



Southcentral Michigan Planning Council

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NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

The Southcentral Michigan Planning Council (SMPC) announces the 30-day public comment period for the Region 3 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The CEDS is available for review at the following web address: <https://smpcregion3.org/ceds>. Direct comments to Lee Adams at info@smpcregion3.org or 269-385-0409. The deadline for public comments is **Friday, March 26, 2021**.

SMPC facilitated the committee-led CEDS planning process that brought together a broad cross section of stakeholders to review key issues and data, develop relationships, identify regional priorities, and shape collaborative economic development strategies. The result was the creation of a new CEDS that will lead the region's economic development projects in the next five years.

CEDS goals include:

- Building on collaborative efforts to ensure the regional economy is resilient and inclusive;
- Developing skills of regional workforce to increase economic mobility and meet employers' needs;
- Improving access to education, employment, and entrepreneurship opportunities for communities that have experienced historic disinvestment;
- Maintaining existing housing assets and increase housing options to meet the needs of current and future residents;
- Strengthening critical infrastructure such as transportation and broadband; and
- Expanding local governments' ability to support small businesses and enhance quality of life in their communities.

Advancing these six goals will make the regional economy more resilient, inclusive, and competitive, and will help the region's economic development stakeholders work towards recovery from the economic effects of COVID-19. The COVID-19 pandemic impacted the CEDS planning process in many ways, but the most significant effect was that addressing economic recovery and improving economic resiliency became critical strategic priorities. Although COVID-19 also brought several challenges to the planning process, the CEDS was a timely opportunity to identify the most important recovery needs and strategies with a broad group of economic development stakeholders. In the short term, the CEDS will advance economic recovery by creating cross-sectoral communication channels, targeting workforce investments to communities in need, and providing technical and data support to local units of government.

Direct any questions or comments to Lee Adams at info@smpcregion3.org or 269-385-0409.