

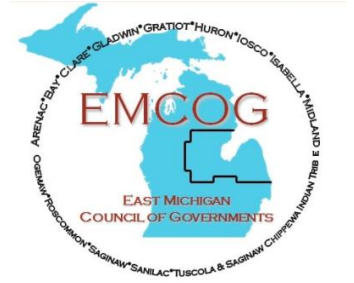
East Michigan Council of Governments

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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 March 4, 2022 Meetings

RE: Integrated Economic and Community Development Activities

1. UPDATE EMCOG CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE DATAHUB – Cynthia Edwards

The EMCOG Coronavirus Response Datahub provides federal, state, and local resources. It is available on the EMCOG website (emcog.org) and is updated daily. All resources at the federal and state level are provided through the Department of Treasury and the State of Michigan. All resources are updated as they come available. Local data is specific to the 14-county region and provides resources related to each county. There are currently 3,500 views of the COVID Datahub since launching mid-July. For further information please contact Cynthia Edwards at cedwards@emcog.org

2. UPDATE EMCOG GIS DATAHUB – Cynthia Edwards

The EMCOG GIS Datahub is a place that 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.

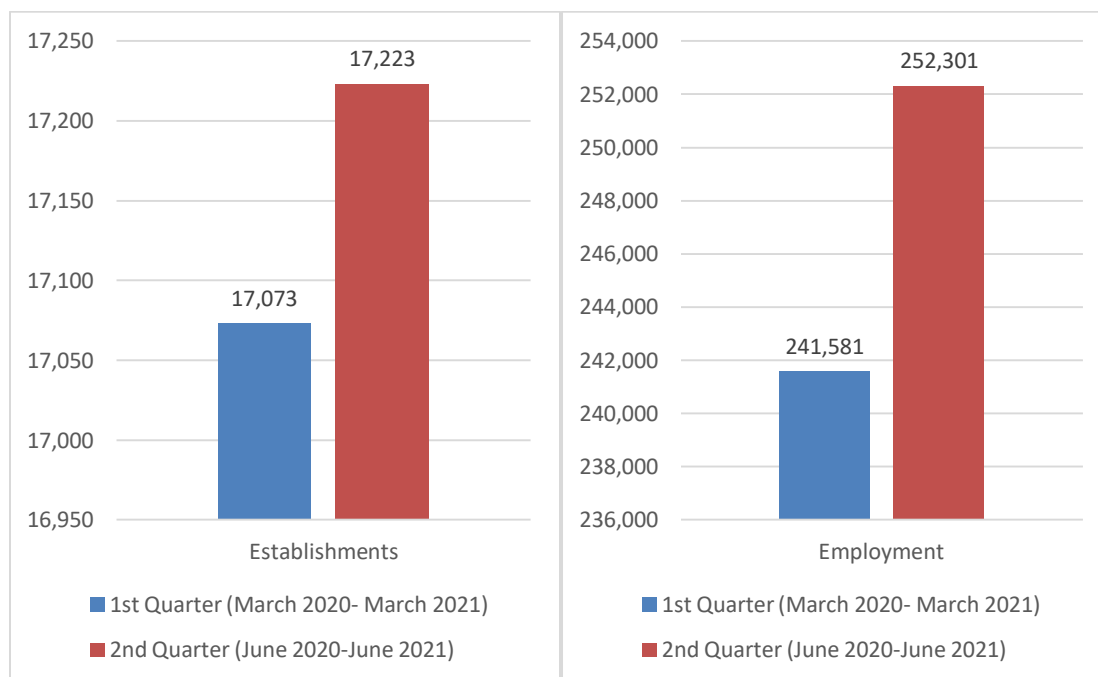
The EMCOG GIS Data Hub is now active and can be viewed through the website (emcog.org) and or you can view it through a direct link: <https://emcog-emcog.hub.arcgis.com/>

There are also tutorials available to help viewers navigate through the EMCOG GIS Data Hub and can be reached via the website (emcog.org) or through a direct link: <https://emcog-emcog.hub.arcgis.com/pages/gis-data-hub-tutorials>. For further information contact Cynthia Edwards at cedwards@emcog.org

3. NEW Labor Market Trends – Cynthia Edwards

The total number of establishments in the EMCOG 14-County Region in the 1st Quarter was 17,073 and experienced an increase of 150 establishments by the 2nd Quarter at 17,223. The number of people employed has also increased from 241,581 in the 1st Quarter and 252,301 in the 2nd Quarter, showing an increase of approximately 10,720. The employment gains within the region went from -3.7% in the 1st Quarter to +7.2% in the 2nd Quarter and the weekly wages increased by +4.3% in the 1st Quarter compared to +1.3% within the 2nd Quarter.

The increase in establishments, employment and weekly wages in the 1st Quarter compared to the 2nd Quarter shows that the region as whole is beginning to grow amid the pandemic. It is suggested that the numbers will continue to increase as things shift back to “normal” and given that many establishments are now adapting to remote work, the pandemic can be expected to be less of an issue within the labor force as these transitions are being made. According to Pew Research, during the COVID-19 recession the labor market can also be accompanied by the increase of 55+ adults retiring earlier and giving an assumption that the younger adults will continue to gradually enter the labor force. Many younger adults have returned to school remotely to accomplish these goals of retaining jobs.



