

COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

2007 ANNUAL REPORT

Southwest Michigan Planning Commission

K. John Egelhaaf, Executive Director

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INTRODUCTION

This Annual Report is a supplement to the five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy and provides a brief summary and analysis of the economic developments occurring in the Southwest Michigan counties of Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren.

Southwestern Michigan can be characterized as a region of vast diversity. Blessed with Lake Michigan and many inland lakes, the region is a premier Midwest location for tourism and second-home development. The unique natural features of the region contribute to a wide variety of agricultural products. Many of these products are sold directly from the farms or from the vineyards to vintners for local winery products.



Map of Southwest Michigan
Counties in EDD

Traditional manufacturing and other industrial business operations are scattered throughout the major cities within the region.

Technology and computer-based businesses are also located in the major population centers. The mixture of manufacturing, technology, and tourism businesses, along with commercial and retail businesses serving residents and visitors alike, contributes to a rich quality of life, a strong seasonal economy, and the potential for labor force growth. As the *Population and Employment* update will show, the region also suffers from historically high unemployment, manufacturing job dislocation, insufficient numbers of skilled workers, and lower annual individual earnings for certain population groups.

As the designated Economic Development District for the Economic Development Administration (EDA), the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission (SWMPC) annually requests the submission of proposed economic development projects from local governments and/or economic developers for inclusion in the CEDS. Although this does not determine applicant eligibility or ensure funding, the process is required for a project to receive EDA consideration and to ensure eligibility for the ten percent district bonus. These economic development projects as well as other development projects will be listed for informational purposes to promote intergovernmental communication and as a resource to measure regional economic development progress.

CEDS ADMINISTRATION

SWMPC Board Membership and Representation

The Southwest Michigan Planning Commission (SWMPC) Board is selected to represent county, city, village, and township officials, and citizen members who represent different interests. The SWMPC Board seeks to reflect the EDA requirements for private sector representation.

Berrien and Cass Counties are currently represented in all eligible capacities. Van Buren County has a Commissioner seat and two Citizen Representative seats vacant. Of the thirty-nine current appointments, eleven of the members are female and six of the members are from a minority group.

SWMPC Administration Committee

The Administration Committee, a subcommittee of the SWMPC Board, oversees all management and operations, and is currently comprised of the Board Officers, the most recent previous chairman, and five additional appointees chosen to provide leadership representative of the region. The Administration Committee includes four female members and one member of a minority group.

SWMPC Board Officers

SWMPC Board officers are selected with the intent to provide representation for each of the region's counties. David Bly of Van Buren County is serving his first one-year term as chairman of the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission. Victoria Chandler, a Berrien County Citizen Representative, serves as vice-chairman. Don Gast, a Berrien County Commissioner, serves as the treasurer and Yemi Akinwale of Berrien County is the alternate treasurer. Frances Sage of Van Buren County is the board secretary.

CEDS Review Process

The 2007 CEDS Committee was comprised of members of the SWMPC Board. An overview of the CEDS process was presented to the Committee and plans were discussed regarding the selection process to establish a sub-committee that will participate in the development of the 2008 CEDS. The Administration Committee was asked to review and comment on the 2007 Annual Report prior to its submission.

The 2003 CEDS was distributed to the county boards of commissioners of Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren Counties, area economic developers and supporting agencies/organizations for their comments and input prior to SWMPC approval. Input was also sought through published notice of a 30-day public review and comment period open to the general public.

The following entities received a copy of the 2003 CEDS and the 2007 Annual Report for review and comment:

- **Berrien County**
 - Economic Development Department
 - County Finance Committee

- Board of Commissioners
- **Cass County**
 - Board of Commissioners
- **Van Buren County**
 - Economic Development
 - Michigan State University Extension
 - Board of Commissioners
- **Southwest Michigan Planning Commission**
 - Administration Committee
 - Full Board

REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Mission Statement

The mission of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is to:
Improve the overall economic health for all residents in the southwest Michigan region.

Goals

The goals for the CEDS are established to direct program activities and address regional economic issues. The CEDS Committee reviews these goals annually with careful consideration of the region's changing economic environment. The goals below are categorized by focus areas affecting overall economic health in the region.

Employment

- Retain, expand, and attract jobs at every economic level.
- Reduce unemployment and poverty especially in communities with greatest distress.

Workforce

- Coordinate partnerships to develop educational opportunities and job skills training to improve the quality and capabilities of the local workforce.
- Develop a desirable work and labor force climate in the region that will attract and retain young adults.

Transportation

- Address transportation issues that create impediments to quality of life pursuits such as steady employment, education, socialization, and healthcare by increasing transit services and transportation options.
- Provide leadership and facilitate partnerships for transportation-related initiatives benefiting the region.

Housing

- Address the lack of affordable housing and its impact on society and the economy by encouraging the development of mixed-income affordable housing in areas accessible to infrastructure, (including transportation) in close proximity to job centers, and as part of all urban or rural development plans.
- Encourage the inclusion of affordable housing design into municipal comprehensive and master planning efforts.

Urban Development

- Encourage urban redevelopment and re-use through renovation and rehabilitation and through the establishment of mixed-use zoning that includes commercial, retail, and residential components.
- Encourage the rehabilitation of unsafe, aging, and insufficient infrastructure and encourage creation of new infrastructure when in accordance with a plan designed to alleviate or prevent urban sprawl.

Tourism

- Strengthen tourism by promoting recreation through the enjoyment of local natural amenities.
- Encourage the development of agriculture as a competitive tourism industry including agri-tourism and agri-tainment.
- Encourage the development of tourism highlighting cultural and historic preservation.

Environment

- Promote responsible use and enhancement of natural amenities to protect and improve the quantity and quality of water, farmland, forests, and other natural habitats to ensure their sustainable attractiveness to businesses, residents, and tourists.
- Promote educational opportunities that will increase levels of awareness and dedication to the preservation and enjoyment of the region's natural areas and resources.

Data

- Increase capacity to gather and provide data and technology services for community and regional planning projects.

Fiscal health

- Alleviate local government fiscal limitations through regional coordination and cooperative partnering efforts.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIPS

Throughout 2007, the SWMPC maintained its partnerships with Michigan State University Extension offices, educators, county planning departments, economic development practitioners, Michigan's Department of Transportation, Michigan Works, and other agencies and organizations to bring education and training opportunities to southwestern Michigan relative to sustainable development.

The SWMPC established a new partnership with the 360 Group that was developed by the Southwest Michigan regional representative of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. The monthly meetings take place at different sites throughout the region and are well attended by a wide variety of job opportunity agencies, economic developers, municipal leaders, and private business interests. The meetings provide opportunities for networking as well as educational presentations regarding economic development projects and plans for the region. The mission statement of the group is: "The 360 is a regional business service provider group enhancing service and information networks through information exchange to effectively, resourcefully, and thoughtfully advocate smart business growth."

