



613 W. Marquette Street, Ottawa IL 61350 * 815-433-5830

North Central Illinois - Economic Development District

History

The North Central Illinois - Economic Development District (EDD) was approved by the US Department of Commerce - Economic Development Administration (EDA) in 2005. Planning grant funds were first received from EDA in 2006 for the implementation of the District and the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The North Central Illinois Council of Governments is the District's "Planning Organization". The Economic Development District serves the counties of Bureau, LaSalle, Marshall and Putnam.

The mission of the EDD is to develop and deliver a CEDS, which incorporates the economic, community, and workforce development, education, transportation, and environmental efforts and initiatives of the north central Illinois region. The EDD also strives to partner with the communities, private sector, non-profits, and other regional development organizations to support the delivery of those economic and community development programs and services that will further the goals and objectives in the CEDS.

CEDS Update Requirements

Each year an annual report must be submitted to EDA describing activities in the District during the year and the efforts made in the region to implement the CEDS. The CEDS must be completely updated every 5 years. The last update of the CEDS was done in 2007. The next update is due to EDA in September 2012. As part of the update process the document will be available for public review and comment for a period of at least thirty (30) days.

EDD Committee

The EDD Committee meets on a quarterly basis to discuss activities happening in the District and possible changes to the CEDS. The committee is made up of representatives from:

- Private sector (a majority of the members must be from the private sector)
- Public officials
- Community leaders
- Representatives from workforce development boards
- Institutions of higher education
- Minority groups
- Labor groups
- Private individuals

Ongoing work program of the EDD:

The ongoing work program for the Economic Development District Program includes the following initiatives:

- Update EDD Committee.
- Collaborate with and assist local, regional, state and federal economic development professionals on all aspects of economic development in the region.
- Educate local governments and economic development professionals on the need to develop strategies on a Regional basis.
- Convene annual Economic Development Summit. This year Jack Schultz author of “Boomtown USA – 7 ½ Keys to Big Success in Small Towns” and Ed Morrison of the Purdue Center for Regional Development spoke at our Summit.
- Utilize and education local ED staff on Location One Information System (LOIS).
- Organize meeting of the County Board Chairs on a regular basis.
- Garner regional support for local projects.
- Apply for funding from US Department of Commerce – EDA for eligible projects in the region.
- Assemble funding packages for economic development projects in the region from sources other than EDA.
- Support and assist the North Central Illinois Logistics Council.
- Host Economic Development Webinars at IVCC which have included: “Unlocking Your Entrepreneurship Toolkit” and “Social Media for the Practical Economic Development Professional”.
- Provide support and information to community development Revolving Funds (RF) in the region. We are planning RF workshops and assistance with updating RF documents.
- Facilitate the continuation of the Strategic Doing Roundtable Discussion Groups formed at the Economic Development Summit.
- Review, modify, monitor and implement the goals, objectives and action items of the *North Central Illinois Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)*.
- By September 2012 a 5-year update of the CEDS for the region will be completed.

Additional work program items for FY2010-FY2012:

- Investigate and pursue funding to develop a comprehensive Regional Economic Assessment and Plan with the Small Business Development Center, communities and other organizations in the region.
- Develop and maintain a list of local financial incentives.
- Pursue an entrepreneurship development program with other regional agencies and partners.
- Act as legislative liaison for EDD and support legislative initiatives of economic development agencies in the region as appropriate.

For more information about the EDD and CEDS contact Kevin Lindeman, Economic Development District Director at klindeman@ncicg.org or 815-433-5830.