

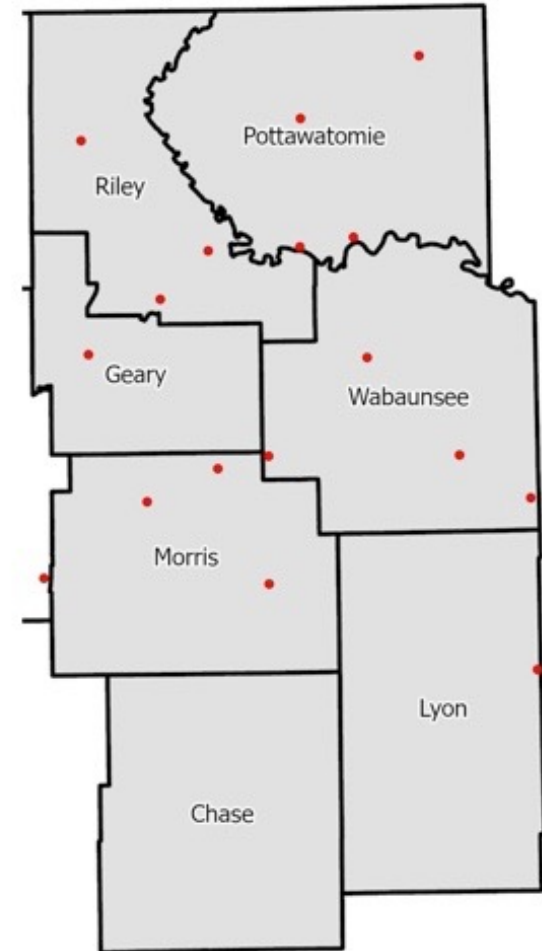
# FLINT HILLS REGION

Flint Hills Economic Development District  
Steering Committee

October 15, 2021

# Flint Hills Economic Development District

FLINT HILLS  
**REGION**



Seven-County District



**E·D·A**  
U.S. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

*A bureau within  
the U.S. Department  
of Commerce*

FLINT HILLS  
**REGION**

*The Flint Hills Economic Development District is our region's most valuable designation.*

*Economic Development District Designation = Access to Millions of Dollars to Support Our Region*

*Flint Hills Regional Council's coordinator role to oversee the implementation of the CEDS is critical to the region, and no other entity is positioned to assist in this way for the seven-county area.*

# ***Achieved through a locally-based, regionally-driven economic development planning process***

## ***EDA's Description:***

Economic development planning – as implemented through the CEDS – is not only a cornerstone of the U.S. Economic Development Administration's (EDA) programs, but successfully serves as a means to:

- Engage community leaders
- Leverage the involvement of the private sector
- Establish a strategic blueprint for regional collaboration
- Provides the capacity-building<sup>1</sup> foundation by which the public sector, working in conjunction with other economic stakeholders (individuals, firms, industries), creates the environment for regional economic prosperity

**A Strategy-Driven Plan for  
Regional Economic Development**

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**REGION**

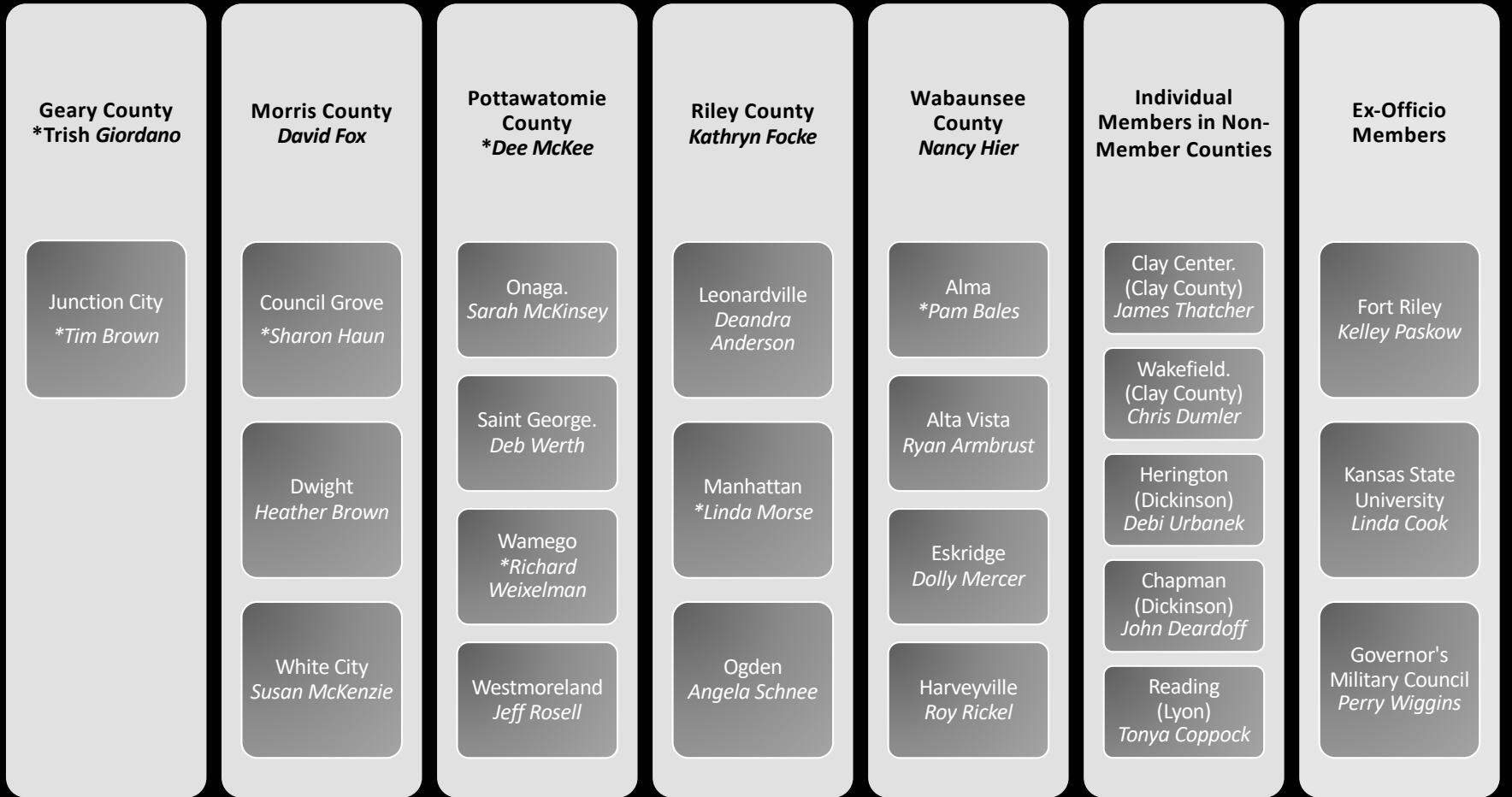
# Why is the Flint Hills Regional Plan Critical for Our Region?

