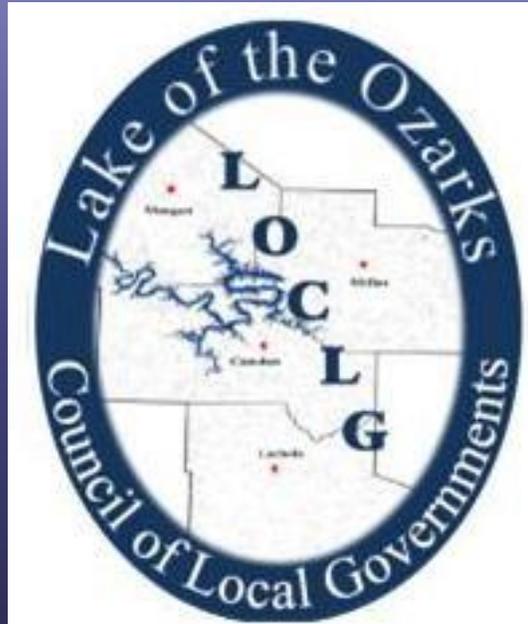


**Comprehensive Economic  
Development Strategy (CEDS)  
Annual Progress Report  
April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019  
EDA # ED16DEN3020044**



# **CEDS ANNUAL REPORT 2019**

## **Lake of the Ozarks Council of Local Governments**

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P.O. Box 3553

985 E Hwy 54

Camdenton, MO 65020

Phone: 573-346-5692

# ANNUAL COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDS) REVIEW 2019 CEDS ANNUAL REPORT

## **Grantee: Lake of the Ozarks Council of Local Governments**

Lake of the Ozarks Council of Local Governments is the Regional Planning Commission that serves the counties of Camden, Laclede, Miller and Morgan located in central Missouri.

## **Project Number: ED16DEN3020044**

This project progress report covers April 1, 2018 through March 31, 2019.

## **Overview: LOCLG's CEDS 2017**

Lake of the Ozarks Council of Local Governments (LOCLG) completed the region's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) in early 2017. The CEDS was approved by EDA on March 6, 2017. Since the approval of the CEDS, the staff at LOCLG along with our planning partners have worked to implement the strategies outlined in the approved CEDS. Our planning partners donate time; help develop and implement programs and projects that impact the strength of the local economy. Their continued support makes the implementation of the CEDS possible, and LOCLG thanks them all for their continued efforts.

### **Planning Partners:**

- Lake of the Ozarks Regional Economic Development Council (LOREDC)
- Lebanon Regional Economic Development, Inc. (Lebanon REDI)
- Camdenton Area Chamber of Commerce
- Lake Area Chamber of Commerce
- Lake West Chamber of Commerce
- Lebanon Area Chamber of Commerce
- SCORE
- Volunteers that support our Economic Development Strategy Advisory Committee (EDAC)

**Comprehensive  
Economic  
Development  
Strategy (CEDS)**

**Vision Statement**

Continued economic development in the LOCLG region with the promotion of tourism, light industry, entrepreneurship and collaboration between public and private entities leading to creation and retention of sustainable jobs and stimulating economic growth

# CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE REGION

On January 22, 2019, Lake of the Ozarks Council of Local Governments celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of serving our region of Camden, Laclede, Miller and Morgan counties. LOCLG invited all our Board Members, our Community Leaders, our Planning Partners and the Public to join us in the celebration.

*Celebrating 50 Years of Service to  
Camden, Laclede, Miller and Morgan Counties*



Lake of the Ozarks Council of Local Governments invites you  
to join us to celebrate our 50th Anniversary!

This was a tremendous milestone for the agency, in the recognition of the work, we do regionally and the impact it makes on the communities and counties that we serve.

LOCLG especially thanks the Economic Development Administration for the support that is provided to the region in regard to economic development projects and support in our economic development efforts. This report reflects the activities, projects and programs that we are able to support with our EDA investment, with our EDA Planning Grant.

# LOCAL ECONOMY

The region has experienced growth in manufacturing, tourism, specialty housing projects, retirement population, and employment opportunities.

- Adient in Eldon, has expanded their manufacturing base and employment opportunities.
- Quaker Windows, has purchased a large tract of land in Eldon and is building a new manufacturing plant that will create 300 + new jobs. The new plant is slated to open in the fall of 2019.
- A senior housing complex has been built in Osage Beach, from independent living to assisted living being offered in this upscale community development the Arrowhead Centre.
- Two large boat dealerships were constructed in the Lake Ozark area.
- The tourism hub, in the lake region being the Bagnell Dam Strip has experienced some investment with several restaurants renovating older properties to a more modern inviting feel and atmosphere.
- New tourism development in the lake area with the construction of a new luxury condo complex the Cyress at the Lake.
- There has been a flurry of business interest and investment into the Medical Marijuana industry, with the recent legalization. The state is still writing the rules, but this will soon be big industry in Missouri.

Retail in the region has suffered some loss of jobs with several store closures within the region. Many of these stores being in the Premium Outlet Mall, including Gold Toe, Kay Jewelry, Bon Worth, and Rue 21. Three stand alone retail establishments closed during this year as well, including Staples, Saffees, and Ozark Land. The state employment office was not able to determine the exact amount of jobs lost, but it was estimated at 28-35 jobs in the retail sector were lost with the closure of these businesses.

New retail growth has been experienced with Ashley Furniture moving into the Stone Crest Mall in Lake Ozark. Local retail has been impacted by the internet growth and the ease of ordering items online. The growth in local retail is in large furniture and boats.

Many businesses are not able to fill the employment needs within the region. Qualified applicants and experience continue to be an issue with employment. The opportunities abound, but the employee engagement is limited. The school districts and economic development groups within the region have been working hard to fill the gap with a variety of programs to help both the students and the employers within the region.

# EMPLOYER AND EMPLOYEE DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

## Go-Caps

- Sponsored by the Lebanon Area Chamber of Commerce
- Five Schools are actively participating
- 29 students participating (2018)
- Three sectors of opportunity, healthcare, manufacturing, and business
- Three scholarships awarded to students to continue education while working
- Two \$500 stipends awarded to help students continue participation
- Two job offers were made
- Three paid internships were also offered

## Apprenticeship-Missouri Registered Apprenticeship Program

- Sponsored by Eldon Career Center, Eldon Career College, Lake Career Technical Center and LOREDC
- First youth apprenticeship initiative in the State of Missouri
- Only 10 of these programs currently are in Missouri, and our region has two of them
- Average starting wage for students in this program \$11.00 -\$15.00 per hour
- Core objectives include employer involvement, structured on-the-job learning, related education and instruction, certifications, and the national occupational credential
- Primary industries include, construction and trades (carpenter), computer specialist (IT generalist), transportation technicians (automotive technicians) and advanced manufacturing (welder and marine technician)

## Mentoring-Student and Business Community Partnership

- Sponsored by School of the Osage and LOREDC
- Each student is matched with an adult mentor (strength finder is used to make the match)
- The student is intended to stay with the mentor for the four years of high school
- Includes job shadowing, and building soft skills (including interpersonal relationship building)
- Goal setting, short term and long terms goals are established
- Building personal resumes, job applications, and college applications
- Defining career paths based on student's areas of interest
- Communication skills both verbal and writing skills are practiced

## Certified Work Ready Community

- Sponsored by Lake of the Ozarks Council of Local Governments (LOCLG)
- EDAC Sub-Committee Chaired by Kathy Hueste, Assistant Director of the Lake Area Career and Technical Center, and K.C. Cloke, Executive Director of the Lake Area Chamber of Commerce
- ACT Certified Work Ready Community initiative, where testing results in a certificate that shares the skill sets that a potential employee has and allows employers to recognize the certification and skill sets associated with the score of platinum, gold, silver and bronze
- A majority of the school districts are actively participating and testing their students
- Employers are recognizing the need to have an employee skills assessment that is reliable and helps with the hiring process

## Missouri Job Center

- The local job center has responded to the needs in the community and has opened satellite offices in Eldon and Versailles the primary job center is located in Camdenton, MO
- In collaboration with the Camdenton Area Chamber of Commerce, the Lake Area Chamber of Commerce, the Lake West Chamber of Commerce, and Lake of the Ozarks Council of Local Governments a local job fair is hosted free of charge for both employers and employees
- Occupational Skills Training available
- Re-entry program has been a new focus, getting the previously incarcerated individuals back into the workforce
- Offers the ACT test for the Certified Work Ready Community program, the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC)
- Emergency assistance, including transportation and childcare expenses
- Employment opportunities
- Educational opportunities

## Missouri Economic Development Council (MEDC) Workforce Development Committee

- Sponsored by MEDC with the committee consisting of education, higher education, private and business sector interests, Regional Planning Commissions as well as state employment staff
- Education awareness to employers and employees of opportunities available, privately and through state programs
- Developing tools that can be shared and implemented for workforce development

