CAPDD CEDS PLAN 2019

VISION
A flourishing business friendly region with a diverse and resilient economy, smart infrastructure, quality jobs, stable and healthy communities and effective protections for natural resources.

WHAT IS A CEDS?
The Central Arkansas Planning and Development District (CAPDD or the District) is an Economic Development District designated by the US Economic Development Agency (EDA). As the region’s PDD, the District is responsible for developing a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) that identifies economic and community development priorities for the District.

The Central Arkansas Planning and Development District is comprised of all the county governments and incorporated municipalities within the counties of Faulkner, Lonoke, Monroe, Prairie, Pulaski and Saline Counties. This CEDS plan follows the new guidelines released by the US Economic Development Administration in September of 2016 and is a strategy-driven plan developed by a diverse workgroup of local representatives from the private, public and nonprofit sectors. The District CEDS is comprised of four sections:

1. Summary background of the economic conditions of the region;

2. In-depth SWOT analysis of regional strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats;

3. Action Plan outlining strategies drawn from the planning process that incorporates elements from the Delta Regional Authority’s Delta Regional Five Year Development Plan other applicable regional plans (e.g., land use and transportation, workforce development, etc.) and identifying stakeholder(s) responsible for implementation, timetables, and opportunities for the integrated use of other local, state, and federal funds.


The District CEDS committee will work to create a strong relationship between action plans and performance measures for economic and community development at the regional, state, and federal levels.
CEDS PROCESS TIMELINE

Public meetings with regional partners were held in September of 2018 and January, February, and April of this year to discuss and/or present the various components of the CEDS document. The components of the planning process are included in the following timeline:

May – June 2018: PDD Staff conducted CEDS strategy meetings to devise a plan of action for developing the CEDS and establishing a CEDS Committee.

August – September 2018: CEDS Strategy met with PDD Staff and Arkansas Economic Development Institute (AEDI) hired to assist with data collection, analysis and facilitation of meetings. CEDS Survey distributed to Committee Members.

September 2018 – First Full CEDS committee meeting held to discuss CEDS requirements and a process for developing the CEDS plan. A CEDS Survey was reviewed. Preliminary overview of economic and demographic data begun.


January 2019: 2nd Full CEDS Committee meeting held to present final CEDS survey results and conduct a comprehensive SWOT analysis. Strategic target sectors were explained and the requirement to develop goals, action plans and a Resiliency plan were discussed. A CEDS subcommittee that will assist with creating the action plan section is established.

February 2019: CEDS Subcommittee met to determine action plan issues/goals and to develop specific action plan items.


April – (mid) May 2019: Final comments/feedback on full CEDS Document received.

June 2019: Full CEDS plan submitted to PDD Board of Directors for adoption.


July 2019: CEDS plan submitted to EDA
OUR REGION:
Our region comprises the counties of Faulkner, Lonoke, Monroe, Prairie, Pulaski and Saline Counties.

SUMMARY BACKGROUND
The regional and county snapshots shown on the following pages highlight the demographic and economic statistics of the region. As the data shows, government services, health care and social assistance and retail trade are the leading industries, with healthcare is projected as the leading growth industry. To support these businesses, and develop a broader foundation in other industries such as advanced manufacturing, agriculture, and professional, scientific and technical services, it is essential that local governments in the region continue to collaborate on essential services such as workforce training, the built infrastructure, broadband, and housing.

From 2010 to 2017, the region has experienced moderate population growth of 5.4% just below the national average of 5.96%. Three counties, Pulaski, Faulkner and Saline contain almost 88% of the region’s population and most of the more densely populated urban areas. Saline County’s population grew 10% since the 2010 Census and Faulkner County increased 9.2%. Over the same period Lonoke and Pulaski counties experienced low to moderate growth at 6.6% and 2.9% respectively, and two counties, Monroe and Prairie, showed significant population loss.

