



SEDA-COG

Economic Development District

**Comprehensive Economic
Development Strategy**

2021 Annual Report

Presented by SEDA-Council of Governments, December 2021

**SEDA-Council of Governments
Economic Development District**

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
Annual Report – 2021

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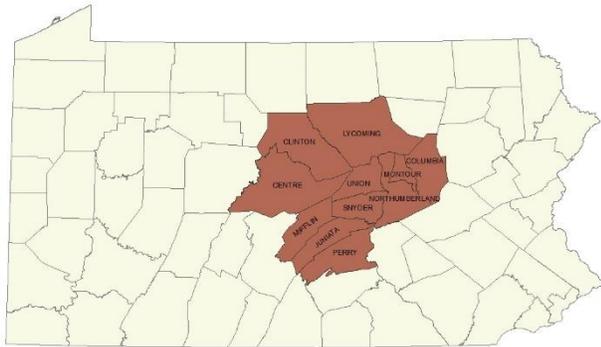
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- A. Current SEDA-COG Board Member List
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SEDA-Council of Governments Economic Development District

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Annual Report - 2021

Administrative Organization



The 11-County Region

The SEDA-COG Economic Development District is comprised of 11 counties: Centre, Clinton, Columbia, Juniata, Lycoming, Mifflin, Montour, Northumberland, Perry, Snyder, and Union. All counties actively participate in the District's economic development program. The SEDA-COG Board of Directors, CEDS Committee, and various advisory committees include representation from all eleven counties.

SEDA-COG Board of Directors

Economic development activities of the SEDA-COG Economic Development District (EDD) are directed by a 22-member Board of Directors. SEDA-COG's governing body is broadly representative of the principal economic interests of the region. A list of present board members is included as Attachment A to this report.

SEDA-COG Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee

The CEDS Committee collectively provides a broad-based range of input into the CEDS process and has the responsibility for working with staff to develop and update the region's CEDS for review and approval by the SEDA-COG Board of Directors. (See Attachment B for a listing of the individuals on the CEDS Committee).

The Board and CEDS Committee continue to maintain an active involvement in EDA programs and in the identification and implementation of other economic development opportunities. Opportunities are actively pursued to provide financial and technical assistance to business and industry within the District. A point of emphasis for the Board and the CEDS Committee in their economic development activities continues to be the expansion and improvement of relations with the region's private sector.

Staff completed the 5-Year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for 2020, which was approved by the board in December 2020. A copy of the CEDS is found on the

SEDA-COG website: https://seda-cog.org/wp-content/uploads/2020_5-Year_CEDS_FINAL_WITH_ATTACHMENTS.pdf

Local Loan Review Committee

SEDA-COG administers numerous loan programs, including the SEDA-COG Revolving Loan Fund (RLF), which was funded through EDA with local match from the SEDA Foundation. SEDA-COG also continues to function as a Certified Development Company under the Small Business Administration's 504 Program and offers the program statewide. SEDA-COG continues to provide regional administration of the Pennsylvania PIDA Loan Program, a program that has proven valuable in connection with the region's economic development activities.

The Local Loan Review Committee (LLRC) functions as an advisory body for SEDA-COG's various financing programs. This Committee includes representation from the SEDA-COG Board; the banking, accounting, and legal professions; and other entities able to contribute advice in the evaluation of loan proposals.



Partnerships for Regional Economic Performance. The Commonwealth's Partnerships for Regional Economic Performance (PREP) Program was designed by the

Commonwealth to encourage coordination of economic development efforts to promote enhanced customer service to the business community and a comprehensive and efficient economic development delivery strategy. The Central PREP Program's core partners, the area's industrial development organizations; SEDA-COG; and the two Small Business Development Centers (SBDC's) located at Penn State University and Bucknell University. The 11 core partners have been meeting on a regular basis and continually improve the program, seamlessly integrating our service delivery system.

Five-Year CEDS

The five-year CEDS revision was completed and approved on December 2, 2020 at the SEDA-COG's CEDS Committee and Board of Directors meeting. A draft version of the CEDS document was shared with the SEDA-COG CEDS Committee, Board, and regional organizations that included the Partnerships for Regional Economic Performance (PREP) Partners, Heartland Partnership, county planning directors and the Central Pennsylvania Workforce Development Corporation (CPWDC) prior to approval.

As an outgrowth of the review process, the document was reworked with minor revisions to statistics and figures including a greater emphasis on workforce and available affordable housing as well as the addition of organizations that can assist in meeting the varied objectives.

Strategy Review

2020 5-Year CEDS Goals

The Strategy goals are:

1. Encourage the protection, modernization, and expansion of existing businesses and job opportunities, and where appropriate, encourage entrepreneurship and the recruitment of new business and industry consistent with the character of the Region.
2. Aggressively encourage the deployment of technology and widespread accessibility to broadband services and capabilities.
3. Encourage the upgrading of skills and talents for the Region's workforce and the creation of family-sustaining wages.
4. Encourage the prudent utilization of the Region's natural resources in an environmentally sustainable manner (including land, water, natural gas, and lumber).
5. Improve and expand infrastructure, flood resiliency, and conservation/greening efforts to enhance the older and rural centers throughout the area for business and economic development.
6. Encourage the promotion of the Region as a destination for travel, recreation, and tourism.
7. Cultivate efforts for the Region to become resilient in the face of natural disasters, pandemics, and economic downturns.

Objectives

Derived from the goals listed above are the following objectives:

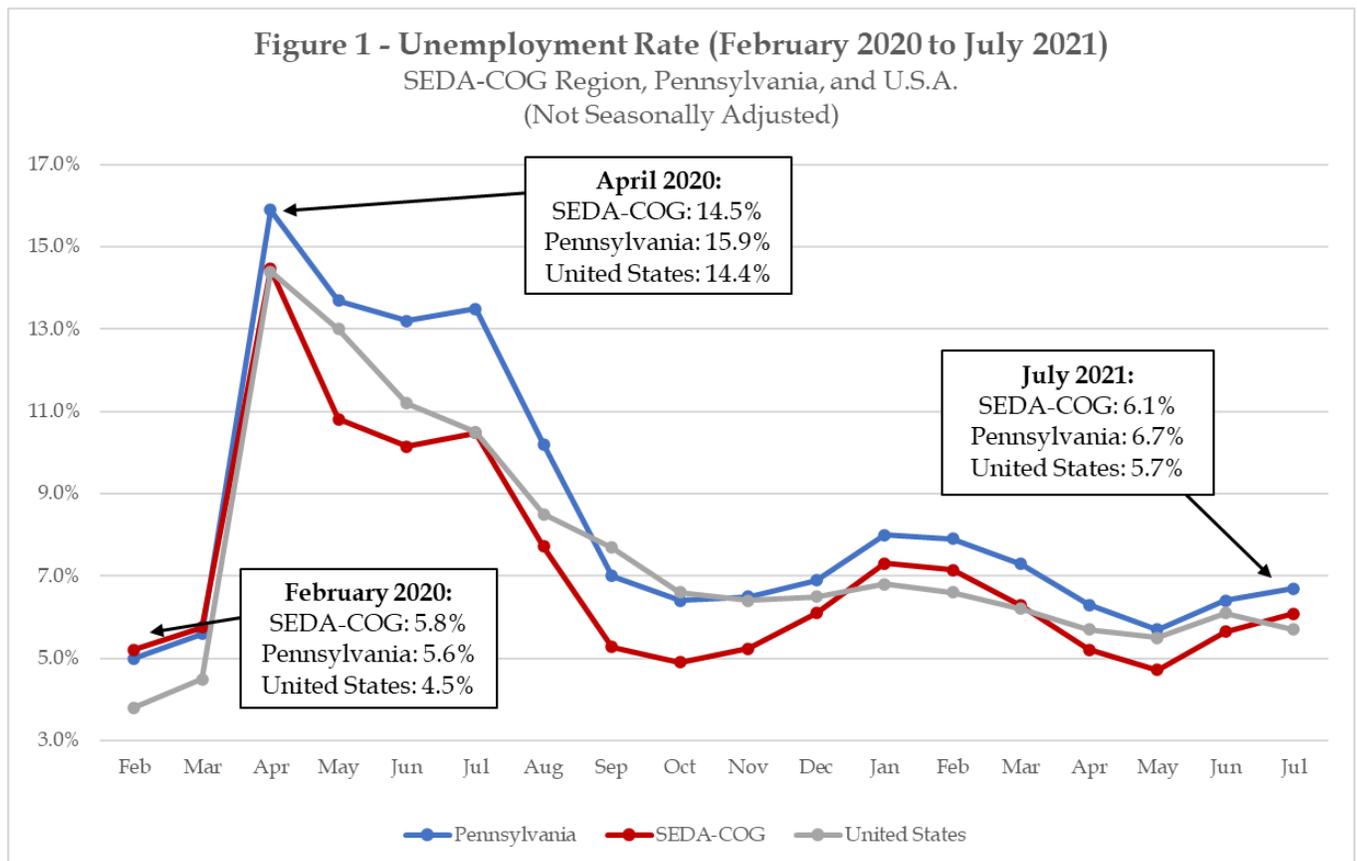
- Continue to foster economic development activities through the various components of the Central Region PREP and Engage! programs, including business finance assistance, export marketing, and government procurement technical assistance. In accordance with Goal 1, primary emphasis will be on fostering the maintenance and expansion of the Region's existing industrial base.
- Cooperate with industrial development groups throughout the Region to expand industrial/business parks or establish new parks wherever such need is determined to exist, with particular attention to promoting the tax-free Keystone Opportunity Zones that have been established in this Region by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
- Encourage streamlined and expedited land development procedures to ease new business entry and expansion.