Serves as prerequisite for Economic Development District designation by EDA

- Provides a vehicle for individuals, organizations, local governments, institutes of learning, and private industry to engage in a meaningful conversation and debate about what capacity building efforts would best serve economic development in the region
- Creates opportunity for private-public partnerships
- **Takes into account and, where appropriate, integrates or leverages other regional planning efforts**
- Leverages use of other available federal funds, private sector resources, and state support to advance a region's CEDS goals and objectives
- Regions must update their CEDS at least every five years to qualify for EDA assistance under its Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance programs.

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**REGION**

# Flint Hills Regional Council Board of Directors



**Flint Hills Economic Development District – EDA Designation**  
*(Chase County & Lyon County are also within FHEDD District, but are not a current members of FHRC)*

## Grant Budgets Active in 2021

	<b>Multi-Year Grants</b>	<b>Federal Share</b>	<b>FHRC Cash Match</b>	<b>Donated Cash Match</b>	<b>In-Kind</b>
1	<b>2018 OLDCC (OEA) - JLUS I</b>	\$402,394	\$14,998	\$0	\$29,772
2	<b>2020 OLDCC (OEA) - JLUS II</b>	\$466,421	\$15,670	\$0	\$36,155
3	<b>2021 OLDCC (OEA) - Supplement</b>	\$120,295	\$6,332	\$0	\$0
4	<b>2021 EDA Partnership Planning</b>	\$70,000	\$11,856	\$39,299	\$26,749
5	<b>2016 EDA Partnership Planning</b>	\$42,409	\$42,409	\$0	\$0
6	<b>2020 EDA CARES</b>	\$399,886	\$0	\$0	\$0
7	<b>2018 EPA Brownfields</b>	\$600,000	\$0	\$12,000	\$0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,101,405</b>	<b>\$91,265</b>	<b>\$51,299</b>	<b>\$92,676</b>

This table represents the grant budgets of multi-year grants active in 2021.

# EDA 2016 Partnership Planning Grant Budget

Year 1 & 2	Actuals	Grant Budget	Balance
Salary	\$110,196.75	\$178,084.00	\$67,887.25
Fringe	\$15,640.45	\$19,421.00	\$3,780.55
Travel	\$5,245.83	\$6,360.00	\$1,114.17
Equipment	0	\$0.00	0
Supplies	\$2,335.52	\$2,135.00	-\$200.52
Contractual	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other	\$3,292.10	\$0.00	-\$3,292.10
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$136,710.65</b>	<b>\$206,000.00</b>	<b>\$69,289.35</b>

Year 5	Actuals	Grant Budget	Balance
Salary	\$59,906.03	\$80,197.00	\$20,290.97
Fringe	\$10,019.05	\$18,529.00	\$8,509.95
Travel	\$1,572.55	\$2,000.00	\$427.45
Equipment	0	\$0.00	0
Supplies	\$2,798.56	\$3,000.00	\$201.44
Contractual	\$20,196.97	\$35,274.00	\$15,077.03
Other	\$706.58	\$1,000.00	\$293.42
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$95,199.74</b>	<b>\$140,000.00</b>	<b>\$44,800.26</b>

Year 3	Actuals	Grant Budget	Balance
Salary	\$92,494.37	\$89,746.00	-\$2,748.37
Fringe	\$14,705.34	\$27,754.00	\$13,048.66
Travel	\$3,900.77	\$6,500.00	\$2,599.23
Equipment	0	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Supplies	\$4,203.52	\$1,000.00	-\$3,203.52
Contractual	\$16,299.40	\$0.00	-\$16,299.40
Other	\$2,364.49	\$0.00	-\$2,364.49
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$133,967.89</b>	<b>\$140,000.00</b>	<b>\$6,032.11</b>

Total Year 1-5	Actuals	Grant Budget	Balance
Salary	\$313,333.09	\$450,245.00	\$136,911.91
Fringe	\$49,786.71	\$78,986.00	\$29,199.29
Travel	\$13,986.51	\$21,360.00	\$7,373.49
Equipment	0	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00
Supplies	\$15,028.13	\$7,135.00	-\$7,893.13
Contractual	\$66,856.08	\$42,274.00	-\$24,582.08
Other	\$8,103.17	\$1,000.00	-\$7,103.17
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$467,093.69</b>	<b>\$626,000.00</b>	<b>\$158,906.31</b>

Balance at end of 5-year grant period = \$158,906.31

Federal Balance Remaining = \$79,453.16 ← De-obligated

Local Match Balance Remaining = \$79,453.16

Total Remaining Balance = \$154,906.31

Final Financial Report Submitted 6-29-21

Final Performance Report Submitted 4-30-21

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**REGION**

Year 4	Actuals	Grant Budget	Balance
Salary	\$50,735.94	\$102,218.00	\$51,482.06
Fringe	\$9,421.87	\$13,282.00	\$3,860.13
Travel	\$3,267.36	\$6,500.00	\$3,232.64
Equipment	0	\$10,000.00	10000
Supplies	\$5,690.53	\$1,000.00	-\$4,690.53
Contractual	\$30,359.71	\$7,000.00	-\$23,359.71
Other	\$1,740.00	\$0.00	-\$1,740.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$101,215.41</b>	<b>\$140,000.00</b>	<b>\$38,784.59</b>



# THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS!

## 2021 – 2024 CONTRIBUTION SUMMARY BY ENTITY & STAFFING PLAN

Flint Hills Regional Council

Project # EDA-DEN-PL-DRO-2021-2006601

### Summary of Cash and/or In-Kind Contribution by Entity

Funding Sources	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
EDA	\$70,000	\$70,000	\$70,000	\$210,000
Flint Hills Regional Council	\$3,952	\$3,952	\$3,952	\$11,856
City of Junction City	\$10,710	\$10,710	\$10,710	\$32,130
JC/GC Area Chamber of Commerce & EDC	\$6,643	\$6,643	\$6,643	\$19,929
Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce	\$37,638	\$37,638	\$37,638	\$112,914
Pottawatomie County EDC	\$8,686	\$8,686	\$8,686	\$26,058
Greater Morris County Development Corp	\$1,165	\$1,165	\$1,165	\$3,495
Wabaunsee County - Office of Eco Dev	\$1,206	\$1,206	\$1,206	\$3,618
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$140,000</b>	<b>\$140,000</b>	<b>\$140,000</b>	<b>\$420,000</b>

FLINT HILLS  
REGION

# THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS!

Non-Applicant Entities	In-Kind/Cash - 1	In-Kind/Cash - 2	In-Kind/Cash - 3	In-Kind/Cash - 4	In-Kind/Cash - 5	In-Kind /Cash - 6	Total
Cost Items	City of Junction City	Junction City / Geary County Area Chamber of Commerce & EDC	Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce	Pottawatomie County EDC	Greater Morris County Development Corporation	Wabaunsee County - Office of Economic Development	
Personnel (salary/wages)		\$6,642.60	\$11,562.79	\$3,325.00	\$1,034.65	\$1,206.00	\$23,771
Fringe Benefits			\$2,847.49		\$130.00		\$2,977
Travel							
Equipment							
Supplies							
Contractual							
Other (Office, copies, phone, etc.)							
Indirect Costs							
<b>In-Kind Total</b>		<b>\$6,642.60</b>	<b>\$14,410.28</b>	<b>\$3,325.00</b>	<b>\$1,164.65</b>	<b>\$1,206.00</b>	<b>\$26,749</b>
<b>Cash Contribution</b>	<b>\$10,710.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$23,228.00</b>	<b>\$5,361.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$39,299</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$10,710.00</b>	<b>\$6,642.60</b>	<b>\$37,638.28</b>	<b>\$8,686.00</b>	<b>\$1,164.65</b>	<b>\$1,206.00</b>	<b>\$66,048</b>

*Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce will provide new letter each grant year upon Board approval for cash portion.*

## TIMELINE

Monthly FHRC Board Meetings – Board Serving as Administrator of District

### **July - December 2020 –**

One-on-One Meetings & Presentations with Stakeholders Throughout District  
Assessment of Existing Plans/Initiatives in Each County & Comparing to District ED Plan

### **January – February 2021 –**

Draft Strategies & Potential Action Items Distributed to Eco Dev Professionals to Review and Identify  
Relevancy & Action Items  
Secured Match Commitments & Submitted App. for 2021 EDA Partnership Planning Grant

### **March 31, 2021 (Close-out June 30, 2021)**

Finalized Last Deliverable  
EDA Partnership Planning Grant Period Ended (2016 – Five-Year Grant)

### **April 1, 2021 – May 31, 2021**

2021 EDA Partnership Planning Grant Awarded  
Worked with K-State Plan Making Course – Applied Learning Opportunity  
Five-Year Performance Report Submitted

### **June 2021 to Current**

SWOT Survey Launched – CEDS Plan Update  
Close-out of 2016 – Five-Year Grant – De-obligating Funding (June 30, 2021)  
Collecting & Updating Data, Developing Recovery & Resiliency Components

### **October 2021**

Restructured & Expanded Regional Steering Committee  
Regional Steering Committee Meeting

# HOW TO SUPPORT AND PROTECT OUR LARGEST ECONOMIC ENGINES

## FORT RILEY STATIONING DECISIONS INFLUENCED BY TWO MODELS

*Enhance Economic Viability and Improve Quality of Life Throughout the Flint Hills Region*

<b>Community Support Value Analysis Factors (2019 Model)</b>	<b>YOUR MISSION IS OUR MISSION</b>
Professional Licenses	whether or not state allows for expedited, temporary or endorsed professional licenses for military spouses or belongs to an interstate compact for any professions
Housing	private sector shortfall – Number of families likely unable to find suitable off-post housing
Schools	State test scores for grade 4 math & reading, grade 8 math and reading
Medical	Network fit %, measuring for each list of specialties, the ratio of providers available in the community to providers estimated to be needed based on population.
Intergovernmental Support Agreements	The number of IMCOM Common Level of Support services at an installation

# HOW TO SUPPORT AND PROTECT OUR LARGEST ECONOMIC ENGINES

## KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY'S 2021 IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES

### Immediate Priorities – Your Mission is Our Mission

Ongoing COVID-19 Response

Post COVID Financial Sustainability – FY21 & FY22 Budget

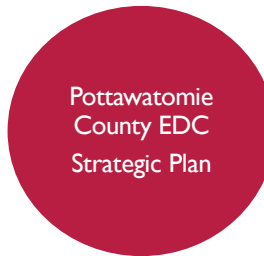
Enrollment

Diversity Action Plans

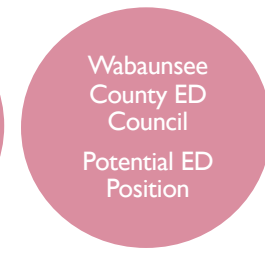
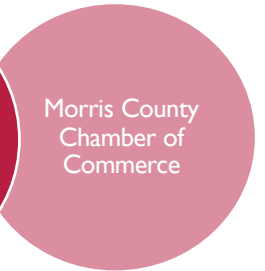
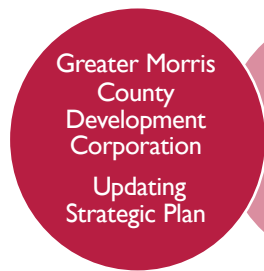
Administrative Efficiencies

