

Performance Measures

This document is a working document and there are some statistical indicators that will help decide if what is happening are as successful as desired. The administrator of the District should keep track of these statistics on an ongoing basis. These will help show how we are doing and what we can do better.

Keeping track of the number of jobs in the District and what type of businesses are new to the District or have had to close are important. Also keeping track of the total number of workers in the District and the unemployment rate will show if jobs are being added to the area or being lost. Also looking at where in the District businesses have closed or opened or moved will show where growth is likely to occur. The businesses that have opened can be surveyed to find out why they moved to that specific area of the district. We can then learn what improvements need to be made in other parts of the District.

Keeping in touch with the communities to be informed about upgrades in services of sewer, water, power, 911, Internet services, etc. will be important. Also finding out if this is what attracted new businesses to the area or if lack of improvements caused businesses to leave. Also contacting the communities and finding out how recent their last update of their comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances was.

Population and age breakdowns may also be good indicators to if the District is attracting good jobs to the area. If good jobs are being developed in the District or not that will keep the young adults in the area after schooling to raise a family or if that age range continues to decline because there are not good jobs in the area. Also, keeping track of the educational level of the young adults will help show the skill level of the workers in the District. Tracking median income and household income will help show if jobs are getting better in the District.

In tracking these performance measures the District Administrator will complete the following tasks:

- Track the number of jobs created.
- Track the number and types of investments undertaken in the Region
- Track the number of jobs retained in the region
- Track through Chambers of Commerce and local ED resources the amount of private sector investment in the Region
- Changes in the economic environment of the Region
- Will track total workers and unemployment rates from the Illinois Department of Employment Securities.
- Keep in contact with District chambers of commerce to help track new businesses.
- Contact municipalities and counties for number of building permits issued and what for.
- Obtain most current demographic numbers on population, income, households, etc.
- Map out new and lost businesses in the District (with over 50 employees)
- Obtain numbers yearly from school districts regarding population and graduation rates.
- Contact power companies and phone companies to try to keep track about future upgrades in their systems and help promote them to businesses.

North Central Illinois Council of Governments (NCICG) is the District Administrator of the Economic Development District. NCICG is a state data center which receives census information and other demographic information on a regular basis. NCICG also has GIS capabilities to map out some of the information being tracked. NCICG provides contract services to communities that cannot afford full time staff. Among the many services NCICG provides planning and zoning services, and water/sewer rate studies. NCICG has working relations with numerous state and federal agencies that benefit the district.