## LOCLG Region's Annual Average Unemployment

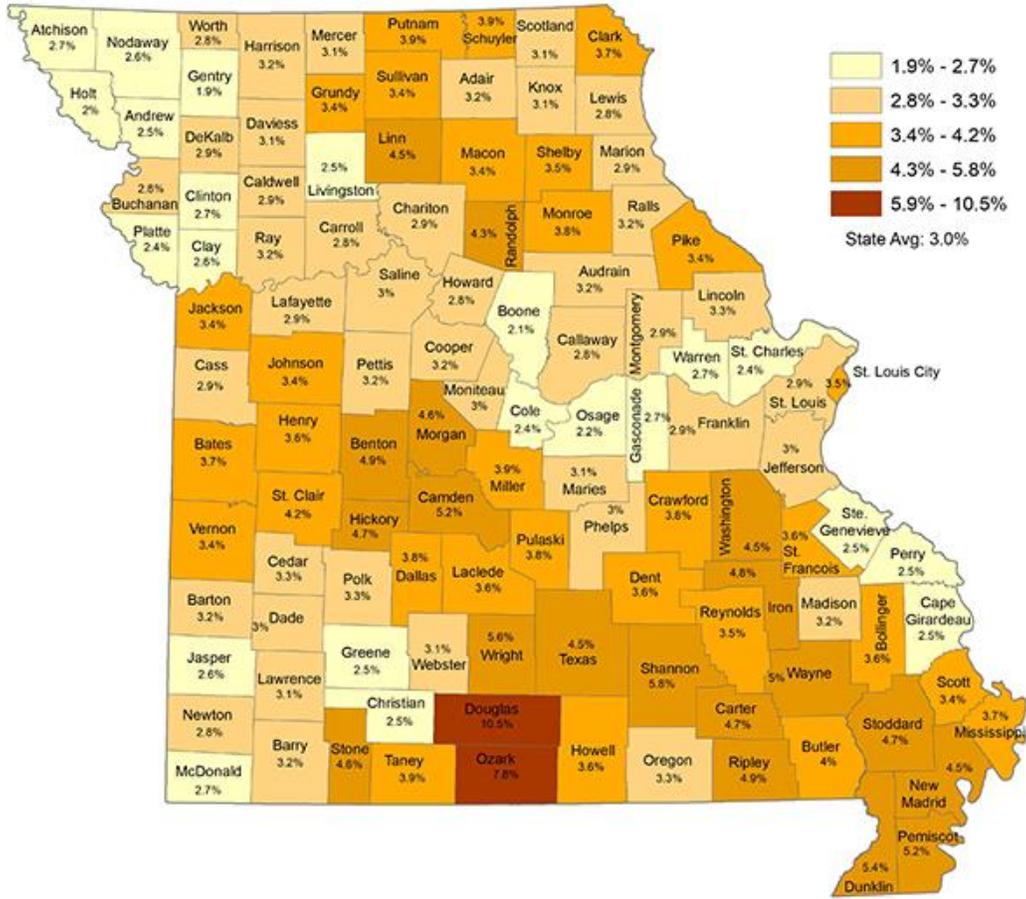
The annual average unemployment rate during 2018 reflects the state and local unemployment rates which are considerably low at 3.3% for Missouri and 3.9% to 4.5% in the LOCLG region. Morgan County continues to have the highest percentage of unemployment. This is not seasonally adjusted, but rather just the annual average unemployment rate.

LOCATION	2015	2016	2017	2018
Missouri	5.0%	4.6%	3.8%	3.3%
Camden	6.5%	5.8%	4.9%	4.4%
Laclede	6.4%	5.6%	4.9%	3.9%
Miller	6.0%	5.3%	4.6%	3.9%
Morgan	6.7%	5.8%	5.1%	4.5%

Source: <https://www.missourieconomy.org/indicators/laus/index.stm>

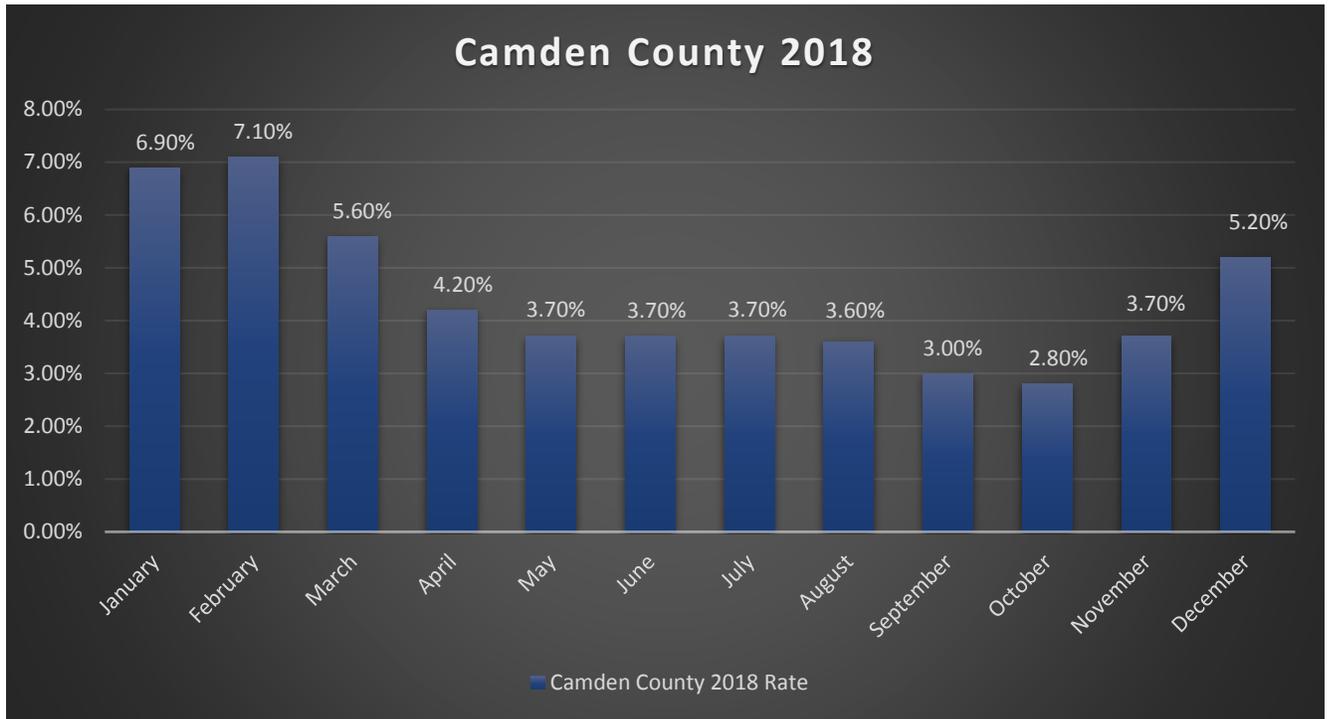
# Missouri Counties Unemployment Rates-December 2018