***Enhance Economic Viability and Improve Quality of Life Throughout the Flint Hills Region***

- ✓ Focus on Traditional ED
- ✓ Local and/or Dual Focus (i.e. Business Recruitment, Site Selection, Industry Target Market Analysis, Workforce)



- ✓ Mix of ED & CD
- ✓ Business Recruitment
- ✓ Housing
- ✓ Childcare
- ✓ Tourism
- ✓ Entrepreneurship & Support of Small Business
- ✓ Community Pride

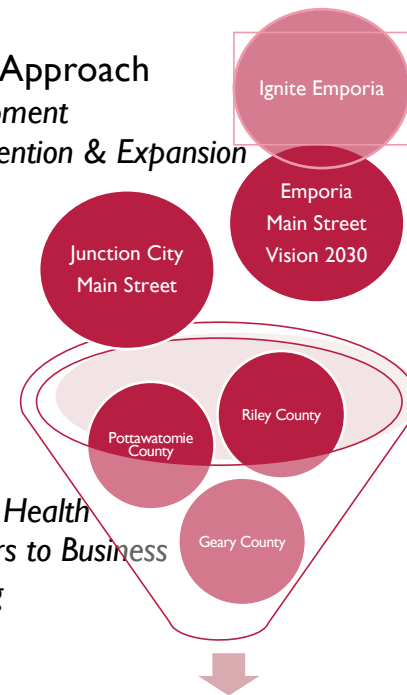


✓ Comprehensive ED & CD Approach

- Traditional Economic Development
  - Business Attraction, Retention & Expansion
- Entrepreneurship
- Talent Attraction & Retention
  - Quality of Place
  - Built Environment

✓ This Also Includes

- Regional Healthcare / Mental Health
- Connecting Students & Soldiers to Business
- Quality of Place / Placemaking
- Housing
- Broadband
- Childcare
- Leadership
- Tourism / Marketing Regional Assets

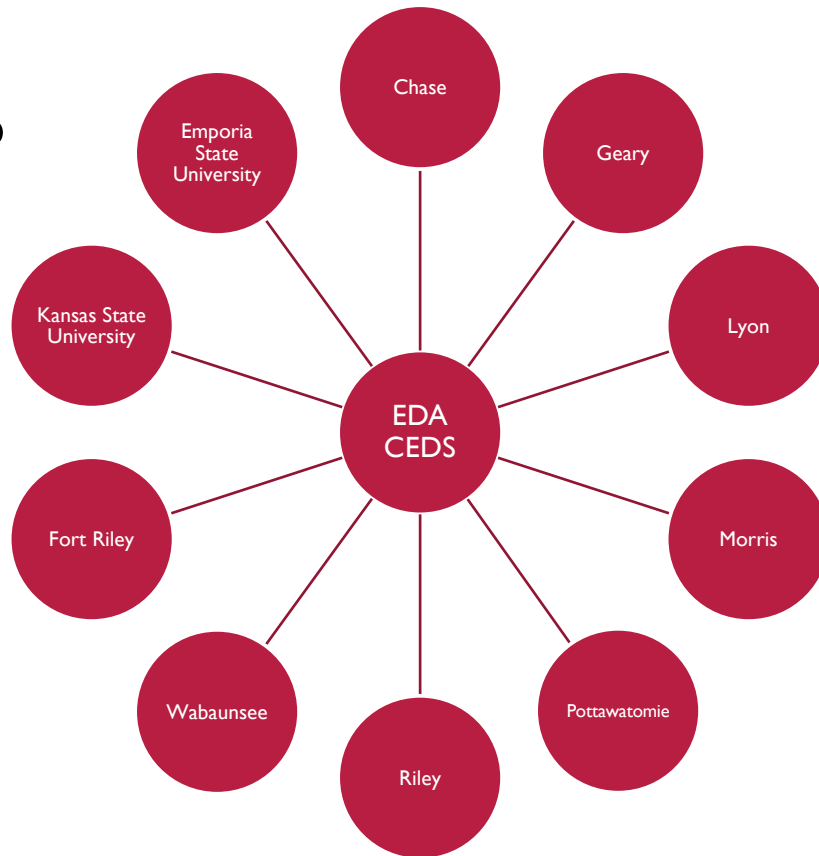


Region Reimagined

YOUR MISSION IS OUR MISSION

# FLINT HILLS REGIONAL COUNCIL'S COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

## Macro



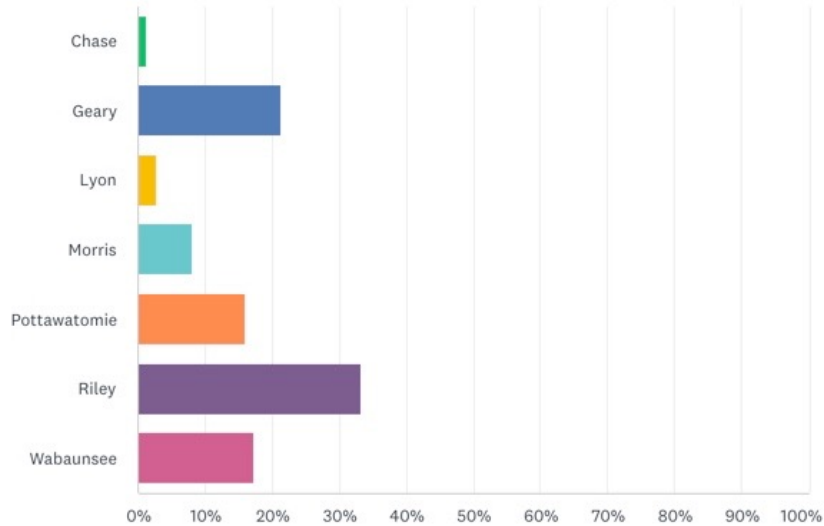
- Regional Collaboration & Partnerships
- Robust Regional Workforce
- Regional Tourism and Branding
- Business Retention and Expansion
- Educated / Trained Workforce
- Population Retention & Attraction
- Entrepreneurship
- Broadband
- Childcare Access
- Medical Care Access
- Leadership Training



