


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 online through 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 effective July 1, 2018. ✓ The County Board approved the final draft of the Uniform 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"> ✓ McHenry County staff has met with various municipal economic development staff to make them aware of programs available through the County. ✓ The County Board approved the incentive parameters for Camfil USA of Crystal Lake through the Economic Development and Business Incentive Program. ✓ In conjunction with state and local incentives, McHenry County offered an economic incentive package to help attract

	a manufacturing expansion in Crystal Lake. The company ultimately selected their Crystal Lake site for expansion.
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”	
7) Standardize property assessments across the County	
8) Encourage relationships with small businesses in the County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Chairman Franks and Board Members Skala and Christensen participated in the Crystal Lake Chamber of Commerce Listening Session on November 7, 2017. ✓ 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
✓ 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 exploring grant opportunities with the Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning.
✓ Expand on industrial clusters (metals, technology, medicine)	
✓ 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	✓ 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/ .
✓ Facilitate the growth and variety of tourism activities and opportunities as an economic development tool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The McHenry County Board adopted the Fox River Corridor Plan at its October meeting. ✓ 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.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 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 explore a bike share concept 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 throughout the year.
✓ Support / focus on small businesses	

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 ✓ 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 Workforce Network's 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"> ✓ 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 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.

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 addressing employer/workforce needs on November 14th. Representatives from the Department of Labor, Department of Commerce, multiple 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 US Department of Labor certified the Workforce Network to sponsor four 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. ✓ See Objective B Task 1 ✓ An Industrial Maintenance training grant has been completed where 53 workers with

	<p>13 County employers having been trained. Sales are estimated to increase on average over \$6.7 million dollars and cost savings over \$1.9 million dollars. 96% of participants retained their jobs with many getting promotions and/or wage increases ranging between 17%-236%. 17 people received a credential from MCC and 229 received industry recognized training. It is estimated that over 94 jobs were retained and over 10 new jobs will be created.</p>
<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 ✓ Ten employers attended the Work-Based Learning Information Session hosted by the Workforce Network in February which educated employers on different workforce learning opportunities such as apprenticeships, internships, and on the job training. ✓ 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. ✓ Chairman Franks, County staff and Workforce Network representatives participated in a <i>Future of Manufacturing</i> roundtable discussion hosted by Representative Hultgren on June 1st, 2018 to learn more about the Workforce Network's Young Adult Internship program and career pathways within manufacturing.
<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">✓ Representatives from ten employers attended the Work-Based Learning Information Session hosted by the Workforce Network held on February 27th.✓ McHenry County received \$1,911,237 in WIO 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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