Unemployment Rates - December 2018  
Not Seasonally Adjusted

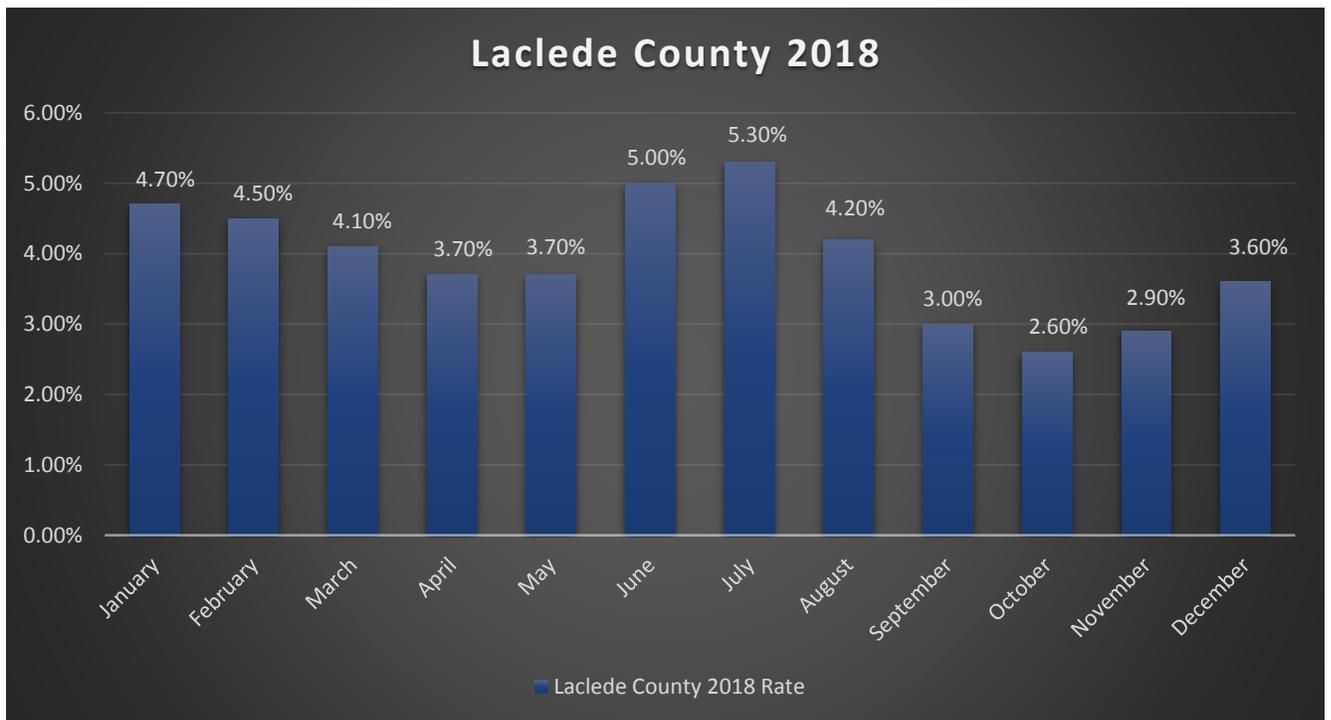


## Monthly Unemployment Rate County Comparison

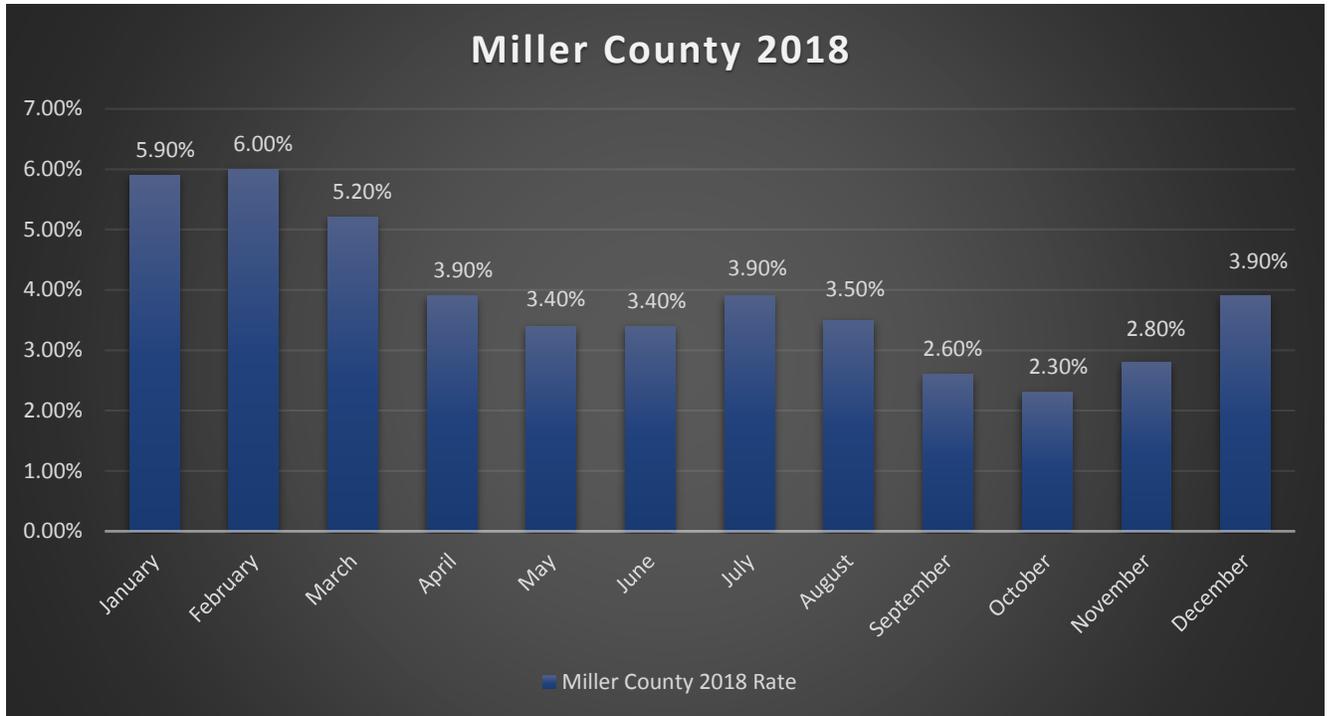
### Camden County



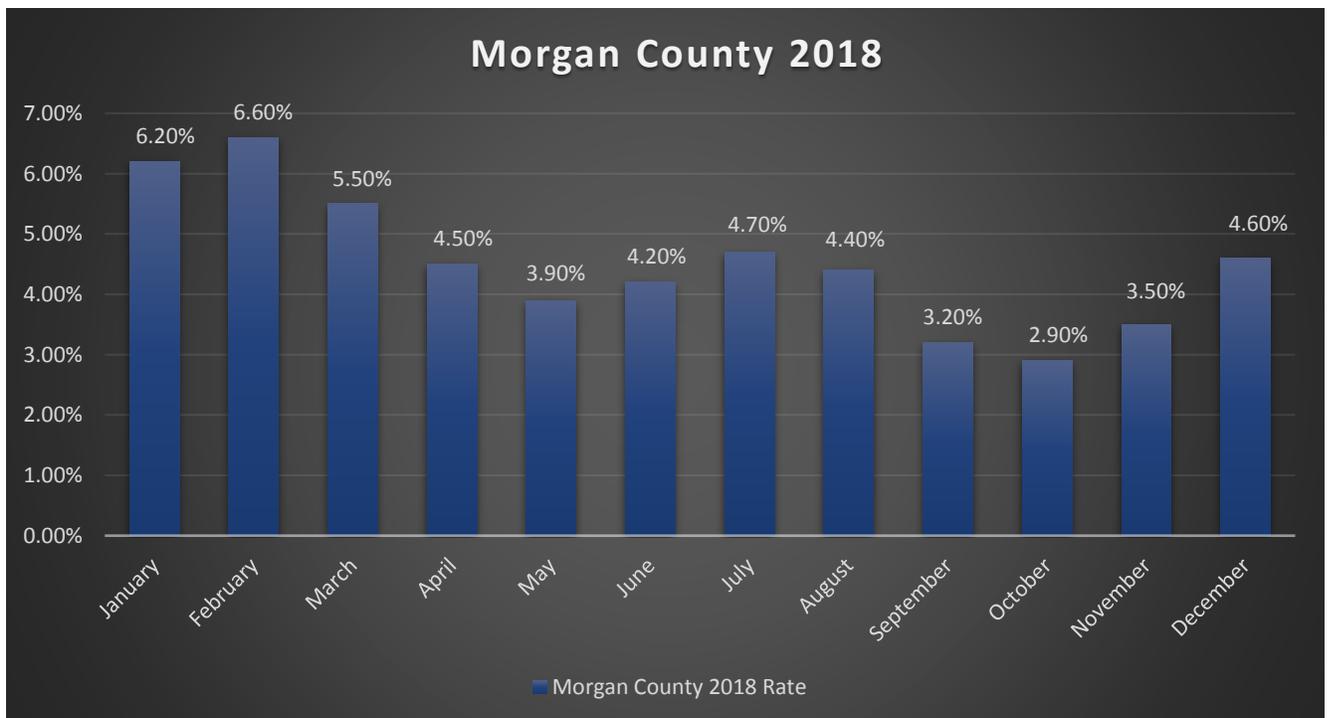
### Laclede County



## Miller County



## Morgan County



Seasonal employment in Camden, Miller and Morgan continues to be challenge with the unemployment rate spiking during the winter months of January, February, and March due to the tourism-based economy that supports those counties and communities around Lake of the Ozarks. Finding alternate year-round employment opportunities will continue to be a priority within the region. Extending the tourist season into October, November, and December during the holidays has helped with extending the tourist season, but the challenge continues to find ways to extend that into January, February and March.

## LOCLG's Board of Directors 2019

Lake of the Ozarks Council of Local Governments has experienced a few changes in our Board of Directors as a result of the recent elections this past fall. This has changed the composition of the governing body as of January 1, 2019.

**Government Representatives** *(must be 51%, but no more than 65%) Persons representing general purpose units of government, this includes elected officials such as county commissions, mayors, city/town council members, tribal chairman, and/or tribal council members. Any employee of a general-purpose unit of government may be appointed to serve on the board in this capacity.*

### Current Board of Directors 2019

Board Member Name	Jurisdiction	Position
Greg Hasty	Camden County	Presiding Commissioner
John Olivarri	City of Osage Beach	Mayor
Jeff Hancock	City of Camdenton	City Administrator
Randy Angst	Laclede County	Presiding Commissioner
Chuck Jordan	City of Lebanon	Councilman
Tom Wright	Miller County	Presiding Commissioner
Walter Moreland	City of Iberia	Mayor
Dave Van Dee	City of Lake Ozark	City Administrator
Debbie Hurr	City of Eldon	City Administrator
Edye Long	City of Iberia	City Clerk
Tony Stephens	Morgan County	Presiding Commissioner
Allen Kimberling	City of Laurie	Mayor
Roger Corbin	City Sunrise Beach	City Planner

## Non-Government Representatives, Private Sector Representatives and Stakeholder Organization Representatives *(must be 35%, but no more than 49%)*

*Private Sector Representative means, with respect to any for-profit enterprise, any senior management official or executive holding a key decision-making position.*

### Private Sector Representatives

Board Member Name	Representing	Position
Joyce Chorpening	Retired	Volunteer
Lawrence Rifenburg	Rifenburg Construction	Proprietor
Erik Svoboda	Rock Island Insurance	Insurance Agent

*Stakeholder Organization Representative includes four subcategories, including Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, Post-Secondary Education, Workforce Development Groups, and Labor Groups. There must be at least one representative from any (not necessarily each) of the subcategories.*

### Stakeholder Representatives

Board Member Name	Organization	Position
Trish Creach	Camdenton Area Chamber	Executive Director
Bruce Mitchell	SCORE	Volunteer Coordinator
Darrell Pollock	Lebanon Area Chamber	Executive Director
K.C. Cloke	Lake Area Chamber	Executive Director
Paul Hooper	Lake West Chamber	Executive Director

- **Camden County Representation 5 members**
- **Laclede County Representation 4 members**
- **Miller County Representation 7 members**
- **Morgan County Representation 5 members**

Representation Calculations		
Government Representatives (51-65%)	13	62%
Non-Government Representatives (35-49%)	8	38%
Private Sector Representatives (at least 1)	(3)	
Stakeholder Organization Representation (at Least 1)	(5)	

## LOCLG's CEDS Strategy Committee 2019

The CEDS Strategy Committee has mostly remained the same during this grant cycle. The Committee has a good representation across many sectors and interests within the region. Participation in the meetings have been steady with a strong interest in the progress in the CEDS implementation.

