



SEDA-COG

Economic Development District

**Comprehensive Economic
Development Strategy**

2022 Annual Report

Presented by SEDA-Council of Governments, December 2022

SEDA-Council of Governments Economic Development District

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Annual Report – 2022

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	Administrative Organization	1
II.	Strategy Review	3
	Goals	3
	Objectives	3
III.	Regional Economic Conditions & COVID-19 Pandemic	5
IV.	COVID-19 Business Survey	10
V.	Income, Earnings, and Poverty	11
VI.	Manufacturing Jobs	13
VII.	Economic Development Activities	15
VIII.	Summary of Accomplishments.....	25

Attachments

- A. Current SEDA-COG Board Member List
- B. CEDS Committee Members
- C. Summary of Accomplishments

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

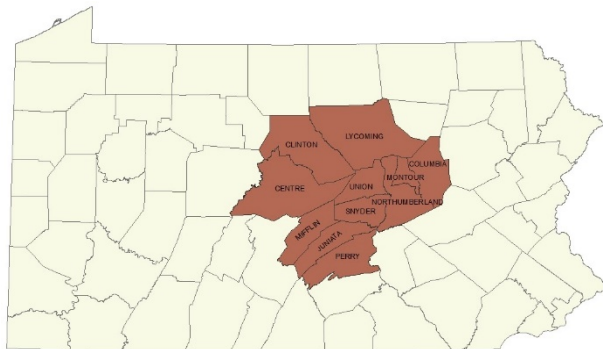
**DRAFT Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
Performance Progress Report – 2022**

Performance Progress Report

Grantee:	SEDA-Council of Governments (SEDA-COG)
Project Title:	Support for Planning Organizations
Project Number:	ED22PHI3020027
CEDS Performance Year:	2022
Reporting period end date:	December 31, 2022
Report Prepared by:	Elizabeth Lockwood, Director Project Development/Grants Franklin Hockenbrocht, Program Analyst, Economic Development
Five-year CEDS Time Period:	2020-2025

Regional CEDS Updates:

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 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 continues 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.

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 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 including the Partnerships for Regional Economic Performance (PREP) Partners, Heartland Partnership, county planning directors and the Central Pennsylvania

Workforce Development Corporation (CPWDC) prior to approval. SEDA-COG's CEDS was also made available for public review and comment.

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-abated Keystone Opportunity

Zones that have been established in this Region by the local taxing bodies and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

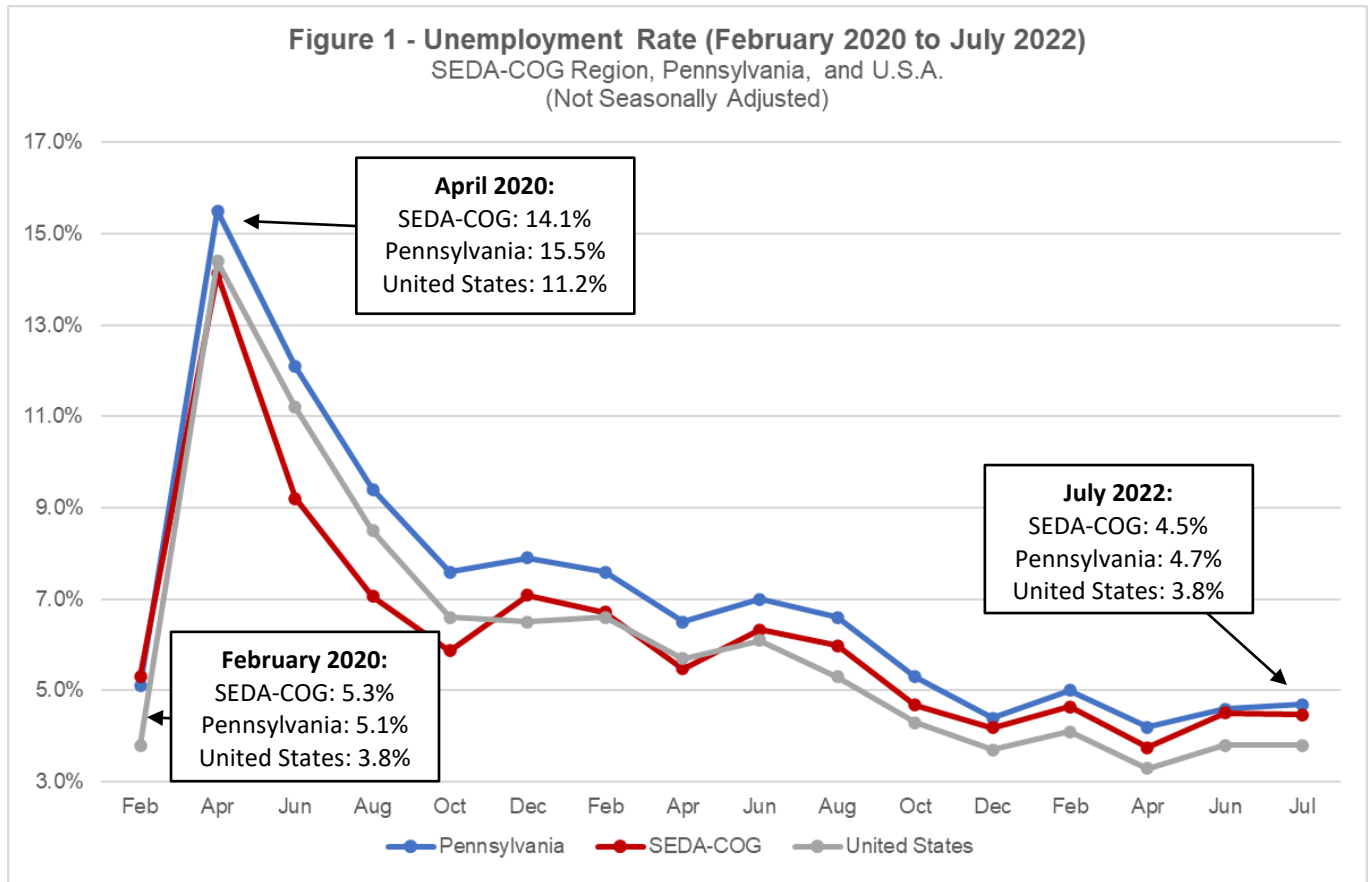
- Encourage streamlined and expedited land development procedures to ease new business entry and expansion.
- Support entrepreneurship and innovation, provide support and assistance to the Keystone Innovation Zones, Ben Franklin Technology Centers, and Small Business Development Centers throughout the 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 Advanced Central PA (formerly known as Central Pennsylvania Workforce Development Corporation) 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 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 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 affected unemployment rates in the region, starting in March 2020. **Figure 1** shows the unemployment rate shifts starting in February 2020 until July 2022 using data from the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry. In February, the SEDA-COG region had an unemployment rate of 5.3%, compared to Pennsylvania's 5.1% rate and the national rate of 3.8%. In April 2020, the pandemic and the mitigation efforts began to drastically influence unemployment, as unemployment rates increased to 14.1% in the SEDA-COG region, compared to 15.5% in Pennsylvania and 11.2% 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 2022. Comparing the most recent unemployment rate from July 2022 to the month's data prior to the pandemic in February 2020, unemployment rate is lower for the SEDA-COG region by 0.8% and in Pennsylvania by 0.4%. The United States' unemployment rate is equal for this time.