Tri-County Planners, a regional association of which SWMPC is a member, continued to sponsor regional workshops on planning, zoning, smart growth, and related topics to further education and advocacy for sustainable development. Association members include planning staff, economic developers, or directors from the three Counties, as well as representatives of the City of Niles, Michigan State University Extension Offices, Cass Conservation District, and Michigan Townships Association. Workshops are held locally at a reduced cost to promote greater participation.

CHANGES IN POPULATION AND EMPLOYMENT

Population

The population estimates for 2006 show that each of the three counties in the Southwest Michigan Economic Development District (EDD) has experienced changes since 2001. Berrien County's population decreased 0.5 percent between April 2001 and July 2006. Although Berrien was the only county in the region to experience a loss over this period of time, because it has the largest population, largest cities, and most employment opportunities, this loss, if it becomes a trend, creates an area of concern. Cass County's population increased only 0.4 percent; however, Van Buren County shows an estimated 3.6 percent increase which surpasses Michigan's overall increase of 1.6 percent. The estimated population change in the district, between 2004 and 2006, indicates an overall decline of 0.5 percent primarily due to low natural population growth (births net of deaths) and a high rate of net migration out of the region.¹

Population Estimates²

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	%Change 2001-2006
Berrien	162,453	n/a	162,402	162,585	162,509	162,090	161,705	-0.50%
Cass	51,104	n/a	51,437	51,371	51,701	51,553	51,329	0.40%
Van Buren	76,263	n/a	77,436	77,965	78,503	78,724	79,018	3.60%
Michigan	9,956,689	10,003,243	10,038,165	10,068,311	10,093,398	10,100,833	10,095,643	1.60%

Employment

The following analysis of the labor market in the Southwest Michigan EDD is excerpted from the Industry Sector Analysis prepared by the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth.

In spite of the recent decline in manufacturing employment, this sector is still the single largest employer in the Berrien-Cass-Van Buren region representing almost 27 percent of the area's job count of 79,380 in 2006. Approximately 67 percent of private employment in the region is concentrated in five main industries: Manufacturing (26.9%), Retail Trade (13.7%), Health Care and Social Assistance (11.6%), Accommodation and Food Services (10.3%), and Administrative and Waste Services (5.0%). Regional industry jobs are expected to expand slowly - nearly two percentage points below the State's growth rate.

Service sectors that registered employment expansion above the statewide average include Professional and Technical Services, Mining, Transportation and Warehousing, Administrative and Waste Services, and Accommodation and Food Services. Educational Services matched the statewide rate of gain but the area's job growth in Health Care and Social Assistance was below the State's average. In the future, it is expected that the area will continue to gain jobs in administrative services, health and social services, and recreational services. Manufacturing jobs are expected to remain constant. Non-farm private payroll jobs

¹ Industry Sector Analysis. Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth; Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives

² U.S. Census Bureau <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/26000.html>

are concentrated in Berrien County (68.5% or 54,300 jobs). Van Buren County's share is approximately 22 percent and Cass County's is 9.6 percent.

The chart below indicates mid-year unemployment rates for 2004, 2005, and 2006. Compare with the 2006 average annual unemployment rates for the district (overall 6.6%) which was three-tenths of a percentage point lower than the statewide average (6.9%). Berrien County's 2006 average annual unemployment rate was 7 percent, Cass County's was 5.3 percent and Van Buren County's was 6.7 percent. Within some of these counties there are segments of unemployment as high as 15-20%.

County and Regional Labor Force and Unemployment Rates

Area	June 2004		June 2005		June 2006		Difference 2004-2006	
	Labor Force	Unemp Rate	Labor Force	Unemp Rate	Labor Force	Unemp Rate	Labor Force	Unemp Rate
Berrien	83,825	6.8%	79,696 *	7.0%*	82,285	6.8%	-1,540	-0-
Cass	26,775	4.0%	28,108	4.7%	28,629	4.4%	1,854	+0.4%
Van Buren	36,850	6.6%	40,653	6.4%	41,240	6.0%	4,390	-0.6%
Southwest Region	147,450	5.8%	148,457	6.0%	152,154	5.9%	+4,704	+0.1%
Michigan	5,075,000	7.0%	5,154,891	6.9%	5,115,000	6.3%	+40,000	-0.7%

Source: Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth/Office of Labor Market Information.³

Positive forecasts for the future include the recent opening of the Four Winds Casino in Berrien County supplying nearly 2,000 jobs. The region's health-care sector continues to add new capacity and abilities providing more opportunities for residents to receive high quality healthcare closer to home.⁴ Harbor Shores Community Redevelopment Inc. of Benton Harbor (Berrien County) has begun construction on the Jack Nicklaus signature 18-hole golf course that will be the foundation of a large development project including a hotel, indoor water park, and waterfront condominiums. This development is expected to provide a large number of jobs primarily in the sectors of hospitality and retail services.

³ As of 2005, MDLEG identifies Berrien County as Berrien County, MI (Niles-Benton Harbor, MI Metropolitan Statistical Area). Cass and Van Buren Counties have not changed – unemployment rates are only available on county levels.

<http://www.michlmi.org/LMI/Imadata/laus/2005/laus2006.htm>

Berrien <http://www.michlmi.org/LMI/Imadata/laus/lausdocs/0211f04.htm>;

Cass <http://www.michlmi.org/LMI/Imadata/laus/lausdocs/0271f04.htm>;

Van Buren <http://www.michlmi.org/LMI/Imadata/laus/lausdocs/1591f04.htm>

⁴ <http://www.upjohninst.org/regional/Sept2007Viewpoint.pdf>

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT ACTIVITIES (2007)

Services provided by the SWMPC are primarily in the areas of project development, grant writing, grant administration, and data distribution. Other related efforts include recreation planning, training and instruction, public outreach, state and federal liaison activities, (including U.S. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) and other partnership opportunities when possible.

Master Plan Developments

- In the process of completing the Master Plan for the City of Buchanan
- Provided demographic update information for St. Joseph Charter Township's Master Plan update
- Completed the Pipestone Township Master Plan - adopted by Township
- Reviewed and provided language to Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians for Hartford Area Master Plan
- Partnered with Van Buren County Planning Commission to create a municipal master plan checklist for Smart Growth (based on the County's Comprehensive Plan)
- Linked to community assessment tools on SWMPC website
- Made a presentation to Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indian's Council and Department Heads on Master Planning and Transportation Planning
- Partnered with MSUE and economic development agencies to offer Citizen Planner (SWMPC staff provided two of the five speakers for the course)

Community Services Planning

- Provide coordination services for Van Buren County Continuum of Care; coordinated Van Buren County's Project Connection, a homelessness prevention event that provided one-stop-shop services to 125 adults and 189 minor children.