### Current CEDS Strategy Committee Members 2019

*Private Sector Representatives: Any Senior Management official or executive holding key decision-making position, with respect to any for-profit enterprise.*

CEDS Committee Member	Company/Enterprise	Position
Lori Hoelscher	Ameren Missouri	Customer Relations Manager
Lance Smith	Laurie Care Center	Administrator
Jeff Segin	McClure Engineering	Developer
Chris Foster	Analog, LLC	Small Business Owner
Erik Svoboda	Rock Island Insurance	Insurance Agent
David Crane	Culligan Water	Small Business Owner
Corey tenBensel	Co-Mo Electric	District Coordinator
Mitch Shields	Lake Regional Health	Program Coordinator
Matt Schrimpf	Berkshire Hathaway	Realtor
John Perkins	Inspire Capital Corp	Manager

***Representatives of Other Economic Interests:** Persons who provide additional representation of the main economic interests of the region. These may include, but are not limited to: public officials, community leaders, representatives of workforce development boards, institutions of higher education, minority and labor groups and private individuals.*

<b>CEDS Committee Member</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Position</b>
Dave Van Dee	City of Lake Ozark	City Administrator
Jeana Woods	City of Osage Beach	City Administrator
Jeff Hancock	City of Camdenton	City Administrator
Trish Creach	Camdenton Area Chamber	Executive Director
K.C. Cloke	Lake Area Chamber	Executive Director
Lynn Wehmeier	Missouri DED Workforce	Workforce Development
Brian Thompson	Lebanon REDI	Executive Director
Paul Hooper	Lake West Chamber	Executive Director
Tim Jacobson	Convention & Visitor	Executive Director
Michele Kroll	MU Extension	Community Development
Kathy Hueste	LCTC/Education	Assistant Director

- **Camden County Representation 9 members**
- **Laclede County Representation 1 members**
- **Miller County Representation 8 members**
- **Morgan County Representation 3 members**

The new CEDS guidelines eliminated the rule requiring the majority of the CEDS committee members represent the private sector. This has allowed more representatives who wanted to participate in the past who have not been able to because we did not have any available seats for the representatives of economic interests. LOCLG will continue to try to have a balance of both categories, but the new guidelines allow us more flexibility in engaging more members who want to actively participate in the CEDS implementation.

Lake of the Ozarks Council of Local Governments maintains a CEDS committee to help implement the local Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). This standing committee is referred to as our Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC). The committee meets every other month to discuss the progress, learn about new programs and projects that are being done within the region and offer support to groups or organizations in regard to economic development projects.

### **EDAC Meeting Dates & Meeting Information**

- **April 3, 2018 Camden County**

The EDAC members met at Laclede Electric Cooperative Community Room. Ms. Conner presented information that was included in the EDA Annual Progress Report to the committee members. An update on the CEDS action worksheet and adoptions of the action items by communities and economic development organizations was also reviewed. There was an in-depth look at the actions that have already been adopted and identified as priorities for the region.

- **June 5, 2018 Laclede County**

The EDAC members met at the Laclede County Library Community Room. Sharon Gulick and Pat Curry from MU Extension presented data collected from the Rural Missouri Survey 2017. Mr. Curry shared that more than 8,000 comments were submitted through the Rural Missouri Survey. During 2008-2010 there were many academic papers published directed towards the urban communities and the economic impact of the recession. The purpose of this project was to see more about how the rural areas and how they were impacted and how to build a more resilient economy in the rural areas.

The Camdenton Area Chamber shared information on one of their new projects called the HUB. The Chamber Executive Director, Trish Creach shared how the chamber was working on an incubator for the Camden, Miller and Morgan counties. They have a working committee to help develop the HUB incubator. They have decided to start the project with the development of a "Virtual Incubator" which will be a one-stop shop for

local entrepreneurs who need help with their business idea. The physical HUB incubator is definitely in the plans, and the committee is working towards that ultimate goal.

Steve Castener with EDA shared with the EDAC members funding opportunities, especially for the incubator project and other EDA priorities.

- **August 7, 2018 Miller County**

The EDAC members met at the MoDOT Construction Office Community Room. One of the action items identified in the CEDS 2017 was Agritourism. Many of the EDAC members were curious about what that really entailed and how could this be incorporated into our already existing tourism-based economy. Ms. Dori Wright gave a presentation that she had given at the Missouri Annual Agritourism Convention. Ms. Wright is a local business owner, and has worked with the Farm Bureau efforts in regard to Agritourism and sits on the Missouri State Agritourism Committee. Ms. Wright and the Agritourism Committee were instrumental in passing the Agritourism Promotion Act, to help protect and promote farmers and ranchers seeking additional revenue sources while promoting the agriculture industry and the products and services they offer. Ms. Wright gave many great examples of local businesses that have been established around agritourism.

Mr. Corey tenBensel presented information on the upcoming Launch U New Business Development Training being offered by State Fair Community College, Lake of the Ozarks Council of Local Governments, the Camdenton Area Chamber, Lake Area Chamber, Lake West Chamber, SCORE, LOREDC and Co-Mo Electric Cooperative. The program is set up to help entrepreneurs launch their business idea.

- **October 2, 2018 Morgan County**

The EDAC members met at the Lake of the Ozarks Board of Realtors Community Room. The President of the Lake of the Ozarks Board of Realtors gave a presentation on the housing and real estate market within the region. The real estate market in 2018 is better than it has been in some time. Properties are selling at 96% of the asking sales

price at an average sales price of \$201,000, which is up 4% from 2017. The median price is about \$167,000 within the three-county region of Camden, Miller and Morgan counties. There are currently 273 commercial properties on the market.

Mr. Paul Hooper, Executive Director with the Lake West Chamber of Commerce gave an update on the economy on the west of the lake area. Mr. Hooper stated that the economy is doing well on the westside of the lake. Mr. Hooper stated that workforce is a primary concern of all businesses in the lake area.

### • December 4, 2018 Camden County

The EDAC members met at the Laclede Electric Cooperative Community Room. At this EDAC meeting, LOCLG hosted a Round-Table Discussion on all the workforce development activities that are being done within the region.

- Go-Caps
- Apprenticeship
- Mentoring
- Certified Work Ready Community
- Missouri Job Center
- Missouri Economic Development Council Workforce Development

After all the presentations and discussion there was a point where each group expressed where they needed additional help with implementation of their individual programs. It was the goal of the Round-Table Discussion to help each of these groups work together and share information on each of the programs as each of them have a unique niche, and sharing will enhance each of the programs and the opportunity for both employers and employees to take advantage of the programs.

# COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

## Work Program Development

Each year LOCLG Board Members, Staff and Community Leaders share with us the needs within the region to help us develop our work program for our EDA Planning Grant.



## Community Needs

Our member jurisdictions share with LOCLG Staff the needs within their counties and communities. These needs are documented, and possible grant opportunities are identified. Many of the needs require additional planning and exploratory committees being developed so the community has a support mechanism to follow through with the needs and potential funding opportunities. LOCLG Staff works closely with our communities to assist with technical assistance, grant writing, administration, comprehensive plan development, specialty studies, community surveys, GIS custom mapping, education workshops, data collection and research, and census data analysis. Our EDA Scope of Work has been developed to help us support those needs that have been identified within our counties and communities.

# 2019 SCOPE OF WORK ACCOMPLISHMENTS

EDA Planning Grant Application

2019 SCOPE OF WORK

Lake of the Ozarks Council of Local Governments (LOCLG)

Project # EDA16DEN3020044

## SCOPE OF WORK

The recipient will perform the following activities:

### 1. STANDARD WORK PROGRAM ELEMENTS

A. *Provide technical assistance to local member jurisdictions as requested, in areas related to economic development planning, business finance, project implementation, infrastructure development, census data, grant writing and project management.*

#### • Accomplishments

LOCLG continues to collect the commercial real estate data for LOIS an online information database used by site selectors to determine available property suitable for their RFI. The data collection includes developing a complete inventory of commercial real estate for sale or lease. Collecting the details of the property to accurately populate the site selection tools within LOIS, meeting with the City to discuss the possibility of these properties to be developed or redeveloped. Any incentives available are also documented. The City's input is important to the process to know whether that community has the capacity to offer financial incentives or important infrastructure to the site, if it is not already available.

LOCLG continues to update and maintain the Lake of the Ozarks Regional Economic Development Council (LOREDC) demographic profile. The profile is updated semiannually when the new data sets become available.

Worked with the LOREDC team on a "Mock" site selection exercise, completing the Request for Information (RFI) on two sites for the region. Missouri Economic Development Council (MEDC) offered this opportunity to rural communities that have never had the opportunity to work with professional site selectors to help them understand what is needed and how to show your community has potential for project selection.

