

# OVERVIEW OF LAKE ERIE WEST REGIONAL COUNCIL- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

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**Lake Erie West**  
REGIONAL COUNCIL

# Economic Development at Lake Erie West

Economic Development Planning	Maintain, implement, update the region's comprehensive economic development strategy
Funding Assistance	Assist communities and organizations with aligning needs to funding opportunities. Provide grant preparation support through data and reviewing narratives. Maintain list of projects throughout the region
Technical assistance & planning	Provide planning assistance, project manage regional planning, identify grants and other resources, facilitate conversations
Collaborate	Work closely with Lake Erie West transportation and environment departments

# Economic Development Districts

Planning, technical assistance, research, data analysis

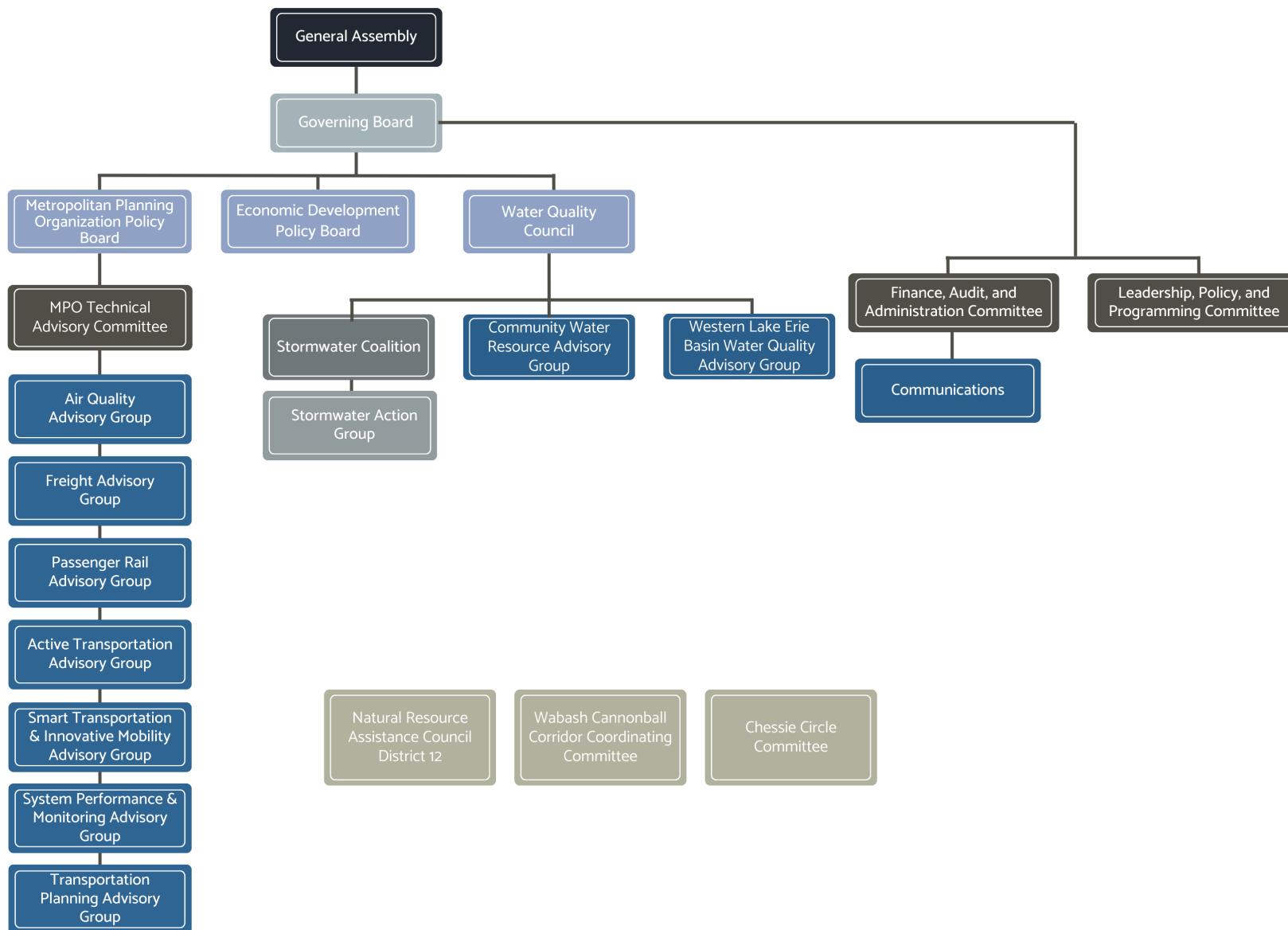
“Eyes and ears on the ground” for the EDA

Expands EDA eligibility throughout the entire district

Primary role – develop & maintain a CEDS

# Role of Board

- **Main approvals:** CEDS, Annual Report, Annual Work Program
- Provide input and expertise in research, planning, implementation
- Identify needs for additional committees under the board
- Assist in CEDS implementation
- Assist with developing a regional project list



# LAKE ERIE WEST REGION CEDS

# Our Roadmap to 2030: Five Goals for a Resilient Future



1

## Expand and Diversify the Regional Economy:

Foster growth in key sectors and support entrepreneurship.



