

CEDS Document to receive 5 year update



Every 5 years the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is updated. We will soon be beginning the process of updating the 2007 CEDS for the Economic Development District. We are especially looking for private sector participation in the planning process. The current CEDS can be found at our website www.ncicg.org under the Economic Development tab.

If you are interested in participating in the CEDS update process or would like more information about the CEDS document contact Kevin Lindeman at klindeman@ncicg.org

EDA Chicago Regional Office in Princeton for a Site Visit

Ean Johnson and John Owen of the Economic Development Administration (EDA) – Chicago Regional office visited the region to review the start of construction of infrastructure for the Princeton Logistics Park.

EDA is assisting the City of Princeton in this \$902,560 project to provide road, sewer, water, electric and fiber to a 137+ acre site owned by the City. The City of Princeton received a \$676,290 grant for the project. This project will get the city over the development hurdle of providing utilities over and under 2 large gas pipelines that have hindered private sector development and job creation on the site.



Pictured L-R: Kevin Lindeman, NCICG, John Owen, EDA, and Ean Johnson, EDA.

EDA's New Application Process

Additional information is available from EDA's website www.eda.gov

In an effort to provide increased efficiency, transparency, and competitiveness in its application selection process, EDA recently revised its grants process by moving from a system of rolling application acceptance to one of quarterly funding competitions. This new process is designed to build on EDA's record of excellent customer service, flexibility, and strong performance measures. The main components of this new process are:

- **Continuous Technical Assistance and Customer Service**

Applicants may submit an application at any time during the quarter and receive formal feedback on its technical and competitive merits and/or deficiencies within 15 business days. During the first round of competition EDA exceeded this goal, **providing feedback on application merits and/or deficiencies in less than 11 business days**, on average.

- **Quarterly Rounds of Funding**

EDA will set quarterly deadlines for submission of applications in order to be considered for an award in that quarterly funding cycle. **The next deadline will be December 15, 2011.**

- **Enhanced Responsiveness**

Applicants who submit a complete application package prior to the quarterly deadline will be notified of EDA's selection decisions within 20 business days of that deadline. During the first round of competition EDA exceeded this goal, **informing applicants about EDA's decision in less than 19 business days**, on average.

- **Competitive Selection Framework**

All projects will be assessed against EDA's strategic priorities and evaluated by an Investment Review Committee (IRC) where EDA professionals will analyze and recommend proposals to the EDA Regional Director for that quarter's available funding. EDA received 11 proposals that were rated Highly Competitive when assessed by EDA's strategic priorities, and 71 proposals that were rated Competitive. Of these, only 35 applications that also passed EDA's Technical Review process were submitted to the IRC.

In preparation for this new application process NCICG and Ean Johnson of from EDA spent a day last spring discussing potential projects in the region. Several communities met one on one to present possible ED infrastructure or planning proposals.

If your community is interested in looking into EDA funds for your economic development projects please contact Kevin Lindeman at klindeman@ncicg.org or 815/433-5830.

2011 Economic Development Summit

NCICG held its Annual Economic Development Summit May 10, 2011 at Celebrations 150 in LaSalle. 78 participants from across north central Illinois attended the half day program. The program was filled with excellent speakers who discussed how small towns can be successful, Strategic Doing and how young professionals are getting involved in their communities.



Kevin Lindeman, Economic Development District Director welcomes the audience to the Summit.



Attending the Summit from the Lacon Economic Development Committee are Louis Lenz Justin Meierkord, Julie Hubbard, Charles Allen.

Jack Schultz founder and CEO of Agracel, Inc., discussed his book [Boomtown USA: The 7 - 1/2 Keys to Big Success in Small Towns](#). During the discussion Jack presented the CEO (Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities) Program in Effingham, Illinois. This is an entrepreneurial program run through the high school. He also introduced Craig Lindvahl the instructor and one of the students from the program. For more information on the CEO Program got to www.ffmpeghamceo.com. The CEO program started this fall at the La Salle-Peru Career Center with NCICG/EDD as a participant.

The 7 ½ Key to Big Success in Small Towns are:

1. Adopt a "Can Do" Attitude
 2. Shape Your Vision
 3. Leverage Your Resources
 4. Raise Up Strong Leaders
 5. Encourage an Entrepreneurial Approach
 6. Maintain Local Control
 7. Build Your Brand
- 7 ½ Embrace the Teeter Totter Factor



Author Jack Shultz discusses his book [Boomtown USA: The 7 - 1/2 Keys to Big Success In Small Towns](#)



Ed Morrison of the Purdue Center for Regional Development discusses the topic of Strategic Doing.

Ed Morrison from Purdue Center for Regional Development presented the concept of **Strategic Doing** to the attendees. Ed developed Strategic Doing which provides a simple set of rules to guide the complex conversations we need to design and implement innovations quickly. Strategic Doing asks the questions: What could we do together? What should we do together? What will we do together? and What are we learning together? In the afternoon attendees broke in groups by the topics of rural tourism, regional incubator services, thinking regionally, entrepreneurship in high schools, workforce and cultural diversity. During the session they went through the Strategic Doing process.

Young Professional Organizations

During the second session of the morning Meg Skelly from **Ottawa Network of Young Executives (ONYX)** and Kelly Klobucher of the **2140Club – Starved Rock Region** talked about their organizations, how they are involved in the community and how important attracting young professionals to the region is. Their websites are www.onywillinois.org and www.the2140club.com.



Meg Skelly of ONYX and Kelly Klobucher of the 2140 Club discuss their young professional organizations.

Speaker presentations and bios are available on our website at www.ncicg.org under the Economic Development tab.

We thank our sponsors of the Summit for helping make this event possible.

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