LOCLG is working with the Missouri Food Bank from Columbia; they are establishing an advisory council in the lake area to help assist in areas of need throughout Camden, Miller and Morgan Counties. Ms. Conner is a member of the advisory council.

LOCLG is working with the City of Iberia Food Bank and Fellowship Hall to expand their facility and services they provide the low-income individuals and families in Miller County.

LOCLG is working with the Camden Manor Apartment on a Federal Home Loan Grant application to fund the much-needed repairs and maintenance on the property.

- **Deliverables**

LOIS site has the commercial real estate sites available within the region listed and populated with all the pertinent information.

LOREDC has an updated demographic profile to share with site selectors and include in all RFI requests within the region.

The lessons learned and the feedback from the MOCK RFI, and the site visit was extremely helpful as we assist our communities market the available commercial real estate. The revamping of some of the demographics and data collected locally will be implemented in 2019-2020 based on the information that the site selectors wanted to review.

- **Difficulties**

No difficulties experienced on this task.

***B. Work with Partners of other organizations in local economic development planning efforts.***

- **Accomplishments**

LOCLG has been working through our Certified Work Ready Committee (CWRC), which is a subcommittee of the EDAC, to continue to support the ACT Certified Work Ready Community designation. The CWRC meets monthly to assess the progress, determine new strategies and find new resources to promote the acceptance of the certification by both employers and employees.

LOCLG in partnership with the Camdenton Area Chamber, the Lake Area Chamber, the Lake West Chamber and the local Job Center offer a "Hiring Fair" on an annual basis to

help local businesses that are seasonal fill, their summer positions, and year-round businesses fill any vacancies they may have.

LOCLG in collaboration with Sustainable Ozarks Development (SOP), Lebanon REDI and Meremac Regional Planning Commission (MRPC) are working through a planning exercise that supports the Fort Leonard Wood military base and developing a strategy for the region.

LOCLG worked with SOP to identify areas of impact in Laclede County that would fit into the Defense Community Infrastructure Legislation; it was anticipated that additional funding would become available through this legislation.

- **Deliverables**

In an effort to support the local CWRC effort, two websites have been designed to show the progress and highlight the employers who are participating.

Websites: [www.LOZWorkReady.com](http://www.LOZWorkReady.com) and [www.tri-countycertifiedworkreadycommunity.com](http://www.tri-countycertifiedworkreadycommunity.com)

March 28, 2019 Hiring Fair for Camden, Laclede, Miller and Morgan counties.

- **Difficulties**

The CWRC continues to struggle to find a way for to reach the transitioning workforce and encourage them to take the ACT Work Keys test.

***C. Work as a member of the Missouri Association of Council of Governments to support all economic development efforts and legislation that will enhance the business community and employment base of the State of Missouri. Continue to actively participate in meetings and activities, which include coordination with other Economic Development Districts in the State of Missouri.***

- **Accomplishments**

Ms. Conner is the current president of the Missouri Association of Council of Governments (MACOG).

LOCLG participates in all the MACOG Board meetings.

LOCLG also participates in all the MACOG Transportation Planner's meetings.

MACOG has several statewide initiatives that are helping the communities that have been impacted by disaster DR-4317. The Statewide grant program has produced many great projects that allow the communities to plan for and implement strategies to help them become more resilient.

The LOCLG region has two (2) small projects:

- Miller County EMD Transition Plan
- NFIP Education and Community Engagement Project

Ms. Conner has recently been asked to sit on the 911 Committee that will help the 911 Commission determine the best options in implementing the 911 legislation from 2018 in which it requires coordination among the 911 centers. MACOG has an important role in assisting with the recommendations.

MACOG supports the professional and educational development of all the RPCs Executive Directors with an Annual Professional Development Retreat where information is presented on the newest programs, best practices and sharing of information to help support the Directors and providing information that will assist them in their daily work.

- **Deliverables**

Continued involvement with MACOG is an essential support mechanism for professional growth and statewide planning initiatives.

Miller County EMD Transition Plan completed, and Miller County was successful in hiring a qualified applicant to fill the vacancy from the previous director's retirement.

The 911 Coordination Committee is working hard to support the needs of the 911 Commission.

MACOG Professional Development Retreat October 3-5, 2018.

- **Difficulties**

No difficulties experienced on this task.

## **2. UPDATE COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDS)**

- A. *Continue to engage the CEDS Economic Development Advisory Committee to update and implement the LOCLG CEDS.***

- **Accomplishments**

LOCLG continues to facilitate the Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC), as they are the CEDS Committee. While the CEDS was approved in 2017, LOCLG continues to seek additional collaboration in the CEDS Action Items that were identified during the CEDS planning. LOCLG supports and assists organizations with the implementation of CEDS Action Items they have adopted and are working on implementation.

- **Deliverables**

The EDAC members are highly engaged and participate in many of the projects and programs that are being developed by LOCLG, and all our planning partners, including the Camdenton Area Chamber, the Lake Area Chamber, the Lake West Chamber, LOREDC, Lebanon REDI. The committee met five (5) times during this grant cycle, a complete list of dates and meeting topics are discussed on pages 17-19 of this report.

- **Difficulties**

No difficulties experienced on this task.

***B. Develop priority strategies and support networks necessary to continue implementation of the CEDS.***

- **Accomplishments**

LOCLG compiled the list of action items that were adopted by each organization and based on the ranking have identified these actions from the CEDS 2017 as “High” priorities.

**Entrepreneurism Strategy**

**1.3**

Promote housing that will fit the needs of the permanent residents.

**1.4**

Promote and encourage the development of recreational trails and other community beautification projects, including arts and cultural activities.

**1.6**

Encourage and seek funding for the expansion of broadband access within the region.

### **Resiliency Strategy**

#### **2.5**

Foster business development, recruitment, and entrepreneurs that can provide year-round employment opportunities.

#### **2.6**

Working with local community groups and projects to support all seasons events throughout the year.

#### **2.9**

Encourage continual improvements to infrastructure that provides resiliency and sustainability to important roads, bridges and community facilities, including water, wastewater, utilities, and broadband.

### **Workforce Strategy**

#### **3.1**

Provide opportunities for area high school students to explore regional career opportunities through practical work experiences.

#### **3.4**

Educate local students on local career opportunities.

#### **3.7**

Partner with Central Region Workforce Investment Board on efforts to make the region more attractive to employers (ie: Certified Work Ready Community Program).

### **Financial Strategy**

#### **4.1**

Engage SCORE and other economic development groups in educational activities and mentoring opportunities that share much-needed information to startup businesses.

#### **4.5**

Encourage community leaders to support affordable housing opportunities for both primary home purchases and rental units.

### **Social Capital Strategy**

#### **5.2**

Support and participate in meeting with local businesses to learn more about the needs and look for opportunities for providing support to local business retention and expansion.

#### **5.3**

Foster working groups and business relationships with existing entrepreneurs, schools and economic development groups to increase cross-business development and workforce support.

#### 5.4

Working with local business leaders and local schools to develop a robust internship program that will support local businesses and workforce needs.

- **Deliverables**

Listed next to each priority strategy is the organizations that is currently working on that strategy and the current status of that strategy.

### Entrepreneurism Strategy

#### 1.3

Promote housing that will fit the needs of the permanent residents. LOREDC has a standing housing committee that is working with developers and builders to meet the housing needs within our region. There are several builders who are working with the apprenticeship program to increase the availability of the workforce that have building skills. The Eldon School District has increased their building trades classes and is currently building a house that will be sold once completed. They then will use those proceeds to start another house.

#### 1.4

Promote and encourage the development of recreational trails and other community beautification projects, including arts and cultural activities. The City of Eldon and the City of Versailles both have working committees that are developing plans to build a trail on the Rock Island Railroad site. The Camdenton Area Chamber and the City of Camdenton have created an art guild and work with the local artists on promoting the region, and the events and activities that are connected to arts and culture.

#### 1.6

Encourage and seek funding for the expansion of broadband access within the region. LOCLG is working with Camden County on applying for a USDA grant to expand broadband access within the region. There have been several small wireless businesses that have come to the area to fill in some of the gaps in service. Co-Mo Electric has completely built out in their region offering fiber to the home with 1 gigabit of service. This is the only electric cooperative that has been able to successfully integrate broadband to their electric customers.

### Resiliency Strategy

#### 2.7

Foster business development, recruitment, and entrepreneurs that can provide year-round employment opportunities. SCORE, the Camdenton Area Chamber, the Lake Area Chamber, the Lake West Chamber, LOCLG, LOREDC and the Eldon Development Corporation all have offered entrepreneurship training events throughout the region.

Seasonal businesses are still the predominant type of business, but still a work in progress.

### **2.8**

Working with local community groups and projects to support all seasons events throughout the year. All the Chambers do an excellent job on pulling together a number of all seasons events. There is something nearly every weekend, and the holidays are always highlighted with some event that brings tourist to the lake during the winter months. We still need to find events that can be in January, February, and March, but most folks are wintering in Florida, instead of visiting the lake region.

### **2.9**

Encourage continual improvements to infrastructure that provides resiliency and sustainability to important roads, bridges and community facilities, including water, wastewater, utilities, and broadband. LOCLG works with the Missouri Department of Transportation, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Missouri Department of Economic Development, USDA and other organizations to support projects within our region where grant funding can be used to support roads, bridges, community facilities, water and wastewater, utilities and broadband projects.