# REGIONAL SWOT SURVEY LAUNCHED JUNE 16, 2021

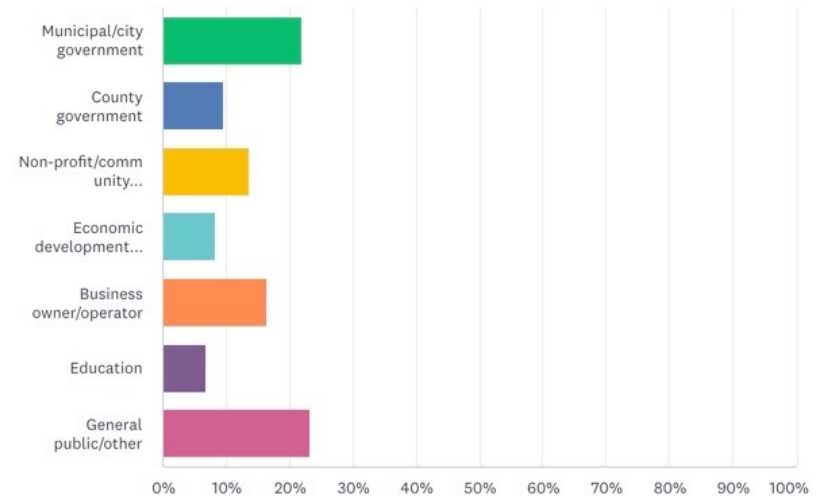
What county are you from or do you represent?

Answered: 75 Skipped: 1



Which of the following sectors are you representing in your responses?

Answered: 73 Skipped: 3



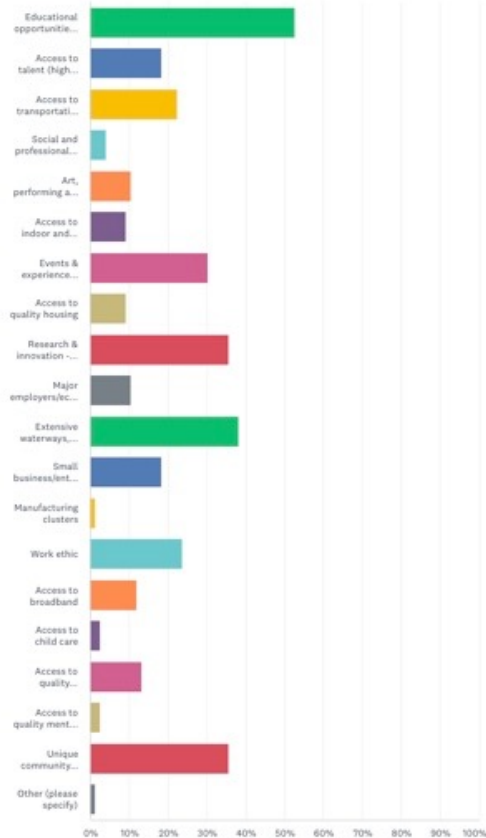
76 Responses



# REGIONAL SWOT SURVEY RESULTS TO-DATE - STRENGTHS

Which of the following do you perceive as the top strengths of the Flint Hills Region? (Please choose THREE)

Answered: 76 Skipped: 0

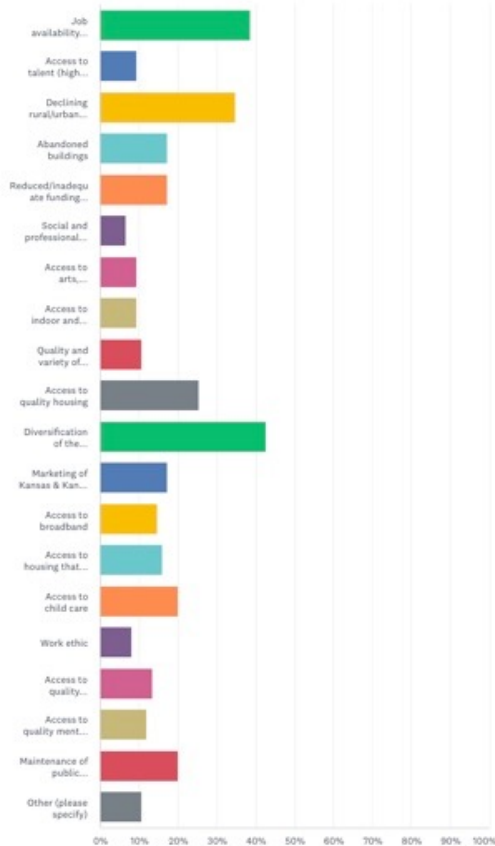


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Educational opportunities & capacity (K-12, Higher Education, On-the-Job Training Opportunities)	52.63% 40
▼ Access to talent (high school, higher education, transitioning soldiers, etc.)	18.42% 14
▼ Access to transportation system (regional airport, highway/roadways, trail system, etc.)	22.37% 17
▼ Social and professional networks for all ages	3.95% 3
▼ Art, performing art, culture, rich in history	10.53% 8
▼ Access to indoor and outdoor recreational opportunities	9.21% 7
▼ Events & experience opportunities (i.e. Symphony of the Flint Hills, Native Stone Scenic Byway, State Parks, Hunting & Fishing, Museums, Arts, Culture, etc.--Generating tourism)	30.26% 23
▼ Access to quality housing	9.21% 7
▼ Research & innovation - (i.e. Fort Riley, Kansas State University, Emporia State University, NBAF, etc.)	35.53% 27
▼ Major employers/economic generators	10.53% 8
▼ Extensive waterways, trail system, and grasslands - (i.e. Kansas National River Trail, Milford Lake - Largest Lake in Kansas, Neosho Riverwalk, Tallgrass Prairie Preserve, extensive trail network, etc.)	38.16% 29
▼ Small business/entrepreneurial dynamism	18.42% 14
▼ Manufacturing clusters	1.32% 1
▼ Work ethic	23.68% 18
▼ Access to broadband	11.84% 9
▼ Access to child care	2.63% 2
▼ Access to quality healthcare services	13.16% 10
▼ Access to quality mental health services	2.63% 2
▼ Unique community character & spirit	35.53% 27
▼ Other (please specify)	Responses 1.32% 1
<b>Total Respondents: 76</b>	