The fastest growing age group in the region were residents over 65. Faulkner County leads the region with a 32.4% increase since 2010 in residents over 65 closely followed by Saline, Pulaski and Lonoke counties, each with increases topping 25%. Monroe and Prairie Counties also saw significant percentage jumps in the number of seniors. Addressing the needs of an aging population requires planning and strategic investment including additional transportation options, infrastructure improvements and access to affordable healthcare particularly in less affluent counties.

ENVIRONMENT
CAPDD contains the State’s most populated and urban-oriented areas in the state along with Arkansas’ most productive rural agricultural land. The Central Arkansas area is divided by the Arkansas River. Flat land lies to the east of the river and the mountainous land to the west. The eastern area is divided by the White River. Both the Arkansas and White Rivers are maintained for navigation, although the White River traffic is stopped during most summers due to low water levels. Other eastern streams are the Cache River and the Bayou Meto.

The western portion of the area contains the Ouachita River, Saline River, and Hurricane Creek. The northern part of the area includes the Cadron Creek. Major lakes within the Central Arkansas area include Lake Maumelle in Pulaski County; Lake Conway in Faulkner County; Lake Winiona in Saline and Peckerwood Lake in Prairie County.
The area includes the most populous part of the state with urban and build-up land that is heavily agrarian on the east and heavily timbered on the west. In the 2017 Agricultural Census, the central area had 2,660,512 acres of land area, 1,164,172 acres of land area in farms, 732,880 acres of cropland harvested, and 582,750 acres of land area in forestland, minor and cover uses. In addition, catfish and minnow farming are important segments of the agricultural economy. It is estimated that 80% of the nations’ baitfish are produced in Lonoke and Prairie Counties.

**ECONOMY**

Most of the economic growth of the region comes from Pulaski, Faulkner and Saline Counties. Pulaski County is the state’s most populous county and historically Arkansas’ largest center of economic activity. It houses the state capitol and state government and is home to the state’s largest medical facilities. Faulkner County has experienced strong economic growth fueled primarily by the city of Conway and its vibrant educational institutions, health care facilities and retail trade. Since 2010, Saline County experienced the largest percentage population growth in the District and added a significant number of jobs in healthcare, retail and manufacturing.

Though significantly smaller in population than Pulaski, Faulkner and Saline counties, Lonoke County has experienced significant population growth and modest but steady job growth is projected for the next few years. Overwhelmingly rural and possessing a fraction of the population and resources of the other four counties, Prairie and Monroe represent the region’s greatest challenge to effective economic development. Their economies are dominated by agricultural and related industries and population in both counties has steadily declined since 2010.

Perhaps the greatest challenge facing the district is the disparity between the areas enjoying relative economic success and those struggling to keep their populations and maintain existing infrastructure and businesses. Despite remarkable growth in Saline and Faulkner counties and steady growth in Lonoke and Pulaski, many communities in the region lack up-to-date water or sewer service. Broad sections of the region lack accessible healthcare, adequate housing and Broadband internet access. Insufficient transportation infrastructure remains a significant issue for residents and businesses particularly outside the more populated urban centers.

Smaller cities and rural areas often lack access to matching funds, grants and other services readily available to more economically successful cities and urban areas. This greatly limits their ability to initiate activities that effectively promote economic development and hampers the efforts of CAPDD and likeminded organizations to effect effective changes in many communities facing real need.

To thrive economically, jurisdictions must work together to develop a well-balanced system of infrastructure, economic and community development that serves residents, supports communities, and attracts new businesses to ensure economic vitality and environmental resiliency. The region must continue to be a place where talented people - and their businesses
- want to be. This includes preserving and expanding the high quality of life in the region and providing the critical infrastructure needed by businesses to succeed. Supporting the economy requires providing the critical services necessary for the well-being of residents, the success of businesses and the safety of communities.