## **Workforce Strategy**

### **3.1**

Provide opportunities for area high school students to explore regional career opportunities through practical work experiences. As referenced on pages 7-8 of this report there are a number of workforce development initiatives that are being done within the region, with the cooperation of many organizations with definite success.

### **3.4**

Educate local students on local career opportunities. Also see pages 7-8 of this report for more details on the programs available within the region.

### **3.7**

Partner with Central Region Workforce Investment Board on efforts to make the region more attractive to employers (ie: Certified Work Ready Community Program). See pages 7-8 of this report.

## **Financial Strategy**

### **4.1**

Engage SCORE and other economic development groups in educational activities and mentoring opportunities that share much-needed information to startup businesses. SCORE, Launch U Project, LOCLG, LOREDC, Lebanon REDI, SBTDC, State Fair Community College, SBA, additional information on specific projects are found in our scope of work details on projects completed.

#### 4.5

Encourage community leaders to support affordable housing opportunities for both primary home purchases and rental units. LOREDC has a standing housing committee that is working with developers and builders to meet the housing needs within our region. There are several builders who are working with the apprenticeship program to increase the availability of the workforce that have building skills. The Eldon School District has increased their building trades classes and is currently building a house that will be sold once completed. They then will use those proceeds to start another house.

### Social Capital Strategy

#### 5.2

Support and participate in meeting with local businesses to learn more about the needs and look for opportunities for providing support to local business retention and expansion. LOREDC has in the past supported the business retention and expansion efforts within the region. They continue to seek additional ways to be able to do this effectively. The Eldon Development Corporation in the City of Eldon works closely with their large employers and try to meet the needs of the business community. Matt Davis with the Eldon School District and the president of the Eldon Development Corporation helps connect the employers and the students to assist in the workforce needs within Eldon.

#### 5.3

Foster working groups and business relationships with existing entrepreneurs, schools and economic development groups to increase cross-business development and workforce support. See pages 7-8 with a list of activities that are being done within the region.

#### 5.4

Working with local business leaders and local schools to develop a robust internship program that will support local businesses and workforce needs. Also see pages 7-8 for a list of activities that support this action item.

- **Difficulties**

No difficulties experienced on this task.

### **3. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INFRASTRUCTURE**

- A. *Provide technical assistance on a project basis to secure funding for the development of public infrastructure, business financing and other elements necessary to support new business development or expansion of existing businesses.***

- **Accomplishments**

LOCLG Executive Director attended the Heartland Economic Development Training in Missouri, on April 22, 2018-April 26, 2018 to help fortify the opportunities that are available and learn more about what other regions are doing to support their economic development efforts.

LOCLG is working with the Camdenton Area Chamber as a resource partner for the Virtual Incubator the HUB.

LOCLG is also working with Missouri Source Link as a resource partner, providing a network of support functions that businesses can search for all available resources in Missouri.

- **Deliverables**

LOCLG is listed as a resource partner for both the HUB and Missouri Source Link.

- **Difficulties**

LOCLG needs to expand the network opportunities to identify more business development growth opportunities.

***B. Support and assist with applying for funding (when available) for the deployment of rural broadband service within the region.***

- **Accomplishments**

Camden County, Missouri asked LOCLG to look into the Rural Broadband funding with USDA to see if there would be an opportunity to expand the network within Camden County. LOCLG worked with several providers to see if supporting the expansion was a possibility, and reviewed all the grant guidelines to apply for the funding.

- **Deliverables**

None at this time.

- **Difficulties**

Based on the broadband coverage maps of Camden County, the county has almost complete coverage of broadband availability, regardless of what we hear from the public. Until they change the deliverable speed, we will be faced with the reality that the grants available will not support the additional development of broadband in areas with limited coverage.

**C. *Explore options and provide technical assistance to improve local business development, including, but not limited to tax incentive packages, creation of special districts, including economic development associations.***

- **Accomplishments**

LOCLG provided our members information on possible legislative changes to the TIF requirements in Missouri.

LOCLG provided our members information on possible legislative changes to the special districts and the allowable sales taxes in those districts in Missouri.

LOCLG provided detailed maps to the communities that could be eligible for the Opportunity Zone applications. Two of the communities submitted applications and become Opportunity Zones.

- **Deliverables**

In Laclede County, there was a large Opportunity Zone approved. There was also one in Camden County in the Sunrise Beach Area.

- **Difficulties**

There were several other communities in the region that could have been eligible for the Opportunity Zone applications, but chose not to apply.

**D. *Identify potential Brownfields sites regionally and continue to work on the Brownfields site already in the process of redevelopment.***

- **Accomplishments**

The City of Iberia Brownfield Project located at 835 State Highway 42, Iberia is still a work in progress. The Phase I and Phase II have been completed and updated, because the original reports had passed the usable date for the EIERA Grant Application updated reports were required. Worked with the City to determine the level of cleanup they wanted to pursue and submitted a grant application to EIERA for the complete removal of the contaminations found on the site. Both EPA and EIERA agree that this is an eligible project and is willing to fund the project in the amount requested \$50,000.

Met with the owner of Dave's Hideaway, a small boutique motel in Camdenton in regard to the large number of old tires that were down the back embankment. The owner for the motel was not the owner of the property that needed to be cleaned up.

However, the view was disturbing to the clients of the motel. Provided information on what was available to clean up the property.

- **Deliverables**

None at this time.

- **Difficulties**

EIERA Board of Directors has recently experienced a resignation of a Board member. They currently do not have enough Board members to have a quorum to make any decisions and awards. The Board members are appointed by the Governor so EIERA will need to wait to fund this project until after they have enough Board members to make the final decision on funding.

Dave's Hideaway project could not move forward because of ownership issues with property. The possible funding sources did not fit the type of project this was with private property ownership.

#### **4. WATER/WASTEWATER/SEWER IMPROVEMENTS**

##### **A. *Prepare and administer grant applications on behalf of communities needing improvements.***

- **Accomplishments**

The City of Iberia is experiencing some flooding issues with their West Main Sewer Line and pump pit. LOCLG is currently working on locating a grant that will fund the engineering study to determine what needs to be done to correct the flooding issues at this location.

Working with the City of Laurie to complete an income survey for the proposed O Road water and sewer line expansion. The areas does not qualify based on the census data for any grant programs. There are a number of business locations and second home owners also along the proposed water and sewer line expansion. Based on our preliminary findings it is going to be difficult to secure any grant funding for this particular area.

- **Deliverables**

None at this time.

- **Difficulties**

With a large number of second home owners and retirees that have substantially higher incomes, it is becoming increasingly harder to find grant funding to support the needed infrastructure in pockets of each county. While these homeowners can afford the monthly cost to support the much-needed infrastructure, it is extremely hard for local folks to afford the \$80 to \$100 monthly service costs for the basic needs of water and sewer.

***B. Work with other agencies to provide technical support to member communities.***

- **Accomplishments**

LOCLG continues to support the Sustainable Ozarks Partnership (SOP) an organization that supports the Fort Leonard Wood region. Fort Leonard Wood is a military base that has a huge economic impact within our region. SOP works on a number of initiatives that support Laclede County directly. With job losses due to the sequestration the region continues to look for ways to increase the cooperation between the local cities and the military base. The SOP Board of Directors, meets on a quarterly basis to work on the projects that have been identified in the strategic plan. Ms. Conner sits on the Board of Directors and represents the impact on the Fort on Laclede County.

- **Deliverables**

SOP continues to work closely with the Fort leadership, and specific projects have been accomplished. They have expanded the commercial airline routes that fly in and out of Fort Leonard Wood. There have been several cooperative agreements between the surrounding cities for shared services that have help both the Fort and the City obtain more cost-effective services.

- **Difficulties**

Continued support for this initiative is important for the region, as we need to be cognizant of the impact that could happen if military are proposed in the future.

***C. Promote and market the on-site wastewater grant and loan program.***

- **Accomplishments**

Several on-site wastewater grant applications were submitted within the LOCLG region, during this grant period. However, with the uncertainty to the future of the program, those applications were placed on hold. Applicants were also informed of an alternate option if they qualified for the USDA home improvement grant and loan program.

- **Deliverables**

None at this time.

- **Difficulties**

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources has discontinued the MACOG On-Site Loan and Grant Program. There were concerns from a recent EPA audit that the funds used to support this program may not have been allowed, or the rules have changed, and it is no longer allowed. The fund does not have enough money in the revolving fund to be an effective program. Alternate options are being explored at this time for MACOG to change the program funds.

## 5. TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

### A. *Provide regional transportation planning for local communities.*

- **Accomplishments**

LOCLG continues to support transportation needs within the region with a variety of activities that support road and bridge projects, safety projects, multimodal projects and the overall planning needed to support effective transportation investment. The Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) are the members from each county that support all our planning efforts. The TAC meets bi-monthly to discuss the transportation needs within the region.

TAC Meetings:

May 1, 2018

July 10, 2018

September 11, 2018

November 6, 2018

January 8, 2019

March 5, 2019

A complete update to the LOCLG Regional Transportation Plan started in June 2018 and was completed in January 2019. The plan is currently out for public review and comment.