- To support entrepreneurship and innovation, provide support and assistance to the Keystone Innovation Zones, Ben Franklin Technology Centers, and Small Business Development Centers throughout the Region.
- Promote development in Federal Opportunity Zones around the Region. Area-wide tax incentives and tax deferrals in federal qualified opportunity zones should be used to the greatest extent possible by giving priority to projects in the OZs where Region-wide economic benefits can be reaped.
- Cooperate with the IMC, NEPIRC, SBDCs, and other programs of the Central PREP Region's economic development service delivery network.
- Promote sharing of resources between partner counties, economic development agencies, and SEDA-COG.
- Cooperate with the Central Pennsylvania Workforce Development Corporation (now known as Advanced Central PA) and other workforce providers in targeting resources at identified training needs for the Region.
- Develop relationships with universities, colleges, and technical schools in coordination with career development professionals to identify course work/curriculum gaps for the future workforce.
- Build a strong foundation for economic success and shared prosperity by investing in education.
- Promote niche economies and business clustering.
- Foster better coordination among the Region's PREP partners, institutions of higher learning, and vocational-technical schools with existing employers and the CPWDC/Advance Central PA to focus resources where they are most urgently needed.
- Build the infrastructure necessary to allow widespread adoption of natural gas utilization thereby providing for long-term job opportunities that will endure after the exploration boom tapers off and diminishes.
- Encourage affordable housing as necessary to support the resident workforce and influence a healthy, balanced economy by addressing barriers to affordability.
- Cooperate with local visitors' bureaus, the Commonwealth, and other interests to promote the Region as a tourist and recreation destination.
- Encourage park and trail development to foster increased recreational and heritage tourism.
- Ensure ongoing and emerging economic development activities do not diminish the attractiveness of the Region to tourists.
- Encourage highspeed broadband buildout in areas unserved or underserved by working with and incentivizing internet service providers.

- Participate and support the CPWDC/Advance Central PA’s Next Generation Sector Partnerships for Manufacturing and Healthcare.

Regional Economic Conditions & COVID-19 Pandemic

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the SEDA-COG EDD continues to provide the basis for SEDA-COG’s economic development efforts. The CEDS tracks data including monthly and annual unemployment rates, county business patterns, and layoffs and closings in the region.



COVID-19 effected unemployment rates in the region, starting in March 2020. **Figure 1** shows the unemployment rate shifts starting in February 2020 until July 2021 using data from the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry. In February, the SEDA-COG region had an unemployment rate of 5.8%, compared to Pennsylvania’s 5.6% rate and the national rate of 4.5%. In April 2020, the pandemic and the mitigation efforts began to heavily influence unemployment, as unemployment rates increased to 14.5% in the SEDA-COG region, compared to 15.9% in Pennsylvania and 14.4% for the United States. Throughout the rest of 2020, the SEDA-COG’s regional unemployment rate was often below the United States’ and Pennsylvania’s unemployment rate for most of the pandemic up until July 2021.

In July 2021, 17 months since the beginning of the pandemic, the region's monthly unemployment rate was 6.1% (see **Table 1**). This rate was lower than Pennsylvania's unemployment rate during the same month (6.7%), but higher than the national unemployment rate of 5.7%. Clinton, Columbia, Lycoming, Mifflin, and Northumberland counties had a higher unemployment rate than the SEDA-COG region, state, and nation. Centre, Juniata, Montour, Perry, Snyder, and Union counties have unemployment rates below or equal to the region, state, and national rates in month of July.

**Table 1 - Comparative Labor Force Data for
the SEDA-COG Region, Pennsylvania, and United States**

(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

July 2021				
County	Number in Labor Force	Number Employed	Number Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Centre	73,000	68,900	4,100	5.6%
Clinton	17,600	16,500	1,200	6.5%
Columbia	33,700	31,600	2,100	6.2%
Juniata	12,600	12,000	600	4.9%
Lycoming	55,800	51,900	3,900	7.0%
Mifflin	21,300	19,900	1,300	6.3%
Montour	9,200	8,800	500	4.9%
Northumberland	42,400	39,400	2,900	7.0%
Perry	24,400	23,200	1,300	5.1%
Snyder	19,200	18,100	1,100	5.7%
Union	19,300	18,300	1,000	5.1%
SEDA-COG REGION	328,500	308,600	20,000	6.1%
PENNSYLVANIA	6,364,000	5,936,000	428,000	6.7%
U.S.A.	162,817,000	153,596,000	9,221,000	5.7%

Source: PA Dept of Labor and Industry

The 2020 Annual Unemployment Rate for the region was 7.6%, which is lower than the state (9.1%) and the nation (8.1%) (See **Table 2**). Counties with the highest annual unemployment rate for 2020 include Northumberland (9.4%), Lycoming (8.8%), and Clinton (8.7%). Counties with the lowest unemployment rate for the same period include Centre (5.8%), Montour (6.1%), Perry, (6.8%) and Union (6.8%).

Table 2 – 2020 Annual Unemployment Rate (Not Seasonally Adjusted) For SEDA-COG Region, Pennsylvania, and United States				
Area	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Centre	76,400	72,000	4,500	5.8%
Clinton	17,700	16,200	1,500	8.7%
Columbia	33,300	30,600	2,700	8.1%
Juniata	12,600	11,700	900	7.2%
Lycoming	55,900	51,000	4,900	8.8%
Mifflin	21,100	19,400	1,800	8.4%
Montour	9,000	8,500	600	6.1%
Northumberland	42,200	38,300	4,000	9.4%
Perry	24,100	22,500	1,600	6.8%
Snyder	19,400	17,900	1,500	7.6%
Union	19,300	18,000	1,300	6.8%
SEDA-COG Region	331,000	306,100	25,300	7.6%
PENNSYLVANIA	6,388,000	5,808,000	580,000	9.1%
U.S.A.	160,742,000	147,795,000	12,948,000	8.1%
<i>Source: PA Dept of Labor and Industry</i>				