In July 2022, 2 years and 5 months since the beginning of the pandemic, the region's monthly unemployment rate was 4.5% (see **Table 1**). This rate was lower than Pennsylvania's unemployment rate during the same month (4.7%), but higher than the national unemployment rate of 3.8%. 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.

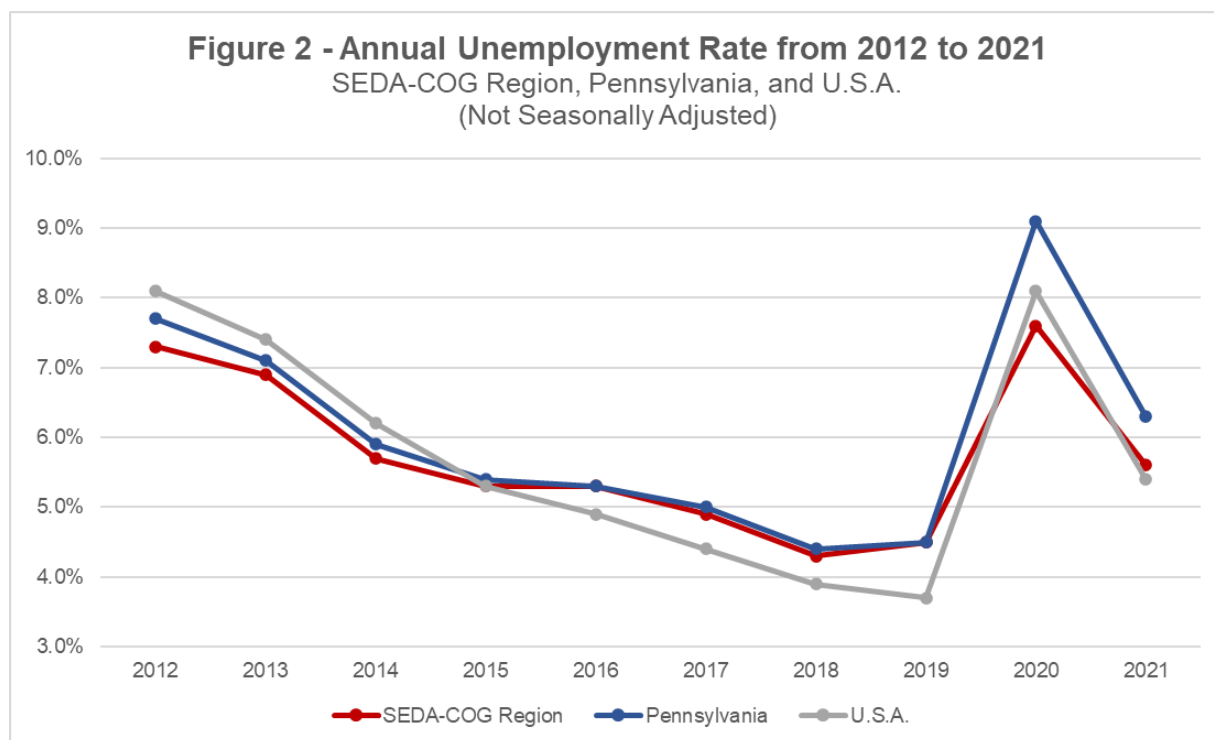
Table 1 - Comparative Labor Force Data for the SEDA-COG Region, Pennsylvania, and United States (Not Seasonally Adjusted)				
July 2022				
County	Number in Labor Force	Number Employed	Number Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Centre	74,600	71,700	2,900	3.9%
Clinton	17,000	16,200	900	5.2%
Columbia	33,000	31,400	1,600	4.8%
Juniata	12,900	12,300	500	4.0%
Lycoming	54,400	51,700	2,700	5.0%
Mifflin	20,900	19,900	1,000	4.9%
Montour	9,000	8,600	300	3.8%
Northumberland	42,300	40,100	2,200	5.1%
Perry	25,500	24,500	900	3.7%
Snyder	19,600	18,700	900	4.4%
Union	19,500	18,800	800	4.1%
SEDA-COG REGION	328,700	313,900	14,700	4.5%
PENNSYLVANIA	6,504,000	6,200,000	303,000	4.7%
U.S.A.	165,321,000	159,067,000	6,255,000	3.8%
<i>Source: PA Dept of Labor and Industry</i>				