Transportation Alternatives Program is to help communities develop alternative transportation options within their communities, including sidewalks, trails and multimodal opportunities. TAP applications completed for Village of St. Elizabeth and the City of Versailles. The Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) reviewed and prioritized all TAP applications for the region. There was a total of seven (7) TAP

applications from the LOCLG region, including: City of Eldon, City of Laurie, City of Lebanon, City of Osage Beach (2), St. Elizabeth and City of Versailles.

Worked with the City of Lebanon on a Transit Feasibility Study, this was funded through NADO with a USDA grant for public transportation planning. The study was conducted by Federal Lands Transportation Institute, Safety & Operations, Western Transportation Institute at Montana State University.

MACOG convenes the 19 Regional Planning Commissions Transportation Planners on a quarterly basis to ensure that each region has help with transportation planning efforts. The meetings include collaboration, project development, best practices and updates from MoDOT.

In a partnership with the Meremac Regional Planning Commission, and the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety we were able to offer a Docudrama event at the Tuscumbia and St. Elizabeth School Districts. The Docudrama portrayed a drunk driving incident and showing the high school students what can happen when drinking under the influence of alcohol. The parents are also encouraged to participate. This event took place on April 9, 2018.

Working with the City of Iberia to find a funding mechanism for the paving of a roadway near the school. The City does not have the funds to resurface the roadway, and it continues to deteriorate.

LOCLG continues to support the development of the Rock Island Trail, attending many of the public engagement meetings and supporting the questions from our communities on the availability of funding to support the development of the trail network throughout or four (4) county region.

October 30, 2018

The communities of Eldon and Versailles have both received funds from the Community Foundation for Health to support planning and implementation of walkable communities to support the efforts to reduce obesity within those communities. LOCLG continues to support both these efforts and participates in the planning meetings, and priority development sessions.

Quaker Windows, a Missouri Company was expanding and looked to the City of Eldon as an opportunity to build a new facility to build their commercial window line. A primary concern was the roadway access at the entrance of the proposed new plant. They have experienced no cooperation from MoDOT at their current facility to put in a turn lane at the plant entrance in Freeburg, MO. So, they had some real concerns, whether MoDOT would be willing to work with them on the proposed location in Eldon. LOCLG facilitated a meeting with MoDOT and discussed the options. MoDOT based on the location was more than willing to help. LOCLG helped the City of Eldon; Quaker Windows put together the MoDOT Cost Share Grant application for the proposed turn lane on Hwy 52 in Eldon. The MoDOT Cost Share Program for economic development can be up to 100 percent funding if used for a manufacturing business.

LOCLG participated in a planning and educational effort by MoDOT to share with the public how our local projects are identified and brought forth to MoDOT. Ms. Conner presented the story of our TAC and shared the local priorities at the public engagement meeting on October 9, 2018 in Jefferson City.

LOCLG assisted our local MoDOT Engineer with the presentations for the MoDOT Commission meeting that was held on November 2, 2018 in Camden County. This was an opportunity to show case several local projects to the Commission. The Community Bridge presented information on their celebrating 20 years of service to the region. The City of Lebanon presented information on a Feasibility Study for Highway 5 in Laclede County. The Feasibility Study is to see the best options for expanding Highway 5 within the City limits. This has the potential to be an economic driver in the near future if expansion is proposed.

On behalf of MACOG, Ms. Conner the current president of MACOG presented information on the Regional Planning Commission at the Annual Conference for the Missouri Foundation for Health. The Missouri Foundation for Health has made huge investments in local communities to assist with planning and infrastructure development to address the obesity issue in school children. Ms. Conner presented information on all the programs that MACOG works on throughout the state with an emphasis on the Transportation Enhancement options these communities could use to install sidewalks, trails, exercise equipment and other projects using several different grant opportunities available.

LOCLG is working with the City of Barnett on a sidewalk improvement plan. MoDOT has been implementing their ADA Transition Plan and updated all the MoDOT sidewalks within the community; however, many of these sidewalks have no connectivity. The City is interested in expanding the sidewalk network and creating more connectivity.

LOCLG is on the planning committee for the MoDOT Statewide Planning Partners meeting, working with several other RPCs and MoDOT to ensure that the Annual Planning Partners meeting helps those partners connect and communicate what is important in our transportation planning efforts.

MoDOT Annual Planning Partners Meeting: February 8, 2019

LOCLG met with all the Planning Partners for the Central District to help with the development of the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). Many of these meetings are to discuss the harsh reality of limited funding and the need to maintain the current assets in place.

MoDOT Central District STIP Meeting: January 24, 2019 and March 19, 2019

- **Deliverables**

The City of Lebanon Transit Feasibility Study has been completed; the NADO/USDA Grant amount for the project was \$82,000

The City of Versailles TAP Application awarded in the amount of \$313,552.42

The City of Laurie TAP Application awarded in the amount of \$344,469.00

The LOCLG region was the only region in the MoDOT Central District that received two (2) funded TAP grants during this funding cycle. All other entities only had one (1) funded project.

- **Difficulties**

Within the MoDOT Central District there were a total of 20 TAP Applications submitted for a total amount of \$6,119,869. and there was only \$1,894,580. available to fund these applications.

The Quaker Window and the City of Eldon MoDOT Cost Share Program was funded in full at \$442,211. However, when MoDOT let the bid for the project, all the bids came in much higher than both MoDOT, and the City Engineer had estimated the project to cost. There is now a \$117,000 shortage that new monies need to be found to move the project forward.

Transportation funding continues to be an area where the state struggles to find a solution. LOCLG has worked with all our planning partners to assist MoDOT in their planning efforts. With the FACT ACT ending, there is the potential for some impact on our communities with open projects or money in certain programs that will experience a recession that will happen in September 2019 based on the requirements of the FACT ACT.

The Rock Island Trail, is still being considered by the Missouri State Parks; however, there have been several extensions allowed to continue the due diligence in environmental reviews, funding sustainability for the project and the State to decide if accepting the trail from the Rock Island Railroad and Ameren Missouri will be an asset or a liability to the State.

***B. Incorporate transportation needs and demands into CEDS.***

- **Accomplishments**

Both the update Regional Transportation Plan and the Human Services Transportation Plan are referenced in the CEDS 2017.

LOCLG continues to support the CEDS transportation needs as identified with grant support letters and writing grants as identified by communities and transportation providers.

- **Deliverables**

A strong support for transportation options within our region.

- **Difficulties**

No difficulties experienced on this task.

***C. Work with new partners to address transportation needs, especially for LMI and disadvantaged persons.***

- **Accomplishments**

In the past several years, LOCLG has written several grants for the Good Shepherd Nursing Home for the 5310-grant program in which they received five (5) vehicles to offer transportation options to the residents of the assisting living facility and the nursing home. Now they needed additional help with providing drivers and administrative support because the transportation department has really grown to help fill the transportation needs of the residents. LOCLG wrote the MEHTAP grant application for the Good Shepherd Nursing Home for administrative funds to support the transportation needs. The additional funding received allows the facility to assist with all the transportation needs of the nursing home.

LOCLG continues to support all transportation grant applications within the region, as public transportation is nearly non-existent, so providing small pockets of available public transportation options is important to the region. LOCLG wrote a letter of support for the 5310 grant program for the local sheltered workshop Quality Industries in the City of Versailles, they employ the severely handicap; this transportation helps the workers get to work. LOCLG also wrote a letter of support for the 5310 grant program for the new medical facility in Lebanon, Compass Health. Compass Health supports the community with behavior health, dental, medical and other services for the low-income populations within the area. Oats Transportation has been serving the community since 1971 offering public transportation from door to door service. They have expanded their service to include some deviated routes within the three counties of Camden, Miller and Morgan. The 5310 grant application was supported by LOCLG to be able to continue the expanded services within the region.

LOCLG supported the Missouri Department of Transportation's grant application for the Bus and Bus Facilities Infrastructure Investment Program with a letter of support on July 25, 2018. This program is essential for Missouri to continue to build the public transportation options that are needed.

LOCLG has been working closely with a new organization called Missourians for Responsible Transportation which is a collocation of four (4) Missouri organizations that support alternate transportation options for communities:

PedNet-Columbia

BikeWalkKC-Kansas City

Ozark Greenways-Springfield

TrailNet-St. Louis

Missourians for Responsible Transportation's project manager is working with LOCLG to help assist several communities help plan for sidewalks, trails and other walkable opportunities within those communities. LOCLG has been asked to set up initial meetings with City of Eldon, City of Versailles, and the City of Lebanon.

LOCLG worked with the Wonderland Camp in identifying grant opportunities for their programs. Wonderland Camp is a summer camp for the severely disabled located in Miller County, MO. They have specific transportation needs for their programs. LOCLG provided them with all the necessary information to apply for the 5310 grant program.

- **Deliverables**

Continued funding to support the transportation needs at the Good Shepherd Nursing home.

Letters of support provided for the transportation needs within the region, to maintain and expand transportation options for those in need.

LOCLG has developed a great working relationship with the new organization Missourians for Responsible Transportation which has the potential to bring additional funding to the region in regard to public infrastructure in communities that show an interest.

- **Difficulties**

There are so many needs and not enough money to support all areas of need.

## **6. DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESILIENCY**

### ***A. Provide assistance in addressing the priorities and goals of all the Hazard Mitigation Plans for the four counties and cities in the LOCLG region by continuing to provide the coordination and seeking of funding for mitigation projects and activities.***

- **Accomplishments**

Miller County Hazard Mitigation Plan 2018 approved by FEMA on July 31, 2018.