**CULTURE and OUTDOOR RECREATION**
The region’s natural assets and cultural traditions set the area apart. Pulaski County has long been the cultural haven of the state, a center for music, theater and the arts. Conway, Faulkner County’s college town, is the seat of a state university and two academically respected liberal arts colleges. Saline County, one of Arkansas’s fastest growing counties, strives to preserve the small town character of its urban areas while meeting the challenges of unprecedented growth and opportunity. Quaint small towns in Lonoke and the more sparsely populated counties of Prairie and Monroe reflect the state’s agricultural focus and evoke Arkansas’s early history through museums, historic buildings and town festivals.

The entire district is famous for its beautiful lakes, rivers and bayous. Fishing and boating are popular sports. Hiking in the foothills of the Ouachita Mountains and in Pinnacle Mountain Park attract thousands of visitors. Every county contains multiple parks that offer everything from bird watching to exploring historic settlements. In addition to attracting new residents, cultural and recreational tourism has grown into a thriving industry as people travel to the District to experience the unique regional character of the area.

**Colleges and Universities**
- Arkansas Baptist College (LR)
- Central Baptist College (Conway)
- Hendrix College (Conway)
- Philander College (LR)
- Pulaski Technical College (NLR)
- Remington College Little Rock Campus (LR)
- UA Little Rock
- UA Little Rock (Benton)
- University of Central Arkansas (Conway)
- University of Phoenix (LR)

**Parks and Attractions**

**Faulkner County**
- Wooly Hollow State Park
- Cadron Settlement Park
- Baum Gallery
- Faulkner County Museum
Saline County
Mills Park
Saline Crossing Regional Park

Pulaski County
Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site
William J. Clinton Library and Museum
Old State House Museum
Arkansas Arts Center
Big Dam Bridge
Esse Purse Museum and Store
Pinnacle Mountain State Park

Lonoke County
Lonoke County Historical Museum
Lonoke County Museum
Toltec Mounds State Park
Plantation Agriculture Museum

Prairie County
Lower White River Museum
Bayou Des Arc

Peckerwood Lake
Monroe County
Louisiana Purchase State Park
Fargo Training School Museum

WORKFORCE
Central Arkansas has the state’s second fastest growing economy. Although significant sections of the region remain poor and underpopulated, the district as a whole is experiencing relatively robust job growth. From 2018 to 2023, jobs in the area are projected to increase 4.9% from 443,371 to 464,985. Saline County’s projected job growth of 10% by 2023 is the highest in the region, Faulkner, Prairie and Lonoke range from 6.3% to 5.6%, Pulaski should achieve 4% job growth and Monroe is expected to suffer a net loss of jobs (-2.0%) at the close of the five year period. Source: Emsi Q2 2019 Data Set

As the economy grows so will the demand for individuals with strong skill sets in communications, engineering, advanced manufacturing processes and computer and medical technology. The job skills required by the new economy are not the skills of generations past. Many require advanced degrees or unique abilities that call for specific training, certifications, licenses and apprenticeships.
Accordingly, CAPDD in compliance with the Workforce Competitiveness Goal of Arkansas’s Five Year Delta Development Plan and the Workforce Opportunities and Investment Act (WOIA), has collaborated with the Central Arkansas Workforce Development Area to help CAWDA provide a variety of employment and training programs that:

- link employers with potential employees and assists central Arkansas businesses with recruiting, retaining, developing and maintaining a pipeline of qualified applicants.
- align workforce training programs with in-demand industry sectors within the region
- use data analysis to meet the labor force needs of business and industry throughout the six county service area.
- provide a variety of job related services to area workers and potential workers through local workforce centers.

During 2016-2017 CAWDA, in line with WOIA, state, and federal guidelines, developed an up to date transitional local and regional workforce plan. New goals and strategies were developed based on a comprehensive analysis of workforce and economic conditions in the area, employment needs by industry, and an assessment of all existing service delivery to employers and job seekers.