The 2021 Annual Unemployment Rate for the region was 5.6%, which is lower than the state (6.3%) but higher than the nation (5.4%) (See **Table 2**). The three counties with the highest annual unemployment rate for 2021 include Northumberland (6.8%), Lycoming (6.7%), and Clinton (6.7%). Counties with the lowest unemployment rate for the same period include Montour (4.4%), Centre (4.6%), Perry, (4.7%) and Union (4.7%). **Table 2** also shows the annual unemployment rate for 2020 for comparison. All counties in the SEDA-COG region experienced a decline in unemployment rate from 2020 to 2021, with the region overall having an unemployment rate decline of 2%, which is lower than the state (2.8%), and the nation (2.7%).

Table 2 – 2021 Annual Unemployment Rate (Not Seasonally Adjusted) For SEDA-COG Region, Pennsylvania, and United States					
Area	Labor Force	Employed	Unemploy ed	Unemployment Rate	
				2021	2020
Centre	76,000	72,500	3,500	4.6%	5.8%
Clinton	17,200	16,100	1,200	6.7%	8.7%
Columbia	33,300	31,300	1,900	5.9%	8.1%
Juniata	12,500	11,900	600	5.0%	7.2%
Lycoming	55,300	51,600	3,700	6.7%	8.8%
Mifflin	20,900	19,600	1,300	6.1%	8.5%
Montour	9,000	8,600	400	4.4%	6.2%
Northumberland	42,100	39,200	2,900	6.8%	9.4%
Perry	24,200	23,100	1,100	4.7%	6.8%
Snyder	19,600	18,600	1,000	5.2%	7.7%
Union	19,500	18,600	900	4.7%	6.7%
SEDA-COG Region	329,600	311,100	18,500	5.6%	7.6%
PENNSYLVANIA	6,406,000	5,999,000	407,000	6.3%	9.1%
U.S.A.	161,204,000	152,581,000	8,623,000	5.4%	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 2012 through 2021. **Figure 2** illustrates that from 2012 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. In 2020, the SEDA-COG region’s unemployment rate remained lower than both the state and national rate. However, in 2021, the latest data shows that while the SEDA-COG region had a lower unemployment rate than the state, the SEDA-COG region has a higher rate compared the national level by 0.2%.

Table 3 – 10-Year Annual Average Unemployment Rate (2012 to 2021) SEDA-COG Region, Pennsylvania, and United States (Not Seasonally Adjusted)										
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Centre	5.4%	5.1%	4.3%	4.0%	4.1%	3.8%	3.4%	3.4%	5.8%	4.6%
Clinton	8.6%	8.8%	7.4%	7.0%	7.0%	6.2%	5.5%	5.5%	8.7%	6.7%
Columbia	8.2%	7.4%	6.3%	5.8%	5.5%	5.3%	4.9%	4.9%	8.1%	5.9%
Juniata	7.1%	6.9%	5.7%	5.0%	5.3%	4.7%	4.2%	4.5%	7.2%	5.0%
Lycoming	7.7%	7.6%	6.2%	6.2%	6.6%	5.7%	5.0%	4.9%	8.8%	6.7%
Mifflin	8.5%	7.9%	6.5%	5.9%	5.7%	5.4%	4.8%	4.8%	8.5%	6.1%
Montour	5.7%	5.3%	4.7%	4.4%	4.2%	3.9%	3.6%	3.7%	6.2%	4.4%
Northumberland	8.9%	8.5%	6.8%	6.2%	6.2%	5.8%	5.4%	5.7%	9.4%	6.8%
Perry	7.1%	6.3%	5.2%	4.5%	4.6%	4.4%	3.9%	3.8%	6.8%	4.7%
Snyder	7.4%	6.6%	5.2%	4.8%	4.6%	4.5%	4.1%	5.6%	7.7%	5.2%
Union	6.3%	6.1%	5.0%	4.6%	4.7%	4.4%	3.9%	4.1%	6.7%	4.7%
SEDA-COG Region	7.3%	6.9%	5.7%	5.3%	5.3%	4.9%	4.3%	4.5%	7.6%	5.6%
PENNSYLVANIA	7.7%	7.1%	5.9%	5.4%	5.3%	5.0%	4.4%	4.5%	9.1%	6.3%
U.S.A.	8.1%	7.4%	6.2%	5.3%	4.9%	4.4%	3.9%	3.7%	8.1%	5.4%
<i>Source: PA Dept of Labor and Industry</i>										