Recreation Planning

- City of Bangor Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plan
- City of Bangor – Completed Black River Heritage Trail, Boardwalk and Low Impact Development Demonstration project
- As part of the Growing Greener initiative, completed a review of all recreation plans on file to evaluate and summarize local municipal and county green infrastructure related efforts

Transportation/Transit Planning

- Began development of the 2009-2035 Long Range Transportation Plans (LRP) for the Niles-Buchanan-Cass and Twin Cities Area Transportation Studies (NATS and TwinCATS, respectively). The first step in this process involved the verification of local population data, as well as the location and number of employees for the largest employers in the NATS and TwinCATS areas.

- Developed an environmental mitigation and consultation component to the LRP that requires the SWMPC to consult with federal, states and local agencies responsible for land use and economic development when developing transportation documents.
- Developed the Fiscal Year 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which includes a four-year listing of road and transit projects in the NATS and TwinCATS areas that will be completed using federal dollars. In order to be listed in the TIP and receive federal funding, these projects must be compatible with the goals identified in the 2005-2030 LRP, which include:
 - *Support the Economic Vitality of Southwest Michigan*
 - Promote Safety Conscious Planning in Southwest Michigan
 - Ensure the Equitability of the Transportation System
 - Preserve the Regional Transportation System
 - Promote Livable Communities and Environmental Responsibility in Southwest Michigan
 - Efficiently and Effectively Move Goods and Services within Southwest Michigan
- Completed PASER road ratings for federal aid eligible roads in the tri county area. The road ratings are part of an Asset Management Program that helps to preserve the condition of the major roads in Southwest Michigan.
- Continued and expanded efforts to select technology to better improve transit operations and coordination among transit and human service agencies in Southwest Michigan. Partners in the project have increased to include transit agencies in Van Buren, Cass, Berrien, St. Joseph, and Branch Counties; MDOT; and several human service providers, including senior services, mental health, and the Department of Human Services.
- Developed the Van Buren Public Transit (VBPT) Coordinated Transit Plan, which allows VBPT to apply for certain types of Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funding, including Job Access/Reverse Commute funds.
- Participated in the Safe Routes to School program in Benton Harbor. This program involved a multi-disciplinary team of individuals who surveyed students, parents, teachers, and conducted walking audits of the areas surrounding three elementary schools. An action plan is under development that will identify engineering, educational, and enforcement solutions that will ensure safer streets and neighborhoods so that students can walk and bike to school.
- Re-branded Rideshare program to make it more consumer friendly
- Designed a website for the new brand called Go Rideshare.
- Researched and implemented web based school pool and car pool matching system
- Promoted new program regionally to schools and companies
- Partnered with area transit agencies to promote Go Rideshare

Grant Writing

- Completed administration of a Community Development Block Grant for City of Bangor Downtown Infrastructure Improvement project
- Wrote National Park Service grant for St. Joseph Charter Township to purchase playground equipment for Eaton Park (Awarded in 2007)

- Wrote MNRTF grant for Weesaw Township to purchase a community park in New Troy. (Awarded in 2007)
- Partnered with MSU, National Parks Service, County Planning Commissions to write MDEQ Coastal Zone Management Grant for surveying residents in Berrien, Cass and Van Buren Counties to understand perceptions and support of land conservation and recreation opportunities and the associated benefits and to host a workshop for local officials to assist communities with incorporating green infrastructure elements into their local plans and policies (Awarded in 2007)
- Partnered with public transit agencies and Michigan Works! to write a grant for technical assistance to increase coordination between public transit and Michigan Works! and to help provide more public transit services to Michigan Works! clients for job related trips (training, interviews, etc.) (Awarded in 2007)
- Partnered with the Conservation Fund to write a 319 MDEQ grant for the Galien River Watershed to assist local communities with promoting low impact development techniques in future residential, commercial and industrial developments.
- Wrote National Scenic Byways Grant for US 12 Heritage Route. (Awarded in 2007)
- Provided technical assistance to the Area Agency on Aging to write a grant to improve coordinated transit for seniors.

Michigan Information Data Center Reporting

- The SWMPC compiles an Affiliates Annual Report to the Michigan Information Data Center of activity in response to information requests.

GIS/Mapping

- Created web pages on SWMPC website about GIS and mapping capabilities at SWMPC and linked to other GIS resources
- Created numerous maps for community planning efforts
- Created map for winery/vineyard promotional project coordinated by Michigan State University Extension offices

Natural Resources and Watershed Management

- Green Infrastructure Planning - Growing Greener in Southwest Michigan - Project Goal: Develop a regional green infrastructure (GI) program in southwest Michigan, which provides tools for more results-oriented natural resources, land use, and economic development planning. This project will foster increased awareness of the connection between GI and prosperity (recreation, tourism, economic, and health benefits) for current and future generations
- Wrote a request to the National Parks Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program for technical assistance for the Growing Greener Project (Awarded)
- Completed a review of all recreation plans on file to evaluate and summarize local municipal and county green infrastructure related efforts

- Completed stakeholder interviews of conservation organizations to better understand their efforts in land conservation and management in Berrien, Cass and Van Buren Counties
- Contracted with Michigan Natural Features Inventory to identify and rank potential conservation areas in Berrien, Cass and Van Buren Counties
- Created Growing Greener web pages on SWMPC website explaining the environmental and economic benefits of Green Infrastructure
- Working on management plan for the Paw Paw River Watershed
- Assisted with implementation of the Galien River, Black River and St. Joseph River Watershed Management Plans
- Created several web pages on SWMPC website about watersheds and water quality in Berrien, Cass and Van Buren Counties
- Farmland Protection - provided data to Cass County regarding agriculture and the economic impact of farming to develop a county ordinance for farmland protection
- Posted agricultural related data for Berrien, Cass and Van Buren Counties on SWMPC website
- Developed and distributed three editions of a newsletter on Low Impact Development (LID) to municipalities in Berrien and Van Buren Counties explaining how to develop land in a manner that best protects water quality and natural resources; also developed several web pages on SWMPC's website about LID; conducted workshop for local officials and developers on LID

Heritage Route Tourism

- Continued work with the US12 Heritage Trail
- Designed and launched a new US 12 Heritage Trail website with community calendars
- Contracted with I-69, a Recreational Heritage Trail, to coordinate activities
- Collaborated w/Preserve America to build a grant submission for future “Beach Town Heritage Trail.”
- Researched and created guidebook for International Heritage Tourism Conference regional lab for US 12 Heritage Trail.
- Sent out update packets to municipalities, chambers, and tourism offices. Information included the following: Vendor Garage Sale press release template for local promotion, Michigan Marker Day press release, copies and updates of promotion coverage over the last eight months.
- Entered all sites and attractions into database for use on website and GPS location information
- Assisted various communities and organizations on methods to attract customers to the regions of the US 12 Heritage Trail that focused on place and the stories of the people.

COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Community and Economic Development Program has the fundamental purpose to support local units of government and economic development organizations in their work to improve the business climate and quality of life of southwestern Michigan. The principal purpose of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy is to: 1) conduct a regional planning process that analyzes area needs and identifies strategies to achieve economic development goals; 2) provide technical assistance in grant writing and administration; and, 3) offer services in information and research. Funding is provided through: *U.S. Economic Development Administration, county dues, local contracts, and fees.*

- I) Economic Development District (EDD) Administration
 - A. Revise the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy if necessary.
 - B. Complete financial and progress reports including the 2006 Annual Report under the terms of the EDA planning grant
 - C. Prepare the 2008-2010 EDA planning grant application (November 2007)
- II) Information Center
 - A. Provide quality, comprehensive economic and demographic related data services
 - 1. Carry out operations policies and procedures
 - 2. Maintain and develop the print, digital, and on-line data collection and reports
 - 3. Execute the State Data Center Affiliate Agreement (September 2007)
 - 4. Issue annual service delivery report
 - B. Prepare, publish, and promote data products in response to client needs
 - 1. Continue revising Census data as received
 - 2. Prepare a regional Manufacturers and Processors Guide
 - 3. Develop other products as time permits and demand warrants, including GIS mapping products, regional business loss and gain report
 - C. Promote services to target audiences
 - 1. Continue information distribution via the SWMPC website
 - a. Include sections to assist communities with issuing RFP, RFQ
 - b. Include information to assist communities in realizing their planning goals
 - 2. Communicate availability of new data
- III) Planning and Projects
 - A. Fulfill EDD responsibilities to EDA grant projects
 - 1. Monitor current projects and assist in developing potential projects in cooperation with Economic Development Representative of EDA
 - 2. Promote all State and Federal revenue sources available for community and economic development
 - a. Develop methods for communities to easily search for grant opportunities
 - b. More effective promotion of the SWMPC as a grant research resource
- IV) Other Related Efforts

- A. Partner with other area organizations (MichiganWorks!, Cornerstone Alliance, etc.) as development opportunities arise
 - 1. Explore EDA Grant opportunities that coincide with development plans in distressed areas
 - 2. Assist with parks and recreation planning to improve community quality of life
 - 3. Continue to participate and coordinate activities with the Council for World Class Communities
- B. Write Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)
 - 1. Coordinate and develop potential projects
 - 2. Write applications as requested
- C. Administer Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)
- D. Develop and provide studies that might assist local economic development practitioners
 - 1. Traffic studies
 - 2. State and national trends
 - 3. Telecommunication needs

PROJECT REVIEW

Projects received in response to the “Call for Projects” and the Regional Clearinghouse process are reviewed and added to a status tracking matrix which is updated each year for five years. This system will note if a project has been approved, funded, or completed and how many, if any, jobs were created or retained. If a project has not actually begun at the end of three years, the project will be archived unless it is resubmitted for review. Projects are tracked for the purposes of understanding regional investments and subsequent job creation. The review and tracking process will assist in determining areas of growth, decline, saturation, or deficiencies. This process will help analysts understand geographic patterns of growth or decline as well.

2007 Call for Projects Letter

Date: June 12, 2007

To: Local Units of Government in Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren Counties and Economic Development Partners

From: Shelley Klug, Associate Planner

Re: *Economic Development District Call for Projects*

As the Economic Development District coordinator for Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren Counties, the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission submits an annual report to the United States Economic Development Administration (EDA) of **economic development projects** in the region. Projects are included as submitted by local governments and economic developers and become part of the *Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)*.

Projects listed in this CEDS report satisfy the EDA requirement of inclusion in an approved CEDS to be eligible for funding consideration. Inclusion in the report alone does not determine eligibility for applicants or their projects but it can be a step toward it. Inclusion in the CEDS can also increase the score on grant applications to organizations like the Department of Natural Resources that award additional points to projects when they are included in an economic development plan.

While the CEDS identifies projects with potential for EDA funding (see attached investment policy guidelines from the EDA), the intent of the document is to identify *all* economic development-related projects in the district.

Enclosed you will find a form requesting basic information about your current projects (for any municipality within Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren Counties) to be included in the 2007 CEDS Annual Report. Please use a separate form for each project you submit.

Please submit your project information to this office by July 20, 2007 to be included in the 2007 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Report.

Thank you for your participation in this regional planning and review process designed to assist economic opportunity in southwestern Michigan!

SLK

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2007 Call for Projects Questionnaire

<i>Local Unit of Government</i>		<i>Project Title</i>
<i>Contact Person</i>		<i>Title</i>
<i>Street or P.O. Box</i>		<i>City, State, Zip code</i>
<i>Telephone</i>	<i>Fax</i>	<i>Email</i>

Summary of Project:

Is the project industrial, commercial, recreational, tourism-related, or other (Circle one – if other, please explain)

Is the project new construction, expansion, rehabilitation, or other? (Circle one – if other, please explain)

Is the project identified in a planning document?

If yes, please specify name and date of document:

How many permanent jobs were created or are projected?

How many permanent jobs were, or will be, retained?

What is the status of the engineering?

Has any private investment been committed? (please specify)

Have local matching funds been secured?

Funding Information

Please identify funding sources. Use the following key to indicate status: A = Applied for S = Secured

\$	Status	\$	Status	\$	Status
<i>EDA</i>		<i>Other Federal</i>		<i>State</i>	
\$	Status	\$	Status	\$	
<i>Local</i>		<i>Private</i>		<i>Total Project Amount</i>	

Please return this form to the

SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN PLANNING COMMISSION
185 East Main Street, Suite 701, Benton Harbor, Michigan 49022
Phone: 269-925-1137 x 13 ••• Email: klugs@swmpc.org

Investment Policy Guidelines

Investment applications will be competitively evaluated on their ability to meet or exceed the following investment policy guidelines:

Be market-based and results-driven. An investment will capitalize on a region's competitive strengths and will positively move a regional economic indicator measured on EDA's Balanced Scorecard, such as: an increased number of higher-skill, higher-wage jobs; increased tax revenue; or increased private-sector investment.

