

FALL
2013



Centralina Economic Development Commission

Controlling the cost of government, creating jobs and improving the quality of life.



**National Association of Development Organizations
Establishes CEDS Steering Committee**



The U.S. Economic Development Administration is drafting new guidance for the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), the key economic development planning document for regional planning organizations. The guidance focuses on the content of CEDS and suggests tools, resources, and examples to guide the development of the required elements that must be included in a CEDS document. The strong partnership between NADO and EDA on economic planning strategy and initiatives over the past two years has fostered a request by EDA for the organization's input on the new draft proposed guidelines.

During the 2013-2014 NADO Board of Directors Meeting in August, the board approved the appointment of members to a CEDS Steering Committee who will offer suggestions to EDA on the draft guidance. The Committee will convene for review sessions in October and NADO will prepare a consolidated review comments and recommendations response for EDA in early November 2013. Mike Manis, President/COO of the CEDC has been appointed to serve on the CEDS Steering Committee. Manis' leadership and innovative thinking led to the successful development of the 2012 Prosperity for Greater Charlotte report, that sought to collaborate across political boundaries to acknowledge and promote regional global efforts for economic vitality and will contribute greatly to the EDA guidance update for CEDS economic planning.

Forum on Regional Innovation in Rural America

CEDC staff was invited to participate in the Forum on Regional Innovation in Rural America that was held on September 18 and 19 in Washington DC. The Forum was co-hosted by NADO, USDA and the White House Rural Council. The White House Rural Council coordinates the Obama Administration's efforts in rural America by improving the effectiveness of federal programs. This was the second of two focus group forums this year that involved approximately 60 of the representatives of leading grant initiatives from across the nation.

During the opening plenary at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building, attendees heard from USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack, EDA Deputy Assistant Secretary Matt Erskine, and ARC Federal Co-Chairman Earl Gohl. A closing plenary included remarks from DRA Federal Co-Chairman Christopher Masingill, Acting Director of HUD's Office of Housing and Sustainable Communities Salin Geevarghese, and Acting Under-Secretary for Rural Development Doug O'Brien.

The 60 Representatives from federal initiatives such as the Rural Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge, Stronger Economies Together, and the HUD Sustainable Communities Initiative met with officials from officials from economic development districts, county governments and non-profit organizations to discuss issues of importance to rural regions and small towns; and to find ways to replicate successful regional economic development strategies.

As part of its capacity building efforts for HUD Sustainable Communities grantees, NADO hosted a training session during the forum, led by NADO Director of Economic Development Brian Kelsey, which addressed regional economic development and preparing for upcoming changes to the CEDS process. [*Prosperity for Greater Charlotte*](#) was featured as a best practice.



www.ProspersityForGreaterCharlotte.com

Centralina Economic Development Commission



CEDC Awarded a Federal Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnerships Grant

In June, the CEDC and Centralina Council of Governments submitted a co-application for the U.S. Economic Development Administration's [Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnerships](#) (IMCP) program and official notice of award was received on September 25, 2013.

IMCP is a new Administration-wide initiative that will accelerate the resurgence of manufacturing and help cultivate an environment for businesses to create well-paying manufacturing jobs in regions across the country. The IMCP is designed to reward communities that demonstrate best practices in attracting and expanding manufacturing by using long-term planning that integrates targeted investments in workforce training, infrastructure, research, and other key assets. The IMCP grant, one of just 26 awarded by EDA around the country, is intended to help communities create economic development strategies that leverage their comparative advantages.

The CEDC has assembled a Project Team that includes 10 partnering organizations, each bringing a specific set of expertise, networks, knowledge base to the project and a total in-kind match of \$200,000. These partners include the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce, Charlotte Works, the Charlotte Regional Partnership, E4 Carolinas, Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Central Piedmont Community College, South Piedmont Community College, and Rowan-Cabarrus Community College. Other college partners and the manufacturing community at large will be integral partners to the full initiative.

The project will develop implementation-ready strategies to support and extend the Centralina region's primary core competitive competency in Advanced Manufacturing. Advanced Manufacturing has been identified in [2012-2017 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy](#) as a key regional strength and competency, comprised of an aggregate mix of industry sector densities, workforce skill sets, and key knowledge-based assets that provide cross-cluster support to five of the region's six primary target industry clusters: Aerospace/Defense, Automotive, Biomedical, Energy, and Logistics.

To read the full application for funding or for more information contact the CEDC at cedc@centralina.org.

mindsthatmanufacture
CONNECT INVENT THRIVE

In late February 2014 the CEDC will for the second year partner with the Charlotte Business Journal and others to host the 4th Annual Advanced Manufacturing Awards. The Awards recognize and celebrate process excellence, innovation, environmental stewardship, leadership and collaboration in Advanced Manufacturing displayed in our region during 2013. The Advanced Manufacturing Awards were established in 2010 through the [Minds that Manufacture Initiative](#), lead by the Centralina Economic Development Commission. The awards were created to support and highlight advanced manufacturing in our region and promote a hot spot of bright minds, new ideas, innovative talent and resources. If you would like to learn about sponsorship opportunities or to participate in the competition please send requests to cedc@centralina.org.

What is the CEDC & How Can We Help?

The Centralina Economic Development Commission (CEDC) was established in 2005 by Centralina Council of Governments to promote the retention of jobs, a diversified economic base, development, expansion and retention of business and industry within Centralina's nine county region. The CEDC brings together private and public sectors in partnership to provide a coordinated strategy and ongoing economic development advocacy. With financial assistance from the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA), the CEDC brings together these diverse sectors into a comprehensive economic development and planning process; otherwise known as a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy "CEDS".

To view the 2012-2017 CEDS go to:
www.ProspertyForGreaterCharlotte.com

The CEDC's mission is to implement regional priorities identified in the CEDS by conducting research, providing technical assistance and facilitating access to program funding for our member governments.

Contact the CEDC to find out how our services can benefit your community.
CEDC@centralina.org



www.ProspertyForGreaterCharlotte.com