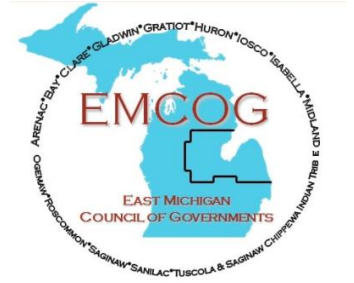East Michigan Council of Governments

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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 May 6, 2022 Meetings
RE:	Integrated Economic and Community Development Activities

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

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

Representing The Well Outreach (non-profit)
    Heather Bauman, Executive Director
    https://www.vantageplastics.com/2019/01/02/the-well-outreach/

Representing SBDC – Great Lakes Bay and North East Regio
    Beth L. Roszatycki, Regional Director as the Alternate for Michael Nunneley.

With these appointments the RED Team membership now totals 36 voting members with 4 designated alternates. The membership includes representatives from all 14 counties of the EMCOG Region.

2. 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 I have held 72 sessions.** As noted during these sessions, I take notes for preparation of a report. I am not soliciting for more sessions at this point but if you would like to talk with me or know of someone who would be a good resource please contact me. 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.

3. 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. The deadline for the EDA ARPA grant opportunities have passed. However, the deadline for the EDA regular grant opportunities for this fiscal year is a rolling deadline. That being said, due to the high number of grant applications that were submitted for the EDA ARPA funding opportunities, it is possible that grants that were not funded due to applications determined to be competitive greatly exceeding available funding, some/many competitive grants may have been "rolled" over into the regular funding opportunities. **If you are considering applying for funding this fiscal year through the regular EDA grant opportunities I suggest you get your application in as soon as possible as there may be a long line of competitive grant applications in front of you.** The grant rate this year is 80/20. It is unknown if this rate will continue next year. All pending applicants that I am aware of have been notified. Please share this with anyone you are aware of that I am not.

4. REMINDER EMCOG EDA CARES ACT 14 COUNTY REVOLVING LOAN FUND – Jane Fitzpatrick

EMCOG received funding in July, 2020 from the U.S. Department of Commerce EDA to establish a 14-County Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) through the CARES Act. The allocation to EMCOG included approximately $500,000 for lending for projects which promote business revitalization and growth, enhance workplace safety, strengthen supply chains and sustain and/or create jobs.

Information on this EMCOG loan fund and the loan application forms can be found at http://www.emcog.org/eda_cares_rlf.asp

For further information and inquiries please contact Sue Fortune, EMCOG Executive Director at sfortune@emcog.org or 989 797 0800, ext. 11.

5. **NEW - COUNTY PROFILE DATA REPORTS – Cynthia Edwards**
Access updated US Census data alongside demographic data variables for each of the EMCOG 14 Counties. Each profile data report will assist in visualization, analysis, and development in the region. Each report includes population, age distribution, income, occupation, education, race, gender, workforce, commute as well as the current housing status in each area. County Profile Data Reports will be available on the emcog.org website for public access. For further information contact Cynthia Edwards at cedwards@emcog.org

6. **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 4,100 views of the COVID Datahub since launching mid-July. For further information please contact Cynthia Edwards at cedwards@emcog.org

7. **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/
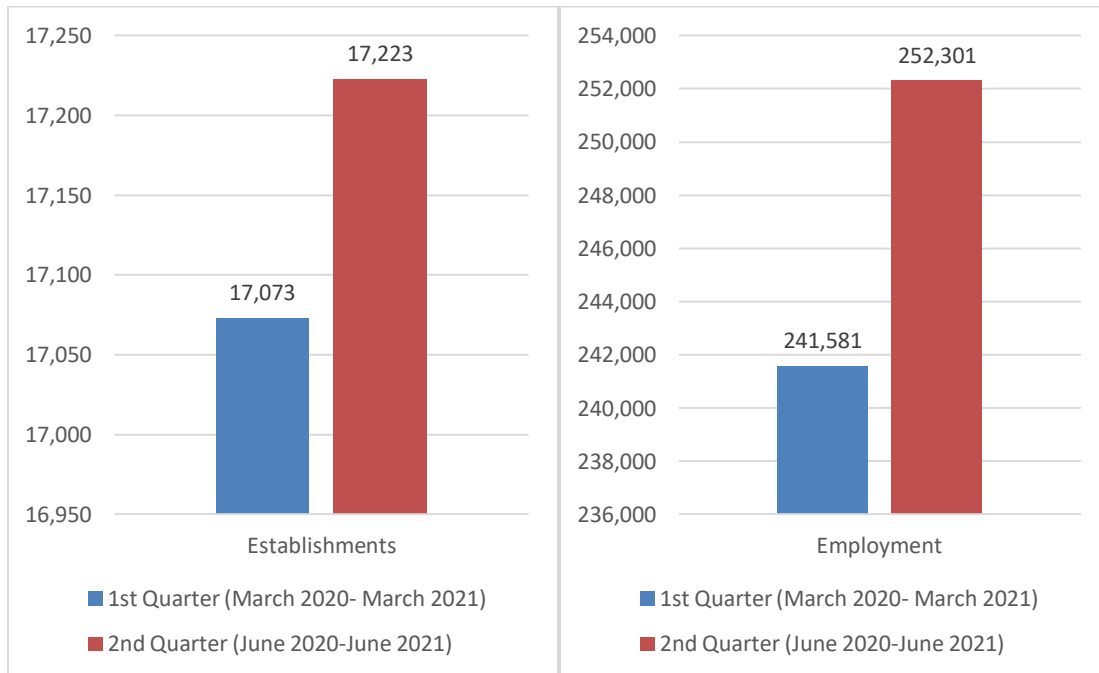There are also tutorials available to help viewers navigate through the EMCOG GIS Data Hub and can be reached via the website (emcog.org) or through a direct link: https://emcog-emcog.hub.arcgis.com/pages/gis-data-hub-tutorials. For further information contact Cynthia Edwards at cedwards@emcog.org

8. **FROM MARCH REPORT: 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

9. **REMINDER 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

10. **UPDATE - SOURCES FOR FEDERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES – Jane Fitzpatrick**
Announcements and opportunities from multiple sources **as of April 22, 2022**:

- Grants.gov
- USDA Rural Development Innovation Center
  - Rural Innovation Matters
- DOE

- o Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy Newsletter
  - o Advanced Manufacturing Program
- EPA Energy Resources for State, Local, and Tribal Governments
  - o State, Local, and Tribal Energy Newsletter
- FEMA 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.

To learn more about EDA's Economic Development Integration and Disaster Recovery Resources, visit www.eda.gov/edi, or email at EDI@eda.gov.