

## Introduction

### What is a CEDS?

CEDS is the acronym that stands for “Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy”. CEDS is a plan (*in this instance, a District-level plan covering the Illinois Counties of Bureau, Marshall, Putnam and Stark Counties*) that is the result of a region wide planning process designed to guide and advance economic growth of the North Central Region.

The CEDS planning process is intended to help create employment opportunities for area residents, foster more stable and diversified local and regional economies and generally improve living conditions throughout the multi-county District for area residents. The CEDS document provides a mechanism for coordinating the efforts of local citizens, local governments and local development organizations, along with private business and industry leaders with the common interest of fostering economic development.

A Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is required by federal regulations to qualify local governments, businesses and development organizations with the District for U.S. Department of Commerce – Economic Development Administration (EDA) financial assistance under its Public Works, Economic Adjustment and Planning Grant programs. A CEDs is also a prerequisite for receiving Economic Development District (EDD) continuing designation by EDA. The EDD that includes Bureau, LaSalle, Marshall, Putnam and Stark Counties received its designation in February 2005.

This CEDS document should be readily available to the economic development stakeholders in the community. There should be a continuing program of communication and outreach that encourages broad based public engagement, participation and commitment of partners. The general public, government decision makers, and business investors should be able to use this document as a guide to understanding the regional economy and to taking action to improve it. The strategy should take into account and where, appropriate incorporate other planning efforts in the community. Its quality should be judged by its usefulness as a tool for local decision-making.

### Administrative Organization

The North Central Illinois Council of Governments in Princeton, Illinois is the organization that is administering the Economic Development District. The regional council was formed in 1979 through an intergovernmental agreement between area counties and support from the Illinois Department of Local Government Affairs (DLGA), today called the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO). The Executive Committee members of North Central Council are listed below, along with their respective occupations and positions.

### Executive Committee of the North Central Illinois Council of Governments

<i>Vice-President</i>	Sharon DeWeerth, Henry, IL	Nurse
<i>President</i>	William Urnikis, Hennepin, IL	Exlon ESK Company
<i>Treasurer/ Secretary</i>	Steve Sondgeroth, LaMoille, IL	Farmer

## CEDS Committee

The following committee oversaw the 2007 update to the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the North Central Region:

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Tony Sorcic, Citizens First National Bank, Princeton, Illinois – Bureau County
Debb Ladgenski; Spring Valley, IL; Economic Development Director for City of Spring Valley - Bureau County
Barb Koch, Illinois Valley Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry, LaSalle, IL – LaSalle/Bureau County
Demetrio G. Salazar, LaSalle, IL; Rentals; Hispanic Partnership Council; Illinois Valley Center for Independent Living - LaSalle County
Mike Phalen, Phalen Steel, Mendota IL – LaSalle County
Jim Riley, President/CEO - Hometown National Bank, LaSalle, IL – LaSalle County
Chester Massino; Rutland, IL ; Board Member, Marshall County; UIRVDA Board Chairman; Educational Consultant, Business Owner; Retired School Superintendent; Member Tri-County Opportunity Council - Marshall County
Mike Hiell; Lacon, IL; Mayor, City of Lacon; Retired (Manufacturing Sales Rep); Member Heart of IL Mayors Assoc.; Past Pres. – W. Central IL Rural Coalition on Development (2001-2003), Vice-Pres. Lacon Rotary (3003-2004) - Marshall County
Steve Goulding, Oak State Products – Marshall County
Travis McGlasson, resident - Marshall County
Jim Durham, CPA, Toluca IL – Marshall County
Jennifer Peterson, Hennepin, IL; Village Clerk, Hennepin; Educational Toys Consultant - Putnam County - Putnam County
Lynn Stickel; Granville, IL; VP Granville National Bank, Agricultural lending - Putnam County
Jamie Gahm, Illinois Valley Community College, Oglesby, IL – regional
Pam Furlan, BEST, Inc./NCI Works – local workforce agency and workforce board, Peru, IL – regional

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