



2023 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

Year 1 Annual Report
March 2024

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| Project Title: | Annual CEDS Performance |
| CEDS Performance Year: | March 1, 2023 – February 29 2024 |
| Reporting period end date: | February 29, 2024 |
| Report Prepared by: | South Central PREP Region |
| Five-year CEDS Time Period: | 2023-2028 |

The South Central Pennsylvania Partnership for Regional Economic Performance (SCPA PREP) is a regional partnership designated by the Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development. Statewide, the PREP Program is designed to encourage regional coordination of economic development efforts and superior customer service to the business community as part of a comprehensive, statewide economic development delivery strategy.

Introduction

The 2023-2028 South Central Pennsylvania Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is a tactical economic development plan for growing and sustaining the economic welfare of the region, which consists of the following nine counties: Adams, Berks, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Perry, and York. The plan is consistent with the growth policy and goals of SCPA PREP, which provides a vision of the future and a framework for collaborative action. It includes a comprehensive summary of the region's economy, a five-year action plan, and a framework for evaluating progress on plan implementation.

This plan represents a partnership between all nine county Economic Development Corporations, local county governments, and other regional stakeholders. The strategy provides a structured plan and goals that will help the region achieve economic success with proper implementation. Our strategy-driven plan was developed by a diverse workgroup of local representatives from the private, public, workforce, education, and nonprofit sectors.

This CEDS Annual Report accounts for activities conducted during Year 1 of CEDS implementation (March 1, 2023- February 29, 2024). It addresses adjustments to the CEDS strategy, summarizes recent economic development activities, leverages regional benchmarks to evaluate CEDS implementation progress, and outlines next steps for the year ahead.

Ongoing Commitment to the Region

South Central Pennsylvania Partnership for Regional Economic Performance remains committed to the economic vision articulated in its the 2023-2028 CEDS document: "The South Central CEDS Region is one of the fastest-growing, dynamic, and productive regions in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The cultural makeup and business-savvy nature of the residents in the region have produced a highly skilled, well-trained, dependable, and loyal workforce. With a population of more than 2.4 million people (and growing) encompassing nine counties, there is access to skilled workers, recreation, tourist destinations, and major employers throughout the region which presents an unmatched opportunity.

SCPA PREP, as coordinated by Capital Region Economic Development Corporation (CREDC) is responsible for developing and maintaining the regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

Report on Economic Development Activities

The following section briefly summarizes CEDS Year 1 implementation activities, listing the activities proposed in the Year 1 Action Plan and the corresponding activities accomplished.

Outreach and Information Sharing

Proposed in Year 1 Action Plan:

Outreach and Information Sharing with regional stakeholders, local officials, municipal staff and appointed board members, industry practitioners, and community activities through sharing presentations, data dashboards and analysis.

Accomplished Year 1:

In 2023 and 2024, SCPA PREP successfully hosted three regional CEDS Summits virtually. These summits were designed to facilitate presentations and conversations centered around the intersection of regional growth and investment. Additionally, PREP partners actively engaged in making presentations to various groups, including non-profits, businesses, research and education institutions, and government entities, to discuss the region's economy and CEDS. These efforts have contributed significantly to fostering collaboration and knowledge sharing across diverse sectors within the region.

Strategy Development

Proposed in Year 1 Action Plan:

Establish a working group that will serve as a focal point for coordinating efforts aimed at achieving key objectives outlined in the CEDS. Through targeted outreach, information sharing, and strategic planning, the working group will work to identify priorities, develop actionable strategies, and implement initiatives that contribute to the overall advancement of the region.

Accomplished in Year 1

Throughout 2023, SCPA PREP collaborated with other regional stakeholders to establish the CEDS Taskforces. These taskforces, aligned with SCPA PREP's four CEDS goals (Economic Investment, Workforce Development, Infrastructure Improvement, and Quality of Life Enhancement), are dedicated to breaking down barriers and advancing economic, educational, and social progress in the South Central Pennsylvania region. By harnessing our region's collective strengths, these working groups focus on developing actionable, short-term projects aimed at enhancing various facets of the community.

Cultivate Regional Competitiveness

Proposed in Year 1 Action Plan:

Invest in and cultivate regional strengths by pursuing state or federal grant opportunities aimed at enhancing the region's economic competitiveness and attracting a talented workforce.