Have strong organizational leadership. An investment will have strong leadership, relevant project management experience, and a significant commitment of human-resources talent to ensure a project's successful execution.

Advance productivity, innovation, and entrepreneurship. An investment will embrace the principles of entrepreneurship; enhance regional clusters, and leverage and link technology innovators and local universities to the private sector to create the conditions for greater productivity, innovation, and job creation.

Look beyond the immediate economic horizon, anticipate economic changes, and diversify the local and regional economy. An investment will be part of an overarching, long-term comprehensive economic development strategy that enhances a region's success in achieving a rising standard of living by supporting existing industry clusters, developing emerging new clusters, or attracting new regional economic drivers.

Demonstrate a high degree of commitment by exhibiting:

- High levels of local-government or nonprofit matching funds and private-sector leverage.
- Clear and unified leadership and support by local elected officials.
- Strong cooperation between the business sector, relevant regional partners, and local, state, and federal governments.
-

More information is available at the following web address:

<http://www.eda.gov/InvestmentsGrants/Inpolguideline.xml>

SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN PLANNING COMMISSION

Governing Board Members October 19, 2007

2007 Governing Board Members

NAME	RESIDENCY	OCCUPATION	AFFILIATIONS	MINORITY	FEMALE	Holds Elected Position
<i>*SWMPC Administration Committee Member</i>		<i>*Elected to this position</i>	<i>*SWMC Full Board Representation</i>			
Akinwale, Yemi*	Hartford	Hartford City Manager	Berrien County Citizen Representative* Community Hospital Foundation Watervliet	X		
Appleyard, Dorothy	South Haven	Mayor of South Haven*	Mayor of South Haven* South Haven Historic Association South Haven Center for the Arts South Haven Downtown Development Association Black River Heritage Trail LDFA		X	X
Bly, David*	Bloomingtondale	Bloomingtondale Township Supervisor*	Van Buren County Townships Association Representative* Secretary, Bloomingtondale Area Development Corp. Bloomingtondale Area Improvement Club Bloomingtondale Depot Museum Committee Van Buren County 911 Committee Executive Board, Van Buren County Republican Party County Michigan Townships Association Bloomingtondale Christian Church Board Love Network Home Missions Board			X
Clark, Janet	New Buffalo	Retail Business Owner	Berrien County Citizen Representative* Harbor County Chamber of Commerce, President Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra Board Of Directors New Buffalo Performing Arts		X	
Chandler, Victoria*	Sodus Township	Small Business Owner	Berrien County Citizen Representative* Lakeshore Development Coordinating Council		X	
Conway, Agnes	New Buffalo	Supervisor, New Buffalo Township*	Berrien County Townships Association Representative* Park Committee Cemetery Board Chamber of Commerce MTA Steering Committee for La Porte Road Corridor Master Plan Methodist Church		X	X

SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN PLANNING COMMISSION

Governing Board Members October 19, 2007

NAME	RESIDENCY	OCCUPATION	AFFILIATIONS	MINORITY	FEMALE	Hold Elected Position
Cook, Barbara Wood	Niles	Retired	Cass County Citizen Representative* Cass County Planning Commission Cass County Historical Commission MEANDRS Fort St. Joseph Save the Fort Cass County Historical Society DAR US 12 Heritage Trail Council Advisory Board of The Museum at SW Michigan College		X	
Cooke, Wilce	Benton Harbor	Mayor City of Benton Harbor*	Mayor, City of Benton Harbor*	X		X
Durm-Hiatt, Marge*	Niles	Niles Township Clerk*	Supervisor's Alternate, Niles Township*		X	X
<i>*SWMPC Administration Committee Member</i>		<i>*Elected to this position</i>		<i>*SWMC Full Board Representation</i>		
Ferguson, Ron	Benton Harbor	Benton Charter Township Supervisor*	Benton Charter Township Supervisor*	X		X
Fintze, Richard	Niles	Retired Marketing Manager	Berrien County Citizen Representative* Berrien County Planning Commission Four Flags Chamber of Commerce Four Flags Senior Housing Board Niles Area Transportation Board Friends of Niles/River Fest Michigan Civitan Foundation Support The Fort, Inc.			
Ganum, Juan	Niles	City of Niles Community Development Director	Mayor's Alternate, City of Niles*	X		
Gast, Donald*	Baroda	Medical Administration	Berrien County Commissioner* Area Agency on Aging Berrien Health Board Hospice at Home Five Pine Ministries			X
Goodman, Edward	Silver Creek Township	Electrician	Cass County Commissioner* Silver Creek Township Zoning Administrator Silver Creek Township Electrical Inspector Human services Coordinating Council MAC Planning and Zoning Advisory Committee International Brotherhood of electrical workers Local 153 Dowagiac Elks Dowagiac Moose Silver Creek Township Neighborhood Watch Cass County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)			

SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN PLANNING COMMISSION

Governing Board Members October 19, 2007

NAME	RESIDENCY	OCCUPATION	AFFILIATIONS	MINORITY	FEMALE	Holds Elected Position
Griffin, Ron	St. Joseph Township	St. Joseph Charter Township Supervisor*	Supervisor, St. Joseph Charter Township* Cornerstone Alliance Board			X
Hanson, Donald*	Decatur	Farmer	Van Buren County Commissioner* SMCAA Director Berrien Cass Van Buren Michigan Works Director Public Health Board of Directors			X
Hinkleman, Jon	Watervliet	Farmer	Berrien County Commissioner* National Grape Co-operative Board Director Welch Foods Board Director Teamster Countryside Charter School Board Member Founder, Countryside Rural Education Corporation			X
<i>*SWMPC Administration Committee Member</i>		<i>*Elected to this position</i>	<i>*SWMC Full Board Representation</i>			
Hodgson, John	St. Joseph	Assistant City Manager	Mayor's Alternate, City of St. Joseph Zoning Administrator St. Joseph Brownfield Redevelopment Authority			
LaHaie, Alice T.	Niles	Retired	Cass County Citizen Representative* League of Women Voters Berrien/Cass Counties		X	
Lehmann, Walt	Silver Creek Township	Silver Creek Township Clerk*	Cass County Townships Association Representative* Cass County Planning Commission Michigan State University Master Citizen Planner Natural Systems, Inc. Environmental Technician Hazwopper – Supervisor/Trainer CERT of Cass County Notary Public			X
Miller, John	Dowagiac	Tribal Chairman*	Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians*	X		X
Minks, Jesse	Buchanan	Retired	Berrien County Citizen Representative* UMWA –Union Rep			
Newcomer, John	Baroda	Owner Record Company	Berrien County Citizen Representative* Baroda Township Planning Commission Baroda Township Zoning Board of Appeals Cornerstone Chamber of Commerce, past President Board of Directors, Five Pines Ministries, Berrien Center Lakeshore Public Schools Chair of Millage/Bond Committee			

SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN PLANNING COMMISSION

Governing Board Members October 19, 2007

NAME	RESIDENCY	OCCUPATION	AFFILIATIONS	MINORITY	FEMALE	Holds Elected Position
Pantaleo, Paul	New Troy	Business Owner	Oronoko Township Supervisor's Alternate* Berrien County Solid Waste Committee Chair Weesaw Township Parks and Recreation Committee Four Flags Chamber of Commerce Berrien Springs Optimist Club Friends of New Troy National Wildlife Federation World Wildlife Fund Blossomland Soccer League Board			
Payne, Gloria	Bridgman	Lake Charter Township Clerk*	Berrien County Townships Association Representative*		X	X
Powers, Robert	Marcellus	Retired Insurance Agent	Cass County Citizen Representative* Cass County Road Commission			
Preston, Linda*	Pokagon Township	Pokagon Township Supervisor*	Cass County Townships Association Representative* MTA Board of Directors MAR Chair 4-H Key Leader		X	X
Radtke, Jeff	Decatur	Manager, Decatur Lumber	Van Buren County Citizen Representative* Van Buren County Planning Commission, Chairman Land Preservation Board			
<i>*SWMPC Administration Committee Member</i>		<i>*Elected to this position</i>	<i>*SWMC Full Board Representation</i>			
Remus, Richard	St. Joseph	Bank Commercial Lender	Berrien County Citizen Representative* Cornerstone Chamber of Commerce			
Rodebush, Johnie*	Niles	Retired Iron Worker	Cass County Commissioner* Area Agency on Aging Member Niles Chamber of Commerce American Legion Masonic Lodge #4 Friends of Cass County Parks Cass County Parks Advisory Committee Niles Senior Center Niles Community Schools Millage Committee Howard Community Lions Niles Toastmasters – Four Flags Friends of Howard Township Library			X
Ruzick, Daniel	Mattawan	Supervisor, Antwerp Township*	Supervisor, Antwerp Township*			X

SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN PLANNING COMMISSION

Governing Board Members October 19, 2007

NAME	RESIDENCY	OCCUPATION	AFFILIATIONS	MINORITY	FEMALE	Holds Elected Position
Ryman, Donald F.	Buchanan	Lawyer	Berrien County Commissioner* Berrien County Finance Committee, Chairman Michigan Economic Development Corporation, Director Berrien County Economic Development Corporation Berrien County Loan Guarantee Board Berrien County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, Chairman Berrien County Historical Association, Director State Bar of Michigan Berrien County Bar Association Pioneer Automobile Association			X
Sage, Frances*	Gobles		Van Buren County Citizen Representative* School Board Member		X	
Sayer, James*	Dowagiac	Semi-Retired	Cass County Citizen Representative* Cass County Transportation Board, Secretary Dowagiac Lions Club Dowagiac Chamber of Commerce Dowagiac Elks Club Woodlands Mental Health Board, Cassopolis, MI			
Seats, Marletta	Benton Harbor		Berrien County Commissioner* UAW 383 MAC Economic Development and Taxation Benton Township Planning Commission County Disaster Planning	X	X	X
Snow, James	Dowagiac	Dowagiac City Clerk	Mayor's Alternate, City of Dowagiac			X
<i>Administration Committee Members</i>		<i>*Elected to this position</i>		<i>*SWMPC Full Board Representation</i>		
Stauffer, Dick	Stevensville	Lincoln Charter Township Supervisor*	Lincoln Charter Township Supervisor* MTA Church Trustee			X
Tapper, Sr., John H.*	Paw Paw	Chairman of the Board of John Tapper, Inc	Van Buren County Townships Association Representative* Paw Paw Greater Chamber of Commerce Van Buren/Cass Health Board Van Buren Mental Health Board			
Toth, Mike	Paw Paw	Insurance Agent	Van Buren County Commissioner* Paw Paw Township Fire Board Paw Paw Chamber of Commerce			X

2007 CEDS Committee Members By County

Berrien County

Commissioners

Don Gast
Donald Ryman
Marletta Seats
John LaMore

Michigan Townships Association

Agnes Conway
Gloria Payne

Citizen Representatives

Yemi Akinwale
Janet Clark
Victoria Chandler
Richard Fintze (planning board))
Jesse Minks
John Newcomer
Richard Remus

Municipal Appointments in Berrien County

Wilce Cooke	Mayor, City of Benton Harbor
John Hodgson	Mayor's Alternate, City of St. Joseph
Juan Ganum	Mayor's Alternate, City of Niles
Ron Ferguson	Supervisor, Benton Charter Township
Dick Stauffer	Supervisor, Lincoln Charter Township
Ron Griffin	Supervisor, St. Joseph Charter Township
Paul Panteleo	Supervisor's Alternate, Oronoko Charter Township
Marge Durm-Hiatt	Supervisor's Alternate, Niles Township

Cass County

County Commissioners

Johnie Rodebush
Edward Goodman

Michigan Townships Association

Walt Lehmann
Linda Preston

Citizen Representatives

Barb Cook (Member, planning board)
Alice LaHaie
Robert Powers
James Sayer

Municipal Appointments in Cass County

James Snow	Mayor's Alternate, City of Dowagiac
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Van Buren County

County Commissioners

Donald A. Hanson
Mike Toth
VACANT

Michigan Townships Association

David Bly
John Tapper

Citizen Representatives

Louise Engle
Jeff Radtke (Member, planning board)
Fran Sage
VACANT

Municipal Appointments in Van Buren County

Dorothy Appleyard	Mayor, City of South Haven
Daniel Ruzik	Supervisor, Antwerp Township

Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians

One at-large member - Appointed by tribe

John Miller
Alternates Daniel Rapp, Tim Fenderbosch

2007 Economic Development Projects
(Received in response to "Call for Projects")

Project Name	Category	Municipality	Status
I-94 Corridor Economic Development Study and Plan	Commercial	Hartford City and Township Watervliet City and Township	In progress
Three Oaks Township Industrial Park	Industrial/Commercial	Three Oaks Township	Preliminary planning
Wal-Mart	Commercial/New Construction	Village of Paw Paw	In progress
Star Health Medical Center	Commercial/New Construction	Village of Paw Paw	In progress
Advanced Auto	Commercial	Village of Paw Paw	In progress
Tapper Auto Dealership	Commercial expansion	Village of Paw Paw	In progress
Downtown Parking Lots	Public Use	Village of Paw Paw	Complete