COVID-19 Business Survey

In Spring of 2022, SEDA-COG opened responses to the second COVID-19 Business Survey to gather quantitative and qualitative information on the economic impact of COVID-19 in the region. The first survey was conducted in Spring of 2021. 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 Lycoming Chamber of Commerce, Bucknell SBDC, DRIVE, PennTAP, 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, in 2022, 70 different business responded to the survey from 25 industries. The average business size was 64 employees, with a median size of 21. The businesses sampled represented over \$183 million in reported regional sales. Key findings in the survey include loss of employees after two year of the pandemic, staffing and workforce issues, increasing employee wages, business still reporting loss of sales during the pandemic, regional need for emergency planning, prevalence of financial aid programs, and need for other services to local businesses including grants, tax breaks, and employee healthcare coverage assistance.

Businesses were asked to indicate how many employees they had before the pandemic, and how many they had two years later. In the survey sample, businesses indicated they had a combined total of 4,036 employees before the pandemic. However, by spring of 2022, businesses had 3,570 employees, representing a loss of 577 employees, or an average loss of 7 employees per business/organization.

Businesses reported the top changes to the business approach since COVID-19 are increased employee wages (51.8%), supply chain changes, 31.1%, social media (30.4%), and marketing/advertising 26.8%. 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 68.9% 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, 68.5% said they received funds through the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), 31.5% said they received County Based CARES Act Funding, 24.1% received Economic Injury disaster Loan (EIDL), and 11.1% 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. 52% of respondents said they wish for tax breaks, while 48% said they wish for tax breaks. The third highly wished service was employee healthcare coverage assistance (22%). These were the same three services requested on the previous year's survey.

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 2020 inflation adjusted dollars. The statewide median income stood at \$63,627, with national median income at \$64,994. Ten of the eleven SEDA-COG counties had median incomes less than state levels, with Northumberland (\$49,273), Clinton (\$51,145), Columbia (\$52,219), and Mifflin (\$52,641) having the lowest. The only county in the SEDA-COG region with a higher median income than both the state and nation was Perry (\$70,660). A similar comparison is made with mean household income, as there are no counties in the SEDA-COG region that exceed state and national estimates.

Table 4 – Household Median and Mean Income in the Past 12 Month (2020 inflation-adjusted dollars) SEDA-COG Region, Pennsylvania, and United States		
	Median	Mean
Centre	\$61,921	\$83,172
Clinton	\$51,145	\$65,823
Columbia	\$52,219	\$68,188
Juniata	\$53,502	\$69,067
Lycoming	\$54,906	\$69,117
Mifflin	\$52,641	\$64,489
Montour	\$59,915	\$84,044
Northumberland	\$49,273	\$63,950
Perry	\$70,660	\$83,247
Snyder	\$60,227	\$74,746
Union	\$56,824	\$82,438
Pennsylvania	\$63,627	\$87,262
USA	\$64,994	\$91,547
<i>Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (2020) 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%, with the national rate at 12.8% (see **Table 5**). Six counties in the SEDA-COG region exceed the state rate: Centre (17.8%), Clinton (15.4%), Columbia (14.1%), Mifflin (13.9%), Lycoming (13.6%), and Northumberland (13.1%). Northumberland and Mifflin are the only counties from this list that do not have a large university presence.

Table 5 - Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months SEDA-COG Region, Pennsylvania, United States		
	Percent Below Poverty Level	Number of Persons Below Poverty Level
Centre	17.8%	25,580
Clinton	15.4%	5,704
Columbia	14.1%	8,560
Juniata	9.4%	2,278
Lycoming	13.6%	14,574
Mifflin	13.9%	6,307
Montour	10.2%	1,769
Northumberland	13.1%	11,428
Perry	8.7%	3,973
Snyder	9.9%	3,782
Union	11.4%	4,097
Pennsylvania	12.0%	1,480,430
United States	12.8%	40,910,326
<i>Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (2020) 5-Year Estimate</i>		

Manufacturing Jobs

Table 6 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 twelve years later in 2020 (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 0.6% between 2008 and 2020. During the same time frame, total jobs increased by 6.6% for the Commonwealth.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, total manufacturing jobs in the SEDA-COG region declined by 18.6%. The state's manufacturing jobs decreased by 13.7% for the same timeframe. It should be noted that a confirmed 9 of the 11 counties in the SEDA-COG region had a decrease in manufacturing jobs between 2008 and 2020. The only county to experience an increase in manufacturing jobs was Juniata County with a 27.6% increase. 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 15.9% in 2020. Statewide, the percentage of total jobs in the manufacturing sector from 2008 to 2020 was 12.2% and

9.9% respectively. Although declining, the SEDA-COG EDD continues to be more dependent on the manufacturing sector for jobs than the state.