Accomplished in Year 1

In the summer of 2023, SCPA PREP submitted an application for funding under the Tech Hub program, established under the CHIPS and Science Act. This program aimed to foster high-tech employment opportunities in cities nationwide, presenting a valuable opportunity to enhance economic potential, drive technological progress, and elevate our region's global competitiveness. The application submitted outlined the creation of the Keystone Healthcare Resilience Consortium (KHRC) and sought funding for strategy development. The goal was to establish the region as a Tech Hub, focusing on advanced communication and medical technologies to enhance healthcare delivery.

Workforce Business and Retention

Proposed in Year 2 Action Plan:

The CEDS partners will continue to develop efforts to address the workforce and business retention issues in the region. Many of these issues tie into larger issues of childcare, housing, and healthcare, creating a larger recruitment issue. The CEDS partners will support the development of potential strategies for retention and identify additional partners.

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Targeted Technical Assistance

Proposed in Year 2 Action Plan:

Targeted Technical Assistance to Towns, Municipalities and business, offering development support, helping with project-based research and data analysis, and developing recommendations that align with regional priorities.

CEDS Task Force Overview

Created in November 2023, each Task Force meets quarterly and participates in many smaller working group meetings. Through this process, the Task Force aims to develop policy recommendations that represent the best thinking of this diverse group of stakeholders, informed by the experience of Task Force members, as well as research and input from communities across South Central Pennsylvania.

The overview and participants from each of the four Task Force groups are organized below:

CEDS Taskforce 1: Economic Growth and Development

Focused on identifying opportunities for economic advancement, Taskforce 1 aims to propel our region's economy forward through initiatives in higher education, small and mid-sized companies, tourism, and technology.

Participants:

- Harrisburg Regional Chamber/CREDC
- SCPAWorks
- Dauphin County Economic Development
- Ben Franklin Technology Partners
- Shippensburg SBDC
- Kutztown SBDC
- MANTEC

Proposed in Year 2 Action Plan:

Establishing a partnership with the Pennsylvania Business One-Stop Shop (BOSS) will be a key objective for the Economic Development Taskforce. Through targeted outreach, information sharing, and strategic planning, the taskforce aims to coordinate efforts with BOSS to streamline processes and support businesses throughout their lifecycle, from planning and registration to operation and growth. By collaborating with BOSS, the taskforce will work to create a business-friendly environment in Pennsylvania, facilitating economic prosperity and enhancing the overall quality of life for residents.

CEDS Taskforce 2: Workforce Development

Dedicated to strengthening regional workforce by addressing critical challenges in skill development, talent enhancement, workforce resilience, and industry-specific training programs, the taskforce aims to foster a skilled workforce essential for attracting and retaining businesses. Recognizing that talent attraction and retention are paramount in today's competitive landscape, the group extends their work beyond skill development to include initiatives aimed at talent enhancement and workforce resilience. By fostering strategic partnerships with educational institutions, job training programs, and industry leaders, it is ensured that the regional workforce remains competitive and adaptable in today's rapidly evolving economy.

Participants:

- Harrisburg Regional Chamber/CREDC
- SCPAWorks
- Lebanon Valley Economic Development Corporation
- Franklin County Area Development Corporation (FCADC)
- County of Berks Community and Economic Development
- Manufacturers' Association

Proposed in Year 2 Action Plan:

To address the unmet childcare demand for center-based childcare in South Central PA, a comprehensive approach is necessary. This begins with conducting a detailed regional demographic analysis to understand current needs and projected future demand. Collaboration with other agencies who are prioritizing and focusing on child care will be identified along with data resources and insights. Subsequently, establishing a regulatory infrastructure to oversee policy implementation. By taking these steps, the region can begin to address childcare needs effectively, ensuring access to quality childcare while supporting overall community well-being and development.

CEDS Taskforce 3: Infrastructure Improvement

Taskforce 3 is all about optimizing our infrastructure to support sustainable development. Committed to enhancing transportation networks, expanding broadband access, and improving environmental sustainability initiatives. By investing in infrastructure, this group is laying the groundwork for continued economic growth and prosperity in the region.

Participants:

- Harrisburg Regional Chamber/CREDC
- SCPAWorks
- Lebanon Valley Economic Development Corporation
- York County Economic Alliance (YCEA)

Proposed in Year 2 Action Plan:

To initiate the conversation around Affordable Housing Commercial Linkage Fees, it's vital to highlight the region's acute shortage of affordable housing. This involves analyzing the current housing market, identifying affordability trends, and quantifying the gap between demand and supply. Engaging stakeholders such as city officials, developers, housing advocates, and community members is essential to raise awareness about the pressing need for solutions. By emphasizing the role of linkage fees in generating funds for affordable housing, stakeholders can be motivated to explore and support this strategy to address the housing crisis effectively.