2

## Enhance Workforce Development & Retention:

Align training with industry needs and attract top talent.



3

## Address Housing Affordability & Access:

Increase the supply of quality, attainable housing for all.



4

## Improve and Modernize Infrastructure & Regional Connectivity:

Invest in the systems that connect our communities and power our economy.



5

## Strengthen Regional Identity, Quality of Life & Community Resilience:

Make our region the best place to live, work, and invest.

## Goal 1

Objective 1.1: Attract and retain high-paying jobs in emerging sectors.

Objective 1.2: Promote entrepreneurship and innovation

Objective 1.3: Encourage reuse of brownfields and vacant properties for commercial development and industrial reuse.

Objective 1.4: Strengthen the agriculture and food sectors

## Goal 2

Objective 2.1: Align workforce training with industry needs

Objective 2.2: Improve professional skills and digital literacy

Objective 2.3: Increase access to childcare to support labor force participation.

Objective 2.4: Retain and attract young professionals and recent graduates.

## Goal 3

Objective 3.1: Expand the availability of affordable and workforce housing.

Objective 3.2: Streamline development and support infrastructure to reduce construction costs and barriers.

Objective 3.3: Promote infill housing and mixed-use development

## Goal 4

Objective 4.1: Expand and improve multi-modal transportation options

Objective 4.2: Upgrade and maintain utilities

Objective 4.3 Eliminate barriers and improve availability of broadband and high-speed internet

## Goal 5

Objective 5.1: Promote regional image and community assets

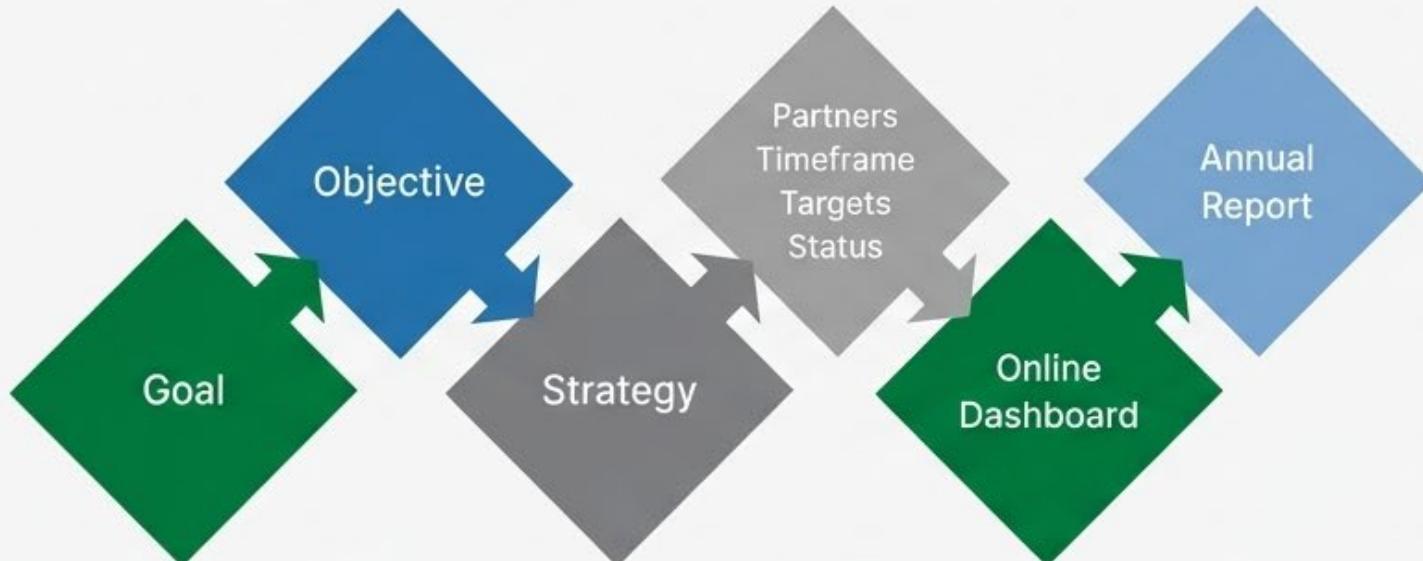
Objective 5.2: Improve access to healthy food options

Objective 5.2: Revitalize downtowns with arts, entertainment, and cultural venues

Objective 5.3: Leverage environmental assets like parks, waterfronts, and natural areas for tourism and recreation.