**Table 6 - Total Jobs and Manufacturing Jobs, 2008 and 2020
SEDA-COG Counties, SEDA-COG Region, and Pennsylvania**

Area	Total Jobs			Manufacturing Jobs			Manufacturing Jobs % of Total Jobs	
	2020	2008	% Change	2020	2008	% Change	2020	2008
Centre	45,062	43,998	2.4%	4,027	4,483	-10.2%	8.9%	10.2%
Clinton	10,771	11,083	-2.8%	2,972	3,048	-2.5%	27.6%	27.5%
Columbia	22,439	22,380	0.3%	4,542	6,129	-25.9%	20.2%	27.4%
Juniata	6,135	5,342	14.8%	2,600	2,038	27.6%	42.4%	38.2%
Lycoming	45,220	46,554	-2.9%	7,447	9,419	-20.9%	16.5%	20.2%
Mifflin	14,551	13,623	6.8%	3,675	3,889	-5.5%	25.3%	28.5%
Montour	15,313	12,875	18.9%	6,52	*	*	4.3%	*
Northumberland	22,861	24,678	-7.4%	3,906	6,248	-37.5%	17.1%	25.3%
Perry	6,142	6,377	-3.7%	437	696	-37.2%	7.1%	10.9%
Snyder	14,241	14,902	-4.4%	3,194	4,796	-33.4%	22.4%	32.2%
Union	16,438	16,086	2.2%	1,400	2,049	-31.7%	8.5%	12.7%
SEDA-COG	219,173	217,898	0.6%	34,852	42,795	-18.6%	15.9%	19.6%
Pennsylvania	5,574,417	5,231,026	6.6%	551,201	638,681	-13.7%	9.9%	12.2%

Source: US Census Bureau, "County Business Patterns", 2008 and 2020

*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 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, the Penn State University's expansion of the Technology Center at Innovation Park, and the expansion of the Juniata Business and Industry Industrial Park. All three projects met the growing demand for manufacturing, 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, the USDA Intermediary Relending Program, and the State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) loan 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, 2022, the SEDA-COG loan portfolio showed a total of 195 open loans from various sources totaling nearly \$36 million. These loans are anticipated to assist in the creation of 570 new jobs. In addition, there were 21 committed loans totaling over \$12.1 million, with a projected job increase of 87. During the 12 months ending September 30, 2022, a total of 22 loans were settled totaling over \$5.1 million. These loans represent various combinations of sources and are projected to help create 46 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 20-member Board of Directors, including two from SEDA-COG, and is supported by SEDA-COG staff through an administrative services agreement. In early 2022,



the Cooperative began its first “virtual pipeline” project in Perry County that provides liquefied natural gas (LNG) delivery to an agricultural-related facility. Additional virtual pipeline projects are currently under development, and federal and state grant funding has been procured to support project development. Cooperative efforts including project sponsorship that brings together natural gas producers, transport companies, and end customers. The Cooperative’s expanding areas of interest for new projects include controlled environment agriculture (CEA) and renewable natural gas (RNG) implementations.

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 35 years, the eight-county SEDA-COG Joint Rail Authority has been a self-sustaining engine of economic development for central Pennsylvania. The JRA currently supports 10,000 jobs.

Over the last 12 months, traffic along the rail lines was 18,681 carloads. Marcellus gas related business had 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. Rail car storage was some 20% more in 2021 than in calendar year 2020.

The JRA is seeing a return of overhead traffic from the Norfolk Southern on the NBER Main from Tyrone to Lock Haven. Unit coal trains for power generation at Strawberry Ridge, Montour County is back after a two-year hiatus.

In Tyrone, new transload customer, New Pig, and the JRA and Nittany & Bald Eagle Railroad partnered on major improvements to an existing siding. The siding was rehabilitated by the JRA and railroad, while New Pig invest \$60,000 to construct a truck access road along the siding.

The JRA was approved for a \$1.5 million PennDOT Rail Transportation Assistance Program grant to upgrade nine bridges on its system. A grant agreement has been executed and engineering has commenced on these bridges.

The JRA assisted Lycoming Valley Railroad customer, Bulkmatic on an application to expand track capacity in Williamsport. PennDOT approved the Bulkmatic application for \$166,110. This project is progressing to construction.



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 2021 (the most recent KOZ data currently available) it was reported that over 447 people were employed and there has been over \$1 billion invested in the Central Region KOZ this year. It should be noted that approximately 95% 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.



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 two Small Business Development Centers (SBDC's) located at Penn State and Bucknell University.

The twelfth year of the PREP Program began July 1, 2022. Highlights for 2022 include:

- Central Region PREP Partner meetings were held on February 1st, May 3rd, and August 2nd, 2022.
- Gregory Shirk, Workforce Development Supervisor for the PA Department of Labor and Industry shared information on the Federal Bonding Program and the Work Opportunity Tax Credit Program.
- Dennis Gilbert, President of the IMC, provided information on the services the IMC provides and introduced new staff to the PREP Partners.
- Ian Proud, Bucknell SBDC Innovation Engineering Manager provided information to the PREP Partners on the Product Development Webinar on May 10th, the Summer 2022 Innovation Program, and DCED's Manufacturing Innovation Project Award.
- Noelle Long, Director of the Export Program, discussed the Bringing the World to PA Statewide program that brings Trades Representatives together with businesses from around the Central Region.
- Kiernan Schalk of Community Partnerships Resource Conservation and Development, Inc. discussed the Creative Entrepreneur Accelerator Program Grant.
- Numerous PREP Talk Conference calls throughout the reporting period for the Coordinators to discuss PREP related issues and opportunities.
- 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 2021-2022.

