Comprehensive ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT Strategy



The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is a strategy-driven plan for regional economic development. The 2027-2032 CEDS is being prepared by the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission in collaboration with M7 (Milwaukee 7), with input from M7's Regional Economic Partnership (REP) and other stakeholders. Once adopted, this updated CEDS will be submitted to the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) for approval and will replace the currently adopted 2021-2025 CEDS.

The CEDS planning process involves a collaborative effort between public- and private-sector partners to identify ways to strengthen the regional economy. The CEDS and its planning process are aimed at:

Building on economic strengths by identifying opportunities to create jobs, reduce unemployment, and increase incomes.

Increasing awareness of regional economic development efforts and provide opportunities for input.

Guiding future investments by identifying and prioritizing projects that support regional economic growth.

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Why Prepare a CEDS?

The EDA requires regions to update their CEDS every five years. County action on the updated CEDS makes county and local governments within that county with EDA-defined economically distressed areas eligible to apply for grants through the EDA's Public Works and Economic Adjustment programs. These programs provide funding for infrastructure projects, revolving loan funds, and other forms of business assistance.

Additionally, an EDA-approved CEDS allows counties and local governments in the Region to obtain EDA funding to support economic recovery activities following federally declared disasters. In the past, an EDA-approved CEDS made counties and local governments in the Region eligible for grants through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, as well as grants through EDA's Disaster Supplemental Grant Program following major flood events.

Learn More and Get Involved!

Learn about the 2027-2032 CEDS planning process and opportunities to provide input.