepreneurship and prepare the Borderplex workforce for the future.

The awards recognize innovative economic development programs and initiatives that demonstrate measurable community impact. El Paso received the following honors in the category for communities with populations greater than 500,000 residents:

- **Gold Award: Building Long-Term Economic Resilience Through ARPA Investment**
Recognizes the City's strategic use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) resources to address community priorities, strengthen economic resilience and support long-term growth.
- **Silver Award: Women's Entrepreneurship Accelerator**
Recognizes a program that helps women entrepreneurs and small business owners launch, strengthen and grow their businesses by connecting them with resources, guidance and support.
- **Bronze Award: Borderplex Workforce & Digital Transformation Initiative**
Recognizes an initiative that expands workforce development and digital skills, supports talent retention and helps workers and businesses remain competitive in a technology-driven economy.

"These awards affirm that El Paso is transforming strategic investments into lasting economic opportunity," said Economic and International Development Assistant Director Mirella Tamayo. "The recognition of our Women's Entrepreneurship Accelerator is especially meaningful because investing in women entrepreneurs helps create jobs, strengthen local businesses and expand opportunity throughout our community. Together, these initiatives are building a more competitive, inclusive and resilient economy for El Paso."

Together, the awards highlight the City's comprehensive approach to economic development by investing in people, supporting entrepreneurs, leveraging resources strategically and preparing the workforce for a changing economy.

About the International Economic Development Council

Based in Washington, D.C., the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) is the world's largest association for economic developers. Founded a century ago, IEDC is a nonprofit, nonpartisan membership organization representing the economic development profession.

Its members include economic development practitioners working in local, state, provincial and federal governments, nonprofits, public-private partnerships, entrepreneurial support organizations, chambers of commerce, utilities, universities and other organizations.

IEDC is a leading voice in advancing the economic development profession and provides professional development through courses and certifications, networking, conferences, research, policy advocacy, partnerships and other resources for economic development professionals around the world.

For more information, visit [IEDC.org](https://iedc.org).

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