CEDS Taskforce 4: Quality of Life Enhancement

Taskforce 4 focuses on enhancing the overall quality of life in the community by promoting access to education, healthcare, arts, culture, and recreation.

Participants:

- Harrisburg Regional Chamber/CREDC
- SCPAWorks
- Lebanon Valley Economic Development Corporation
- York County Economic Alliance (YCEA)
- Cumberland Area Economic Development Corporation (CAEDC)
- Economic Development Company of Lancaster County
- Perry County Economic Development Corporation (Perry County EDC)

Proposed in Year 2 Action Plan:

Establishing a Quality of Life Impact Review Assessment will serve as a focal point for coordinating efforts aimed at enhancing community well-being as outlined in the CEDS. Through collaborative engagement with stakeholders, data analysis, and strategic planning, the taskforce will identify key quality of life concerns, develop targeted strategies, and implement initiatives to address them effectively. By leveraging diverse perspectives and expertise, the taskforce will work towards improving various facets of community life, fostering a more vibrant and sustainable region.

Evaluation of Progress on Action Plans & Goals

The following table includes the latest data related to regional benchmarks outlined in the CEDS and is indicative of progress made toward CEDS goals. Progress toward achieving specific activity goals based on the CEDS and previous CEDS Performance Reports is detailed above.

| PEOPLE | | |
|--|-----------|-------|
| Residents | | |
| Total Population | 2,436,000 | |
| US Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) 2022 5-Year Estimates, Table DP05. | | |
| Population Change (2010-2022) | +168,769 | +7.4% |
| US Census Bureau, ACS 2010 and 2022 5-Year Estimates, Table DP05. | | |
| Median Age (Years) | 41.2 | |
| US Census Bureau, ACS 2022 5-Year Estimates, Table DP05. | | |
| Race | | |
| White | 1,986,353 | 81.5% |
| Black or African American | 145,381 | 6.0% |
| American Indian and Alaska Native | 5,475 | 0.2% |
| Asian | 59,453 | 2.4% |
| Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander | 774 | <0.0% |
| Some other race | 98,851 | 4.1% |
| Two or more races | 139,713 | 5.7% |
| US Census Bureau, ACS 2022 5-Year Estimates, Table DP05. | | |
| Ethnicity | | |
| Hispanic or Latino | 282,068 | 11.6% |
| Not Hispanic or Latino | 2,153,932 | 88.4% |
| US Census Bureau, ACS 2022 5-Year Estimates, Table DP05. | | |
| Language Spoken at Home | | |
| Speak only English | 2,000,014 | 87.2% |
| Spanish | 167,925 | 7.3% |
| Other Indo-European languages | 85,596 | 3.7% |
| Asian and Pacific Island languages | 26,161 | 1.1% |
| Other languages | 13,737 | 0.6% |
| US Census Bureau, ACS 2022 5-Year Estimates, Table S1601. | | |

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| Workforce & Income | | |
| Labor force participation rate (16 Years and Older) | 64.0% | |
| US Census Bureau, ACS 2022 5-Year Estimates, Table S2301. | | |
| Median Household Income | | |
| Regional Median Household Income | \$76,508 | |
| State Median Household Income | \$73,170 | |
| Country Median Household Income | \$74,580 | |
| US Census Bureau, ACS 2022 5-Year Estimates, Table B19013. | | |
| Low-Income Residents (\$0-\$49,999) | 290,932 | 30.7% |
| Change in Low-Income Residents (2015-2022) | -21,585 | -22.5% |
| Middle-Income Residents (\$50,000 to \$124,999) | 413,960 | 43.7% |
| Change in Middle-Income Residents (2015-2022) | 24,934 | 6.4% |
| High-Income Residents (\$125,000+) | 241,657 | 25.5% |
| Change in High-Income Residents (2015-2022) | 127,006 | 110% |
| US Census Bureau, ACS 2015 and 2022 5-Year Estimates, Table B19001. | | |
| Vulnerable Populations | | |
| County Population Below Federal Poverty Level | 267,683 | 9.6% |
| State Population Below Federal Poverty Level | 1,483,365 | 11.8% |
| Country Population Below Federal Poverty Level | 40,910,326 | 12.6% |
| US Census Bureau, ACS 2020 5-Year Estimates, Table S1701. | | |
| 24-Month Average Unemployment Rate | 3.5% | |
| Country 24-Month Average Unemployment Rate | 3.6% | |
| US Economic Development Administration (EDA), StatsAmerica, Measuring Distress-County Tool, Dec 2023. Link: https://www.statsamerica.org/distress/ . | | |