2007 Progress Report of 2006 Economic Development Projects
(Received in response to "Call for Projects")

Project Name	Category	Municipality	Status	Jobs Created or Retained
Central Middle School Brownfield	Commercial/new construction	City of Dowagiac	Completed	8 created & 27 retained
Industrial Park Rail Spur	Industrial/new construction	City of Bangor	Approved	
Water Treatment Plant	New construction/Public use	Village of Mattawan	Funded	Due to begin late 2007
Bangor Community Museum	Tourism-related/new construction	City of Bangor	Not Approved	
Southwestern Michigan Aquatic Center	Recreation/Education/Tourism/new construction	Berrien County	Withdrawn	
Bangor City Hall	Rehabilitation/Government	City of Bangor	Not Approved	

2007 Regional Clearinghouse Review

Applicant	Project	Location	Funding Source	Status
ABB Joint Fire District	Fire Trucks and Vehicles	Bangor City and Twp, Arlington Twp	USDA Rural Development	
Village of Vandalia	New Cemetery	Village of Vandalia	USDA Rural Development	
City of Hartford	I-94 Corridor Development Plan	Cities of Hartford & Watervliet; Twps of Hartford and Watervliet	USDA Rural Development	
Cornerstone Alliance	Harbor Shores	Benton Harbor	USDA Rural Business Opportunity	
Cornerstone Alliance	Small Business Incubator Feasibility Study	Benton Harbor	USDA Rural Business Opportunity	
Michigan BioDiesel	Construction of BioDiesel Plant	City of Bangor	USDA	
City of Bangor	Bangor Economic Development Corporation Revolving Loan Fund	City of Bangor	USDA Rural Development	
City of Bangor	New Police Vehicle	City of Bangor	USDA Rural Development	
Chikaming Open Lands	Great Lakes Habitat Restoration	Chikaming Twp	US Department of the Interior (Fish and Wildlife Service)	
Village of Galien	Water System Project	Village of Galien	USDA Rural Development	
Benton Charter Township	Robbins Park Improvement	Benton Charter Twp	MDNR	
City of Hartford	Downtown Community Enhancement and Parking Lot Reconstruction	City of Hartford	USDA Rural Development	
YWCA	Administration Center	Benton Harbor	USDA Rural Development	
YWCA	Child Development Initiative	Benton Charter Twp	USDA Rural Development	
Goodwill Industries	Goodwill Facility Purchase	Benton Harbor	USDA Rural Development	
My Ranch, Inc.	Multi-purpose facility	Vandalia	USDA Rural Development	
Weesaw Township	Community Park Acquisition	Weesaw Twp	MDNR	Funded
Kloosterman Greenhouses, Inc.	Green House Heat Curtain	Antwerp Twp	USDA Rural Development	
MDNR	Building Renovation, upgrade and demolition; State Park Camper Cabin Project; State Park Utility; SW Lower Peninsula Eco-Regional Land Consolidation	Various (some in SW Michigan)	MDRTF	
City of Hartford	Ely Park Development	City of Hartford	MDNRTF	
Michigan Works	Community Services Integration Project	Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren Counties	Administration for Children and Families, Compassion Capital Fund	
Douglas and Jason Meacham	Scherer Farm Camp	Lawrence Twp	USDA Rural Development	
Watervliet Charter Township	Water Capacity and Systems Improvements	Watervliet Charter Twp	USDA Rural Development	
Lakes Area Sewer Authority	Lakes Area Sewer Project	Marcellus and Volinia Twps, Cass County and Porter Twp, Van Buren County	USDA Rural Development	
Tri-County Head Start	Head Start Regular Operation	Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren Counties	US Department of Health and Human Services	
Berrien County – MSU Extension	Conduct a three-day conference regarding winery/vineyard establishment (tourism, job-creation)	Berrien County	USDA Rural Development	

**2007 Progress Report
2006 Projects Received Through Regional Clearinghouse Review**

Applicant	Project	Location	Funding Source	Status
Village of Mattawan	Arsenic Treatment Plant	Mattawan	USDA Rural Development	Funded – due to begin late 2007
CWAEDC	Establish revolving loan fund	Coloma/Watervliet	USDA	No response
Edgeworks Land Company	New Edgeworks South Haven Building	South Haven	USDA	No response
Lake Michigan College	Educational Talent Search	Benton Harbor	US Dept of Education	No response
Chikaming Open Lands	Habitat Management	Lakeside/New Buffalo	US Dept of the Interior	Not approved – will reapply 2008
MI Dept. of Agriculture	Select Michigan 2006	8 counties SW MI	USDA Rural Business Enterprise	No response
Lake Michigan College	Educational Opportunity Centers Program	Benton Harbor	US Dept of Education	No response
Village of Vandalia	Napoleon Fields Park/Milo Park Improvements	Vandalia	MDNRTF	No response
Hagar Township	Roadside Park Improvements	Riverside	MDNRTF	No response
Village of Decatur	Southside Park Pavilion	Decatur	MDNR	No response
Village of Bloomingdale	Bloomingdale Wastewater Collection & Treatment System	Bloomingdale	USDA Rural Development	Funded – will begin Summer 2008
City of St. Joseph	Howard Family Recreation Path Lighting	St. Joseph	MDNRTF	Not approved
City of Hartford	Ely Park Development	Hartford	MDNRTF	No response
Michigan Biodiesel	Construction of Biodiesel plant	Bangor	MDNRTF	No response
Village of Galien	Public Water System Study	Galien	USDA Predevelopment	No response
Tri-City Village	Rehabilitation of Senior Housing	Watervliet	HUD	No response
Carol Terry	Terry's Wind Generator	Cassopolis	USDA Rural Business Co-op	No response
MI Dept of Natural Resources	Inland Waters Access Initiative; State Trailways Initiative; State Park and Recreation Area Consolidation; Wildlife Land Consolidation	Statewide	MDNRTF	No response
Dickerson's Greenhouse	Dickerson's Greenhouses Energy Renewable Project	Bloomingdale	USDA Renewable Energy	No response
SW MI Technical Assistance Center	Procurement Technical Assistance for Business Firms	SW MI Region	MEDC and Defense Logistics Agency	No response
Berrien County Health Department	Nurse Family Partnership Program	Berrien County	US Dept of Health and Human Services	No response
Berrien County Health Department	Abstinence Education and Promotion Project	Berrien County	US Dept. of Health and Human Services	No response
Berrien County Health Department	Community Alliance Against Substance Abuse	Berrien County	US Dept. of Health and Human Services	No response
Southwestern Michigan Commission	Sodus Kitchen Incubator Feasibility Study	Sodus/Benton Harbor	USDA Rural Business Enterprise	No response
St. Joseph Charter Township	Eaton Park Playground Equip.	St. Joseph Township	MDNR Recreation	Preliminary approval
City of Dowagiac	Dowagiac Youth Sports Park	Dowagiac	MDNR Recreation	No response
City of St. Joseph	Kiwanis Park Softball Field Renovation	St. Joseph	MDNR Recreation	Not approved
South Haven Charter Township	Deerlick Creek Park Acquisition	South Haven Township	MDNR Recreation	Funded – due to begin 2008 or 2009
Village of Baroda	New Industrial Park	Baroda	USDA Rural Development	No response
Weesaw Township	Township Community Park Acquisition	New Troy	MDNR Recreation	No response
Benton Harbor Public Schools	Re-design of H.S. for Small Learning Communities	Benton Harbor	US Dept. of Education	No response
Tri-County Head Start	Regular Operating Funds	Berrien/Cass/Van Buren	US Dept. of Health and Human Services	Funded