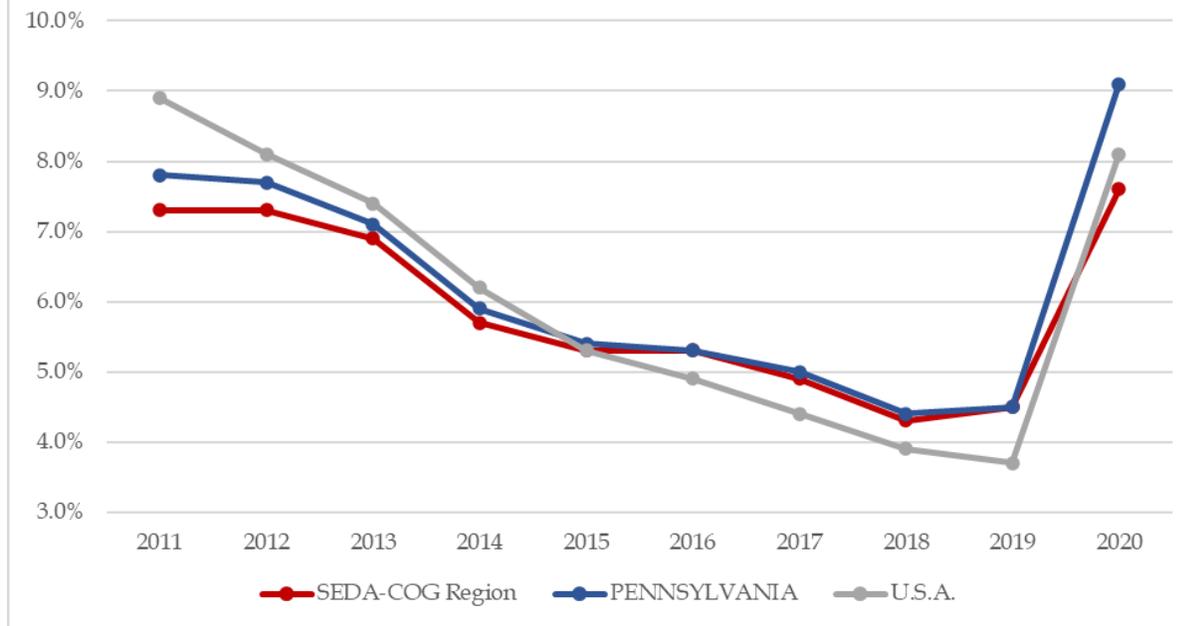
Table 3 and **Figure 2** on the next page show the “not seasonally adjusted” Annual average unemployment rate by county, the SEDA-COG region, Pennsylvania, and the nation over the ten-year period from 2011 through 2020. **Figure 2** illustrates that from 2011 to 2015, the national unemployment rate was higher than both the SEDA-COG Region and Pennsylvania. However, in the period between 2015 and 2019, the national unemployment rate fell below both the state and SEDA-COG rate. It is also important to note that while the national rate fluctuated in comparison to state and the region, the SEDA-COG Region remained equal to or lower than the Pennsylvania unemployment rate. 2020 reflects the abrupt change in unemployment associated with COVID-19 pandemic. For 2020, the SEDA-COG region’s unemployment rate remains lower than both the state and national rate.

Table 3 - 10-Year Annual Average Unemployment Rate (2011 to 2020)
SEDA-COG Region, Pennsylvania, and United States
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Centre	5.3%	5.4%	5.1%	4.3%	4.0%	4.1%	3.8%	3.4%	3.4%	5.8%
Clinton	8.2%	8.6%	8.8%	7.4%	7.0%	7.0%	6.2%	5.5%	5.5%	8.7%
Columbia	8.5%	8.2%	7.4%	6.3%	5.8%	5.5%	5.3%	4.9%	4.9%	8.1%
Juniata	7.2%	7.1%	6.9%	5.7%	5.0%	5.3%	4.7%	4.2%	4.5%	7.2%
Lycoming	7.6%	7.7%	7.6%	6.2%	6.2%	6.6%	5.7%	5.0%	4.9%	8.8%
Mifflin	8.7%	8.5%	7.9%	6.5%	5.9%	5.7%	5.4%	4.8%	4.8%	8.4%
Montour	6.1%	5.7%	5.3%	4.7%	4.4%	4.2%	3.9%	3.6%	3.7%	6.1%
Northumberland	9.0%	8.9%	8.5%	6.8%	6.2%	6.2%	5.8%	5.4%	5.7%	9.4%
Perry	7.2%	7.1%	6.3%	5.2%	4.5%	4.6%	4.4%	3.9%	3.8%	6.8%
Snyder	7.5%	7.4%	6.6%	5.2%	4.8%	4.6%	4.5%	4.1%	5.6%	7.6%
Union	6.6%	6.3%	6.1%	5.0%	4.6%	4.7%	4.4%	3.9%	4.1%	6.8%
SEDA-COG Region	7.3%	7.3%	6.9%	5.7%	5.3%	5.3%	4.9%	4.3%	4.5%	7.6%
PENNSYLVANIA	7.8%	7.7%	7.1%	5.9%	5.4%	5.3%	5.0%	4.4%	4.5%	9.1%
U.S.A.	8.9%	8.1%	7.4%	6.2%	5.3%	4.9%	4.4%	3.9%	3.7%	8.1%

Source: PA Dept of Labor and Industry

Figure 2 - Annual Unemployment Rate from 2011 to 2020
SEDA-COG Region, Pennsylvania, and U.S.A.
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)



COVID-19 Business Survey

In March and April of 2021, SEDA-COG developed a COVID-19 Business Survey to gather quantitative and qualitative information on the economic impact of COVID-19 in the region. The survey was developed by SEDA-COG’s Economic Development, Community Relations, Flood Resiliency, and Export Assistance staff. The Bucknell SBDC and Bucknell faculty provided aide with reviewing and making suggested edits to questions and data goals. The survey was distributed to businesses and organizations by SEDA-COG Community Relations staff, Williamsport Chamber of Commerce, Bucknell SBDC, DRIVE, Penn Tap, and the Clinton County Economic Partnership.

The survey had 26 questions, with seven different categories, which included basic business information, employee impacts from COVID-19, internet access and teleworking, business impacts from COVID-19, sales and customer trends during the pandemic, services and financing, and future planning. Overall, 79 different business responded to the survey, from 28 industries, and all 11 counties in the SEDA-COG region. The mean business size was 34 – 40 employees, however, over half of the business had between 1 and 10 employees. The businesses sampled represented over \$117 million in reported regional sales. Key findings in the survey include loss of employees after one year of the pandemic, regional need for emergency planning, prevalence of financial aid programs, and need for other services to local businesses.

Businesses were asked to indicate how many employees they had before the pandemic, and how many they had one year later. In the sample, businesses indicated they had a combined total of 2,849 employees before the pandemic. However, by spring of 2021, businesses had 2,550 employees, representing a loss of 299 employees, or an average loss of 4 employees per business/organization.

The survey also asked if businesses had a plan in place before COVID-19 to deal with unexpected issues such as pandemics, hazards, and economic changes. Of the 63 responses, nearly 78% of business said they did not have an emergency plan in place.

When businesses were asked if they received any financial aid from COVID-19 relief programs, 68% said they received funds through the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), 35% said they received County Based CARES Act Funding, 21% received Economic Injury disaster Loan (EIDL), and 5% said they were awarded SEDA-COG CARES Act RLF.

Lastly, businesses were asked what type of services they wish were available to help their business. 65% of respondents said they wish for grants, while 50% said they wish for tax breaks. The third highly wished service was employee healthcare coverage assistance (24%), followed by website or social medial development assistance (21%).

Income, Earnings, and Poverty

Table 4 shows the most current U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey Data (ACS 5-Year estimates) on household income in 2019 inflation adjusted dollars. The

statewide median income stood at \$61,744, with national median income at \$62,843. Ten of the eleven SEDA-COG counties had median incomes less than state levels, with Northumberland (\$48,671), Clinton (\$50,923), Mifflin (\$50,219), and Columbia (\$50,550) having the lowest. The only county in the SEDA-COG region with a higher median income than both the state and nation was Perry (\$63,718). A similar comparison is made with mean household income, as there no counties in the SEDA-COG region that exceed state and national estimates.