In addition, a comprehensive draft of a CAWD local workforce plan for 2020-2024, another WOIA requirement, has been completed to provide more actionable plans and objectives consistent with the local plan’s respective regional plan strategic visions and goals

REGIONAL SWOT ANALYSIS

Area Strengths
- Good public schools (Pre-K availability)
- Safety
- Access to quality healthcare
- Infrastructure
- Natural Beauty
- Cultural and Recreational Activities
- Fire Departments
- Places with Historical Significance (Fargo Agricultural School)
- Churches
- Water Quality
Area Weaknesses
Public transportation
Opportunities for Young People
Vibrant Downtowns
Entrepreneurial Training Opportunities
Affordable Housing
Infrastructure funding and maintenance
Aging population
Road work

Area Opportunities
(Infrastructure)
Public Transportation
Growth
Access roads
City infrastructure
Highways and roads
Interstate Access (In progress)
Replacement of ageing infrastructure
Outside funding for infrastructure
Rail / highways
Rail access
Regional Airport
Street work needed to give property owners access to property owned.
Affordable housing
Internet Access
Little Rock Air Force Base

(Business/Sites)
A grocery store/service station would be good.
A large tract of property available in the Industrial Park
Available land for economic development
Mega Site
Retail destination
Retail Growth opportunities at the new I-40 interchange.
Space for Medium Industry
Supply hub

(Recreation)
Activities
Need to continue to provide more for our parks
Places for family entertainment
Places to eat
Senior Living
Southwest Trail (Recreational Trail/Bikeway)
**Workforce**
Available workforce
High School Career Technical Center
Job opportunity
Opportunities for Young People
Specialized workforce
Work-skill training

**Area Threats**
**Land Issues**
Absent landowners not making efforts to sell
Availability of land/buildings
Land prices
Land Space Availability
Limited access to many properties
Locations for company growth
Cost of land controlled by landowners.

**Infrastructure**
Public Transportation
Traffic congestion
Access to rail
Inadequate utilities
Industrial Sites outside the Port
Interstate
Lagging Infrastructure
Affordable housing
Public Schools
Little Rock Air Force Base
Tax base

**Business**
National and Regional Perception
Challenging retail environment
Plant Closings.
Shopping Opportunities
There are no stores or gas stations
We have nowhere but the POWA to work at in Paron most people travel to Little Rock or Benton for work

**Workforce**
Labor supply
Lack of trained workforce
Not enough workforce to fill jobs
ECONOMIC RESILIENCE
The diverse and robust economy of Central Arkansas derives from the strength of local communities and the powerful economic engine provided by the metro areas in Pulaski, Faulkner and Saline counties. The region’s economic opportunities and the rich and unique quality of life in the region persuade businesses to expand, locate or develop here. This creates a resilient economy critical to long-term growth and financial stability for families.

Miriam Webster defines resilience as, “an ability to recover from or adjust easily to misfortune or change.” CAPDD believes establishing economic resilience in a local or regional economy requires anticipating risk, assessing how that risk affects key economic assets, and building a responsive capacity. Often, the shocks or disruptions to the economic base of an area or region occur in three ways:

- Downturns or other significant events in the national or international economy that affect demand for locally produced goods and consumer spending.
- Downturns in particular industries that constitute a critical component of the region’s economic activity.
- Other external shocks (a natural or manufactured disaster, closure of a military base, exit of a major employer, impacts of climate change, etc.)

The District can help the region respond to changes in the economy through Steady state and Responsive initiatives. Steady-state initiatives are long-term efforts that bolster the community or region’s ability to withstand or avoid a shock. Responsive initiatives provide economic development organizations the capability to assist with recovery. CAPDD and CEDS have adopted this two-pronged approach to develop strategies and performance measures.

Steady-state initiatives include:

- Incorporating economic resiliency into existing planning efforts, such as hazard mitigation or transportation plans.
- Ensuring our workforce development and community/economic development teams work together to identify employment training or infrastructure investment opportunities when emerging sectors are identified.
- Continuing to work with the education and workforce training communities to build a resilient workforce that can easily shift between jobs or industries.
- Leading efforts to capitalize on the region’s strengths identified through the CEDS.
- Continuing to promote strategic economic assessments at the community level to identify strengths and weaknesses.
- Informing elected officials on resiliency by scheduling speakers at CAPDD board meetings.
Responsive initiatives include:

- Strengthening coordination between the local Workforce Development Board and economic development entities within the region to address employer and employee needs more effectively during times of economic downturn.
- Inviting businesses and economic development types to meetings regarding workforce initiatives, (i.e. the local partners meetings coordinated by WIOA staff members.)
- Utilizing the local Workforce Development Board to communicate directly with businesses to understand the needs of the business community.
- Considering economic resiliency when identifying projects to include in hazard mitigation plans.