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| ECONOMY | | |
| Employment | | |
| Employed Population Jan. 2024 | 1,233,800 | |
| Center for Workforce Information & Analysis, January 2024, https://www.workstats.dli.pa.gov/Products/CountyProfiles/Pages/default.aspx | | |
| Unemployment Mar. 2022 | 38,600 | 3.5% |
| State Unemployment 2029 | 3.5% | |
| Change in State Unemployment (Mar. 2019-2024) | -20.4% | |
| Center for Workforce Information & Analysis, January 2024, https://www.workstats.dli.pa.gov/Products/CountyProfiles/Pages/default.aspx | | |

| Industries | |
|---|---------------|
| Related Data Dashboards: - Employment & Wages by Industry https://data.bls.gov/cew/apps/data_views/data_views.htm#tab=Tables | |
| Top Industries by Employment (2022) | 54,439 |
| Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting | |
| Average Monthly Employment | 688 |
| Average Weekly Wages | \$723 |
| Average Annual Employment Location Quotient | 0.76 |
| Percent Change in Employment From 2019 to 2022 | +17.5% |
| Total Establishments | 787 |
| Mining, Quarrying, and Oil & Gas | |
| Average Monthly Employment | 96 |
| Average Weekly Wages | \$1,395 |
| Average Annual Employment Location Quotient | 0.44 |
| Percent Change in Employment From 2019 to 2022 | +18.3% |
| Total Establishments | 60 |
| Utilities | |
| Average Monthly Employment | 283 |
| Average Weekly Wages | \$2,242 |
| Average Annual Employment Location Quotient | 0.77 |
| Percent Change in Employment From 2019 to 2022 | +12.2% |
| Total Establishments | 12 |
| Construction | |
| Average Monthly Employment | 4,539 |
| Average Weekly Wages | \$1,283 |
| Average Annual Employment Location Quotient | 1.0 |
| Percent Change in Employment From 2019 to 2022 | +5.8% |
| Total Establishments | 5,592 |
| Manufacturing | |
| Average Monthly Employment | 12,471 |
| Average Weekly Wages | \$1,239 |
| Average Annual Employment Location Quotient | 1.7 |
| Percent Change in Employment From 2019 to 2022 | -0.6% |
| Total Establishments | 3,153 |

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| Wholesale Trade | |
| Average Monthly Employment | 3,011 |
| Average Weekly Wages | \$1,360 |
| Average Annual Employment Location Quotient | 0.77 |
| Percent Change in Employment From 2019 to 2022 | 6.0% |
| Total Establishments | 2,426 |
| Retail Trade | |
| Average Monthly Employment | 9,761 |
| Average Weekly Wages | \$647 |
| Average Annual Employment Location Quotient | 1.1 |
| Percent Change in Employment From 2019 to 2022 | +1.3% |
| Total Establishments | 7,013 |
| Transportation and Warehousing | |
| Average Monthly Employment | 6,972 |
| Average Weekly Wages | 976 |
| Average Annual Employment Location Quotient | 2.0 |
| Percent Change in Employment From 2019 to 2022 | +12.1% |
| Total Establishments | 2,123 |
| Information | |
| Average Monthly Employment | 610 |
| Average Weekly Wages | \$1,053 |
| Average Annual Employment Location Quotient | 0.3 |
| Percent Change in Employment From 2019 to 2022 | -27.5% |
| Total Establishments | 630 |
| Finance and Insurance | |
| Average Monthly Employment | 1,859 |
| Average Weekly Wages | \$1,544 |
| Average Annual Employment Location Quotient | 0.6 |
| Percent Change in Employment From 2019 to 2022 | -6.6% |
| Total Establishments | 2,740 |
| Real Estate and Rental and Leasing | |
| Average Monthly Employment | 867 |
| Average Weekly Wages | \$1,091 |
| Average Annual Employment Location Quotient | 0.6 |
| Percent Change in Employment From 2019 to 2022 | 14.9% |
| Total Establishments | 1,803 |

