



## 2010 Revised CEDS Summary

Purpose: The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) provides an in depth economic and statistical analysis of the eight-county region covered by the Buckeye Hills – Hocking Valley Regional Development District. Every three years, Buckeye Hills applies for a Partnership Planning Grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce – Economic Development Administration to help fund its economic development activities. The creation of the CEDS document is a requirement for participation in this program. The CEDS is revised every three years (coinciding with the end of the Partnership Planning Grant), with an annual report due during the years between. To foster local input, a CEDS advisory committee meets twice yearly to discuss current economic conditions within the district. This committee is made up of individuals from throughout the region, with career experience in a wide array of professions and trades. This document also contains a potential EDA project list, gathered from local economic development offices throughout the region. This is crucial to the EDA funding process, as any project which may potentially seek EDA funds must be listed in the CEDS. The completed revised CEDS is due to the EDA – Chicago Regional Office on April 30, 2010.

Goals: During the CEDS development process and the revision of the CEDS document in spring 2010, an updated and ranked list of five goals for the district was created, those goals are as follows:

1. **Increase Broadband Deployment,**
2. **Improve the Condition and Availability of Local Infrastructure,**
3. **Adopt a Regional Message and Mindset,**
4. **Increase Emphasis on Entrepreneurial and Small Business Activities,**
5. **Improve the Overall Perception of Southeastern Ohio.**

The revised CEDS document discusses these goal areas in detail, and outlines action steps to achieve positive and measurable outcomes in each of these areas. Future CEDS documents will report on progress made in each of the individual goal areas.

Regional Issues: A central discussion in each CEDS document is the section discussing regional issues. The 2010 revised CEDS lists the following strengths and weaknesses, some of which have been identified through previous CEDS processes, but are found to still be relevant.

- low cost of living;
- high quality of life;
- resourceful and resilient populous;
- regional pride;
- regional cooperation;
- abundant natural resources;
- unique geographical features:
- access to post secondary education opportunities;
- open access to local leaders and decision makers;
- central location to major markets;
- strong foundation in basic industries, raw materials;
- abundance of historical attractions;
- emerging energy sector/cluster;

The identified weaknesses were:

- lack of broadband deployment
- 'Appalachian' stigma
- lack of a regional message and mindset;
- susceptibility to natural disasters;
- aging and deteriorating infrastructure;
- difficult topography for development;
- persistence of distressed areas;
- lingering environmental issues;
- water/sewer availability in rural areas;
- programmatic difficulties based on rural/ urban mindset;
- lack of local initiative/participation;
- continued decline of the manufacturing sector;
- business losses due to out-of-state and foreign competition;
- most efforts in the region are focused on job creation, not career development

Statistical Updates: The CEDS document contains a wealth of statistical information used to help analyze the regional economy and other conditions present within the district. In order to fashion an effective economic development strategy, it is vitally important that we recognize the statistical trends and patterns present within our area. The CEDS Annual report contains the latest information available from sources such as the U.S. Census Bureau, Ohio Department of Development – Office of Strategic Research, Bureau of Economic Analysis, and the Ohio Bureau of Labor Market

Information. A full complement of tables and related discussion can be found in Chapter 3 of the CEDS document.

**Cluster Analysis:** EDA has also requested that local business clusters be analyzed as part of the CEDS process. Business clusters are defined as ‘concentrations of competing, complementary, or interdependent firms and industries that do business with each other and/or have common needs for talent, technology, and infrastructure.’

Analyzing local data, Buckeye Hills identified five clusters operating within the district: manufacturing, health care, education, metals/polymers, and natural resource production. These sectors were chosen based on their impact on the labor force, contribution to the local economy, or other factors. The full analysis can be found in Chapter 4 of the revised CEDS.

**Other Analysis:** Along with the areas highlighted above, the revised CEDS document also contains discussion and analysis of the following topics: human and economic assets, growth sectors of the economy, the driving force of the economy, external trends and forces, as well as a discussion concerning transportation and transportation in the eight-county region.

**Project List:** The 2010 revised CEDS contains a ranked project listing for all potential EDA projects identified within the district. The ranked project list for 2010 is below. (Note: this list is subject to change before submission and can be amended throughout the year.)

Table 6.1 Ranked Project List 2010								
Rank	Project Name	County	Jobs Created or Retained	Scope of Project	Goal Relationship	Environmental Impact	Distress Level	Total Score
1	AEP Lands	Multi-County	20	20	20	10	10	80
	Drug Development and Commercialization	Athens	20	20	20	10	10	80
2	Meigs County Industrial Building	Meigs	20	15	15	10	10	70
	Ingenuity Center	Washington	20	20	20	10	0	70
	MAHLE Plant Purchase	Noble	20	20	20	10	0	70
	Twp. Rd. 209 Improvements	Morgan	20	15	15	10	10	70
3	Canaanville Sewer Project	Athens	15	15	15	10	10	65
	Athens to Albany Corridor Sewer Project	Athens	15	15	15	10	10	65
4	Noble County Industrial Park	Noble	20	15	15	10	0	60
	Incubator/ Light Manufacturing	Hocking	20	15	15	10	0	60
	WSSC Health Sciences Building	Washington	20	15	15	10	0	60
5	Noble County Enterprise Building	Noble	15	15	15	10	0	55

Projects on this list **do not** carry over from year to year. In order to be included in the ranked CEDS project list, projects must be submitted (or resubmitted) every year.

Funded Projects: No projects from the 2009 CEDS Annual Report were submitted for EDA funding. One project from this list is currently in the process of completing an application.

An initial draft of the 2010 revised CEDS is available in it's entirety for review at:

[http://www.buckeyehills.org/development/ceds\\_10](http://www.buckeyehills.org/development/ceds_10)

Please contact GIS Manager Bret Allphin at 740-374-9436, or via email at [bretallphin@buckeyehills.org](mailto:bretallphin@buckeyehills.org) with comments or questions concerning the 2010 CEDS document.