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 visiting with businesses and hold roundtables on a range of business-related topics. The Central Engage! Region partners include:

- Advance Central PA
- Bucknell University Small Business Development Center

- DRIVE (Driving Real Innovation for a Vibrant Economy)
- IMC (Innovative Manufacturers Center)
- NEPIRC (Northeast Pennsylvania Industry Resource Center)
- Penn State Small Business Development Center
- PennTAP (Pennsylvania Technical Assistance Program)
- SEDA-Council of Governments (SEDA-COG)
- Wilkes University Small Business Development Center

In FY 2021-2022, the Central Engage! region completed 173 Engage! visitors and 10 roundtables. One hundred two (102) business referrals were made to Engage! partners and other service providers in the region. Central Region Engage! Team meetings have continued to be held monthly throughout 2022, with occasional in person meetings. Starting in March of 2020, meetings were held virtually due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Central Susquehanna Valley Transportation Project

SEDA-COG has continued to take part in the regional Central Susquehanna Valley Transportation (CSV) Project Task Force organized by the Greater Susquehanna Valley Chamber of Commerce. The task force is focused on facilitating construction of the CSV Project, an over \$800 million project and our 11-county region's largest transportation/economic development project. When complete, the CSV 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.



The CSV Project has been in the works since a Route 15 corridor study that was completed in 1959. In November 2013 the Commonwealth passed Act 89, a \$2.3 billion transportation funding plan, which substantially filled the funding gap for the CSV Project, along with subsequent support from the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law passed in 2021. The CSV Project is divided into northern and southern sections. The northern section connects Route 147 south of Montandon in Northumberland County to Route 15 south of Winfield in Union County. The southern section will construct roughly 6 miles of new four-lane, limited access highway, connecting with the northern section south of Winfield and proceeding to the existing Routes 11/15 interchange just north of Selinsgrove

in Snyder County. The southern section will also include an interchange/connector to Route 61 (Veterans Memorial Bridge) and Routes 11/15 in Shamokin Dam.



The northern section, including a 4,500' bridge over the West Branch of the Susquehanna River, was opened to traffic in July 2022. Prior to the opening, PennDOT held two events that SEDA-COG staff helped organize and participate in during June 2022: a public walking/biking day and a ribbon cutting. A portion of the northern section is still under construction to build a mile of roadway at the northern end of the project. This final section will be opened to traffic in fall 2022.

Construction of the southern section commenced in summer 2022. The contractor has started clearing trees, constructing access roads, and acquiring materials. The first contract includes 4.5

million cubic yards of earthwork, various drainage facilities, and upgrades to a few adjacent roadways. A right turn lane is being constructed at the State Route 15/Grangers Road intersection, just south of the Winfield interchange. Final design work is ongoing for the two remaining construction contracts and are anticipated to be bid over the next few years. The preparation of the second contract to construct nine new bridges and to construct noise walls is proceeding with construction anticipated to start in 2024. The last contract to construct the pavement and upgrade the interchanges is in final design, with construction anticipated to start in 2026 and be opened to traffic in 2027.

During 2021, the Williamsport Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) 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 multimodal transportation system which is responsive to increased growth and redistributed travel demand following the CSVT Project's 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 continuing a management team to assist in tracking and implementing 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.

The Williamsport MPO received funding from PennDOT in 2022 to retain Michael Baker International to support implementation of the CSVT special impact study recommendations. Part of the focus will be on preparing for and participating in economic development and land use planning processes throughout the region that are affected by the CSVT Project. Other primary focus areas will include assisting with grant applications integral to implementing the study recommendations and providing guidance to study area municipalities engaged in updates to their current land use ordinances or developing new ordinances/plans to respond to CSVT impacts. The management team has started meeting and prioritizing its activities for implementing the study recommendations over the next two years.

Broadband

4 County Broadband Expansion Project

Union County, in cooperation with SEDA-COG, Clinton, Lycoming, and Northumberland, 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.

Additionally, Northumberland County Industrial Development Authority (NCIDA), in cooperation with SEDA-COG, Clinton, Lycoming, 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 was utilized to select the internet services providers that can provide the best service at the most affordable rate. Proposals were 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.

The counties have completed the ISP Request for Proposal (RFP) Process but will not award until the Environmental Review Record (ERR) is cleared which is anticipated for the end of November 2022. SEDA-COG staff is in the process of drafting agreements with the ISPs. Staff is hopeful the final design can commence once the ER is cleared, and construction can begin in early 2023.

LDD Broadband Project

SEDA-COG, in cooperation with the Northcentral Regional Planning and Development Commission has established a \$210,000 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. ISP selection for the project area was done in collaboration with Centre County and SEDA-COG. A Service Agreement between the selected ISP and SEDA-COG was executed and the ISP was given the notice to proceed.