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| Professional and Technical Services | |
| Average Monthly Employment | 3,721 |
| Average Weekly Wages | \$1,487 |
| Average Annual Employment Location Quotient | 0.5 |
| Percent Change in Employment From 2019 to 2022 | +3.7% |
| Total Establishments | 4,968 |
| Management of Companies and Enterprises | |
| Average Monthly Employment | 1,852 |
| Average Weekly Wages | \$2,045 |
| Average Annual Employment Location Quotient | 1.10 |
| Percent Change in Employment From 2019 to 2022 | 1.1% |
| Total Establishments | 589 |
| Administrative and Waste Services | |
| Average Monthly Employment | 4,121 |
| Average Weekly Wages | \$762 |
| Average Annual Employment Location Quotient | 0.71 |
| Percent Change in Employment From 2019 to 2022 | -10.2% |
| Total Establishments | 2,934 |
| Educational Services | |
| Average Monthly Employment | 1,329 |
| Average Weekly Wages | \$831 |
| Average Annual Employment Location Quotient | 0.7 |
| Percent Change in Employment From 2019 to 2022 | +1.5% |
| Total Establishments | 590 |
| Health Care and Social Assistance | |
| Average Monthly Employment | 13,587 |
| Average Weekly Wages | \$1,185 |
| Average Annual Employment Location Quotient | 1.1 |
| Percent Change in Employment From 2019 to 2022 | -2.2% |
| Total Establishments | 7,636 |
| Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation | |
| Average Monthly Employment | 1,432 |
| Average Weekly Wages | 420 |
| Average Annual Employment Location Quotient | 0.9 |
| Percent Change in Employment From 2019 to 2022 | -2.0 |
| Total Establishments | 896 |

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| Accommodation and Food Services | |
| Average Monthly Employment | 6,648 |
| Average Weekly Wages | \$403 |
| Average Annual Employment Location Quotient | 0.9 |
| Percent Change in Employment From 2019 to 2022 | -3.7% |
| Total Establishments | 4,701 |
| Other Services | |
| Average Monthly Employment | 4,693 |
| Average Weekly Wages | \$719 |
| Average Annual Employment Location Quotient | 1.1 |
| Percent Change in Employment From 2019 to 2022 | -5.3% |
| Total Establishments | 5,659 |
| <i>US Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment and Wages Data Viewer, 2019 and 2022. Link: https://data.bls.gov/cew/apps/data_views/data_views.htm#tab=Tables. </i> | |

Regional Goals and Status Updates

Goals and Objectives

The following goals and objectives were developed by SCPA PREP based on the 2023-2028 CEDS Plan vision statement, summary background and SWOT analysis. They were developed to be highly relevant to the needs and advantages of this region, and to have a meaningful impact on the region's near-term economic recovery resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and future economy.

GOAL 1 - Foster & Maintain an Economically Competitive Region

Objectives:

- A. **Promote Intentional Economic Growth** by facilitating strategic collaborations and targeted workshops to bridge business development gaps, empower underrepresented entrepreneurs, and foster tech-based job expansion in rural areas, promoting intentional economic growth.
- B. **Establish and Maintain a Business-Focused Region** by organizing annual unified meetings with county EDCs and partners to optimize regional marketing, maintain development inventories, address cultural barriers, and foster business collaboration.
- C. **Improve and Develop Regional Collaboration** by establishing a regional agency for economic development, workforce, education, and planning to execute the CEDS, collaborating with PEDAs and partners to evaluate challenges, engaging local government councils for economic development learning, and inviting disaster preparedness organizations for short to long-term business recovery planning.

GOAL 2 – Build, Develop, & Maintain the Region's Talent

Objectives:

- A. **Build The Regional Talent Pipeline** by partnering with industries, Institutions of Higher Education (IHE), and Workforce Development Boards (WDBs) to address technical training gaps, promote career pathway programs, and develop Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) workforce strategies, enhancing access and reducing employment barriers.
- B. **Increase Regional Workforce Collaboration** by collaborating with Workforce Development Boards (WDBs) and regional Institutions of Higher Education (IHE) to retain students and young talent, as well as to develop talent attraction strategies in alignment with regional partners' goals.

GOAL 3 - Improve & Modernize Infrastructure Networks to Maintain Locational Advantages

Objective:

- A. **Advocate for A Regional Growth Plan** by convening stakeholders to plan for growth, including broadband accessibility, infrastructure needs, and environmental protection in local and regional planning efforts. Additionally, collaborate with regional and state partners to integrate environmental protection into local and regional planning efforts, emphasizing air and water quality enhancement and preservation of sensitive areas and wildlife.