Source: The U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics (BLS) Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages
2021 Quarter 1, March 2020-March 2021; 2021 Quarter 2, June 2020-June 2021

4. INTERACTIVE CEDS 2021 REPORT – Cynthia Edwards

A platform to help engage community partners, stakeholders, and citizens with dynamic reports about the EMCOG 14-County Region. Charts, graphs, and map applications will allow users to interact with the data and will give insights as to how the region is changing demographically. For further information contact Cynthia Edwards at cedwards@emcog.org

5. NEW - RED TEAM MEMBERS – NEW MEMBERS – Jane Fitzpatrick

I would like to take this opportunity to note the following new appointed members of the RED Team:

Representing Michigan Health Alliance Network (MiHIA)

Cathy Baase, MD, Board Chair and

Heidi Tracy, Chief Executive Officer as the Alternate

Representing Develop Iosco

Gloria Brooks, President

Representing Isabella County

Tim Nieporte – Community Development Director and

Nicole Frost, County Administrator/Controller as the Alternate

Representing the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe (replacing Frank Cloutier)

Erik Rodriguez, Public Relations, and

Brian Smith, Economic Development Director as the Alternate

6. UPDATE EMCOG LISTENING SESSIONS AS PART OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ECONOMIC RECOVERY STRATEGY FOR THE REGION – Jane Fitzpatrick

Beginning at the end of this past December, I began holding listening sessions (either through zoom meetings or phone calls) with the RED Team and other partners in the Region in order for to engage with me on a one-by-one basis to hear insights and thoughts for the development of an addendum to the EMCOG 2021-2025 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) focusing *on Sustainability, Equity and Resiliency*. It is our intent that this regional economic recovery strategy will provide a clear nexus between COVID-19 response and the recent (2020) catastrophic infrastructure failures suffered after heavy rains caused flooding damage through 5 of our 14 counties including the collapse of infrastructure (dams and roads). This type of approach speaks to the need to facilitate development of any economic recovery strategy by also analyzing the need for integrated asset management and hazard mitigation planning. **To date (February 25nd) I have held 58 sessions.** As noted during these sessions, I take notes for preparation of a report. I currently have over 80 pages of notes. I will continue to extend invitations to a broader base of stakeholders over the next week or so in to March. I will be preparing a report for the RED Team review and basis for development the strategies and action items in the regional economic recovery strategy. If you would like to participate in a 30-60 minute session and have not received an invitation from me, please contact me at jfitzpatrick@emcog.org. I will be most happy to listen to you.

7. **UPDATE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE EDA GRANTS STATUS – Jane Fitzpatrick**

We are waiting for further word from EDA on the status of grant applications submitted over the past few months. There has been what I would say an over-whelming number of applications submitted from all regions of the country.

Deadlines for grant submittals relating to the EDA ARPA Grant Opportunities are as follows:

Travel, Tourism, and Outdoor Recreation Program: Due to the number of applications EDA received which amount to six times the \$240 Million funding available, EDA is no longer accepting applications for this program and closed this program on February 10, 2022. However, if you are working on an application a discussion with our EDA Representative, Lee Shirey is recommended to determine if your project is suitable under EDA other funding opportunities

Economic Adjustment Assistance and Indigenous Communities Programs: The deadline is March 31, 2022. However, due to the large volume of applications it is recommended you contact your EDA Representative to discuss our EDA Region (Chicago Region 5) availability of funds.

Build Back Better Regional Challenge: Phase I finalists were selected and they are currently working on their Phase II applications which are due March 15, 2022.

Good Jobs Challenge: Closed. The deadline for applications was February 10, 2022.

For further information go to the following:

<https://eda.gov/news/blogs/2022/02/10/eda-arpa-status-update.htm>

8. **UPDATE - SOURCES FOR FEDERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES – Jane Fitzpatrick**

Announcements and opportunities from multiple sources **as of February 18, 2022:**

- [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov)
- [USDA Rural Development Innovation Center](https://www.usda.gov/ruraldevelopment/innovation-center)
 - [Rural Innovation Matters](https://www.usda.gov/ruraldevelopment/innovation-center/rural-innovation-matters)
- [DOE](https://www.doe.gov)
 - [Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy Newsletter](https://www.doe.gov/energy-efficiency-renewable-energy-newsletter)
 - Advanced Manufacturing Program
- EPA [Energy Resources for State, Local, and Tribal Governments](https://www.epa.gov/energy-resources-state-local-tribal-governments)
 - [State, Local, and Tribal Energy Newsletter](https://www.epa.gov/energy-resources-state-local-tribal-governments/state-local-tribal-energy-newsletter)
- [FEMA COVID-19 Supplemental Resources](https://www.fema.gov/covid-19-supplemental-resources)

- [Small Business Administration \(SBA\) COVID-19 Funding Options](#): A free, curated 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.
- Visit EDI's [Federal Assistance for Economic Development](#) page to view a table of *previously highlighted* funding opportunities that are still open. This table includes a selection of opportunities from [Grants.gov](#) that may interest local and regional economic development stakeholders.