Objective 5.4: Expand access to health care and support services

# Measuring What Matters: Our Framework for Accountability



*"The CEDS is a living document that will be updated to reflect changing conditions and emerging opportunities."*

## Process Overview

- The Economic Development Policy Board will meet quarterly to review progress.
- An online, public-facing dashboard will be regularly updated to track strategy implementation.
- An annual report will analyze high-level indicators to illustrate the region's economic performance.

## Key Performance Indicators

Sample list:

- Labor force participation rate
- Per capita income & Poverty rate
- Number of new businesses & expansions
- Median home value
- Federal and state investment in infrastructure

# EDA FUNDING

# Eligibility



- 24-month unemployment rate 1% greater than national average
- Per capita income 80% or lower of national average

**The proposed project is located in an Economic Development District (EDD) that is located in a region that does not meet EDA's economic distress criteria, and EDA determines the proposed project will be of substantial direct benefit to a geographic area within the EDD that meets EDA's economic distress criteria**

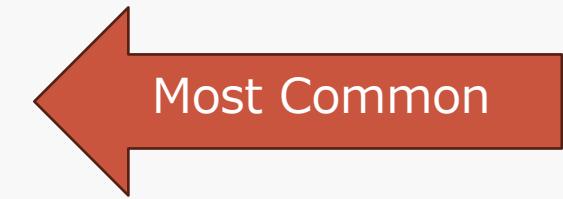
# Economic Development Impact

## Impacts include:

- *Create jobs*
- *Increase capacity for growth*
- *Business expansion*
- *Attract private investment*
- *Improve resilience*
- Does NOT fund community development activities, projects that support general government, housing, or public safety functions
- Does NOT fund for profit organizations or infrastructure owned by for profits



Projects located in regions in which:	Maximum allowable investment rates (percentage of total project cost)
(A) The 24-month unemployment rate is at least 225% of the national average; or	80
(B) The per capita income is not more than 50% of the national average.	80
(C) The 24-month unemployment rate is at least 200% of the national average; or	70
(D) The per capita income is not more than 60% of the national average.	70
(E) The 24-month unemployment rate is at least 1 percentage point greater than the national average; or	60
(F) The per capita income is not more than 80% of the national average.	60



## Match requirements

# EDA Investment Priorities

- Critical Infrastructure
- Workforce
- Innovation & Entrepreneurship
- Economic Recovery Resilience
- Manufacturing



# Eligible Applicants

- Economic Development District Organization;
- Indian Tribe or a consortium of Indian Tribes;
- State, county, city, or other political subdivision of a State, including a special purpose unit of a State or local government engaged in economic or infrastructure development activities, or a consortium of political subdivisions;
- Institution of higher education or a consortium of institutions of higher education;
- Public or private non-profit organization or association acting in cooperation with officials of a political subdivision of a State;
- Economic development organization; or
- Public-private partnership for public infrastructure.

# Public Works

Average investment size \$1.4 million – expected range in FY 25 \$600,000 to \$5 million

Rolling

Alignment with CEDS

Typical grant period 12 to 48 months

Technology based facilities

Multi-tenant manufacturing facilities

Business and industrial parks

Telecommunications and development facilities

Water and sewer improvements

Business incubators

Port and harbor expansions

Skill-training facilities

Brownfield redevelopment

# Economic Adjustment Assistance

Average investment size  
\$650,000 – expected range  
in FY 25 \$150,000 to \$2.5  
million

Rolling

Alignment with CEDS

Typical grant period 12 to 24  
months (non-construction)

Most flexible program

Construction or upgrading public infrastructure  
Design and implementation of workforce projects  
Revolving loan funds  
Long term and disaster recovery and resiliency plans  
Improve resilience  
Military base closure  
Development or expansion of commercialization  
Market or industry research and analysis

# Planning and Technical Assistance

Average investment size  
\$70,000 for planning and  
\$100,000 for technical  
assistance

Rolling

Alignment with CEDS

Local Technical Assistance:

- Feasibility studies
- Impact analysis
- Disaster recovery
- Project Planning

Planning:

- Planning partnership
- CEDS (not served by EDD)
- Planning related to a sudden loss of significant employer

# Questions

- What unique value can Lake Erie West Regional bring to the region's economic development efforts?
- How do we ensure we are not duplicating existing initiatives?
- How can we support work that your community or organization is doing?

## **CEDS SUMMIT**

FRIDAY MARCH 6TH 8:00AM-1:15PM

VETERANS BUILDING – BOWLING GREEN

## **NEXT ED POLICY BOARD MEETING**

FRIDAY MAY 1ST 9:00AM

LOCATION: TBD



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