

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Clinton, Eaton and Ingham Counties

Clinton, Eaton and Ingham Counties, located in mid-Michigan, are great places for people to live, learn, work and play. They also share one important ingredient: the ability to sustain and increase economic competitiveness in the ever-changing global economy. To accomplish this, the region sets economic priorities and identifies what needs to be primary areas of focus in the short and long-term future. These are contained in the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Through the United States Department of Commerce, regions across the country develop their economic strategies in order to compete for federal grants designed to help enhance infrastructure and economic prosperity within regions.

Multidisciplinary Federal-Local and Public-Private Collaboration

Development of the CEDS enables municipalities in the tri-county region to compete for federal projects. To complete the CEDS, economic development professionals join with transportation and land use planners, tourism experts, environmentalists and business leaders to outline and upgrade a three year strategy encompassing both infrastructure and job development across all sectors.

Goals and Actions contained within the CEDS provide for the promotion of regional economic development through public and private sector collaboration which will make this region globally competitive in the 21st century. Cities, townships and counties within the tri-county region that have economic projects which are regional in scope and reflect the key elements of the CEDS, are eligible to apply for federal EDA matching funds.

Goals of Projects

To accomplish a goal that emphasizes regional collaboration in moving away from current trends in land use and transportation toward a goal that supports conservation, countryside, centers and corridors, the CEDS supports potential projects which fulfill the following, before being considered for grants: Connect and build upon mature and blossoming technology centers (bio-mass research, bio-medical, simulation, and green energy Identify, adopt and implement best practices for land and development planning, environmental preservation and green energy production Improve global connectivity of all transportation systems

Action Recommendations

The CEDS also outlines recommendations for specific actions the region can take to accomplish the goals:

1. Attract and retain knowledge-based industries and the innovative workforce
2. Further diversify the economy by supporting emerging economic clusters
3. Move towards a greater share of high technology and science-based economy that enhances the region's advantages in bio-medical and bio-mass research and green energy and manufacturing
4. Leverage the region's environmental assets for long-term natural resource stewardship and associated economic diversification and development

5. Implement 4 C's - conservation, centers, corridors and countryside. The principal elements of the vision are:
 - a. Preserve the most sensitive environmental lands and waters
 - b. Avoid continued sprawl
 - c. Connect higher density, mixed-use (residential and commercial) urban centers with multi-modal transportation corridors served by new transit lines
 - d. Preserve countryside
6. Provide more opportunities for affordable workforce housing to support job expansion
7. Enhance connections to worldwide markets
8. Increase global/regional freight cross-connections for air, rail and road
9. Reduce the impact of job losses created by Baby Boomer retirements and automotive manufacturing