Table 4 - Household Median and Mean Income in the Past 12 Months (2019 inflation-adjusted dollars)		
SEDA-COG Region, Pennsylvania, and United States		
	Median	Mean
Centre	\$60,403	\$80,941
Clinton	\$50,923	\$64,851
Columbia	\$50,550	\$65,648
Juniata	\$53,879	\$67,641
Lycoming	\$54,241	\$68,006
Mifflin	\$50,219	\$62,711
Montour	\$58,333	\$82,546
Northumberland	\$48,671	\$62,350
Perry	\$63,718	\$76,779
Snyder	\$58,997	\$72,603
Union	\$59,399	\$79,496
Pennsylvania	\$61,744	\$84,849
USA	\$62,843	\$88,607
<i>Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (2019) 5-Year Estimate</i>		

Table 5 shows earnings estimates for individuals and includes estimates for males and females. As discussed with median and mean household income, a small minority of counties in the SEDA-COG region exceed the Pennsylvania and United States estimates. In terms of median earnings, only Montour and Perry exceed state and national median earnings. Census data also provides median earnings for both male and females. Comparing male to female median earnings, males in the SEDA-COG region earn at least 25% more income than females. However, this disparity is not unlike state and national levels. A few counties have less disparity than national levels, including Centre (73.3%), Union (74.8%), and Montour (72.2%). The counties with the highest disparity between

male and female earnings in the SEDA-COG region include Juniata, Northumberland, Clinton, and Mifflin.

Table 5 - Earnings in the Past 12 Months, Gender Disparity (2019 inflation-adjusted dollars) SEDA-COG Region, Pennsylvania, United States				
County	Median Earnings	Male	Female	Percentage of Female Earnings Compared to Males'
Centre	\$25,804.00	\$29,882.00	\$21,910.00	73.3%
Clinton	\$29,459.00	\$35,185.00	\$22,942.00	65.2%
Columbia	\$31,337.00	\$38,360.00	\$26,249.00	68.4%
Juniata	\$32,053.00	\$39,065.00	\$24,263.00	62.1%
Lycoming	\$30,674.00	\$36,871.00	\$25,279.00	68.6%
Mifflin	\$30,838.00	\$37,748.00	\$24,148.00	64.0%
Montour	\$36,294.00	\$43,201.00	\$31,205.00	72.2%
Northumberland	\$31,944.00	\$39,828.00	\$25,869.00	65.0%
Perry	\$36,425.00	\$43,270.00	\$30,024.00	69.4%
Snyder	\$30,620.00	\$36,721.00	\$24,225.00	66.0%
Union	\$26,235.00	\$30,134.00	\$22,545.00	74.8%
Pennsylvania	\$35,896.00	\$43,038.00	\$30,036.00	69.8%
United States	\$35,117.00	\$41,399.00	\$29,863.00	72.1%
<i>Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (2019) 5-Year Estimate</i>				

Creation of family-sustaining wages is one of the 2020 CEDs strategic goals. As a benchmark for family sustaining wages, it is vital to look at poverty levels in the region. However, it is important to note that in counties with large universities and students living off-campus, poverty rates are statistically impacted.

(<https://www.census.gov/newsroom/blogs/random-samplings/2017/12/off-campus.html>). This is especially true for Centre (Penn State University) and Columbia (Bloomsburg University) and could be impacting rates in Lycoming (Penn College) and Clinton (Lock Haven University).

Pennsylvania's poverty rate in 2019 stood at 12.4%, with the national rate at 13.4% (see **Table 6**). Six counties in the SEDA-COG region exceed the state rate: Centre (18.2%), Clinton (15.5%), Columbia (15.0%), Lycoming (13.6%), Mifflin (13.5%), and Northumberland (13.2%). Northumberland and Mifflin are the only counties from this list that do not have large universities. According to U.S. Census Bureau, the poverty

threshold for a family/household of four in 2019 was \$25,750. To create family sustaining wages, having income high enough to be considered above the poverty threshold is imperative.

Table 6 - Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months		
SEDA-COG Region, Pennsylvania, United States		
	Percent Below Poverty Level	Number of Persons Below Poverty Level
Centre	18.2%	26,030
Clinton	15.5%	5,777
Columbia	15.0%	9,150
Juniata	10.8%	2,637
Lycoming	13.6%	14,691
Mifflin	13.5%	6,127
Montour	10.5%	1,836
Northumberland	13.2%	11,552
Perry	9.3%	4,223
Snyder	10.4%	3,983
Union	11.8%	4,258
Pennsylvania	12.4%	1,539,183
United States	13.4%	42,510,843
<i>Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (2019) 5-Year Estimate</i>		

Manufacturing Jobs

Table 7 contains data derived from the U.S. Census Bureau’s County Business Patterns. This table shows total jobs and total manufacturing jobs in 2008 and again ten years later in 2018 (the most recent data available) for the counties in the Economic Development District (EDD), for the region, and for the state. The total number of jobs for the region increased 1.8% between 2008 and 2018. During the same time frame, total jobs increased by 4.7% for the Commonwealth.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, total manufacturing jobs in the SEDA-COG region declined by 16.7%. The state’s manufacturing jobs decreased by 13.1% for the same timeframe. It should be noted that a confirmed 8 of the 11 counties in the SEDA-COG region had a decrease in manufacturing jobs between 2008 and 2018. The only counties to experience an increase in manufacturing jobs was Juniata County at 32.3% and Mifflin at

0.7%. The change in manufacturing jobs for Montour County is withheld to avoid disclosing an individual company. The percentage of total jobs in the region represented by manufacturing jobs declined from 19.6% in 2008 to 16.1% in 2018. Statewide, the percentage of total jobs in the manufacturing sector from 2008 to 2018 was 12.7% and 8.4% respectively. Although declining, the SEDA-COG EDD continues to be more dependent on the manufacturing sector for jobs than the state.

Table 7 - Total Jobs and Manufacturing Jobs, 2008 and 2018
SEDA-COG Counties, SEDA-COG Region, and Pennsylvania

Area	Total Jobs			Manufacturing Jobs			Manufacturing Jobs % of Total Jobs	
	2018	2008	% Change	2018	2008	% Change	2018	2008
Centre	46,473	43,998	5.6%	4,048	4,483	-9.7%	8.7%	10.2%
Clinton	10,676	11,083	-3.7%	3,033	3,048	-0.5%	28.4%	27.5%
Columbia	22,284	22,380	-0.4%	4,148	6,129	-32.3%	18.6%	27.4%
Juniata	6,042	5,342	13.1%	2,696	2,038	32.3%	44.6%	38.2%
Lycoming	44,824	46,554	-3.7%	7,398	9,419	-21.5%	16.5%	20.2%
Mifflin	14,874	13,623	9.2%	3,918	3,889	0.7%	26.3%	28.5%
Montour	15,083	12,875	17.1%	559	*	*	3.7%	*
Northumberland	23,430	24,678	-5.1%	4,142	6,248	-33.7%	17.7%	25.3%
Perry	5,927	6,377	-7.1%	394	696	-43.4%	6.6%	10.9%
Snyder	15,627	14,902	4.9%	3,939	4,796	-17.9%	25.2%	32.2%
Union	16,489	16,086	2.5%	1,382	2,049	-32.6%	8.4%	12.7%
SEDA-COG	221,729	217,898	1.8%	35,657	42,795	-16.7%	16.1%	19.6%
Pennsylvania	5,478,025	5,231,026	4.7%	555,006	638,681	-13.1%	10.1%	12.2%

Source: US Census Bureau, "County Business Patterns", 2008 and 2018

*Data withheld to avoid disclosing an individual company.

