

SCOPE OF WORK

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy 2019 - 2023

Task EDA-CEDS-2019

U.S. Department of Commerce, EDA Grant #ED16AUS3020020

Objective: The purpose of this project is to assist RPC in the creation of the 2019-2024 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), for the five-parish South Louisiana Economic Development District (SLEDD). The Regional Planning Commission (RPC) is designated by EDA as the local economic development district for Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard and St. Tammany Parishes. In this role, RPC is charged with developing a CEDS every five years with broad representation from the community. The CEDS document is utilized by EDA to understand the region's strategy for its future. It is especially important to the region because any application for U.S. Department of Commerce funding must be in alignment with the CEDS.

Task 1 – Review of EDA Requirements and Current Economic Development Plans in the Region:

Review CEDS requirements <https://www.eda.gov/ceds>. Review current New Orleans area CEDS <http://www.norpc.org/assets/pdf-documents/CEDS%202014%20Final.pdf> and economic development plans from each of the five Parishes and GNO, Inc. These documents will provide baseline information from which to build the CEDS for 2019-2023.

Task 2 –CEDS Strategy Committee: Work with RPC to identify key stakeholders from the five parishes to comprise the strategy committee. Members will include representatives from the public and private sectors, higher education, workforce development, non-profits, labor groups and private individuals. Facilitate approximately six to eight committee meetings, and focus groups as needed, to develop all required elements of a CEDS pursuant to 13 C.F.R. 303.7.

Task 3 – Prepare CEDS Document:

Prepare the CEDS document with all required elements including, but not limited to:

- i. Background of economic development conditions of the region
- ii. SWOT Analysis – an in-depth analysis of regional strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats
- iii. Strategic Direction/Action Plan – flowing from the SWOT analysis and consistent with other relevant state/regional/local plans
- iv. Evaluation Framework – performance measures used to evaluate the organizations' implementation of the CEDS and its impact on the regional economy
- v. Economic Resilience

RPC will provide economic data to inform discussion and for inclusion in CEDS document. The Draft document will be presented to the RPC Board and posted for a minimum of 30 days for public comment. After comments are incorporated, the final document will be adopted by the RPC Board in the Fall of 2018 and submitted to EDA.

Budget: The total budget for this scope of work is \$30,000.

Time Frame: The project will be complete no later than September 30, 2018.