# REGIONAL SWOT SURVEY RESULTS TO-DATE - WEAKNESSES

Which of the following do you perceive as the most critical weaknesses of the Flint Hills Region today? (Please choose THREE)

Answered: 75 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Job availability, mismatch of skills to job openings	38.67% 29
▼ Access to talent (high school, higher education, transitioning soldiers & military spouses, etc.)	9.33% 7
▼ Declining rural/urban population, aging population	34.67% 26
▼ Abandoned buildings	17.33% 13
▼ Reduced/inadequate funding supporting higher education institutions	17.33% 13
▼ Social and professional networks for all ages	6.67% 5
▼ Access to arts, performing arts, culturally rich experiences	9.33% 7
▼ Access to indoor and outdoor recreational opportunities	9.33% 7
▼ Quality and variety of events & experience opportunities for all ages	10.67% 8
▼ Access to quality housing	25.33% 19
▼ Diversification of the economy/dependence on governmental agencies to stabilize economy	42.67% 32
▼ Marketing of Kansas & Kansas assets on national & international scale	17.33% 13
▼ Access to broadband	14.67% 11
▼ Access to housing that is 30% more than household income	16.00% 12
▼ Access to child care	20.00% 15
▼ Work ethic	8.00% 6
▼ Access to quality healthcare services	13.33% 10
▼ Access to quality mental health services	12.00% 9
▼ Maintenance of public infrastructure & public spaces	20.00% 15
▼ Other (please specify)	Responses 10.67% 8
<b>Total Respondents: 75</b>	

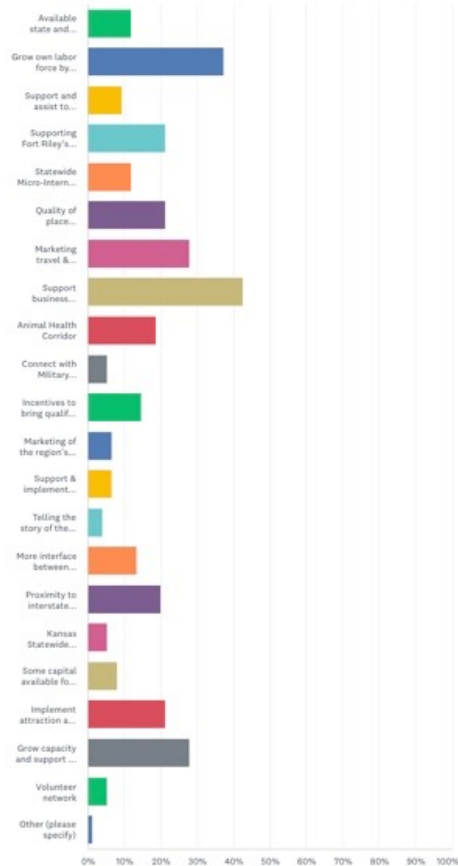
# Regional Strengths and Weaknesses

1. Educational opportunities & capacity (54%)
  2. Research & Innovation (36%)
  3. Extensive waterways, trail system, and grasslands (36%)
  4. Unique community character & spirit (33%)
  5. Events & experience opportunities (28%)
1. Diversification of the economy/dependence on gov. to stabilize economy (47%)
  2. Job availability, mismatch of skills to job openings (38%)
  3. Declining rural/urban pop., aging pop. (32%)
  4. Access to quality housing (29%)
  5. Access to childcare/Maintenance of public infrastructure & public spaces (20%)

# REGIONAL SWOT SURVEY RESULTS TO-DATE - OPPORTUNITIES

Which of the following do you perceive as the top opportunities for the Flint Hills Region? (Please choose THREE)

Answered: 75 Skipped: 1



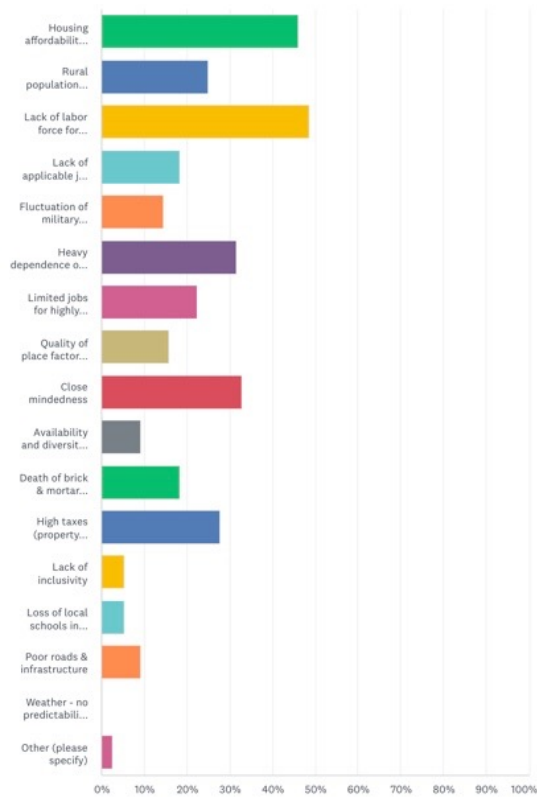
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Available state and federal funding to move initiatives forward	12.00% 9
Grow own labor force by supporting and strategically implementing initiatives focused on K-12 and higher education students, as well as, businesses providing on-the-job training and/or benefits that assist to increase training opportunities	37.33% 28
Support and assist to implement the Kansas' new statewide economic development plan -- Kansas Framework for Growth	9.33% 7
Supporting Fort Riley's mission and Victory Wellness effort to make every Soldier, Civilian, and Family Member more resilient and stronger across the five dimensions of strength: physical, emotional, social, family, and spiritual in each community in which they live throughout the Flint Hills.	21.33% 16
Statewide Micro-Internship Program with Incentive Grant Funding	12.00% 9
Quality of place improvements	21.33% 16
Marketing travel & tourism: historical and cultural, increase cultural and recreational activities	28.00% 21
Support business retention and expansion efforts by identifying any hurdles or incentives that could be considered and/or addressed	42.67% 32
Animal Health Corridor	18.67% 14
Connect with Military Spouses and Assist with Job Placement Opportunities	5.33% 4
Incentives to bring qualified medical professional people to rural & less dense areas	14.67% 11
Marketing of the region's quality of schools and services	6.67% 5
Support & implement infrastructure resiliency strategies	6.67% 5
Telling the story of the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility as leader to assist with future pandemics	4.00% 3
More interface between agriculture and industry for growth	13.33% 10
Proximity to interstate system	20.00% 15
Kansas Statewide Housing Needs Assessment 2021	5.33% 4
Some capital available for economic development	8.00% 6
Implement attraction and retention strategies within the regional economic development plan, within each college and university's strategic plan and through economic development organization plans	21.33% 16
Grow capacity and support for entrepreneurs of all ages	28.00% 21
Volunteer network	5.33% 4
Other (please specify)	Responses 1.33% 1

