

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy



WORKFORCE & TRADE

The CEDS contains an analysis of current and projected employment trends to develop a diverse, adaptable labor pool. Its goals align workforce needs with economic growth, helping public and private sectors assess strengths, address gaps, and meet demands. Additionally, it empowers these groups to advocate for essential resources such as access to skilled labor and supportive programs.

Where can my expertise have the most impact?



Ch. 2 State of the Region

- Economy
- Workforce

Ch. 3 Regional Assessment

- Workforce Availability
- Industry Clusters

Which goals and strategies are most relevant to me?

Goal 2: Qualified Workforce

- Strategy 2.3

Goal 3: Innovation

- Strategy 3.3

Goal 5: Quality of Place

- Strategy 5.5



How can I get involved?

Participate in CEDS Steering Committee meetings and focus groups. R1 seeks your in-depth knowledge on industry trends, labor challenges, and regional employment shifts.

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COMMUNITY MEMBERS

The CEDS lays out a clear path for Northern Illinois to grow economically, support professional success, and become an even better place to live. Its strategies cover everything from job creation to quality of life improvements, making sure that residents actually see and feel the benefits in their communities.

Where can my expertise have the most impact?



Ch. 2 State of the Region

- Workforce
- Health

Ch. 3 Regional Assessment

- Education
- Housing

Which goals and strategies are most relevant to me?

Goal 2: Qualified Workforce

- Strategy 2.2

Goal 5: Quality of Place

- Strategy 5.1
- Strategy 5.2
- Strategy 5.4
- Strategy 5.5



How can I get involved?

Participate!

R1 seeks your feedback on regional progress by inviting the public to join focus groups and complete surveys. Supporting community events, programs, and development initiatives makes these strategies effective.

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The CEDS brings local plans together to create one clear regional strategy. It gives communities the tools to shape their own economic goals while making sure they align with the bigger picture. By tracking trends and analyzing data, it enables everyone to make smart decisions and work together toward a stronger, more connected economy.

Where can my expertise have the most impact?



Ch. 2 State of the Region

- Economy
- Workforce

Ch. 3 Regional Assessment

- Industry Clusters
- Public-Private Partnerships

Which goals and strategies are most relevant to me?

Goal 1: Infrastructure

- Strategy 1.1
- Strategy 1.2

Goal 2: Quality Workforce

- Strategy 2.4

Goal 3: Innovation

- Strategy 3.4



How can I get involved?

Participate in CEDS Steering Committee meetings and regional conversations. Your input is critical to shaping strategy, development opportunities, and pursuing funding.

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The CEDS serves as a roadmap for regional economic development by placing local priorities into a shared framework. It helps economic development organizations plan strategically, team up on key initiatives, and monitor progress toward big-picture goals.

Where can my expertise have the most impact?



Ch. 2 State of the Region

- Economy
- Workforce

Ch. 3 Regional Assessment

- Workforce Availability
- Priority Industrial Sites

Which goals and strategies are most relevant to me?

Goal 1: Infrastructure

- Strategy 1.1

Goal 2: Qualified Workforce

- Strategy 2.3

Goal 3: Innovation

- Strategy 3.2



How can I get involved?

Attract businesses to the region and foster a favorable business climate

Creating conditions for economic growth and promoting the Northern Illinois region as a good place for business brings in growth that benefits everyone.

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EDUCATION

The CEDS provides a map for educational institutions to design and deliver curriculum and programs that provide the skills employers need for their current and future workforce. It allows for a variety of educational needs, including college and career readiness for the next generation, upskilling the current workforce, and encouraging technological innovation to remain competitive in the future.

Where can my expertise have the most impact?



Ch. 2 State of the Region

- Population
- Workforce

Ch. 3 Regional Assessment

- Education Systems
- Public-Private Partnerships

Which goals and strategies are most relevant to me?

Goal 2: Qualified Workforce

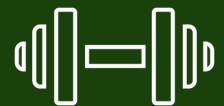
- Strategy 2.2

Goal 3: Innovation

- Strategy 3.3

Goal 4: Resilience

- Strategy 4.3



How can I get involved?

Collaborate with workforce boards and employers to adapt and develop workforce development programs as needs change

Educational institutions are a primary link between young and advancing workers, employers, and instructors.

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PRIVATE SECTOR

The CEDS gives the private sector insight into the region's business climate, allowing it to inform business strategies, investments, and workforce development. When the foundations for regional infrastructure, innovation, skilled employees, economic diversification, and livable communities is laid, Northern Illinois becomes a more prosperous place to do business.

Where can my expertise have the most impact?



Ch. 2 State of the Region

- Housing

Ch. 3 Regional Assessment

- Industry Clusters
- Priority Industrial Sites

Which goals and strategies are most relevant to me?

Goal 2: Qualified Workforce

- Strategy 2.1

Goal 3: Innovation

- Strategy 3.2
- Strategy 3.4



How can I get involved?

[Open engagement with CEDS and workforce/educational initiatives](#)

The private sector has valuable insight that informs progress on these priorities, as well as funding and innovative ideas to drive growth.