PRIORITY AREAS

To make our economy more resilient, the CEDS committee identified eight priority areas. These priorities also meet the District’s long standing commitment to Arkansas’s Five Year Delta Development Plan for the Delta Regional Authority. Pulaski, Lonoke, Prairie and Monroe Counties fall within the DRA and CAPDD, beginning in 2016, embraced the three strategic goals of the plan: Workforce Competitiveness, Infrastructure and Community Competitiveness.

Priority 1: Improve Regional Image

**Benefit to the Community:** Improving the public image of Central Arkansas would encourage economic growth, spur investment and improve the quality of life for District residents.

**Issue:** The District’s public image has handicapped efforts to recruit businesses, industry and public and private investment needed for sustainable economic growth.

**Strategy:** Establish a systematic, collaborative and regional approach to reshaping the region’s image that conveys a positive investment climate and a unique and desirable quality of life.

**Action Steps:**

- Work with public and private businesses, Chambers of Commerce, local and county governments, and non-profit organizations to create a collaborative region wide approach to reshaping the area’s public image.
- Systematically encourage websites focused on economic growth and investment and recruiting new businesses and industry to include more information on the positive aspects of the Region’s economic and community life.
- Work with consulting company Developing Consulting Company (DCI) hired by Metro Little Rock Alliance (MLRA) to build a positive image of LR Metro area.
- Locate and publicize economic success stories from cities, towns and local communities.
- Insure that the information and stories designed to reshape the image of the region reflect the concerns and interests of GenX, Millennials and Gen Z.
- Make systematic use of social media outlets to highlight economic success stories.
- Work with small businesses, local companies and industries interested in community profile stories that highlight economic growth and community development.
**Responsible Parties:**
- CAPDD Staff
- Metro Little Rock Alliance, Chambers of Commerce
- Selected innovative businesses and industries
- City and county government officials and elected leaders
- DCI (Development Consulting Company)
- Non-profit organizations that promote a positive image for the District

**Resources Needed:**
- CAPDD Staff
- Metro Little Rock Alliance, Chambers of Commerce
- Selected innovative businesses and industries
- City and county government officials and elected leaders
- DCI (Development Consulting Company)
- Non-profit organizations that promote a positive image for the District

**Estimated Completion Date:**
- On-going

Priority 2: Improve Transportation System

**Benefit to the Community:** Improving transportation will result in a better working environment for business and industry, increased job opportunities, a more stable workforce and a better quality of life.

**Issue:** A lack of effective and reliable transportation options limits the effectiveness of area business and industry and negatively affects job opportunities and work attendance.

**Strategy:** Increase transportation options for business, industry and area residents

**Action Steps:**
- Explore regional mass transit options with Rock Regional Metro.
- Extend Rock Region Metro’s innovative Van Pool program to rural areas of the region.
- Work with area employers to encourage them to provide low cost transportation options for transporting their employees to work.
- Publicize the number and nature of existing direct flights out of Little Rock Airport
- Encourage the airlines to establish more direct flights out of Little Rock Airport.

**Responsible Parties:**
- CAPDD Staff
- Rock Metro
Priority 3: Improve Health Care Availability to Area Residents

**Benefit to the Community:** Improving healthcare will result in a healthier and more productive population with an improved quality of life.

**Issue:** Lack of access to effective health care outside more populated urban areas has resulted in a less productive workforce and a diminished quality of life for residents in many areas of central Arkansas.