The ISP is currently installing infrastructure in the project area and has estimated the project to be completed by the end of 2022.

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, Chief of Community Services Division and Geralee Zeigler, Program Analyst.

The following work has been actively pursued by the Flood Resiliency 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 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. SEDA-COG is aware that a Community Assistance Visit (CAV) is planned for Clinton County in calendar year 2023, which is a step in a positive direction related to Renovo Borough's enrollment to the CRS program.

Staff member, Teri Provost, Chief, Community Services Division is a Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM). The Association of State Floodplain Managers has established a national program for certifying floodplain managers, Teri currently serves as the Chapter 2 District Director. 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 (PAFPM). Teri also serves as the Vice Chair of PAFPM, during the calendar year of 2021 and Past Chair during the calendar year of 2022. Elections for PAFPM 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 2023, the new FIRM has more than doubled the regulatory floodplain and has dire effects for a city trying to revitalize. The H&H study was completed in April of 2022, and we are hopeful that a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) can be issued with engineering findings. SEDA-COG plans to offer 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 structures to be elevated. The Town accepted the award and sought Professional Services for design work in the Fall of 2021. The project was let to contractors in the summer of 2022 and bids came in high for one of the two structures (due to inflation). Completion is anticipated prior to calendar year 2023 for the one structure remaining in this grant. The higher of the two bids for one structure was rejected and a request to FEMA was made to remove the structure from the FMA award. In turn, two new applications were submitted for that structure. After the request for withdrawal, SEDA-COG on behalf of the Town submitted a Swift Current (FMA program through IIJA) application, as well as a Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) under the DR-4506 (COVID) disaster declaration. Additionally, SEDA-COG, on behalf of the Town, submitted an FMA application for the acquisition/demolition of a Severe Repetitive Loss property (in Town limits) in November of 2021. Award announcements were made in August of 2022 and unfortunately, the acquisition/demolition of a Severe Repetitive Loss property was not selected for

funding. During the Town's September 2022 regular meeting, a motion was made to submit the acquisition/demolition of a Severe Repetitive Loss property application again for FMA consideration in FY 2022.

The Town was also 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. The NEPA ER work has been completed and revised to include wetland delineation and Professional Services for the activity was completed in early 2022. Work must be finished on this activity within 18 months of award and SEDA-COG has expedited each task to ensure that the ER and procurement of Professional Services occurred in a timely manner; however, due to the length in time to obtain a joint permit, a 6-month extension request will be submitted to the grant funding agency.

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 occurred in August 2022. Anthony Township's HMGP award was sub granted to the County, SEDA-COG has solicited 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. Furthermore, three flood-prone structures in Danville Borough, Montour County were awarded under CDBG-DR in April 2022 based on an application submitted in calendar year 2020. Appraisals for the three structures were required to be updated in Danville Borough, which increased the budget dramatically. This led to two structures continuing within the CDBG-DR award so enough funds could remain in the budget to acquire, and one structure entered into HMGP consideration at the PEMA/FEMA level. We are awaiting environmental clearance to obtain an official award.

Summary of Accomplishments:

See attached Summary of Accomplishments for SEDA-COG in 2022.

ATTACHMENT A
SEDA-COG
Board of Directors
Member List

SEDA-Council of Governments
Board of Directors, 2022
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.

Quorum needed (12) - A quorum shall consist of a majority of the voting members of the Board of Directors.

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 Kym Best Tony Mazzatesta, Regional Director, Planning & Design, RETTEW
Perry	Commissioner Brenda Watson Larry Reisinger, retired
Snyder	Commissioner Joseph E. Kantz Dennis Van Benthuyzen, Colonial Furniture, President
Union	Commissioner Preston R. Boop David Cooney, Mayor of Mifflinburg / David Cooney Photography

OFFICERS - 2022

President – Commissioner Kevin Kodish
First Vice President – Commissioner Mark Higgins
Second Vice President – Commissioner Ken Holdren
Secretary – Larry Reisinger
Treasurer – Dennis Van Benthuyzen

ATTACHMENT B

CEDS Committee Member List

SEDA-Council of Governments
Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)
Committee
2022
22 Members

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee is made up of the sixteen Local Loan Review Committee (LLRC) Members, plus six technical, At-Large Representatives. Terms for the CEDS Members are the same as those for the LLRC.

County	Member	Occupation	Term Expiration
SEDA FOUNDATION			
Centre	Thaddeus Will	M&T Bank, Sr. Relationship Mgr., VP	04/27/22
Clinton	Thomas A. Keiffer	Penn State SBDC, Business Consultant	04/27/22
Columbia	George Forese	S&B Foundry, owner	04/26/23
Juniata	Philip Bomberger	John E. Groninger, Inc., Financial Mgr.	04/26/23
Lycoming	David McKernan	Woodlands Bank, Financial Analyst	04/24/24
Mifflin	James Shilling Jr.	Retired	04/24/24
Montour	John D. Yoder	Fulton Bank, Vice President	04/24/24
Northumberland	Janice Kotwica	Retired	04/27/22
Perry	Larry Reisinger	Retired	04/24/24
Snyder	Gerald A. Stauffer	Ideal Group Inc., co-owner	04/26/23
Union	David Cooney	Mayor of Mifflinburg	04/24/24
SEDA-COG BOARD OF DIRECTORS			
Centre	Mark Higgins	County Commissioner	12/31/22
Clinton	Jeffrey A. Snyder	County Commissioner	12/31/22
Clinton	Steve Stevenson	Lock Haven City Councilman	12/31/22
Juniata	Mark Partner	County Commissioner	12/31/22
Union	Preston R. Boop	County Commissioner	12/31/22
AT-LARGE REPRESENTATIVES			
	Paul Caimi	Woodlands Bank, Commercial Loan Officer	12/31/22
	Jeffrey Hollenbach	Susquehanna Community Bank, Executive VP, Sr. Relationship Mgr. and Sr. Loan Officer	12/31/22
	Harold Hurst	Cooper Township, Board Chairman	12/31/22
	Stephen Phillips	Retired	12/31/22
	Vacant		12/31/22
	Vacant		12/31/22