Morgan County Hazard Mitigation Plan 2018 approved by FEMA on October 5, 2018.

Laclede County Hazard Mitigation Plan 2019 has been submitted to SEMA for review.

A volunteer disaster planning group was developed at the Grandview Condominium Homeowners Association as a way to help make their community more aware of disaster issues and safety training available. LOCLG supported the group's effort and provided training on August 8, 2018 on the benefits of the Hazard Mitigation Programs and encouraged them all to participate in the Hazard Mitigation Planning efforts in Miller and Camden Counties.

- **Deliverables**

With Miller and Morgan County Hazard Mitigation Plans approved it gives assurances to both the county leadership and the residents of these counties that they have the opportunity to secure federal funding in the event of a disaster.

During this update SEMA and FEMA required at least one (1) action items from each participating jurisdiction to be able to be a qualified participant in the final plan. This was extremely helpful in engaging those participants to find a feasible action item that could be included in the final plan. This also has the potential to help each of these participating jurisdictions with mitigation grants, because we have a specific project already identified.

- **Difficulties**

Public participation is mandated in the planning process by both our State and Federal Planning partners; it is often hard to get the public to be engaged in the planning process. LOCLG works hard to engage people in the planning process, and sometimes it works, and sometimes we ask ourselves why are they just not interested.

Funding continues to be an issue, and finding the local match to apply for grants also continues to be an issue.

***B. Assist Counties and Cities in applying for and administering Pre-Disaster Mitigation grants from SEMA and FEMA for all disaster related mitigation projects.***

- **Accomplishments**

LOCLG is working with a number of communities that were impacted by DR-4317 as there is funding available for projects that are within the declared disaster areas. Working with City of Barnett, that have requested help with a storm water runoff issue in the middle of town. MACOG's Disaster Recovery Specialist is assisting with this project as well.

LOCLG is also working with Camden County on three (3) pre-disaster mitigation notices of interest for projects within Camden County. All three (3) NOIs have been submitted to SEMA to be placed on the waiting list for when funds become available. MACOG's Disaster Recovery Specialist is also assisting with this project.

- **Deliverables**

Three (3) NOIs submitted to SEMA on behalf of Camden County.

- **Difficulties**

The 25 percent match is difficult for our smaller communities to fund, and often times they simply do not have the resources to apply for mitigation grants.

**C. *Identify base map needs for regional use related to economic development, transportation, hazard mitigation, etc. Pursue opportunities for funding to develop GIS/mapping for unmet needs of the region.***

- **Accomplishments**

With a GIS Specialist on staff, all of our mapping has been updated, including all our economic development project maps, mitigation maps, transportation maps, special project maps and maps requested by our members.

- **Deliverables**

All maps are included in our final project documents located at [www.loclg.org](http://www.loclg.org) under publications.

Opportunity Zone maps were created for the entire four (4) county region.

Specific project maps have been delivered to our communities for their local efforts.

- **Difficulties**

Some of the data we need to develop the maps is obscure and often hard to find, but with a lot of research and collecting of data the mapping has been successful.

## **7. BUSINESS FINANCING**

**A. *Promoting and marketing the SBA loan programs and the USDA Business and Industry loan programs.***

- **Accomplishments**

LOCLG continues to work with SCORE on their Business Development Workshops and promote the SBA and USDA loan programs whenever possible.

LOCLG continues to support the Central Ozarks Development, Inc. (COD) Board of Directors. Meeting on a quarterly basis, at the meeting on September 12, 2018, the Board heard a presentation on the HUB which is a virtual incubator concept that is being put together by the Camdenton Area Chamber of Commerce. They also reviewed the RLF status, learned more about the Launch U project and discussed housing needs within the region. Central Ozarks Development, Inc. strongly supports the business sector with many of the Board members are local bankers.

LOCLG was identified as a high performing RLF by the Council of Development Finance Agencies (CDFA) and asked to participate in the peer to peer exchange to help the underperforming RLFs in other regions. LOCLG worked with two (2) Economic Development agencies one (1) in Wisconsin and one (1) in Kentucky.

LOCLG met with Greg Batson and Bev Miller with USDA on July 5, 2018 to discuss the packaging of USDA Rural Direct Low-Income loans. LOCLG is a qualified organization with loan processing experience, and USDA is looking for those types of agencies to help facilitate the loan processing in rural areas.

LOCLG is working with the City of Lebanon and Lebanon REDI to put together some financial planning workshops. The City has indicated their residents need an opportunity to understand financing for both business opportunities and housing opportunities.

- **Deliverables**

An active and supportive RLF within the region to support new business growth.

- **Difficulties**

The participation from the underperforming RLF in the peer to peer exchange was not successful, with often times one or none of the participating Economic Development agencies participating, and if they did participate, they felt that there was no way to save the RLF program and would rather return the funds to EDA.

The USDA loan packaging process is compensated on a per-loan payment with a loan close ratio that is too low to fund the program.

Development of some of these projects and programs takes time and continues to be a work in progress.

**B. *Provide financing support services for new or expanding businesses.***

- **Accomplishments**

LOCLG provided RLF information for the students of the Launch U project, an entrepreneurship training that was a collaborative effort with the local SBTDC, Missouri Small Business Development Center, State Fair Community College, SBA, and Co-Mo Electric.

- **Deliverables**

The training was a six (6) week training event that was successful with several couples graduating from the program with solid business ideas and business plans and support already in place if they choose to follow their dreams.

- **Difficulties**

No difficulties experienced on this task.

**C. *Offer business and entrepreneurial related educational workshops.***

- **Accomplishments**

LOCLG continues to work with SCORE to provide value added workshops that address challenges that businesses face and need educational opportunities to learn more about what is available to them as resources.

The Launch U project listed above also fits into this category of educational workshops, as the six (6) week training are each essential workshops in the business development training. The Launch U project, an entrepreneurship training that was a collaborative effort with the local SBTDC, Missouri Small Business Development Center, State Fair Community College, SBA, and Co-Mo Electric.

LOCLG partnered with the Camdenton Area Chamber, the Lake Area Chamber, the Lake West Chamber and SCORE to offer a workshop on how to get your business online with Google. This workshop was presented by an “expert” from Google on how it works and how to improve your chances of being seen on Google and especially on the first page of search results.

In partnership with SCORE, the Camdenton Area Chamber, the Lake Area Chamber and the Lake West Chamber, LOCLG co-hosted the Eggs and Issues in regard to the Missouri new minimum wage law that passed in November of 2018. LOCLG also co-hosted the Eggs and Issues in regard to the Certified Work Ready Community Project with all the Chambers.

- **Deliverables**

October 23, 2018 to December 6, 2018 Launch U six (6) business development workshops

September 13, 2018 Google Workshop-Using Google to Promote Your Business

January 31, 2019 Eggs and Issues Missouri New Minimum Wage requirements

March 28, 2019 Eggs and Issues Certified Work Ready Community project

- **Difficulties**

No difficulties experienced on this task.

## 8. COMMUNICATIONS

### A. *Enhance the economic development portion of the website to include maps, toolkits, etc.*

- **Accomplishments**

LOCLG continues to maintain our website at [www.loclg.org](http://www.loclg.org) with our projects and upcoming events and important economic development efforts. LOCLG has also helped our planning partners with individual project websites to drive traffic to a specific economic development effort, including [www.LOZWorkReady.com](http://www.LOZWorkReady.com) and [www.tri-countycertifiedworkreadycommunity.com](http://www.tri-countycertifiedworkreadycommunity.com).

- **Deliverables**

LOCLG maintains several websites, with detailed information on what we are working on for the region.

- **Difficulties**

No difficulties experienced on this task.

**B. Prepare an annual report listing any changes noted during 2016-2019 on our LOCLG Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. Continue to seek new and innovative input from new members for development ideas.**

- **Accomplishments**

LOCLG has worked to continue to maintain our CEDS 2017. This report reflects any changes and efforts that we have been able to accomplish during this grant cycle April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019.

- **Deliverables**

CEDS Progress Report 2019 submitted to grants online by March 29, 2019.

- **Difficulties**

No difficulties experienced on this task.

**C. Communicate through conventional media (radio), social media, website, progress reports and publications of all activities either in progress or completed in regard to our EDA scope of work.**

- **Accomplishments**

All LOCLG staff provide updates on projects and programs during our monthly Board meetings.

LOCLG Executive Director provides updates on specific projects during radio interviews and project specific interviews. This is done with both our local talk radio stations of KRMS and KJEL.

Press releases are sent out for all our specific projects and shared with all local media outlets.

- **Deliverables**

LOCLG press coverage on projects and project progress.

- **Difficulties**

No difficulties experienced on this task.

# CONCLUSION

During this grant cycle LOCLG experienced tremendous support for our economic development efforts. The EDAC committee continues to support the CEDS 2017 implementation efforts and each of the members of the committee are sincerely interested in the economic growth in our region. The planning partners that support our efforts go above and beyond with their support and tireless efforts in pushing the region forward and expanding the opportunities that are available.

LOCLG's Board of Directors and Staff want to thank EDA for the continued support within our region.

LOCLG looks forward to the ongoing relationship with EDA and all the great projects that are a result of the funding EDA provides to our Economic Development District.