The region's reliance on the manufacturing sector and its decline has mandated SEDA-COG pursue a strategy of encouraging growth in other industry sectors including technology and advanced manufacturing in an effort to diversify our employment base. This strategy is being routinely incorporated into SEDA-COG's various economic development activities and is used in ongoing project evaluations. Some historic examples of pursuing growth in technology and advanced manufacturing include the EDA funded Bloomsburg Regional Technology Center and Penn State University's expansion of the Technology Center at Innovation Park. Both projects met the growing demand for technology business incubation space and to accommodate incubator graduate companies

making the transition to more permanent space. Additionally, as new projects are developed, the buildout of broadband infrastructure in the form of laying of conduit and fiber is encouraged.

Economic Development Activities

Loan Packaging

The loan packaging component of SEDA-COG’s economic development activities continues to be a key service provided to the region’s businesses. At present, SEDA-COG can provide clients with access to the SBA-504 Program, the EDA Revolving Loan Fund, the ARC Revolving Loan Fund, the Telecommunications Equity and Marcellus (TEAM) loan fund, the various Commonwealth loan programs, and the USDA Intermediary Relending Program.

Using these available loans as a base, SEDA-COG has developed a comprehensive finance packaging service for its business clients. This service combines SEDA-COG’s lending capability with the financing potential myriad of state and federal programs. These public-sector sources can and are linked with traditional private financing sources. Private lending institutions tend to be conservative in their lending policies. The participation of one or more of SEDA-COG’s loan programs can often persuade the private institution to participate in a project.

As of September 30, 2021, the SEDA-COG loan portfolio showed a total of 200 open loans from various sources totaling over \$38 million. These loans are anticipated to assist in the creation of 660 new jobs. In addition, there were 13 committed loans totaling over \$3.2 million, with a projected job increase of 31. During the 12 months ending September 30, 2021, a total of 40 loans were settled totaling over \$11.5 million. These loans represent various combinations of sources and are projected to help create 243 new jobs.

SEDA-COG continues to provide staff assistance in connection with the review and packaging of loans through the Clinton County EDA revolving loan fund, which was set up as a result of the Clinton County EDA Title IX project.

SEDA-COG Natural Gas Cooperative

While central Pennsylvania sits on a large reservoir of natural gas, limited infrastructure presents a distribution problem which the Cooperative hopes to resolve. The availability of lower-cost energy alternatives such as natural gas can be a key component in attracting new business and industry to the region. Access to natural gas in residential areas is also commonly sought.



In 2016, the SEDA-COG Natural Gas Cooperative was formed to promote and provide natural gas service to unserved and underserved customers in its central Pennsylvania area. Currently, the Cooperative has eight member counties – Centre, Clinton, Juniata, Mifflin, Montour, Northumberland, Perry, and Union – with operations overseen by a 21-member Board of Directors, including two from SEDA-COG, and is supported by SEDA-COG staff through an administrative services agreement.



Throughout this reporting period the SEDA-COG Natural Gas Cooperative staff as well as SEDA-COG staff procured funding and partnered with Columbia Gas and Hanover Foods for a natural gas line extension for the Centre Hall-Hanover Foods project in Centre County. Construction was completed and gas began flowing in 2020. The Cooperative also is developing its first “virtual pipeline” project in Perry County that will provide liquefied natural gas (LNG) delivery to an agricultural-related facility.

SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority (JRA)



The SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority (JRA), along with its short-line operator, continues to provide customer-oriented service to 80 industries on the North Shore, Nittany & Bald Eagle, Shamokin Valley, Juniata Valley, White Deer & Reading and Lycoming Valley railroads. For over 30 years, the eight-county SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority has been a self-sustaining engine of economic development for central Pennsylvania. The JRA saved 3,000 jobs in 1984 and 10,000 jobs today.

Marcellus gas related business has returned in 2021. It is not the “gold rush” scenario of 2013-2014 but represents about a 500 carload increase in frac sand and related commodities. The JRA has executed new land leases for gas-related business in Williamsport’s Newberry Yard operated by the Lycoming Valley Railroad.

The rail car storage business had been increasing in 2020 and into 2021 due to a downturn in national rail business. In the last 90 days that is reversing with more rail cars going back into the pool and less coming in for storage. The JRA’s operator is still aggressively courting storage car business, with contracts being signed to pack the lines with storage cars without interfering with serving rail customers.



Keystone Opportunity Zone

Since 1999 SEDA-COG has been designated as the administrator of the Central Region Keystone Opportunity Zone (KOZ), which includes sub-zones representing nine of the 11-counties in the SEDA-COG region. The KOZ program continues to be a valuable economic development tool for Central Pennsylvania.

SEDA-COG, as the Zone Coordinator, shares potential project leads with all subzones that match the lead's requirements. We also provide presentations at various taxing body meetings and work with companies, so they fully understand the KOZ program, thereby maximizing program benefits and reducing program misconceptions.

Staff continues to provide administrative services for the Commonwealth's Keystone Opportunity Zone Program (KOZ). In 2020 (the most recent KOZ data currently available) it was reported that over 1,000 people were employed and there has been over \$1 billion invested in the Central Region KOZ this year. It should be noted that approximately 99% of the private sector investment originated from the Panda Hummel Station in Snyder County which is converting a previously coal-fired plant to a natural gas fired plant.

Staff recently worked with Juniata Business and Industry (JBI) throughout 2021 to assemble an application to request an extension of 7 years for a total of 13.5634 acres of vacant and unoccupied land in the JBI Industrial Park. A manufacturer working with the Governor's Action Team (GAT) has indicated an interest in locating in this industrial park and is expecting to create 60-65 jobs at start-up and grow to 130-150 jobs over the next two years.



Partnerships for Regional Economic Performance (PREP)

As stated previously, the Partnerships for Regional Economic Performance (PREP) Program was designed by the Commonwealth to encourage coordination of economic development efforts, to promote enhanced customer service to the business community and to provide a comprehensive and efficient economic development delivery strategy. The Central PREP Program's core partners include the region's industrial development organizations; SEDA-COG; and the three Small Business Development Centers (SBDC's) located at Penn State and Bucknell University.

The tenth year of the PREP Program began July 1, 2020. Highlights for 2021 include:

- Central Region PREP Partner meetings were held on February 2nd, May 4th, and August 3rd, 2021.
- Don Kiel, SEDA-COG Transportation Program Director discussed the Stakeholder Input for the Long-Range Transportation Plan for the SEDA-COG MPO
- Susan Reilly, Executive Director, Family Business Alliance, talked about the services available to family-owned businesses in the region.

- Numerous PREP Talk Conference calls throughout the reporting period for the Coordinators to discuss PREP related issues and opportunities.
- Sonia Smith and Solomon Wheeler of the Small Business Administration provided updates and a status report to the PREP Partners on the various COVID business assistance programs available.
- Provision of education and information to the partnership through the Central Region PREP distribution list.
- Staff continues to provide technical assistance on Executive Pulse.
- Developed and submitted multi-partner success stories for PREP Reports for FY 2020-2021.
- Continued updating the Central Region PREP website: www.centralpaprep.com

Engage!



Engage! is a Pennsylvania statewide business retention and expansion program designed to interact with targeted companies regularly and proactively. The overall goal of

Engage! is to retain existing businesses in a community and to help them grow by building solid relationships with business owners or key decision makers and economic development partners and their representatives.

In support of the PA DCED Engage! Project, the Central Region Engage! Team have partnered to interview businesses across a range of categories, deliver intense and customized business support through the Ambassador program.

Central Region Engage! Team meetings have continued to be held monthly throughout 2021. Starting in March of 2020, meetings were held virtually due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

COVID Hospitality Industry Relief Program (CHIRP)

SEDA-COG contracted with 10 of its member counties to manage a total of \$7.3 million in grants on their behalf. SEDA-COG received the applications and determined eligibility and grant amounts. SEDA-COG also disbursed the funds to awarded businesses.