Chairman – Commissioner Jeffrey A. Snyder



ATTACHMENT C

Summary of Accomplishments

Summary of Accomplishments

#	Activity	Task	Benefits/Outcome/Impacts/Deliverables	Milestone Date
1	Business & Entrepreneurship	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, the USDA Intermediary Relending Program, and the State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) loan program. As of September 30, 2022, the SEDA-COG loan portfolio showed a total of 195 open loans from various sources totaling nearly \$36 million. These loans are anticipated to assist in the creation of 570 new jobs. In addition, there were 21 committed loans totaling over \$12.1 million, with a projected job increase of 87. During the 12 months ending September 30, 2022, a total of 22 loans were settled totaling over \$5.1 million. These loans represent various combinations of sources and are projected to help create 46 new jobs.	Ongoing
2	Business Retention, Expansion, & Attraction	Engage! Program: Business Visits and roundtables focused on small business	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 visiting with businesses and hold roundtables on a range of business related topics.	Ongoing
3	Critical Infrastructure: Transportation, Broadband & Energy	Increasing Access to Natural Gas	In early 2022, the Cooperative began its first "virtual pipeline" project in Perry County that provides liquefied natural gas (LNG) delivery to an agricultural-related facility. Additional virtual pipeline projects are currently under development, and federal and state grant funding has been procured to support project development. Cooperative efforts including project sponsorship that brings together natural gas producers, transport companies, and end customers. The Cooperative's expanding areas of interest for new projects include controlled environment agriculture (CEA) and renewable natural gas (RNG) implementations.	Ongoing
4	Critical Infrastructure: Transportation, Broadband & Energy	Central Susquehanna Valley Transportation (CSVT) Project	SEDA-COG has continued to take part in the regional Central Susquehanna Valley Transportation (CSVT) Project Task Force organized by the Greater Susquehanna Valley Chamber of Commerce. The task force is focused on facilitating construction of the CSVT Project, an over \$800 million project and our 11-county region's largest transportation/economic development project. 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. The northern section, including a 4,500' bridge over the West Branch of the Susquehanna River, was opened to traffic in July 2022. Prior to the opening, PennDOT held two events that SEDA-COG staff helped organize and participate in during June 2022: a public walking/biking day and a ribbon cutting. A portion of the northern section is still under construction to build a mile of roadway at the northern end of the project. This final section will be opened to traffic in fall 2022.	Summer/Fall 2022 and Ongoing
5	Critical Infrastructure: Sewer and Water	St. Clair Avenue Water Line Replacement Project	Submission of \$2.3 million EDA Public Works application to replace antiquated 8" cast iron water main, 4,550 LF of water lines and nearly 75 services connections that will serve upwards of 6 businesses and result in 282 jobs created, 24 jobs retained and over \$1.5 billion in private sector investment.	Ongoing
6	Project Development/Project Support	PA Wilds BBB; Ben Franklin Venture Capital; Proof of Concept and Start-up Services Initiative; Data Analytics to Support Economic Recovery and Resilience of Underinvested Small Businesses and Communities	Provided project development and letters of support for several EDA projects in the region that included PA Wilds, Ben Franklin Technology Partners, and Appalachian Community Capital.	Ongoing
7	Flood Resiliency	Expanding Community Rating System (CRS)	SEDA-COG has developed an initiative to increase the number of communities participating in the Community Rating System (CRS) through FEMA's National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).	Ongoing
8	Flood Resiliency	Survey Services	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.	Ongoing
9	Flood Resiliency	City of Shamokin Flood Study	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 2023, the new FIRM has more than doubled the regulatory floodplain and has dire effects for a city trying to revitalize. The H&H study was completed in April of 2022, and we are hopeful that a LOMR can be issued with engineering findings. SEDA-COG plans to offer flood education to the elected officials, residents and business owners after the study is completed.	April-22
10	Flood Resiliency	Town of Bloomsburg Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Grant	The Town of Bloomsburg was awarded their first Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grant for a total of two structures to be elevated. The Town accepted the award and sought Professional Services for design work in the Fall of 2021. The project was let to contractors in the summer of 2022 and bids came in high for one of the two structures (due to inflation). Completion is anticipated prior to calendar year 2023 for the one structure remaining in this grant.	July-23
11	Flood Resiliency	Town of Bloomsburg CDBG Disaster Recovery	The Town was also 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.	Ongoing