**Strategy:** Improve access to effective healthcare

**Action Steps:**
- Encourage UAMS to place more medical residents into local area clinics.
- Increase the number of nurses and doctors in area medical facilities.
- Determine if the Delta Regional Authority’s “Delta Doctors” program can address medical personnel shortages.
- Increase access to mental health treatment for area residents.
- Promote use of new technologies that improve patient access to medical personnel and treatments.

**Responsible Parties:**
- CAPDD staff
- Area Hospitals
- Area Universities and Colleges
- Delta Regional Authority
- Medical Clinics
- Local City and County Officials

**Resources:**
- CAPDD staff
- Area Hospitals
• Area Universities and Colleges
• Delta Regional Authority
• Medical Clinics
• Local City and County Officials
• Medicaid insurance
• Delta Regional Authority

Estimated Completion Date:
• On-going

Priority 4: Acquire More Potential Industrial Development Sites

Benefit to the Community: Increasing responsible and sustainable industrial development creates good paying jobs.

Issue: Lack of identifiable potential industrial sites with appropriate resources hampers attempts to recruit both large and small-scale industrial businesses.

Strategy: Work across jurisdictional lines and boundaries to acquire potential sites that could benefit residents in large segments of the region.

Action Steps:
• Identify and catalogue potential development sites within the region.
• Support and encourage the development of Brownfield sites
• Educate local and county officials about the advantages of regional cooperation and investing in sites that lie outside their immediate jurisdiction
• Acquaint city, local and county officials with the terms of Amendment 82 to encourage regional approaches to site development that require collaboration between cities, towns and counties.
• Convene community meetings to explain the benefits of regional economic cooperation to area residents.
• Make local officials aware of the need for public-private partnerships.
• Convince private property owners of the need to establish suitable development sites to attract industry.
• Establish a pool of state funds to help communities and regions develop suitable sites for industrial development.

Responsible Parties:
• CAPDD staff
• AEDC
• Public and private utilities
• Local city and county officials
• County Economic Development Directors
• Relevant state legislators and senators

**Resources:**
• CAPDD staff
• AEDC
• Public and private utilities
• Local city and county officials
• County Economic Development Directors
• Relevant state legislators and senators

**Estimated Completion Date:**
• On-going

Priority 5: Create a More Employable Workforce

**Benefit to the Community:** Increased employment will encourage economic and community development, decrease out migration and improve the quality of life for District residents.

**Issue:** Many District employers consistently complain that a significant number of local residents lack the skills and motivation to succeed in the existing job market.

**Strategy:** Work with employers and educators to develop training programs and job placement strategies that reflect the rapidly changing job market of the region.

**Action Steps:**
• Foster incumbent worker training for occupations that are rapidly innovating or at increased risk for automation.
• Increase non-traditional and accelerated study programs for adults.
• Work closely with area community colleges and technical schools to develop training focused on skill-based certificates.
• Educate area business about Occupational Skills Development (OSD) grants and the opportunities they provide for workforce training.
• Promote North Little Rock School District’s ‘Center of Excellence’ as a potential model for career-based training for area high schools.
• Work with the new Saline County Technical Education Center to help area business see the Center as a valuable resource for training and recruiting future employees.
• Collaborate with the Arkansas Apprenticeship Pathway Initiative (AAPI) to help promote the 600 plus new apprenticeships available under the grant AAPI received from the Department of Labor.
• Collaborate with the Department of Workforce Services to develop and implement a survey of area businesses to determine their workforce needs.

**Responsible Parties:**
• CAPDD staff
• North Little Rock School District
• Chambers of Commerce
• Area technical schools, community colleges and universities
Priority 6: Increase Affordable Housing

**Benefit to the Community:** More affordable housing will encourage economic and community development, decrease out migration and improve the quality of life for District residents.

**Issue:** A lack of affordable housing outside more populated urban areas makes it more difficult for new businesses or industries to locate in the region.