For-profit hospitality businesses applied at the Community Giving Foundation's website from March 15, 2021 until the funds were exhausted or June 15, 2021. Grants ranged from \$5,000 to \$50,000 and the funds alleviate revenue losses and pay eligible operating expenses due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Eligible hospitality industry businesses must be for-profit businesses included hotels, restaurants, bars, and taverns. These businesses must fall within eligible industry codes which include the Accommodations subsector NAICS code (721) or Food Services and Drinking Places subsector (722). Eligibility includes, but is not limited to, having fewer than 300 full-time employees; a net worth that does not exceed \$15 million; a 25% reduction in gross receipts in 2020 compared to 2019; and be located within Centre, Clinton, Columbia, Juniata, Lycoming, Mifflin, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, or Union counties.

SEDA-COG, in coordination with our ten partner counties have provided grants to 304 businesses totaling over \$7.1 million.

Central Susquehanna Valley Transportation Project

SEDA-COG has continued to take part in the regional Central Susquehanna Valley Transportation (CSVT) Task Force housed at the Greater Susquehanna Valley Chamber of Commerce in Shamokin Dam. The task force is focused on facilitating construction of our 11-county region’s largest transportation/economic development project – the Central Susquehanna Valley Transportation Project (CSVT). When complete, the CSVT will stretch 13 miles and



alleviate congestion on several highways, providing a safer environment for motorists while opening bottlenecks that slow North-South traffic traveling through the region.

In November 2013 the Commonwealth passed a \$2.3 billion transportation funding plan, of which the CSVT project is included at \$600 million. The passage of the transportation bill substantially filled the funding gap for this project. Work continues on the Northern Section including paving and lighting and signing installation, following the completion of a 4,500-foot-long bridge over the West Branch of the Susquehanna River. The Northern Section is on schedule to open for traffic in 2022.

Design work on the Southern Section is continuing. PennDOT-completed a public hearing process for the Supplemental Environmental Assessment for the Ash Basin Focus Area in 2018. The Assessment identified the Eastern Alternative as the Preferred Alternative, and a Finding of No Significant Impact for the project including the Eastern Alternative was received from the Federal Highway Administration in January 2019. Preconstruction activities and coordination are continuing for the Southern Section, and completion of the Southern Section is currently anticipated in 2027.



SEDA-COG, in coordination with the Warrior Run Community Corporation, the Central PA Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Susquehanna Valley Chamber of Commerce and the Pennsylvania Department of

Transportation (PennDOT) delivered a two-part workshop, instructing local officials on how to both capitalize on economic development opportunities and guide development after completion of the CSVT.

During 2020 and 2021, the Williamsport Metropolitan Planning Organization and the SEDA-COG MPO collaborated with PennDOT and Michael Baker International to complete a special impact study for the CSVT. The study was completed to create an action plan that will ensure orderly land development patterns, smart growth, and lead to the development of a safe, efficient multi-modal transportation system which is responsive to increased growth and redistributed travel demand following the projects' completion. The study included the US 15 and PA 147/Interstate 180 corridors from Montandon north to Williamsport.

The study included an analysis of existing conditions, projections of where population growth and economic development is most likely to occur and analysis of resulting travel conditions through the corridor. The study presented strategies for use by local municipalities and stakeholders covering areas of safety, operations, land use and economic development. The study also recommended the empanelment of a continuing stakeholder committee to assist in tracking and implementation of the study recommendations. The study, and a story map that includes the development and land use data collected as part of the study can be found on the Lycoming County website at www.lyco.org/csvt.

Broadband – 4 County Broadband Expansion Project

SEDA-Council of Governments (SEDA-COG), in cooperation with Clinton, Lycoming, Northumberland, and Union counties were awarded \$2.5M from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) POWER 2020 funds that would, in part, provide funding for reimbursable grants to incentivize ISP's in expanding their service areas into the unserved/underserved rural regions of the four counties. Total project costs for each county will be \$567,920.

SEDA-Council of Governments (SEDA-COG), in cooperation with Clinton, Lycoming, Northumberland, and Union counties were also awarded \$1 million in Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) funds (\$250,000 per County) that would, in part, provide additional funding for reimbursable grants to incentivize ISP's in expanding their service areas into the unserved/underserved rural regions of the four counties.

In addition to the 3.5 million in reimbursable grant funding, \$4 million in low interest loans was made available from SEDA-COG's EDA CARES Funding, bringing the total project available funds to just over \$8 million.

A competitive procurement process will be utilized to select the internet services providers that can provide the best service at the most affordable rate. Proposals will be judged based upon the ISP capacity, target service speed of 100↓/100↑ symmetrical to business and 50↓/10↑ for households, the extent of the coverage that they are able to deliver, the pricing for services, and the ability to invest a minimum of \$375,000 of their private sector

investment, which may include assets already in place, in-kind services, and cash. Competitive proposals will include ISPs who commit private sector investment above the \$375,000 minimum limit.

Broadband – LDD Broadband Project

SEDA-COG, in cooperation with the Northcentral Regional Planning and Development Commission will establish a \$250,000 grant to incentivizing Internet Service Providers (ISP's) to provide a minimum of 100/100 symmetrical (the current minimum speed for businesses as defined by ARC POWER) service in areas, specifically rural, where it might not be financially feasible.

SEDA-COG, in conjunction with the Centre County Commissioners, have identified the area in and around Snow Shoe Township as being underserved with high-speed internet. Currently there are no ISPs in the area providing 100/100 symmetrical speeds as required for businesses by ARC POWER.

It is SEDA-COG's goal that this project will incentivize ISP's to build out into unserved/underserved areas where traditional buildouts wouldn't be economically feasible. Once the infrastructure is in place, the winning ISP will be able to expand their customer base by serving businesses and residents within the project area.

The infrastructure will be owned and operated by the ISP who is awarded the project through a competitive RFP process. SEDA-COG has learned through ongoing dialog with local governments and ISP's, that local governments do not have the capacity or resources to own and operate a service based broadband networks or infrastructure. In the same token, ISP's are hesitant to operate on existing infrastructure, such as dark fiber or wireless ring, they themselves did not design or maintain. It is for this reason, SEDA-COG feels the best option is to incentivize ISP's and give them the tools necessary to build out in the underserved areas on their own.

Flood Resiliency

To help prepare for natural disasters such as flooding, a regional flood resiliency proposal was developed by SEDA-COG. The project included a self-assessment tool, implementation of the tool, project prioritization, and implementation. It provided a calculated response to flood insurance reform, developing partnerships with universities; insurance underwriters; banking community; local, state, and federal agencies; and combining those revenues with private funds. Considerable support was obtained through these meetings. Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) funds (\$75,000) were secured and matched with SEDA-COG funds to develop resiliency plans in six communities within the region. Additionally, with the assistance of SEDA-COG, the LDDAP successfully secured additional funding to pursue resiliency efforts in most of the LDD's statewide. SEDA-COG assisted four LDD's with the public meeting and educational component of this process, and so the evolution began.

SEDA-COG in 2019, moved forward with opening of a Flood Resiliency Department to respond to the needs of our communities in central Pennsylvania. This Department has two staff persons, Teri Provost, Director of Flood Resiliency and Geralee Zeigler, Program Analyst. The following work has been actively pursued by the Department.

SEDA-COG continues to solicit surveyor services for discounted pricing to prepare and issue FEMA Elevation Certificates for individual property owners. The program currently underway is in the Town of Bloomsburg, and the boroughs of Selinsgrove, Lewisburg, Danville, and Milton. Residents are taking advantage of this program and are paying about half of the state average for their Flood Elevation Certificates.



SEDA-COG has also developed an initiative to increase the number of communities participating in the Community Rating System (CRS) through FEMA’s National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). By participating in the CRS program, communities who adopt and maintain higher regulatory standards for floodplain management receive discounts on NFIP policy premiums. Through SEDA-COG’s involvement in capacity building, communities with limited staff and resources may take advantage of the insurance premium discounts. Currently SEDA-COG serves as the CRS coordinator for the Borough of Lewisburg and is working with West Chillisquaque Township and the Borough of Renovo to enroll in the program and anticipates enrolling additional communities in the CRS. However, FEMA Region 3 has experienced some challenges in enrolling new communities and our staff continue to navigate making this process more streamlined with FEMA and PEMA contacts.