GOAL 4 - Enhance & Promote the Development of Regional Quality of Life Features

Objectives:

- A. **Generate Equitable and Inclusive Engagement** by collaborating with regional partners to improve access to employment and small business opportunities for disadvantaged populations, advancing economic prosperity in historically underserved communities, and encouraging diversity representation on planning boards.
- B. **Address Critical Quality-Of-Life Needs** by convening housing agencies and partners to identify gaps, especially in historically underserved communities, collaborating to tackle food deserts and establish a regional food network, and convening partners to secure long-term funding for childcare subsidies and worker support.
- C. **Invest In Regional Placemaking Efforts** by partnering with locals to boost small-scale development, aid in funding for amenities, and expand multimodal infrastructure to improve walkability, especially in underserved areas.
- D. **Collaboratively Promote Regional Tourism Assets** by promoting recreational tourism aligned with natural assets, collaborating with tourism bureaus to create a regional asset map, identify gaps, and enhance cohesion, as well as catalyzing business expansion in tourism-related industries.

Year in Review

The 2023-2028 CEDS Plan developed a comprehensive set of success metrics for every CEDS objective, aligning with the vision, goals, and objectives outlined in the Plan. These metrics delineate actionable steps to be undertaken over a five-year span by the governmental entities or non-profit organizations spearheading them. The following table provides the latest updates.

| Goal: | Objective: | 2023 Update: |
|-------|--|--|
| 1-A | Promote Intentional Economic Growth | SCPA PREP partners continue to administer the EDA planning partnership contract and began on a new ARPA funded EDA planning grant on economic resiliency implementation. |
| 1-B | Establish and Maintain a Business-Focused Region | SCPA partners continue to respond to inquiries seeking industrial land in the area. Partners also began an inventory of current planned industrial park sites and will work to identify potential new industrial land for development. |
| 1-C | Improve and Develop Regional Collaboration | Established in 2023, the CEDS Taskforces, originating from the four CEDS goals, strive to identify opportunities within and beyond the region through collaborative efforts. These taskforces develop actionable, short-term projects aimed at enhancing infrastructure, workforce development, economic growth, and regional quality of life. |
| 2-A | Build The Regional Talent Pipeline | SCPA PREP submitted a Federal Tech Hub grant application to the EDA in 2023. Regrettably, the application was not successful, but our commitment to advancing innovation and economic growth remains unwavering. The grant introduced the Keystone Healthcare Resilience Consortium (KHRC) to position the region as a Tech Hub at the intersection of advanced communication and medical technologies, addressing healthcare disparities. |
| 2-B | Increase Regional Workforce Collaboration | No update. |
| 3-A | Advocate for a Regional Growth Plan | No update. |
| 4-A | Generate Equitable and Inclusive Engagement | Launched in 2020, CREDC's IDEA Workshop continues to work with a collaboration of business and community leaders to explore ways individuals and organizations can dismantle institutionalized racism in the workplace. |
| 4-B | Address Critical Quality-Of-Life Needs | The CEDS Quality of Life Taskforce has initiated development of a regional QoL review checklist to screen a proposed development project for quality of life effects. The goal is to monitor the effects of growth within the community. |

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| 4-C | Invest In Regional Placemaking Efforts | No update. |
| 4-B | Collaboratively Promote Regional Tourism Assets | No update. |

Schedule of Goals for the Next Year

In Year 2 of CEDS implementation, SCPA PREP will continue to advance the following:

- **Administration and General Planning:** Activities will include pursuing funding in support of CEDS Action Plan objectives.
- **Outreach and Information Sharing:** Outreach efforts to regional stakeholders will include data collection, analysis, and visualization; the development and dissemination of research and planning reports; and presentations on a range of economic and community development issues.
- **Targeted Technical Assistance:** Assistance to businesses and other regional partners will include support for development, project-based research and data analysis, and developing and implementing recommendations in alignment with regional priorities.

Challenges and Mitigation

Continuing challenges for local governments and CEDS projects are capacity and funding. For many communities, there is limited professional staff capacity to take on additional tasks to pursue economic development projects, including grant applications to reactivate downtowns. Sustained efforts by volunteers have been successful in some cases but may not work for all efforts. Resources to fund pre-development or planning work can be a challenge before a project starts, as does being able to provide match funds to secure grants for implementation.