



COMPREHENSIVE
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY
UPDATE

JULY 2006

FIRST DISTRICT ASSOCIATION
OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
WATERTOWN, SD



CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is to establish an inclusive process that supports regional cooperation in east central South Dakota. The CEDS has four objectives:

1. Describe the east central South Dakota region in terms of its geographic, economic, and social relationships;
2. Identify regional development issues and priorities;
3. Outline an organizational structure that meets basic service demands and local fiscal realities; and
4. Develop an implementation plan that considers both the region's long-term vision and immediate needs.

Each objective will be addressed in a separate chapter. The CEDS will be evaluated on three levels. First, the strategy will be successful if it results in broad, ongoing participation from local governments and the development "players" in the region. Second, the CEDS will succeed if its work plan has tangible (i.e., readily apparent) results, such as job creation or public and private investment. Finally, success will be measured by the ability of the region to adapt to opportunities and challenges.

The CEDS will be reviewed at key stages through formal and informal procedures. The formal participants have a role to play in the approval or acceptance of the CEDS. These entities are expected to formulate or approve organizational policies. They are also the anticipated financial supporters of the Economic Development District (EDD). Their participation will involve official actions or proceedings, such as joint cooperative agreements and contracts.

Formal Review

1. CEDS Committee;
2. Economic Development District Committee;
3. Tribal Governments;
4. Local Governments;
5. South Dakota Governor's Office of Economic Development; and
6. Economic Development Administration.