



Southern Colorado Economic Development District Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Process and Timeline

Process:

To complete the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, six phases are planned to be completed. Each phase will have key tasks, public involvement milestones, data collection and analysis, identification of priorities, and implementation associated with completing them. The overall process will take approximately a year.

Local Government Introductions and Buy-in October-December

The first phase will be introducing the CEDS process to the SCEDD Board and each of the elected bodies within the 13 counties SCEDD region. During this phase, the importance of the CEDS and how it will be used moving forward needs to be conveyed to the elected County bodies. This step involves a short 10-15 minute presentation during their regularly scheduled work sessions or public meetings. This presentation includes details and timelines of the CEDS process. The presentation is also an opportunity to present the future goals and plans of SCEDD as an organization moving forward. The final part of the presentation will be the introduction of the Economic Development Strategy Survey that each elected official, department head, key local organizations, businesses, and citizen will be invited to take over the coming months. Survey responses will create the baseline for identifying economic priorities and areas of need within our 13 member counties.

Discovery October 2020-March 2020

This is a crucial time for the new Regional Disaster Recovery Planners to get out into each of their respective regions to meet with key partners and local governmental staff. This phase will be the opportunity for staff to begin to understand data, project priorities, community needs, existing planning efforts, and initiate COVID recovery efforts. Important meetings with organizations, elected bodies, and businesses will occur during this time. Staff will be arranging meetings with Economic Development Directors and other staff to begin understanding the impacts of COVID and identifying projects to assist with recovery efforts. This will be our opportunity to understand community needs, funding opportunities, and future projects. During this phase, promotion of the Economic Strategy Survey and collection of results will be concluded. Finally, this will allow for the creation of County and regional subcommittee CEDS members for the Strengthens, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis Phase of the CEDS planning.

Building County Profiles Ongoing throughout the CEDS Planning Process

This phase will be ongoing throughout the entire CEDS process since data sets are released during the entire CEDS process. However, establishing a baseline of important metrics and data on which to base forecasts, impacts, successes, COVID-19 impacts, spatial analysis, and other important planning efforts is essential to the development of the CEDS. Not only for the CEDs five-year profile but also for updates into the future. Existing planning efforts, economic data, and other available data within each County needs to be collected and analyzed during this process. For the CEDS, each County at a minimum should have the following data sets collected starting from 2017-2020. Additional data collected from previous studies or current planning efforts will be included as summarized in the CEDS.

Data Sets to include:

- Population Data (Census and DOLA demographer)
- Employment Data (U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics)
- COVID-19 County Data (Public Health Departments)
- Regional Industry Data
- Incomes and AMI Data
- Tax Revenue Collections (County and Municipal Finance Department)
- ADT counts for CDOT arteries within each county
- Land use data (County Assessors)
- Identification of Key Regional - amenities, institutions, transportation hubs, and recreation assets
- Infrastructure Districts- Water, wastewater, electric, internet, gas
- Housing Data (National Association of Realtors)
- Grant Inventory - existing, pending, planned etc.

County Focused and Sub-region SWOT Analysis and Public Input Evaluation March-July 2021

Once the County profiles, Economic Strategy Survey, and the discovery phase are completed, there should be sufficient data and public feedback for the Counties. Then sub-region committees can be formed. The working groups will proceed with the identification and recommendation of development strategies, project selection, goals, and assignment of duties for implementation. At a County level, two public meetings with key stakeholders should be convened to discuss projects and recommendations. After these projects and recommendations have been formalized, sub-region committees should be tasked with the completion of the CEDS SWOT Analysis and Public input evaluation. During this time, Economic Resiliency, Natural Hazards, and COVID recovery efforts should be evaluated and planned.

At this time four sub-regions committees are being contemplated. These sub regions include the Upper Arkansas, South-Central, Southeast, and Pueblo subcommittees.

Presentation of Recommendations, Public Review, and Elected Official Check-ins August 2021

Prior to the completion of the final CEDS, the draft plan and recommendations should be published and presented to participating elected bodies. Notice of the publication should occur in at least one regional newspaper per sub-region. Final recommendations should be refined and finalized with any additional public input provided.

Adoption of Plan by SCEDD Board September 2021