

Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission



GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND CEDS GOALS

CEDS Structure: Principles

- **Partnerships and Regional Alignment.** Align regional efforts to advance economic opportunity for all and build partnerships across the Northwestern Indiana region.
- **Distributed Growth.** Seek to understand, address, and dismantle the root causes of opportunity disparity along with the historic and existing barriers to participation in the regional economy.
- **Economic stabilization and growth.** Target efforts that prepare the region to avoid, withstand, and recover from economic shocks and natural disasters.

CEDS Structure: Overall Goals

- **Economic Diversification** – support a diverse economy with emphasis on good jobs
- **Workforce & Talent** – strengthen the workforce and labor resilience
- **Quality of Place** - address factors contributing regional livability and workforce attractiveness

Economic Diversification – underpins a economy region and good jobs

- Focus on the clusters of: Primary Metal (prepare for downturn), Ceramics & Glass/Chemicals (Pharmaceuticals emphasis), Machinery, and Quantum (as an emerging cluster)
- Identify key, regional stakeholders in each cluster
- Strategize around the industry clusters to evaluate supply chain opportunities for growth
- Support regional small businesses, entrepreneurs and construction industry
- Connect with Heartland BioWorks and Chicago Quantum Exchange growth efforts

Workforce & Talent – underpins clusters

- Convene and collaborate within each cluster pertaining to reskilling opportunities from Primary Metal to work within existing STAR cluster
- Focus on sectoral partnerships, convened by the region, formed by a critical mass of employers from the same industry who join with other strategic partners to train and place workers into good, high-quality jobs (see below) that meet the needs of the targeted industry
- Work collaboratively with workforce development organizations to develop strong talent pipelines – to meet the needs of the industrial clusters. (Sectoral partnerships have been shown to improve training programs' participation and completion rates and have resulted in better employment and earnings outcomes for workers.)

Quality of Place- creates a livable region for the workforce and residents

- Focus on revitalization of downtowns in the region
- Promote affordable housing and infill development
- Support the development of additional childcare throughout the region