Staff member, Teri Provost, Director, Flood Resiliency Program is a Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM). The Association of State Floodplain Managers has established a national program for certifying floodplain managers. This program recognizes continuing education and professional development that enhances the knowledge and performance of local, state, federal and private-sector floodplain management professionals. The role of the nation’s floodplain managers is expanding due to increases in disaster losses, the emphasis on mitigation to alleviate the cycle of damage-rebuild-damage, and a recognized need for professionals to adequately address these issues. This certification program lays the foundation for ensuring that highly qualified individuals are available to meet the challenge of breaking the damage cycle and stopping its negative drain on the human, financial, and natural resources.

In 2021, Teri Provost, CFM proctored the Certified Floodplain Manager test in Central Pennsylvania (Selinsgrove Borough, Snyder County) on September 10, 2021, for several persons interested in becoming CFMs on behalf of the Pennsylvania Flood Plain Managers Association (PAFFPM). Teri also serves as the Vice Chair of PAFFPM, during the calendar year of 2021. Elections for PAFFPM are open each year and voting takes place during the fall.

SEDA-COG assisted the Town of Bloomsburg in the use of Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds, including the \$17 million flood mitigation expansion project. This project expanded on the initial 2015 EDA funded Bloomsburg Flood Resiliency project that, at the time, was the largest grant in the history of the Philadelphia regional office of the U.S. Economic Development Administration at \$15 million and was the largest public works project in the history of Columbia County. This project protects the Bloomsburg Area School District's athletic complex, the middle and high schools, 125 homes, over 30 businesses of varying size, and the town's public works and fire department. It also entails significant storm water and sanitary sewer improvements. Completion of the project wrapped up in December of 2020, and a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) has been submitted to FEMA. The Letter of Map Revision will be effective in November of 2021, reflecting a large area that is now Zone X (non-regulatory floodplain), due to an accredited levee.

Federal Mitigation Assistance (FMA) in the amount of \$50,000 was awarded to SEDA-COG. The FMA funds were matched with local funds and were used to continue flood proofing workshops with a concentration on benefit cost analysis and the promotion of privately and publicly funded FEMA approved mitigation techniques. The sessions resulted in the creation of a report on these techniques and the costs/benefit analyses associated with these undertakings. This report was produced to FEMA in 2020 with the intention of encouraging more privately and publicly funded flood mitigation projects and can be viewed on our website.

SEDA-COG was afforded the opportunity to work with the City of Shamokin with an Act 47 Grant to seek a Professional Services Provider to undertake an H&H study for Shamokin Creek. The City's Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) has drastically changed and is set to go in effect in early 2022, the new FIRM has more than doubled the regulatory floodplain and has dire effects for a city trying to revitalize. The H&H study will be completed in February of 2022, and we are hopeful that a LOMR can be issued with engineering findings. SEDA-COG will be offering flood education to the elected officials, residents and business owners after the study is completed.

The Town of Bloomsburg was awarded their first Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grant for a total of two to be elevated. The Town has accepted the award and is seeking Professional Services for design work currently. The project is anticipated to be let to contractors in the spring of 2022 and completion is anticipated prior to calendar year 2023. SEDA-COG on behalf of the Town will be submitting a FMA application for the

acquisition/demolition of a Severe Repetitive Loss property (in Town limits) in November of 2021. Award announcements will be made in late spring or early summer of 2022.

The Town was also recently awarded a CDBG-Disaster Recover, PL 112-55, in the amount of \$445,000 for a stormwater mitigation activity located on Honeysuckle Lane. This application was submitted to the Department of Community and Economic Development in 2020 by SEDA-COG on behalf of the Town of Bloomsburg. We have begun the NEPA ER work and will be seeking Professional Services for the activity in the upcoming months. Work must be finished on this activity in the next 18 months.

Additionally, we have responded to the need in Montour County through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). These funds were made available from the July/August (2018) Presidential Declaration. This application was submitted by the county on behalf of three of their municipalities for acquisition/demolition of 10 homes. Anthony and Derry townships applications were awarded by FEMA Region 3. To-date, three homes (Derry Township) have been acquired and demolished and closeout with PEMA/FEMA will be occurring in 2022. Anthony Township's HMGP award was recently subgranted to the County, SEDA-COG is soliciting legal services and Professional Engineering Firms for the acquisition and demolition of four flood prone properties. The work in Anthony Township will be completed by year end 2022.

Evaluation

During the past year, major economic development impacts resulted in:

- 40 Loan packages were closed amounting to nearly \$11.5 million and resulting in the creation of 243 new jobs.
- The continuation of the Partnerships for Regional Economic Performance (PREP), Engage! and Keystone Opportunity Zone Programs.
- The continuation of the SEDA-COG Rail Preservation Program and SEDA-COG's Natural Gas Cooperative.
- In coordination with our ten partner counties have provided COVID Hospitality Industry Relief Program (CHIRP) grants to 304 businesses totaling over \$7.1 million.

Plans for the Coming Year

In June 2021, staff presented and the CEDS Committee and Board approved the Economic Development Administration (EDA) 2022-2023 Project Listing and the ARC Project Priority List for 2022-2023.

ARC Project Priority List - FY 2022-2023

The Partnership for Regional Economic Performance (PREP) Program is ranked #1. This program was previously referred to as the Enterprise Development Program and is a statewide priority that involves continuation of business assistance in the areas of finance assistance, export technical assistance, and government procurement technical assistance.

The second ranked project is the Walnut Street Culvert Stormwater Mitigation Project in the Town of Bloomsburg. The goal of this project is to increase the capacity of the culvert so it no longer is a bottleneck to stormwater flowing within Kinney Run. Allowing free flow of stormwater to the Susquehanna River will reduce the water surface elevation upstream into Scott Township. This project will directly impact 10 businesses in the area.

The third ranked project includes the ARC Recapitalization of Revolving Loan Funds. Internal revolving loan funds are currently at around \$2 million. With the rate of lending and upcoming broadband projects SEDA-COG will need additional capital to meet those current and projected lending needs.

The 4th ranked project is the Milroy Virtual Pipeline Project. This project will support the initial development of a "virtual pipeline"-based liquefied natural gas (LNG) delivery system to the Milroy area in Mifflin County that does not have access to natural gas through a "traditional" hardline pipeline delivery system. This project will primarily impact Unipar and secondarily impact some of the surrounding businesses.

The 5th project on the ARC Priority List is the Reconstruction of Clarks Ferry Tavern. This project proposes to reconstruct the current Clarks Ferry Tavern originally construction in 1789 to become an official Perry County "Welcome and Interpretative Center," which will welcome hikers on the Appalachian Trail, the National 9/11 Memorial Trail, and thousands of tourists seeking to explore the county's recreational opportunities, heritage sites, and increase tourism in Duncannon, PA.

Additionally, staff presented, and the Board approved one ARC Access Road Project. Access road projects are funded as a separate category at ARC. Generally, there is three to five million dollars available for Access Road projects statewide.

The top ranked and only access road project on our list is the Timber Run Access Road in Lycoming County. Brady Township is proposing to construct a 2,600 LF (0.492 miles) of access road to serve approximately 396 acres in Timber Run Industrial Park. At full buildout, this project could employ over 300 jobs.

EDA Project Priority List - FY 2022-2023

Staff categorized the EDA Public Works projects as either developable in the short-term, developable in the long-term, or regionally-significant projects. There is a total of 10 projects in the Public Works category. Highlights of the top projects include:

The top ranked project is the Academy Expansion Project in Mifflin County. EDA funds will be used to construct a 35,000 square-foot, single story building and a 19,850-sq. ft., 30'-

to-40'-tall roof enclosure. A number of The Academy's existing buildings will be razed or moved to accommodate the expansion of educational spaces.