**Strategy:** Help communities understand affordable housing and the need for building more of it

**Action Steps:**
- Develop a working definition of affordable housing linked to the housing market in each community.
- Meet with Rausch Coleman Homes to explore their approach to building low cost affordable housing.
- Compile a list of reliable builders and developers interested in providing low cost affordable housing, particularly multi-family and single family dwellings in rural areas.
- Work with area banks to raise awareness of the need for affordable housing and develop new and innovative methods for securing financing.
- Work with non-profit organizations, public schools and community colleges to establish (or enhance existing) financial education programs for area residents.
- Assist local housing authorities with pursuing resources and funding through the Arkansas Development Finance Authority (ADFA) and other agencies

**Responsible Parties:**
- CAPDD staff
Priority 7: Improve Public Safety

**Benefit to the Community:** Greater safety enhances quality of life and improves community image.

**Issue 1:** Safety services, particularly in rural areas, need to be upgraded and modernized.

**Strategy:** Raise awareness of the need for towns and communities to assess and improve the effectiveness of their emergency services including police, fire and 911.

**Action Steps:**

- Research ‘best practices’ used by states that provide effective and comprehensive 911 services.
- Explore the options provided by new state legislation focused on establishing ‘Next Generation’ wireless/internet based 911 services
- Secure funding for new 911 technologies
- Secure funding for updating rural 911 services
• Provide training support for rural police and fire departments

**Issue 2:** Many area communities must be better prepared to respond and recover from natural disasters.

**Strategy:** Increase the availability and effectiveness of Emergency Management services

**Action Steps:**
• Raise awareness of the need for towns and communities to improve their Disaster Recovery Preparedness plans and procedures.
• Work with County Emergency Directors and the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management to update or create Disaster Response and Recovery plans at the county and municipal level.
• Assist local communities with locating resources to pay for training of critically needed Emergency Management personnel

**Responsible Parties:**
• CAPDD staff
• County Emergency Directors
• Arkansas Department of Emergency Management
• Local county, city and municipal officials
• AEDC Division of Rural Services

**Resources:**
• CAPDD staff
• County Emergency Directors
• Arkansas Department of Emergency Management
• Local county, city and municipal officials
• AEDC Division of Rural Services

**Estimated Completion Date:**
• On-going

Priority 8: Improve Regional Infrastructure

**Benefit to the Community:** Economic growth, enhanced safety, increased mobility and an improved quality of life.

**Issue:** Critical aspects of the District’s essential infrastructure need repair, updating or rebuilding.

**Strategy:** Improve water, sewer, transportation and industrial infrastructure and extend broadband coverage.

**Action Steps:**
• Conduct an inventory of potential traditional and non-traditional funding for infrastructural needs available from state and federal sources.
• Convene all local, state and federal infrastructural professionals and policy leaders to identify priorities and develop a cost effective short term and long term approach to strengthening and expanding the district’s infrastructure.
• Extend utilities and improve roads to existing industrial sites, especially ports.
• Provide more rail sites.
• Educate county and local officials to the difficulty of convincing a company or industry to invest in a site without adequate infrastructure.
• Meet with region’s telecommunication providers to explore options for extending broadband coverage to underserved rural areas.
• Explore the feasibility of creating logistics parks

**Responsible Parties:**
- CAPDD staff
- Local county, city and municipal officials
- District, state and federal infrastructure professionals
- Telecommunication providers

**Resources:**
- CAPDD staff
- Local county, city and municipal officials
- District, state and federal infrastructure professionals
- Telecommunication providers

**Estimated Completion Date:**
- On-going

Evaluation Framework

**SOURCES:**
EMSI Q3 2018 Data Set
U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division, Vintage 2017 Population Estimates
U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census and Population Division
USDA, 2017, Census of Agriculture
CAPDD 2014 CEDS Report
Emsi Q2 2019 Data Set
APPENDIX B Central Arkansas Workforce Development Board PY 2020 – PY 2024 Local Plan
LEVERAGE: Utilizing WIOA in Central Arkansas
Central Arkansas Workforce Development Area Transitional Regional and Local Plan