

Siouxland Interstate Metropolitan Planning Council

(SIMPCO) Economic Development Scope of Work

Fiscal Year 2011 July 1, 2011 -June 30, 2012 (REVISED)

A. Administrative/Eligibility related activities:

1. Environmental justice will be utilized as is the basis of the CEDS. Participation from low- to moderate-income individuals, minorities, the elderly and the disabled in both the CEDS process and the yearly work program, will be sought out to insure the needs of the aforementioned individuals are met. Maintaining a minority representation on the SIMPCO Board of Directors and utilizing the input of the position in order to identify additional interested and diverse individuals and groups.
2. Supply the Economic Development Administration's representative with timely information concerning prospective and actual plant closures, including the number of employees affected as well as other notable economic events. Continue to promote the Economic Development Administration's programs to area leaders and the SIMPCO Board of Directors.
3. Make any necessary amendments to the CEDS document taking a proactive approach.
4. **Supply the Economic Development Administration with information specific to the 2011 flooding and the impact of the disaster on the Siouxland economy.**

B. Development activities:

1. **SIMPCO will work with area business and industry rebuilding and maintaining existing regional clusters. SIMPCO will develop business and industry flood damage reports emphasizing the flood's impact on the local and regional economy. SIMPCO will bring business leaders and government officials together in order to establish economic development projects in anticipation of possible federal and state funding.**
2. A study of small business opportunities related to the CEDS and characteristics of jobs offered by firms operating within the targeted region and in firms whose growth could be stimulated by expansion of the region. Coordination for the study was done with Iowa State University-University Center and the Iowa Councils of Governments.

3. Maintain current information regarding the development programs/business assistance capacity of various local, state, and federal agencies. Continue membership with the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO), the Economic Development Districts (EDDs) in Nebraska, Nebraska Regional Officials Commission (NROC), and the Iowa Association of Regional Councils (IARC).
4. Facilitate the exchange of pertinent economic development related information through established referral systems to appropriate sub-area and local development groups.
5. Explore partnership collaborations with agencies in order to utilize existing staff expertise promoting EDA programs and to strengthen the CEDS services with the region.
6. Maintain (and update as needed) an economic development data base for the use of the District, private developers/market researchers, units of government, as well as private individuals. Begin establishment of interaction patterns with the private and public sectors once the data base is developed.
7. Assist local downtown improvement groups with efforts to revitalize main streets and central business districts, and develop strategies for the reuse of central commercial buildings and space.
8. Provide technical assistance to local communities and counties with needs assessments and resource identification for the purpose of creating economic development action plans.
9. Coordinating with Western Iowa Technical Community College in Workforce Development programs pertaining to recent job losses within the region.
10. SIMPCO staff will continue to coordinate with its members and other development groups (such as chambers of commerce) pursuing the issues raised at past Tri-State Legislative Forums involving cooperative and collaborative approaches among the states of Iowa, South Dakota, and Nebraska. In addition, assistance in organizing future conferences shall be provided. SIMPCO will partner with Western Iowa Technical Community College in sponsoring further Tri-State Legislative Forums encouraging interstate cooperation among legislators and facilitate contact with constituents. SIMPCO will continue to coordinate mechanisms for rural members by identifying common interests, shared concerns, and mutually beneficial solutions.

11. Assist rural businesses in preparing Disaster Recovery Plans. SIMPCO will provide materials, research, and data as well as composing Disaster Recovery Plans as needed. **SIMPCO will assist communities and organizations in updating floodplain ordinances and flooding disaster plans in order to mitigate future natural disasters**
12. Coordinate efforts to address housing conditions not conducive to the economic development of the area. SIMPCO will support the development of housing and housing assessments throughout the area.
13. Assist local governments with other, non-grant, financing tools related to economic development projects.
14. Provide traditional planning assistance to member governments in areas such as zoning, smart growth, and effective land use increasing the capacity for economic development opportunities.
15. SIMPCO will assist communities in updating and enforcing codes of ordinances. SIMPCO will work with communities in developing strategic land use and planning encouraging stable economic growth. Assist local governments with urban renewal and revitalization development projects.
16. SIMPCO will promote its "Community Beautification Program" (providing nuisance abatement services) as a beneficial economic development tool.
17. SIMPCO will assist communities with updating and creating comprehensive plans.
18. SIMPCO will assist federal and state agencies attempting to coordinate and focus resources to the non-urban portion of the District. SIMPCO will promote access across the rural portion of the District to technology needed to support development of business capable of providing high wage jobs, including the infrastructure needed to support e-commerce and remote office sites.

C. Promotional/Marketing Activities

1. SIMPCO will emphasize marketing efforts to increase business development within the flooded areas. Marketing efforts to attract business and industry to start up expand and locate within the SIMPCO regional area will be timed to reflect the flood protection and mitigation efforts. Marketing will highlight the importance of the planning efforts to insure the safety of the area from future natural disasters. SIMPCO will work with communities and economic development agencies to utilize technology in marketing efforts.
2. Assist communities in exploring the benefits of alternative technology driven marketing opportunities.
3. Continue promotional efforts to educate members on the availability, use, and value of existing economic development tools on the federal, state, and local levels.
4. Continue promotional activities designed to increase citizen, business, and governmental participation in the Commission's and EDA's economic development programs.
5. Continue a region-wide distribution of informational materials including pamphlets, grant alerts, meeting notices, and a newsletter to increase awareness of economic development related programs and activities among local governmental units, development corporations, and existing area businesses.
6. Provide information to development prospects exploring the area for the purpose of business expansion and buyers looking to purchase existing g businesses.
7. Support and promote tourism/recreation development. Assist cities and counties obtain grant dollars to fund new projects and to sustain existing programs.
8. Assist with the promotion of secondary and post-secondary education as a valuable resource in the developmental process.