



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Economic Development Administration
Philadelphia Regional Office
The Curtis Center, Suite 140 South
601 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106-3323

NOV 23 2010

E. Dana Dickens
President and CEO
Hampton Roads Partnership
430 World Trade Center
Norfolk, VA 23510

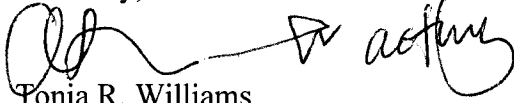
Dear Mr. Dickens:

The Regional Office completed a review of the Hampton Roads Partnership/Hampton Roads Planning District Commission Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy report and is pleased to advise you of its approval. All who have contributed to this effort are to be commended for their outstanding work that has resulted in a well documented and presented CEDS that addresses and sufficiently describes the key CEDS elements as required by EDA's Regulations under 13 C.F.R. Part 303. Enclosed you will find a copy of the CEDS Requirements Checklist completed during the evaluation of your CEDS, as well as, a copy of EDA's *CEDS Summary of Requirements* for your reference.

Your 2010 Hampton Roads CEDS report was reviewed and approved in accordance with the requirements described under the EDA guidelines for CEDS. Please note that the approval of the 2010 CEDS document does not constitute the approval of any project mentioned in it. However, the continuance of an acceptable and effective planning process that is approved by EDA staff each year is required to maintain eligibility for funding as outlined in EDA's regulations. Therefore, it is important for you to continue to define, document, maintain, and improve upon your planning process on an ongoing basis since it will be reviewed and critiqued on an annual basis as a requirement for EDA funding. Furthermore, you are required to submit an annual CEDS update due September 30 each year in order to maintain eligibility for EDA financial assistance.

We wish you continued success in your efforts to implement the economic development activities described in this report, especially those that have been targeted towards the most distressed areas in your region. You should continue to describe sufficiently, as a part of your CEDS process, the participation, commitment, and involvement of the private sector interests, your economic development partners and the development, discussion or analysis of industry clusters within your region. Please address any questions to Mr. Robert Gittler, Economic Development Representative for Virginia at (215) 597-4360 or by email at RGittler@eda.doc.gov.

Sincerely,



Tonia R. Williams
Area Director
South Atlantic Investment Services

Enclosures



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**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION
Philadelphia Regional Office**

**COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY
REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST**

This checklist is based the "Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS) Summary of Requirements" published by the Economic Development Administration (EDA). The requirements for CEDS are contained in EDA's regulations at 13 CFR part 303.

The purpose of this checklist is to aid planning organizations in the preparation and evaluation of their CEDS documents, and to serve as the basis for EDA's review and approval.

Planning Organization: Hampton Roads Partnership/Hampton Roads Planning District Commission

Address: 430 World Trade Center, Norfolk, VA 23510

Contact Name / Title: E. Dana Dickens III, President and CEO

Contact Phone / E-mail: 757-625-4696 / ddickens@hrp.org

REQUIREMENTS FOR EDA-FUNDED CEDS

1. Planning Organization Requirements

The Planning Organization

- Has appointed a Strategy (CEDS) Committee. Has developed and submitted to EDA for review and approval a CEDS that meets the requirements outlined in 13 CFR 303.7.
- Has made the new or revised CEDS available for review and comment by the public for a period of at least 30 days prior to submission of the CEDS to EDA.
- Understands that, after obtaining approval of the CEDS, it is required to submit to EDA an updated CEDS performance report annually (see 'Summary' for requirements).
- Understands that it is required to submit a new CEDS to EDA at least every five (5) years, unless EDA or the planning organization determines that a new CEDS is required earlier due to changed circumstances.

2. Strategy Committee Requirements

The Strategy Committee

- Represents the main economic interests of the region.
- Includes Private Sector Representatives, as defined in 13 CFR 300.3, as a majority of its membership.
- Includes members broadly representative of the region, such as public officials, community leaders, representatives of workforce development boards, representatives of institutions of higher education, minority and labor groups, and private individuals.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

1. Background

The CEDS contains a background of the economic development situation of the region that Economy paints a realistic picture of the current condition of the region.

The background includes a discussion of the following elements:

- Population
- Geography
- Workforce Development & Use
- Transportation Access
- Resources
- Environment
- Other Pertinent Information

2. Analysis of Economic Development Problems and Opportunities

The CEDS includes an in-depth analysis of the economic development problems and opportunities that identifies strengths and weaknesses in the regional makeup of human and economic assets, and problems and opportunities posed by external and internal forces affecting the regional economy.

The analysis...

- Incorporates relevant material from other government-sponsored or supported plans.
- Demonstrates consistency with applicable State and local workforce investment strategies.
- Identifies past, present, and projected economic development investments in the region.
- Identifies and analyzes *economic clusters* within the region.

3. CEDS Goals and Objectives – Defining Regional Expectations

The CEDS contains a section setting forth goals and objectives necessary to solve the economic problems or to capitalize on the resources of the region.

Strategic projects, programs or activities identified in the CEDS work to fulfill these goals and objectives.

4. Community and Private Sector Involvement

The CEDS includes a section discussing the relationship between the community in general and the private sector in the development and implementation of the CEDS.

5. Strategic Projects, Programs and Activities

The CEDS contains a section which identifies regional projects, programs and activities designed to implement the Goals and Objectives of the CEDS. This section identifies and describes:

Suggested Projects:

- All suggested projects, programs and activities, and the projected number of jobs to be created as a result.
- Lead organizations responsible for the execution of the projects.

Vital Projects:

- A prioritization of vital projects, programs, and activities that addresses the region's greatest needs or that will best enhance the region's competitiveness, including sources of funding for past and potential future investments.

6. CEDS Plan of Action

The plan of action, as described in the CEDS, implements the goals and objectives of the CEDS in a manner that...

- Promotes economic development and opportunity.
- Fosters effective transportation access.
- Enhances and protects the environment.
- Maximizes effective development and use of the workforce consistent with any applicable State or local workforce investment strategy.
- Promotes the use of technology in economic development, including access to high-speed telecommunications.
- Balances resources through sound management of physical development.
- Obtains and utilizes adequate funds and other resources.

The CEDS contains a section that discusses the methodology for cooperating and integrating the CEDS with a State's economic development priorities.

7. Performance Measures

The CEDS contains a section that lists the performance measures used to evaluate the Planning Organization's successful development and implementation of the CEDS, including but not limited to:

- Number of jobs created after implementation of the CEDS.
- Number and types of investments undertaken in the region.
- Number of jobs retained in the region.
- Amount of private sector investment in the region after implementation of the CEDS.
- Changes in the economic environment of the region.

CEDS REVIEW & APPROVAL

Planning Organization

CEDS reviewed by: E. Dana Dickens, III, President and CEO

Public Comment Period: May 6-14, 2010

Board Approval: February 19, 2010

Copy of Minutes and/or Resolution Attached

EDA Philadelphia
Regional Office

CEDS submitted to EDA: March 31, 2010 (Date)

CEDS reviewed on: November 23, 2010 (Date)

CEDS reviewed by: Jerome E. Wallace, Community Planner (Name / Title)

Signature:



Status:

- Approved
 Conditionally Approved
 Not Approved

Deficiency Letter Sent: N/A (Date, if applicable)

Comments: This Hampton Roads Partnership and Hampton Roads Planning District Commission Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, Hampton Roads Vision, is an excellent model of regional collaboration and partnership. All who participated in its development are commended for their involvement.