

ECONOMIC AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

GOAL 1

Take additional steps to be a business-friendly County

OBJECTIVE A	
Ensure clear and consistent County regulatory processes 	
Tasks	Accomplishments
1) Be a business-friendly County including making online permitting available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The Planning & Development and IT Departments created an in-house application to allow property owners and contractors to apply for residential and commercial service permits on the Planning & Development website.
2) Review standards and requirements with an eye toward revisions or deregulation where possible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The County Board approved amendments to simplify and generally reduce the fee schedule for zoning petitions. ✓ The County Board approved the final draft of the Unified Development Ordinance at the March County Board Meeting. Reductions and simplifications to the regulations outnumber increases and new regulations by a ratio of 2:1. ✓ The Stormwater Management Commission has initiated the annual review of the Stormwater Management Ordinance. The commission has identified a goal to simplify or reduce runoff detention requirements for agricultural developments.
3) Utilize programs, services and resources currently in place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ P&D staff collaborated with IT staff to redesign existing DevNet software to electronically track the status of permits through the review process. ✓ McHenry County staff actively promotes economic development programs and resources, including the Workforce Network, in discussions with businesses.
4) Partner with municipalities for joint economic/business incentive packages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ See Objective B Task 5. ✓ McHenry County staff has met with various municipal economic development staff to make them aware of programs available through the County. ✓ In conjunction with state and local incentives, McHenry County offered an incentive through its Economic Development and Business Incentive Program which was successful in attracting an expansion to Camfil USA in Crystal Lake.

5) Promote the County to businesses, entrepreneurs and economic decision-makers	✓ An economic development webpage has been created to provide information on the various programs and tools the County administers, relevant resources and links to our Economic Development partners.
6) Develop methods and approaches to “tell our story”	✓ MCEDC is developing a branding and development video with millennials in mind.
7) Standardize property assessments across the County	
8) Encourage relationships with small businesses in the County	✓ MCEDC continues the business visitation program and quarterly municipal roundtables to discuss business outreach, development and tools to retain business in the County.

OBJECTIVE B

Expand the non-residential economic tax base



Tasks	Accomplishments
1) Strengthen and formalize ties to all neighboring counties with increased emphasis to the westward counties in the economic corridors along I-90 and the state line	✓ The County is working with the R1 Planning Commission to pursue a grant for the construction of the full interchange at Route 23 and I-90.
2) Expand on industrial clusters (metals, technology, medicine)	
3) Develop avenues to market the County’s robust fiber-optic network and promote readiness and cutting edge technology infrastructure to help attract and retain businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The McHenry County Network Consortium selected a firm to market the fiber to the 40 to 50 largest businesses in the Woodstock area. ✓ The McHenry County Network Consortium hosted an open house in November of 2018 for Woodstock area businesses to learn about the availability of the fiber network for the private sector. ✓ iFiber developed an interactive map allowing a user to enter an address and locate the nearest broadband fiber network, which includes McHenry County’s system. The interactive map is located at http://ifiber.org/interactive-map/.
4) Facilitate the growth and variety of tourism activities and opportunities as an economic development tool	✓ Visit McHenry County entered into an agreement with Zagster , a bike share company, to implement a county-wide bike share program starting in May of 2019. Visit McHenry County is partnering with other local government agencies who are interested in sponsoring a bike share station in their jurisdiction, one of which may be McHenry County as the Board will

	<p>vote on entering an agreement with visit McHenry County regarding the bicycles at its April 2019 meeting. As of March 11, 2019 the agencies agreeing to sponsor a station include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of McHenry • City of Woodstock • City of Crystal Lake • Village of Richmond (in conjunction with the McHenry County Conservation District) • McHenry County College <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The McHenry County Board adopted the Fox River Corridor Plan. ✓ The McHenry County Board approved a resolution supporting the Fox River Water Trail Initiative. This Resolution is intended to increase ecotourism and recreational opportunities throughout the Fox River Valley and is the first step to obtaining National Water Trail designation by the National Park Service along with increased publicity. ✓ Through nominations made by Visit McHenry County, eight McHenry County businesses have received the <i>Illinois Made</i> distinction through the Illinois Office of Tourism. The <i>Illinois Made</i> program recognizes and celebrates those makers, creators, and artisans who inspire tourism and make a tangible, positive impact on the local economy by offering a one-of-a-kind handcrafted experience. Those businesses receiving the <i>Illinois Made</i> designation become part of the statewide tourism marketing and promotional campaigns. ✓ McHenry County once again certified that Visit McHenry County is recognized as its Visitors and Convention Bureau for state tourism grant purposes. ✓ Visit McHenry County is working with MCDOT, municipal and corporate partners to implement a bike share program that could promote tourism. ✓ The new Unified Development Ordinance increases the number of temporary sales events that property owners may hold from three to six and eliminate restrictions on the timing of the events during the year.
5) Support / focus on small businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The County Board is placing an ordinance on 30 day review that amends the Harvard/Woodstock Designating

	Ordinance and its intergovernmental agreement with the City of Woodstock and the City of Harvard regarding the Harvard/Woodstock Enterprise Zone. This amendment eliminates the \$150,000 to \$250,000 minimum capital investment requirement, and it increases the number of years that property tax will be abated on the project's increase in value as well as the total percentage per year of the abatement for projects in the City of Woodstock.
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GOAL 2

