

LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN CONNECTICUT, 3rd EDITION

Instructor's Guide

Chapter 25

Class Discussion

1. Economic development is a way to raise revenues without increasing taxes. Do you think that most citizens appreciate economic development for this reason?
2. Explain the primary benefits of economic development to the local government (ties back to Chapter 10, Where Does the Money Come From?).
3. Some economic development incentives are service oriented and some are financially oriented. Which ones do you think help attract private sector investment in a community?
4. Do you know what economic development incentives are provided by your community?
5. Outside of revenues, what are the other benefits of economic development to a local government?
6. Does anyone know where the State DECD is located? Visit the DECD website.

Class Assignments

1. Find out who is in charge of economic development in your community? Is it a dedicated person or is the responsibility vested with the CEO or Town Planner? Discuss where would be the best place to have this responsibility and why.
2. Does your city or town have approved economic development incentive programs? Is there anything on the town website that addresses economic development.
3. Research the use of economic development incentives in your community. Ask the CEO if they were successful.
4. Should the Economic Development Director (if there is one) report to the Chief Executive Officer or the Planning Director, and why?
5. How would you educate the private business sector about your community's economic development incentives?"
7. Divide the class into groups and see what incentives each group can come up with to promote economic development. Debate the proposals.
8. Check out your city or town's website. Are the municipal economic development incentives properly explained to the public?

Field Trips-Other Ideas

- Go to your city/town hall and talk to your Economic Development Director or person who has this responsibility about the incentives provided by your community to the private sector.
- Invite a representative from the local Chamber of Commerce to class to talk about economic development in town, what is going on, and his/her ideas about improving economic development.
- Do you think your local public officials know the economic development incentives offered to cities and towns by their state government? If not, how would you help educate them?