**Total Respondents: 75**

# REGIONAL SWOT SURVEY RESULTS TO-DATE - THREATS

Which of the following do you perceive as the top threats that could hinder economic growth in the Flint Hills Region? (Please choose THREE)

Answered: 76 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Housing affordability (more than 30% of household income)	46.05% 35
▼ Rural population declining, loss of population overall	25.00% 19
▼ Lack of labor force for available jobs/mismatch of skills to job openings	48.68% 37
▼ Lack of applicable job openings for highly educated workforce	18.42% 14
▼ Fluctuation of military population (Fort Riley)	14.47% 11
▼ Heavy dependence on government employers vs. local employers	31.58% 24
▼ Limited jobs for highly educated talent & ability to pay competitive wages	22.37% 17
▼ Quality of place factors important to talent pools and families compared to other comparable communities competing for our talent	15.79% 12
▼ Close mindedness	32.89% 25
▼ Availability and diversity in job opportunities	9.21% 7
▼ Death of brick & mortar businesses	18.42% 14
▼ High taxes (property county)	27.63% 21
▼ Lack of inclusivity	5.26% 4
▼ Loss of local schools in rural areas	5.26% 4
▼ Poor roads & infrastructure	9.21% 7
▼ Weather - no predictability for economic, tourism impacts	0.00% 0
▼ Other (please specify)	Responses 2.63% 2
<b>Total Respondents: 76</b>	

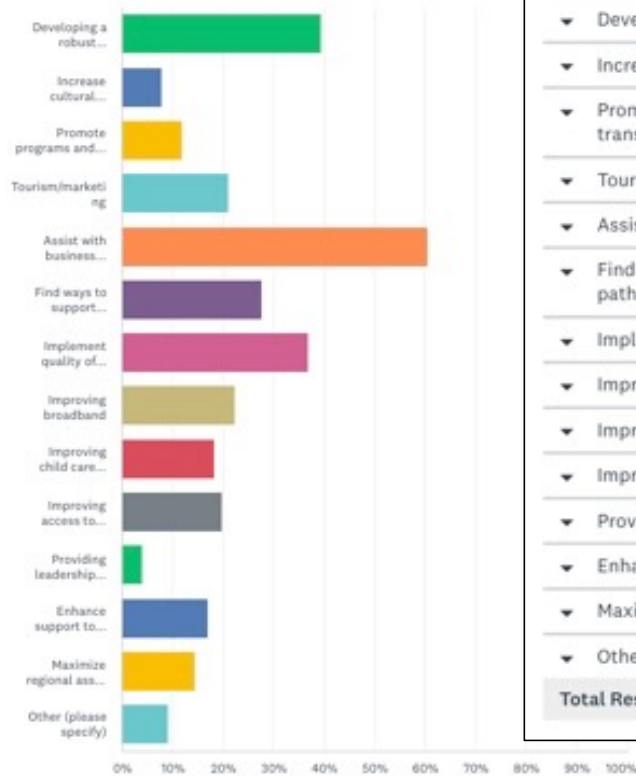
# Regional Opportunities & Threats

1. Support business retention and expansion efforts (42%)
  2. Grow own labor force by supporting students and businesses (39%)
  3. Grow capacity and support for entrepreneurs of all ages (27%)
  4. Implement attraction and retention strategies/ Marketing travel & tourism (24%)
  5. Supporting Fort Riley's mission and Victory Wellness/ Quality of place improvements (22%)
1. Housing affordability/Lack of labor force (49%)
  2. Heavy dependence on gov. employers vs local employers (32%)
  3. Closed mindedness/ High taxes (29%)
  4. Limited jobs for highly educated talent (25%)
  5. Rural pop. declining (19%)

# REGIONAL SWOT SURVEY RESULTS TO-DATE – TOP PRIORITIES

What do you think should be the top priorities for your community in the next five years? (Please choose THREE)

Answered: 76 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Developing a robust workforce to meet needs of advancing industries	39.47% 30
▼ Increase cultural humility and competency throughout the Flint Hills	7.89% 6
▼ Promote programs and community services that assist and support the needs of active soldiers, civilians, transitioning soldiers, military spouses, and challenges they face while living in the Flint Hills.	11.84% 9
▼ Tourism/marketing	21.05% 16
▼ Assist with business retention & expansion efforts	60.53% 46
▼ Find ways to support educational institutions (K-20) efforts/strategic plans to support students in their career pathway creating pipelines to employment opportunities	27.63% 21
▼ Implement quality of place improvement initiatives that assist with talent retention and attraction	36.84% 28
▼ Improving broadband	22.37% 17
▼ Improving child care access	18.42% 14
▼ Improving access to medical care/mental health services throughout the region	19.74% 15
▼ Providing leadership training	3.95% 3
▼ Enhance support to entrepreneurs of all ages	17.11% 13
▼ Maximize regional assets that promote region as both national and global leaders in research & innovation.	14.47% 11
▼ Other (please specify)	Responses 9.21% 7
<b>Total Respondents: 76</b>	

