

C. Goals and Objectives

Based upon the Vision Statement and the Priority Areas to be addressed, the Goals and Objectives for the 2010-2014 Southern New Hampshire CEDS are as follows:

1) Economic Development

To create high-skill, higher-wage jobs within innovative clusters as a means to diversify the regional economy and improve the economic conditions in the area.

- Develop a diversified industrial and commercial base that is competitive in the global economy;
- Target innovation clusters, such as “green” technology, high tech industries and biomedical firms;
- Foster growth of the job support network necessary to maintain the high-skill positions and cluster developments;
- Redevelop properties for industrial and commercial uses in “pockets of distress” areas, downtowns and village centers through the use of targeted financial resources; and
- Encourage the development of an economic development strategy and financial incentives at the state level that complements the business needs in southern New Hampshire.

2) Infrastructure Development

To invest in infrastructure improvements, such as roads, bridges, sewers, water facilities and broadband, and multi-modal transportation systems that will strengthen and diversify the regional economy.

- Maintain and expand the Region’s infrastructure to address the needs of existing businesses and residences, as well as to accommodate the needs of new and expanding businesses;
- Target infrastructure improvements to “pockets of distress” in accordance with sustainable development principles;
- Expand public transit systems through investments in bus and rail service as a means to maximize the mobility of the workforce; and
- Identify and redevelop “brownfield” sites to return them to productive economic use.

3) Regional Cooperation

To develop cost-effective regional solutions to local problems as a means to improve municipal budgets and maintain the quality of life in the Region.

- Consolidate local services to create economic efficiencies and improve the effectiveness of service delivery;
- Develop regional partnerships through the regional planning commissions that encourage collaboration;
- Develop TIF-Districts and other economic development partnerships in order to create jobs; and
- Work collaboratively on the development and implementation of infrastructure projects that will lead to high-skill and higher-wage jobs.

4) Workforce Development

To leverage the resources available through the workforce development and university/community college systems to address the growing skill needs of the business community and regional workforce.

- Facilitate collaboration among the economic development stakeholders in the economic development, workforce development and education sectors to address the current and future skill needs of the business community and regional workforce;
- Identify and address the employment and skill needs of firms within the specific innovative clusters in the Region;
- Support Green Launch Pad as a collaborative approach to university – private business partnerships;
- Foster workforce development at the high school and vocational, trade and technical school levels; and
- Collaborate with REDC on joint funding opportunities under the US. Department of Labor to address layoffs in the Region.

5) Workforce Housing

To develop diversified workforce housing options for all income levels to ensure the availability of workers for expanding businesses and new firms in the Region.

- Work with employers, state and local housing and development entities, banks and private developers to encourage the development of workforce housing on a regional basis;
- Address the foreclosure issue as it has impacted the region and create new housing opportunities through the resolution of this issue;
- Promote pedestrian-friendly mixed-use (residential and commercial) developments in the downtowns and village centers of the region;
- Balance workforce needs with housing needs as a means to identify the extent of need for workforce housing in the Region; and
- Develop financial incentives for communities to work together on a regional basis to address the Region's workforce housing needs.

6) Environmental Preservation

To maintain the unique qualities of life in southern New Hampshire through the preservation of natural and historic resources, and a balanced approach to economic development.

- Preserve and protect the region's natural and historic resources and open space through active maintenance efforts and purchases of additional vacant land;
- Encourage investment in environmentally sustainable development related to "green" products, processes and buildings as part of the "green" economy;
- Support the agricultural and fishing industries serving the region;
- Preserve and enhance the unique environmental and historic characteristics of the region;
- Address the high energy costs of the region through conservation initiatives and working with the public utility companies; and
- Promote tourism and recreational activities that reflect the historic, cultural and natural resources of the Region.