

**East Michigan Council of Governments (EMCOG)**  
**CARES Act Funding Proposed Scope of Work**  
**Period: July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2022**

The 14 County East Michigan Council of Governments (EMCOG) Region covers 8,607 square miles of east central Michigan. It is the largest EDD in the State of Michigan in terms of counties including both urbanized and rural (areas). The population of the region makes up 7.6% of the state's population (State population – 9.987 million) or an estimated 760,000. The 2020-COVID-19 Pandemic has created deep and long ranging challenges for EMCOG economic and community resiliency, and long-term growth. The pandemic has and continues to reveal the vulnerabilities of our communities to this and any type of disaster/interruption in the sustainability and growth of our economy. COVID-19 cases as of June 3rd total 3.6% of the statewide cases or 1 case per 360 population. The hardest hit area in the region is Saginaw County where the number of cases (1,057 as of June 3rd) is equal to one case per 180 population.

EMCOG proposes the following Scope of Work in accordance with the EDA CARES Act Recovery Assistance.

**1. Economic Recovery and Resilience Plan to address economic impacts of the pandemic**

EMCOG is currently updating our existing 2016-2020 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs). This process began in November 2019 and will be completed in early September 2020. The 2020 CARES Act scope of work will address the disaster recovery and resiliency, strategies and action items that are not comprehensively addressed in the CEDs update due to timing requirements. This Scope of Work proposes to develop an addendum to the EMCOG new 2021-2025 CEDs to serve as the region's disaster recovery and resiliency economic development plan which will be focused on pandemic recovery and resiliency. In addition to being a CEDs addendum, this plan will be designed to be utilized as an addendum to county hazardous mitigation plans. Staff proposes to create and facilitate a CARES Act Steering Committee that will consist of members from the existing CEDs steering committee plus other stakeholders such as public health, emergency response, United Way, 211 and other representations as appropriate and/or identified through this process. This committee will work with member units of government, existing economic development organizations, EDA, the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan, and other federal partners along with the State of Michigan to accomplish identified tasks.

**2. Funding for regional disaster economic recovery coordinators**

EMCOG proposes to fund portions of four (4) existing staff salaries as well as the creation of a 2-year program analyst position to serve as support to the Economic and Community Development Programs Manager and the Special Programs Manager. These staff, as part of their facilitation work for the CARES Act Steering Committee, will work on the pandemic recovery effort, development of the CEDs pandemic data analyses for both the CEDs addendum and implementation matrix and project support. We also anticipate that, within this region the final economic recovery strategy will provide a nexus between COVID-19 response and the current catastrophic infrastructure failures suffered after heavy rains caused the collapse of two major dams and damage to a third, as well as numerous roads and bridges throughout the region. This type of approach speaks to the need to approach development of any economic recovery strategy by also analyzing the need for integrated asset management and hazard mitigation planning.

**3. Technical Assistance and capacity building for member organizations, local businesses and other stakeholders impacted by coronavirus**

EMCOG staff will provide assistance to local units, economic development partners, the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan, the State of Michigan, EDA, and other stakeholders in their efforts to address impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the recovery effort. The newly created Analyst position will assist in the provision of technical assistance and data analysis to member organizations impacted by the pandemic. Staff activities will include but not be limited to partnering, working with and sharing of data and information with other agencies and groups especially during the analysis and evaluation phase of determining what has been the extent of COVID-19 economic impacts on the region and its citizens. We anticipate, as part of the strategy development, to look at the issue of broadband inadequacies within the region and the impacts those inadequacies have had on areas such as telelearning, especially in rural areas. These partnerships will provide opportunities to gain a more accurate understanding of the current and future economic impacts resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Results of analyses will play a key role in the direction of the economic recovery strategy.

**4. Organizational capacity support for coronavirus response, including technology costs and personnel costs for staff members directly working on or supporting the work of EMCOG's coronavirus-related economic development response, including additional hiring if needed.**

EMCOG proposes to increase equipment and technology capacity for staff to work from home in case continued sheltering in place is ordered or a second wave of COVID-19 surfaces in the late fall or early winter. Presently, staff are utilizing, in large measure, their own equipment to accomplish work program tasks at home. We wish to ensure that we have up-to-date computing equipment, software, required licenses, and printing capabilities in order to satisfactorily execute program needs.

In addition to work done directly with partner groups, EMCOG will also update its website on a continuing basis in order to ensure that constituents, partners and interested citizens are informed on the CEDS update/Economic Recovery Plan status. A special tab will be created on the Website to specifically address the pandemic, the plan, and the planning process within the EMCOG region.

The COVID-19 pandemic presents a most unique situation for everyone, including planners, in that we are or will be exploring new and/or unique planning challenges as we move forward. EMCOG is confident that we can build into the finalized Work Program sufficient work task flexibility to ensure that we are able to meet rapidly changing or developing situations, needs, requests, etc. as this project progresses over the next two years.