

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PRESS RELEASE

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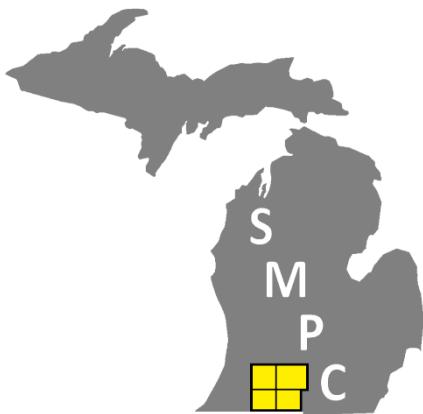
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



COMMITTEE FORMING

Southcentral Michigan Planning Council seeks committee members for regional economic development strategy

Kalamazoo, MI Feb 20, 2020 — The Southcentral Michigan Planning Council is actively recruiting a diverse set of volunteers to broadly represent the main economic interests of the region and serve on its Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee.

The Southcentral Michigan Planning Council (SMPC) is forming a new Strategy Committee specifically tasked to oversee the process of developing its regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), a vital planning document in the region's economic development efforts. The CEDS plan is a requirement of the Economic Development Administration (EDA) within the U.S. Department of Commerce for federal funding assistance under its Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance programs. These federal programs lead to the creation and retention of jobs and increased private investment, advance innovation, enhance the manufacturing capacities of the region, provide workforce development opportunities, and grow the economic ecosystem that attracts foreign direct investment.

The Strategy Committee will be the principal driver of the CEDS process; members will meet five times throughout 2020 to provide leadership and to determine what capacity building efforts would best serve economic development in the region. “With broad-based and diverse stakeholder participation, Strategy Committee members will create a blueprint for regional economic prosperity in Branch, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, and St. Joseph counties, which constitute the SMPC region,” said Lee Adams, SMPC’s executive director.

SMPC is using an online application to recruit representatives from its four-county region to serve on the Strategy Committee. The brief application asks for personal and professional information from potential members, with the aim of ensuring all economic interests in the region are represented. The application can be found online at <https://bit.ly/2SLnWIX> and via the SMPC website at www.smpcregion3.org. The deadline for submitting a completed application is 5:00 pm on Wednesday, March 25th. Anyone who needs assistance filling out an application can contact Molly Trueblood at 269-385-0458 or via email at trueblood@upjohn.org.

“The SMPC board will review all applications and select committee members at their public meeting on March 31st, 2020. The board will select committee members in a way that balances geography, economic representation, as well as an applicant’s ability to consistently attend meetings,” said Molly Trueblood, SMPC community development coordinator. Trueblood adds, “In prior years, this process helped bring in over two million dollars from the EDA to the region for attracting and incubating new business, educational partnerships, and research.”

About SMPC: The Southcentral Michigan Planning Council is a public body whose geographic scope covers the following four counties: Branch, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, and St. Joseph.

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