

APPENDIX E – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM LISTING

East Central, as a service to its member units of government, can be contacted directly at (920) 751-4770 for information on various economic development programs and initiatives. East Central is a designated Economic Development District (EDD) which receives funding to assist communities within the region on project development opportunities. East Central receive this funding from, and is considered to be a direct link to, the federal Economic Development Administration (EDA). The following list of programs that apply in our region, and individual's contact information is provided below:

1. The **Wisconsin Department of Commerce (Commerce)** has a broad range of financial assistance programs to help communities undertake economic development. This quick reference guide identified these programs and selected programs from other agencies. COMMERCE maintains a network of Area Development Managers to offer customized services to each region of Wisconsin. For more information on Commerce's finance programs contact the Area Development Manager for your region (see last page).
2. The **Brownfields Initiative** provides grants to persons, businesses, local development organizations, and municipalities for environmental remediation activities for Brownfield sites where the owner is unknown, cannot be located or cannot meet the cleanup costs. Contact Jason Scott, 608/261-7714.
3. The **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Community-Based Economic Development (CBED) Program** is designed to promote local business development in economically-distressed areas. The program awards grants to community-based organizations for development and business assistance projects and to municipalities for economic development planning. The program helps community-based organizations plan, build, and create business and technology-based incubators, and can also capitalize an incubator tenant revolving-loan program. Contact Doug Thurlow, 608/266-7942.
4. The **CDBG Economic Development Program** provides grants to communities to loan to businesses for start-up, retention, and expansion projects based on the number of jobs created or retained. Communities can create community revolving loan funds from the loan repayments.
5. The **CDBG-Blight Elimination and Brownfield Redevelopment Program** can help small communities obtain money for environmental assessments and remediate Brownfield's. Contact Joe Leo, 608/267-0751.
6. The **CDBG-Emergency Grant Program** can help small communities repair or replace infrastructure that has suffered damages as a result of catastrophic events. Call 608/266-8934.
7. The **CDBG-Public Facilities** component helps eligible local governments upgrade community facilities, infrastructure, and utilities for the benefit of low – to moderate-income residents. Call 608/266-8934.
8. The **CDBG-Public Facilities for Economic Development** component offers grants to communities to provide infrastructure for a particular economic development project. Contact Joe Leo, 608/267-0751, or Dawn Zanto, 608/266-8525.
9. The **Community Development Zone Program** is a tax-benefit initiative designed to encourage private investment and job creation in economically-distressed areas. The program offers tax credits for creating new, full-time jobs, hiring disadvantaged workers and undertaking environmental remediation. Tax credits can be taken only on income generated by business activity in the zone. Call 608/267-3895.
10. The **Freight Railroad Preservation Program** provides grants to communities to purchase abandoned rail lines in the effort to continue freight rail service, preserve the opportunity for future rail service, and to rehabilitate facilities, such as tracks and bridges, on publicly-owned rail lines. Contact Ron Adams, Department of Transportation, 608/267-9284.
11. The **Freight Railroad Infrastructure Improvement Program** awards loans to businesses or communities wishing to rehabilitate rail lines, advance economic development, connect an industry to the national

railroad system, or to make improvements to enhance transportation efficiency, safety, and intermodal freight movement. Contact Ron Adams, Department of Transportation, 608/267-9284.

12. The **Health Care Provider Loan Assistance Program** provides repayment of educational loans up to \$25,000 over a five-year period to physician assistants, nurse practitioner, and nurse midwives who agree to practice in medical-shortage areas in Wisconsin. The program is designed to help communities that have shortages of primary care providers and have difficulty recruiting providers to their area. Contact M. Jane Thomas, 608/267-3837.
13. The **Minority Business Development Fund – Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Program** is designed to help capitalize RLFs administered by American Indian tribal governing bodies or local development corporations that target their loans to minority-owned businesses. The corporation must be at least 51-percent controlled and actively managed by minority-group members, and demonstrate the expertise and commitment to promote minority business development in a specific geographic area. Contact Mary Perich, 414/220-5367 or Bureau of Minority Business Development, 608/267-9550.
14. The **Physician Loan Assistance Program** provides repayment of medical school loans up to \$50,000 over a five-year period to physicians who are willing to practice in medical-shortage areas in Wisconsin. The program is designed to help communities that have shortages of primary care physicians, and have had difficulty recruiting these physicians to their area. Contact M. Jane Thomas, 608/267-3837.
15. The **State Infrastructure Bank Program** is a revolving loan program that helps communities provides transportation infrastructure improvements to preserve, promote, and encourage economic development and/or to promote transportation efficiency, safety, and mobility. Loans obtained through SIB funding can be used in conjunction with other programs. Contact Dennis Leong, Department of Transportation, 608/266-9910.
16. **Tax Incremental Financing (TIF)** can help a municipality undertake a public project to stimulate beneficial development or redevelopment that would not otherwise occur. It is a mechanism for financing local economic development project in underdeveloped and blighted areas. Taxes generated by the increased property values pay for land acquisition or needed public works.
17. The **Wisconsin Transportation Facilities Economic Assistance and Development Program** funds transportation facilities improvements (road, rail, harbor, airport) that are part of an economic development project. Contact Dennis W. Leong, Department of Transportation, 608/266-9910.
18. The **Recycling Demonstration Grant Program** helps businesses and local governing units fund waste reduction, reuse, and recycling pilot projects. Contact JoAnn Farnsworth, 608/267-7154, DNR.
19. The **Wisconsin Fund** provides grants to help small commercial businesses rehabilitate or replace their privately-owned sewage systems. Contact Jean Joyce, 608/267-7113.

Area Development Manager Contact

Wisconsin Department of Commerce area development managers assist business expansions, promote business retention, and help local development organizations in their respective territories. Area development managers (ADM) use their knowledge of federal, state, and regional resources to provide a variety of information to expanding or relocating firms. They also mobilize resources to help struggling businesses. Local economic development practitioners can turn to area development managers for assistance with long-term marketing and planning strategies.

Region 3: Dennis Russell 920/498-6302 dirussell@commerce.state.wi.us

OTHER FINANCE PROGRAM QUESTIONS? CALL 1-800-HELP BUSINESS