

East Michigan Council of Governments

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TO: EMCOG Council and RED Team

FROM: Jane Fitzpatrick, Economic and Community Development Programs Manager
Cynthia Edwards, Program Analyst/IT Coordinator

DATE: For July 9, 2021 Meetings

RE: Integrated Economic and Community Development Activities

1. EMCOG NEW 5-YEAR CEDS HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION (EDA)

On June 30th EMCOG received the notice from EDA Chicago Regional Office that our 2021 CEDS has been approved. We submitted the new CEDS to EDA after the EMCOG Council and RED Team approve it on January 15th of this year. We will now be focusing on the action plan for implementation.

How to View the CEDS - You can view or download the new 2021-2025 CEDS document at www.emcog.org. See the Economic & Community Development section of the website for details and to view or download a copy of the 2021-2025 CEDS. For information on the CEDS or other economic and community development initiatives please contact Jane Fitzpatrick at jfitzpatrick@emcog.org

2. EMCOG GIS DATAHUB

The EMCOG GIS Datahub will give the EMCOG Region a place to explore all maps and applications in one place. The Datahub's platform organizes people, data and tools through informative-driven initiatives. It will help maximize engagement, communication, collaboration and data sharing within the region.

The Datahub allows us to share open data which is vital to decision-making. Whether you are choosing a neighborhood to live in, curious about local development projects or opening a new business, having information you can trust is essential. Sharing open will also

allow for effective regional and community engagement and give data a purpose and align within our Region's top priorities by organizing around initiatives. The data is represented by interactive charts, maps and narratives to make it easier for people to visualize the data. For further information contact Cynthia Edwards at cedwards@emcog.org

3. EMCOG WEBSITE SURVEY

EMCOG is in the process of redesigning our website (emcog.org)

We would like to have our many partners, stakeholders and other interested groups and people look over the website and provide all feedback through the EMCOG Website Feedback Survey. EMCOG staff wants to provide the most efficient way of providing content that will in the end support our regional priorities, goals and objectives. With your participation, EMCOG will be one step closer to achieving these goals. Here is the survey link. <https://arcg.is/Of0vKz>

You can also find the survey link on the EMCOG website homepage. For further information contact Cynthia Edwards at cedwards@emcog.org

4. EDA GRANT AWARD TO THE GREAT LAKE BAY VISITORS AND CONVENTION BUREAU

CONGRATULATIONS! The Great Lakes Bay Visitors and Convention Bureau and Great Lakes Bay Region Quality of Life Council is the recipient of an EDA grant for a Comprehensive Travel Sector & Sustainable Business Plan. The project will help mitigate the impact of both the COVID-19 pandemic and the 2020 storm event/dam failure on the region's critical tourism economy. The recovery plan, recovery marketing strategy, tourism master plan, and tourism experience development plan will all be developed with input from local stakeholders, industry leaders, and the public. The total project is \$475,000 including a \$380,000 EDA investment.

5. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE EDA INVESTMENT EXPANDED PRIORITIES AND RESOURCES

Current Investment Priorities of EDA

- Recovery & Resiliency
- Equity
- Technology-Based Economic Development
- Environmentally-Sustainable Development
- Workforce Development (funding for facilities and equipment; not training)
- Manufacturing – domestic suppliers is key right now
- Exports & Foreign Direct Investment

The Department of Commerce EDA website includes several resources such as:

Economic Development Directory with links to EDA regional office contacts, state government contacts, and EDD (such as EMCOG), TAAC, RLF, University Centers and Tribal planning organizations; **Grantee Information** (general information for grantees); Indirect Costs (overview, definitions, instructions); **Research Reports** (best practices and reports and projects funded by EDA); and **Tools for Economic Development**. Information regarding these EDA resources can be found at www.eda.gov/resources

6. ALICE 2021 REPORT

The 2021 Michigan Report “*ALICE In Michigan: A Financial Hardship Study*” was released in March. It is the fourth report produced by the Michigan Association of United Ways. The first report was released in 2015, with updates released in 2017, 2019 and now 2021.