REGIONAL INVESTMENTS

USDA Rural Development Investments Southwest Michigan 2006⁵

	Water and Environmental Program	Business Programs	Single-Family Housing Loans/Grants	Multi-Family Rental Assistance	Multi-Family Housing Loans/Grants
Berrien County			\$3,517,995		
Weesaw Township	\$1,479,000				
Village of Berrien Springs	\$1,579,000				
Village of Galien	\$7,000				
Watervliet Township		\$85,000			
Total Investment in Berrien County \$6,667,995.00					

	Water and Environmental Program	Business Programs	Single-Family Housing Loans/Grants	Multi-Family Rental Assistance	Multi-Family Housing Loans/Grants
Cass County			\$2,101,472	\$335,125	
Cassopolis*		\$4,981			
Total Investment in Cass County \$2,441,578.00					

	Water and Environmental Program	Business Programs	Single-Family Housing Loans/Grants	Multi-Family Rental Assistance	Multi-Family Housing Loans/Grants
Van Buren County			\$3,540,114	\$549,605	
Village of Mattawan	\$2,252,000				
City of Bangor		\$3,000,000			
South Haven*		\$13,000			
Bloomington*		\$110,249			
Woda Doranne Greene**					\$2,000,000
Total Investment in Van Buren County \$11,464,968.00					

Other Regional Investments					
Coloma Watervliet Area Economic Development Corporation**					\$40,000
Southwest Michigan Planning Commission**					\$40,000
2006 Total USDA Investment in Southwest Michigan Region					\$20,654,541

*Denotes an individual in that municipality

**Denotes organization or agency

⁵ Michigan 2006 Annual Report USDA Rural Development - <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mi/annual%20report06%201page.pdf>

**MEDC Community Development Block Grants
Southwest Michigan January 1, 2006 – July 16, 2007**

Municipality	Project Name	Award Date	Award Amount
Berrien County			
None Awarded			
Cass County			
Ontwa Township	North American Forest Products Infrastructure Expansion	10/06	\$360,000
Village of Cassopolis	Schwinteck, Inc. Infrastructure Project	06/06	\$210,000
City of Dowagiac	Downtown Parking Project	06/06	\$48,686
Village of Vandalia	Street, Parking Lot, & Park Improvements	05/06	\$110,851
Van Buren County			
City of Bangor	Infrastructure Capacity Enhancement	02/06	\$418,000
Bangor Township	Parking Lot and Park Improvement	05/06	\$6,544
City of Hartford	Infrastructure Capacity and Water System Improvements	04/06	\$190,000
City of Hartford	Water Tower Improvements	05/06	\$250,877
City of Hartford	Water System Improvements	10/06	\$520,000
Village of Lawrence	Infrastructure Project	04/06	\$250,000
Village of Mattawan	Arsenic Removal Treatment Plant	11/06	\$500,000
Berrien County and Van Buren County –Joint Award			
City and Township of Hartford City and Township of Watervliet	I-94 Development Planning Project	04/07	\$50,000

**MEDC Incentives
Southwest Michigan 2006 - 2007**

Location of Project	Project Name & Type of Incentive	Award Date	Incentive Amount
Berrien County			
City of Niles	YMCA Industrial Development Revenue Bonds	09/06	\$7,360,000
City of Benton Harbor	Harbor Shores Brownfield Single Business Tax Credit	12/06	\$9,230,000
City of Benton Harbor	Harbor Shores Brownfield Tax Increment Financing	05/07	\$15,145,933
City of Benton Harbor	Harbor Shores Brownfield Tax Increment Financing	10/06	\$82,855,472
City of Niles	Chemical Bank Brownfield Single Business Tax Credit	08/06	\$190,000
City of Benton Harbor	Victoria Ventures Brownfield Single Business Tax Credit	03/06	\$40,013
Multi-Site	Whirlpool Technologies Michigan Economic Growth Authority SBT Credit	05/06	\$10,449,000
City of St. Joseph	Edgewater Automation Michigan Economic Growth Authority SBT Credit (High-Technology)	12/14	\$263,000
Cass County			
City of Dowagiac	City of Dowagiac Brownfield Tax Increment Financing (Pegasus Holdings & Land Development LLC)	08/06	\$1,622,502
Milton Township	Hess Industries Michigan Economic Growth Authority SBT Credit	04/06	\$1,499,000
Van Buren County			
City of South Haven	Everett Park, LLC Brownfield Single Business Tax Credit	04/07	\$1,000,000
City of South Haven	Albermarle Corporation (Rural Retention) Michigan Economic Growth Authority SBT Credit	07/06	\$4,114,000

**MEDC Economic Development Job Training Grants (EDJT)
Southwest Michigan 2006-2007**

Grantee	Company	Award Date	Award Amount	Match Amount
Lake Michigan College	Express-1	08/06	\$25,000	\$8,107
Lake Michigan College	Whirlpool Corporation	03/06	\$345,110	\$90,000
Southwestern Michigan College	Autocam Corporation	08/06	\$30,000	\$116,338
Lake Michigan College	Mach Mold Inc.	03/07	\$30,424	\$9,500
Lake Michigan College	Maximum Mold	03/07	MCP 1668	MCP 1668
Lake Michigan College	Elbe & Sohn, Inc.	03/07	MCP 1668	MPC 1668

CONCLUSION

In summary, the SWMPC has continued its support of the CEDS goals through interdisciplinary planning efforts (land use, transportation, and economic development), provision of information (Census, traffic counts, mapping, etc.), and grant writing and grant administration for a variety of development projects. SWMPC planners and staff have also attended and spoken at a variety of events where the goals for community and economic development can be discussed and promoted.

The Southwest Michigan Planning Commission will continue to concentrate on activities that support economic development and strengthen local governments' and economic developers' efforts to retain and expand existing business and attract new business to the region.