The 2nd ranked project is the Multi-purpose Outdoor Sports Facility Project in Lycoming County. This project would fund construction of a multi-purpose outdoor sports facility in Williamsport, PA that will include baseball fields, concession stands, storage buildings, dugouts, batting cages, and scoreboards. This project would not only benefit nearby school districts but also local colleges and the LLWS.

The 3rd ranked project is the Route 504 Business Park Infrastructure Development Project in the Moshannon Valley in Centre County. This project proposes infrastructure development for sewer, access road, and water in this area. Site control and development of a financing package will be necessary for this project to progress.

The 4th ranked project is the South Centre Township Sewer Project. This project will construct a sewer collection system in South Centre Township to convey sewerage to the Berwick Treatment Plant. Public sewer will benefit existing industry as well as serve vacant industrial and commercial land for development.

Attachment A:
SEDA-Council of Governments
Board of Directors - 2021
22 Members

Each county in the SEDA-COG region appoints one Commissioner and a second Representative to serve on the SEDA-COG Board. The Board consists of 22 members.

County	Representatives
Centre	Commissioner Mark Higgins
	Lisa Strickland, Ferguson Township Supervisor
Clinton	Commissioner Jeffrey A. Snyder
	Steve Stevenson, Lock Haven City Councilman
Columbia	Commissioner Rich Ridgway
	George Forese, S&B Foundry, owner
Juniata	Commissioner Mark Partner
	Scott Fritz, Pennian Bank, President & CEO
Lycoming	Commissioner Scott L. Metzger
	Howard W. Fry III, Fry's Fire Systems, owner
Mifflin	Commissioner Kevin P. Kodish
	James Shilling Jr., Retired
Montour	Commissioner Kenneth A. Holdren
	Chris Benjamin, Financial Center Manager II, Fulton Bank
Northumberland	Commissioner Samuel J. Schiccatano
	Greg Klebon, State Farm Insurance Representative
Perry	Commissioner Brenda Watson
	Larry Reisinger, retired
Snyder	Commissioner Joseph E. Kantz
	Dennis Van Benthuisen, Colonial Furniture, President
Union	Commissioner Preston R. Boop
	David Cooney, Mayor of Mifflinburg / David Cooney Photography

Board Officers - 2021

President - Commissioner Mark Partner
 First Vice President - Commissioner Kevin Kodish
 Second Vice President - Commissioner Mark Higgins
 Secretary - Larry Reisinger
 Treasurer - Dennis Van Benthuisen

Attachment B:
SEDA-Council of Governments
CEDS Committee Members - 2021
21 Members

Member	Sector Representation
Thaddeus Will	Private/Service
Gerald Stauffer	Private/Service
George Forese	Private/Manufacturing/Business (Retired)
Philip Bomberger	Private
David McKernan	Private/Service
James Shilling Jr.	Private/Service
John Yoder	Private/Service
Janice Kotwica	Private/Service (Retired)
Larry Reisinger	Private/Manufacturing (Retired)
Steve Stevenson	Service
Brian Wiktor	Private/Service
Mark Higgins	Elected Official
Preston Boop	Elected Official/Small Business Owner
Stephen Phillips	Private/Industrial Development
Corbett Monica	Private/Service (Retired)
Paul Caimi	Private/Service
Jeff Snyder	Elected Official
Tom Keiffer	Service
Harold Hurst	Service
Jeffrey Hollenbach	Private/Service
David Cooney	Elected Official

Attachment C:
SEDA-Council of Governments
ARC Project Priority List
FY 2022 – 2023

Technical Assistance & Implementation Projects		
<u>RANK</u>	<u>PROJECT/PURPOSE</u>	<u>ARC FUNDS REQUESTED</u>
1	Regional PREP Program	\$400,000
	To continue the region's Partnerships for Regional Economic Performance (PREP) Program through the next fiscal year (FY 2022-2023); providing business assistance in the areas of finance assistance and loan packaging, export technical assistance, and government procurement. This program will also provide comprehensive technical assistance to other complementary and supporting areas such as broadband, permitting facilitation, and more.	
2	Walnut Street Culvert Stormwater Mitigation Project	\$50,000
	The goal of this project is to increase the capacity of the culvert so it is no longer a bottleneck to stormwater flowing within Kinney Run. Allowing free flow of stormwater to the Susquehanna River will reduce the water surface elevation upstream into Scott Township.	
3	ARC Recapitalization of Revolving Loan Fund	\$500,000
	Recapitalize the SEDA-COG ARC Revolving Loan Fund, which serves as an integral part of the Region's PREP initiative. This project is aimed at increasing the availability of loan funding for business expansion, start-ups and those businesses recovering from COVID-19.	
4	Milroy Virtual Pipeline Project	\$50,000
	This project will support the initial development of a "virtual pipeline"-based liquefied natural gas (LNG) delivery system to the Milroy area in Mifflin County that does not have access to natural gas through a "traditional" hardline pipeline delivery system.	
5	Reconstruction of Clarks Ferry Tavern	\$500,000
	As an official Perry County "Welcome and Interpretative Center," Clarks Ferry Tavern will welcome hikers on the Appalachian Trail, the National 9/11 Memorial Trail, and thousands of tourists seeking to explore the county's recreational opportunities, heritage sites, and increase tourism in Duncannon, PA.	

Attachment D:
SEDA-Council of Governments
EDA Project Priority List
FY 2022 – 2023

PUBLIC WORKS		
Rank	Description & Location	Other Comments
1	The Academy Expansion Project (Mifflin County)	EDA funds will be used to construct a 35,000 square-foot, single story building and a 19,850-sq. ft., 30'-to-40'-tall roof enclosure. A number of The Academy's existing buildings will be razed or moved to accommodate the expansion of educational spaces.
2	Multi-purpose Outdoor Sports Facility (Lycoming County)	Construction of a multi-purpose outdoor sports facility in Williamsport, PA that will include baseball fields, concession stands, storage buildings, dugouts, batting cages, and scoreboards.
3	Route 504 Business Park (Centre County)	Infrastructure development to include water, sewer, clearing and grading, and access road for a site in the Moshannon Valley Area. Site control and development of a financing package will be necessary for this project to progress.
4	South Centre Township Sewer Project (Columbia County)	Construction of a sewer collection system in South Centre Township to convey sewerage to the Berwick Treatment Plant.
5	Regional Telecommunications Implementation Project	Provide broadband technology to under-served areas throughout the SEDA-COG region.
6	Natural Gas Pipeline Infrastructure Project	Construction of natural gas infrastructure to serve existing businesses and vacant industrial space at a yet unnamed project in the SEDA-COG Natural Gas Cooperative, Inc. territory.
7	Moshannon Valley Regional Business Park – Phase II (Centre County)	Infrastructure development on the Suvak Property on Rt. 322 which includes sewer and water infrastructure for expansion of the existing Moshannon Valley Regional Business Park.
8	State College Area Connector, Route 322/144/45 Corridors	Important regional transportation project in south central Centre County intended to improve the link between the Harrisburg market and Interstates 80 and 99 in the State College area, via a connection with eh US Route 322 Potters Mills Gap project that is scheduled to open in fall 2020. The SCAC Preliminary Engineering work will start in summer 2020 and be completed in 2-3 years.
9	Completion of Interstate 99 (Regional)	Important regional transportation project which would include completion of a continuous four lane link from Interstate 180 in Lycoming County, linking Williamsport and the Northern Tier to the Centre Region and Interstate 80 through the western portion of the state.
10	MCIDC Plaza Modernization (Mifflin County)	Demolition, redevelopment, and infrastructure improvements for Bldg.5 and adjacent parcels at the MCIDC Plaza.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE		
Rank	Description & Location	Other Comments
1	Revolving Loan Fund Recapitalization	Recapitalize the SEDA-COG EDA Revolving Loan Fund, which serves as an integral part of the region's ongoing PREP Financing Program. Without additional funding for the SEDA-COG RLF, the ability to provide financial assistance to businesses considering growth and expansion in the District will be limited.

