



Columbia County

Economic Development Corporation

CCEDC is a 501(c)4 non-profit corporation established in 1992 to coordinate economic development throughout Columbia County, Wisconsin. The corporation is staffed by a full-time director and is governed by a Board of Directors.

CCEDC is under a reorganization and restructure due to the discontinued funding from Columbia County for 2019. The County has requested CCEDC ask businesses for financial support along with communities, due to Columbia County budgetary constraints.

MISSION

To foster and encourage activities in the county that result in constructive economic development and/or result in an improved quality of life.

VISION

A collaborative partner with stakeholders in leading strategic change in Columbia County, leveraging opportunities to be the gateway location for vocation, education, recreation, and avocation.

RETAINING & EXPANDING EXISTING BUSINESSES

CCEDC has assisted a number of businesses with retention and expansion, helping to provide information, funding and additional resources. Some businesses received initial support from CCEDC and went on to expand multiple times adding to the tax base. Sometimes, it's a request for demographic information, what makes a community better for expansion and what programs and funding are available.



PROMOTING NEW BUSINESS FORMATION

Since 1995, CCEDC has assisted 2,127 business prospects and 21 businesses with the Revolving Loan Fund. CCEDC works with local, regional and state partners to assist entrepreneurs and direct them to available resources. CCEDC also supports entrepreneurship through the newly formed Start-In Madison Region platform, and the Innovations Champion Group which CCEDC formed with Sauk and Marquette Counties, and the SBDC.



ASSISTING COMMUNITIES & ORGANIZATIONS

CCEDC helps retain and grow existing businesses, attract new business investment, nurture local entrepreneurs and replenish lost income. New dollars invested or spent in a community generate more economic activity. New capital investment in real property generates a continuous revenue stream through property taxes. CCEDC provides the mechanism to foster growth and positive change.



ADDITIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

COVID-19 has created uncertainty for businesses, communities and citizens. CCEDC formed an Economic Recovery Team with stakeholders in the business community, education and public health. The team conducts surveys on needs and areas of concern, identifies resources and shares relevant information on funding and assistance.





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CCEDC serves as a clearinghouse of information for local businesses, individuals, and organizations, helping to identify needs, resources, and connections.

REVOLVING LOAN FUND

CCEDC's Revolving Loan Fund is a business loan program available to any private business that will employ 50 or fewer new employees and have less than \$1 million in projected gross revenue.

CCEDC currently has four active loans to businesses totaling **\$113,683.38**. There is **\$267,814.84** available to lend as gap financing to potential entrepreneurs.

Program requirements and application are available at www.ccedc.com.

"CCEDC came through for us when we needed someone to communicate our concerns to the Governor's office prior to the Safer at Home order. We are thankful for the vital work CCEDC does for the area."

- Bruce Jonet, Cardinal FG

LOCAL GRANTS CONNECTIONS

CCEDC has provided information about grant opportunities to local school districts and community organizations. Among them:

- CCEDC forwarded 2018 State of Wisconsin School Safety Grant Funding information to all school districts in Columbia County. Over two rounds, 31 awards were made, totaling **\$2,514,548**.
- CCEDC also notified schools of the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) Fab Lab Grants. In spring 2019, a **\$25,000** award went to Fall River School District, supporting the purchase of equipment for a high-technology workshop with computer-controlled manufacturing components such as 3D printers, laser engravers, computer numerical control routers and plasma cutters.
- After receiving information from CCEDC, River Haven Homeless Shelter received a **\$5,200** Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA) Foundation Grant Award in 2018, to assist in the improvement of the state's housing for special needs populations.

INFORMATION NETWORKING

CCEDC frequently responds to requests for information from businesses, communities, consultants, federal and state departments. During the COVID crisis, CCEDC has shared information about financial relief programs, including:

- Federal Paycheck Protection Plan (PPP) and Economic Injury Disaster Loans
- State of Wisconsin "We're All In" grant, which provides assistance to self-employed individuals who are quarantined
- Pandemic Unemployment Assistance

BROADBAND EXPANSION SUPPORT

CCEDC has written letters of support for Public Service Commission Broadband Expansion Grants, and has also supported educational partners in broadband expansion efforts. In March 2020, **\$470,524** in awards were awarded for high speed service to 947 residents and 84 businesses:

- Charter Communications - Village of Randolph project will build a cable internet service past 81 business and 694 residential locations in the Village of Randolph. **\$104,034**
- Marquette-Adams Telephone Cooperative, Inc. - Town of Marcellon project will build a Fiber to the Premises service past 2 business and 133 residential locations along Highway 33. **\$193,689**
- Marquette-Adams Telephone Cooperative, Inc. - Town of Newport fiber project will build a Fiber to the Premises service past 1 business and 120 residential locations in the Town of Newport. **\$172,801**