An analysis for the EMCOG Region has been distributed. The following are excerpts from that report:

*ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained Employed) lives in every community. In the **East Michigan Council of Governments (EMCOG)**¹ 1 out of every 2.25 households (40%) are earning less than what is needed (the ALICE Threshold) to afford the basics, such as housing, child care, food, transportation, health care and technology. The numbers vary by county from a low in Midland County of 28% to a high in Clare County of 53%. Statewide, the number of households as reported in the 2021 study, amounts to 38% with income below the ALICE Threshold for survival. (page 1 of “Meet ALICE in the EMCOG Region”)*

As the comparative data shows (comparing the 2021 report to the previous 2019 report) the cost to just survive has increased since the 2019 report was published. Overall for the EMCOG region, a single adult household annual survival cost increased by 10% since the 2019 report came out. For a four person household, the annual cost increased by 4%.

The increase in costs to be sustainable is much more significant: For a single person household the cost of sustainability per the 2021 Report is 29% higher for a single person household and 8% higher for a 4 person household when compared to the 2019 Report. Note: the 2019 report was based on data as of 2017 and the 2021 report is based on data as of 2019, prior to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. As noted at the beginning of this regional summary, EMCOG is currently researching the data elements used for the ALICE analysis to identify changes in 2020.

¹ EMCOG consists of Arenac, Bay, Clare, Gladwin, Gratiot, Huron, Iosco, Isabella, Midland, Ogemaw, Roscommon, Saginaw, Sanilac and Tuscola counties.

At the time that the EMCOG Region report was distributed we offered to produce the same report for individual counties. To date reports have been produced for Bay, Clare, Gladwin, Isabella and Roscommon counties. The data within these reports is useful for documenting support/need in grant applications. Contact Jane Fitzpatrick at jfitzpatrick@emcog.org if you would like one of these reports or a report produced for another county in the region.

7. INTEGRATED ASSET MANAGEMENT – ASSET MANAGEMENT READINESS ASSESSMENT SCALE TOOL – EMCOG STAFF ARE NOW ASSET MANAGEMENT CERTIFIED “CHAMPIONS”

The Asset Management Readiness Assessment Scale tool was officially released on February 20, 2020 by the Michigan Infrastructure Council (MIC).

Infrastructure owners such as local communities, water authorities, road commissions, public or private utilities and communications companies can receive help to understand, measure and advance their asset management proficiencies through this tool using metrics that are consistent throughout the State.

To learn more about the MIC and to download the Asset Management Readiness Scale go to www.michigan.gov/mic. There are also instructional videos at this same website. EMCOG is available to provide guidance to infrastructure owners to complete the Scale and confidentially submit scores. The Readiness Scales are submitted to EMCOG per the MIC instructions and EMCOG forwards the regional assessments to the MIC. Any data voluntarily provided to EMCOG and/or MIC will be de-identified (i.e., removal of information that will identify the provider) for the purpose of reports and be used only in an aggregate format to help develop statewide infrastructure asset management policy. Both Jane Fitzpatrick and Cody Bodrie have completed the MIC Asset Management “Champions” Certification Program. You may also contact us directly at jfitzpatrick@emcog.org or codyb@emcog.org.

8. 2020 CENSUS DATA RELEASE SCHEDULE

The following schedule for release of the 2020 Census data is from the MI State Demographer:

Late April 2021	Release of state-level apportionment counts
By September 30th	Census 2020 legislative redistricting data
Late 2021 or early 2022	Earliest county or sub-county data available *

* 2020 county population estimates were released by the Census Bureau but this data is NOT a 2020 Census release. It is part of the Census population and housing unit estimates program.

9. MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY AND ARPA FUNDS

Recommendations to communities and counties at this point regarding preparation for receipt and use of ARPA Funds:

1. Go Slow;
2. Update or develop a strategic plan;
3. Be transparent;
4. Think long term;
5. Focus on financial stability;
6. Be prepared to document and plan for future audits (must do a single audit; make sure your auditor is certified to do this);
7. Plan for the requirements to accept federal grants.

Sign up for email alerts at www.michigan.gov/cefd

Go to the following website for Michigan Department of Treasury updates on the ARPA funding: <https://www.michigan.gov/treasury/>

10. SOURCES FOR FEDERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Announcements and opportunities from multiple sources including:

- Grants.gov
- [USDA Rural Development Innovation Center](#)
 - [Rural Innovation Matters](#)
- DOE
 - [Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy Newsletter](#)
 - Advanced Manufacturing Program
- EPA [Energy Resources for State, Local, and Tribal Governments](#)
 - [State, Local, and Tribal Energy Newsletter](#)
- [FEMA COVID-19 Supplemental Resources](#)
- [Small Business Administration \(SBA\) COVID-19 Funding Options](#): A list of thousands of funding sources at the national, state, regional, and local levels designed to support small businesses in accessing capital to recover from COVID-19.