Match the skills of the population with the needs of businesses

OBJECTIVE A	
Evaluate business needs and match funds to training that will meet those needs 	
Tasks	Accomplishments
1) Help to facilitate the development of the essential workforce and skills that existing and growing industries need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ See Objective B Task 1 ✓ On April 8th, 2019, the Workforce Network launched a Pre-apprenticeship Training Program for the first two cohorts of at-risk young adults and returning citizens. ✓ In response to customer and employer feedback, the Workforce Network has brought in new workshops and classes to assist customers with their job searching and employability. The Workforce Network is now offering Internet Job Search Skills and Computer Literacy Workshops. The Young Adult Program is also offering three new classes: Customer Service Skills, Math Skills Enhancement, and Digital Literacy. ✓ The Workforce Network has also started the Reentry (Ex-Offender) Job Search Group that helps ex-offenders become work ready.
2) Help attract, grow and retain millennial talent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Workforce Network launched a new Young Adult Welding Training class on April 15, 2019 for eight individuals. First Institute provided the training and the City of McHenry Public Works Department is hosting the Mobile Welding Lab site. ✓ The Workforce Network (WN) and First Institute Training and Management provided training for welding so participants in the Young Adult Program could earn the American Welding Society AWS D1.1 Structural Welding Code Certification. This program was developed

	<p>in response to local manufacturers' demand for welders. Seven students have obtained regular employment, and WN continues to assist the remaining students in finding regular employment. This program helped two homeless youths find employment and regular housing.</p>
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OBJECTIVE B 
 Explore public-private training and education partnerships to improve the skills of the McHenry County workforce

Tasks	Accomplishments
1) Develop skills that existing and identified growing industries need. Partner with workforce development entities and networks, such as MCC and Workforce Network, to ensure skills gaps are addressed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ See Goal 2 Objective A Task 1 ✓ McHenry County Workforce Network, in partnership with local economic development staff in Woodstock, Huntley and McHenry, hosted the Registered Apprenticeship Roundtable to address employer/workforce needs. Representatives from the Department of Labor, Department of Commerce and multiple trade unions participated. Approximately 40 employers and 20 educators attended, and Congressman Hultgren gave a video introduction for the event.
2) Help to lead the way for employers by developing a strategy to be identified/known as the home of progressive businesses and good places to work and do business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ See Objective B Task 1
3) Encourage vocational training and explore in demand skills in major industries in the County (i.e., manufacturing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The Workforce Network (WN) received a Talent Pipeline Grant of \$195,538 from the Illinois Department of Commerce for creation of a Manufacturing Pre-Apprenticeship Program for at-risk young adults and returning citizens. This Program is designed to be a career pathway for underutilized populations to gain skills needed to enter registered or non-registered apprenticeship programs, or directly into employment with a local manufacturer. The WN is partnering with McHenry County College, the Illinois Department of Corrections, 22nd Judicial Circuit Court, Illinois Manufacturing Association, McHenry County State's Attorney, Stateline Society for Human Resources, and local employers to bring this opportunity to the community. ✓ The US Department of Labor certified the Workforce Network to sponsor four

	<p>targeted job titles for Registered Apprenticeships for employers: Machinist, Die Setter-Cold Header, Tool Maker and Cabinet Maker. This relieves local businesses of the administrative burden of having a Registered Apprenticeship position.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ See Objective B Task 1 ✓ An Industrial Maintenance training grant enabled the training of 53 workers at 13 County employers. Sales are estimated to increase on average over \$6.7 million and cost savings are estimated at over \$1.9 million. 96% of the participants retained their jobs with many getting promotions and/or wage increases ranging between 17%-236%. 17 people received a credential from MCC and 29 received industry recognized training. It is estimated that over 94 jobs were retained and over 10 new jobs were created.
<p>4) Facilitate and encourage a variety of training and education opportunities, including technical and vocational offerings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ See Objective B Task 1 ✓ The Workforce Network has been awarded \$14,244.36 in trade grant funds. These funds will be used to cover costs associated with providing services to the dislocated workers who live in McHenry County and were laid off from Department of Labor Certified Trade Act events. ✓ McHenry County Workforce Network collaborated with the Northern Illinois Workforce coalition to develop a tuition policy to charge WIOA Customer Students the In-District tuition for approved training classes/curriculum. This model is being considered for statewide adoption by the State of Illinois.
<p>OBJECTIVE C </p> <p>Match the skills of the existing population with needs of the existing businesses to retain talent in the County and meet the current and future workforce demands</p>	
<p>Tasks</p>	<p>Accomplishments</p>
<p>1) No specific tasks identified in the Strategic Plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Representatives from the Workforce Network (WN) met with staff for Representative Hultgren, Senator Durbin and Senator Duckworth in Washington D.C. to inform them about the progress McHenry County citizens have made through WN initiatives and to explain how the proposed changes in WIOA funding would result in a cumulative loss of 14 million dollars for programs in Illinois.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ McHenry County received \$1,911,237 in WIOA Formula Grant funding to provide workforce development services and programs for count businesses and residents. This is an increase of 4.001% or \$73,666 from the previous program year, with plans to serve 280+ Customers including Job Seekers and Businesses.
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