## Primary Take-Aways

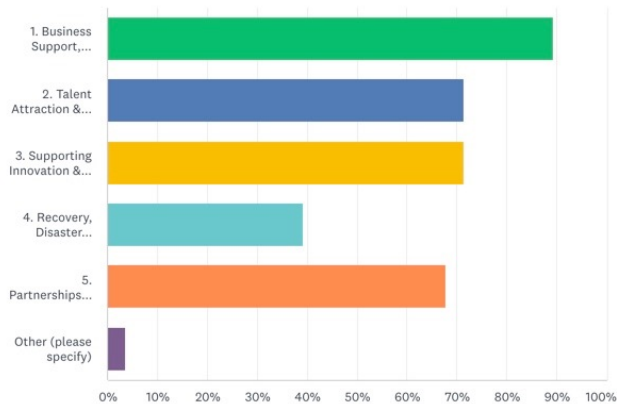
1. Assist with **business retention & expansion** efforts
2. Developing a robust workforce to **meet needs of advancing industries**
3. Implement quality of place improvement initiatives that assist with **talent retention and attraction**
4. Find ways to **support education institutions (K-20)** efforts/strategic plans to support students in their career pathway creating pipelines to employment opportunities



# Proposed Strategic Directions

Proposed strategies have been compiled from multiple planning documents from throughout our region--providing a baseline to build upon, discuss and re-confirm. The proposed strategies have been grouped under the following five "Strategic Directions" as follows. Please mark any and all you feel are relevant to your county/community.

Answered: 28 Skipped: 0



1. Business Support, Economic Diversification & Economic Development Infrastructure
2. Talent Attraction & Retention
3. Supporting Innovation & Entrepreneurialism
4. Recovery, Disaster Preparedness, & Resiliency
5. Partnerships, Funding Strategy Development, Plan Implementation

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# Review of Proposed Strategies Survey Results

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Consider Acceptance of Strategic Directions  
& Proposed High Level Strategies

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Strategic Directions	Strategy Framework	Strategies
<b>1 - Business Support, Economic Diversification, &amp; Economic Development Infrastructure</b>	Strategy 1.1	Build external awareness of the region's assets among prospect employers, investors, and corporate relocation professionals to attract new businesses and industries to our region.
	Strategy 1.2	Support and facilitate the retention and expansion of existing regional businesses.
	Strategy 1.3	Provide a sufficient supply of economic-growth-supportive infrastructure.
<b>2 - Talent Attraction &amp; Retention</b>	Strategy 2.1	Continue to enhance the capacity and productivity of the region's pre-K to 20 educational institutions and implement dual-credit programming.
	Strategy 2.2	Increase the number of recent graduates remaining in our region to live and work.
	Strategy 2.3	Provide support to transitioning soldiers leaving the military--helping to make connections to employment, education, and/or social networks so they make our region their home.
	Strategy 2.4	Develop medical education capacity in the region and increase support for mental health services.
	Strategy 2.5	Improve the attraction <b>and retention</b> of talent to the region.
	Strategy 2.6	Construct and rehabilitate diverse, high-quality, and suitable housing for regional labor force sustainability.
	Strategy 2.7.	Provide quality of place environments and amenities that enhance community, appeal to and attract professionals across all economic sectors, and enhance tourism.
Determine broadest vs action items	Strategy 2.8.	Work to overcome fundamental challenges individuals and families are facing that impact their ability and/or desire to make this region their home including basic human need resources such as childcare, access to healthcare, employment with competitive salaries, suitable housing, healthy food options, adequate infrastructure, and community assets that support healthy lifestyles, and recreational and social opportunities that promote connectivity and enhance sense of belonging.
	Strategy 2.9	Support the continuation of enhanced online tools for individuals to connect their skills to employment opportunities specifically within our seven-county region.
<b>3 - Supporting Innovation &amp; Entrepreneurialism</b>	Strategy 3.1	Grow and Diversify the Innovation Ecosystem throughout the Region.
	Strategy 3.2	Enhance Support for Entrepreneurs of All Ages
<b>4 - Recovery, Disaster Preparedness &amp; Resiliency</b>	Strategy 4.1	Identify and support efforts that assist in creating a more resilient, sustainable region.
<b>5 - Partnerships, Funding Strategy Development, Plan Implementation</b>	Strategy 5.1	Create partnerships, leverage resources and obtain grant funding to move priorities forward.
	Strategy 5.2	Support the FHRC in their role to administer the Flint Hills Economic Development District through plan updates, coordination of plan implementation, and tracking and reporting implementation progress.
	Strategy 5.3	Utilize regional needs assessment system for identified unfunded needs so that FHRC & regional partners can assist in developing funding strategies
	Strategy 5.4	Communicate Plan Progress publicly through the online dashboard

## Next Steps

1. Review your planning documents & determine if updates are needed
2. Complete the County-Specific Action Item /Project Column on the Spreadsheet FHRC Provided & Submit by October 22
3. Next Meeting – Review Draft – October 29
4. November 1, 2021 – 30-Day public comment period
5. November 3, 2021 - EDA District – Peer Review
6. Submit Plan to EDA
7. Designate 1-2 Representatives to Enter Unfunded Needs in New Needs Assessment System
8. Online Regional Plan Dashboard Coming Soon!



# Build Back Better Regional Challenge

*Designed to assist communities nationwide in their efforts to build back better by accelerating the economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic and building local economies that will be resilient to future economic shocks.*

## PHASE



**Concept Proposal**

## PHASE



**Project Implementation**

Phase I application will focus on projects to establish a regional talent pipeline, centering on healthcare, and incorporating other areas such as IT, biosecurity/life sciences, etc. This application would be in partnership with the technical education and higher education institutions throughout the region (as desired), aiming to address the critical talent shortages in these areas, while working to create a system to help retain workers to our region.



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Questions?