Summer 2024
CEDS Strategy Committee
Quarterly Economic Development Update
August 5, 2024

WEST MI SHORELINE
Regional Development Commission

Agenda
1) WMSRDC Update
2) ERC Update
3) EDA Update
4) Broadband
5) Roundtable

Current EDA Grants in the Region

1) City of Hart: Wastewater Upgrades
2) Lake County Economic Diversification

Potential EDA Projects

1) Mason County (planning)
2) FARM (equipment/construction)
3) Hart Community Center (equipment/construction)
4) WMSRDC Ag Cluster Analysis (planning)

1) **WMSRDC Update**

- Applied for an EDA planning grant in July to gather information to help advance planning and investment in the agriculture sector.
    - Project features instrumental involvement from Michigan State University's Product Center and RS & GIS.
    - Already received a letter of "Merits Further Consideration" (a very good sign!)
    - Proposed project timeline is one year, beginning October 1, 2024
    - Outcomes would support efforts of the ERC fellow (see below) as well as public sector planning and private sector investments

2) **Economic Recovery Corps**

- Annika Gacnik agacnik@economicrecoverycorps.org
- https://economicrecoverycorps.org/
    - See link above to explore the 64 national ERC projects
    - *Let WMSRDC know if you have interest in following the results of any particular ERC project from around the country! We can help get additional information.*

3) **EDA Update**

- Open application cycle for core EDA programs… now a good time to prepare projects for FY25.
    - Contact WMSRDC to start the conversation with EDA
- National EDA competitions
    - **Good Jobs Challenge** https://www.eda.gov/arpa/good-job-challenge
        - Deadline September 27, 2024
    - **Build to Scale** (NOFO anticipated)
        - Program makes targeted investments to increase regional capacity to specifically support technology entrepreneurs and strengthen the ecosystems in which those entrepreneurs thrive.

4) **Broadband**

- For some local broadband data, check out Michigan Broadband Map: https://michiganbroadbandmap.com/map?zoom=6&center=-9619763%2C5631121

- o Change the "area" field to the desired geography.
  - o Type the location in the search box.
  - o In the Broadband & Digital Equity Indicators box, clock the "Data" button.
- For state-level broadband resources and guidance, see the MIHI website: https://www.michigan.gov/leo/bureaus-agencies/mihi

5) **Roundtable Notes**

- MEDC: advance/proactive preparation for placemaking grant opportunities is helpful and allows communities to be prepared at a moment's notice. New RAP (revitalization and placemaking) grant round possible in the upcoming fiscal year.
- Fremont: new housing (incentives have been key); activity toward bringing the digester back online.
- Oceana County: planning for a broadband event/forum this fall
- NCRESA exploring a WFD/innovation center

Next CEDS Strategy Committee Meeting

- November 8 @ 10:00 AM