

ECONOMIC SERVICES

FACT SHEET

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Overview

The SANDAG Service Bureau offers a variety of economic services such as economic and fiscal impact analysis, benefit-cost analyses, strategic and comprehensive plans, and other economic data and analyses.

Economic and Fiscal Impact Analysis

Public and private organizations often need to evaluate the economic and/or fiscal impacts of future development or business activity. Many organizations have requested the Service Bureau's assistance in analyzing various land use alternatives or business sectors to determine the associated economic impacts of each scenario. The scope of an economic impact analysis can identify impacts on many dimensions of the economy: expenditures, employment, trade, the increase in support businesses to accommodate projected development, and the increase in activity associated with the rise in consumer demand. It may include an assessment of the effects of economic development alternatives on existing regional infrastructure and the environment. An economic impact analysis can also be more focused by identifying the changes in economic opportunity and income status among the region's households as a result of changes in factors such as land use.

While an economic impact analysis evaluates a project's economic effects and benefits, a fiscal impact analysis looks at the other side of the equation: the budgetary impacts of a specific project, in other words, the effects on an organization's revenues and expenditures. As is the case with economic impact analyses, different scenarios can be evaluated and compared so the most informed decisions can be made.

Benefit-Cost Analyses

Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA) can be used to evaluate if a project or policy is worthwhile from an economic standpoint, and simply compares the estimated monetized benefits of a project or policy over time with the forecast costs. The SANDAG Service Bureau team has extensive experience in BCA, and has produced BCAs for a variety of projects, ranging from a small bike path to the \$200-billion Regional Transportation Plan. BCA can be used to appraise the desirability of policies, investments, and projects for both public and private sectors, and are often formulated to account for effects that are not easily priced, such as environmental and safety effects.

Strategic and Comprehensive Plans

Organizations are dynamic, and so are the demographic, economic, and social characteristics that affect the way they operate. Access to the extensive SANDAG demographics, economic, transportation, criminal justice, and other resources along with experienced staff makes the Service Bureau uniquely qualified to prepare long-term plans that help clients identify and achieve their objectives.

Other Economic Data and Analyses

The Service Bureau team has the knowledge of and access to the many resources produced by SANDAG, and is therefore able to integrate the data elements to produce quality economic data and analyses that are customized to meet client needs.

If you have a project that you would like to discuss, please contact:

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