EDA Short-Term Strategic Planning
Grant Awarded

Goals
- Develop a regional strategy to support economic growth and stability, responding to shifting and disappearing economies
- Create a workforce plan that supports retraining and education to support growth strategies

Accomplishments

Supply Chain Analysis
Build a framework for action to engineer the Region looking at
- Diversity
- Adaptability
- Sustainability
Focus on 7 Sectors of Impact & Cross-Cutting Strategies
“Small is the New Big”

Business Interviews
Completed 104 interviews across multiple industry sectors to assess perceptions of opportunities, gaps, and barriers to growth.

Community-Based Advisory Committee Meetings
Convened 7 meetings throughout the 4-county region on a range of topics
- Logistics
- Tourism
- Bioscience & Healthcare
- Innovation & Entrepreneurship
- Agriculture & Food Production
- Forest Products
- Community/Region Focus

Workforce Analysis
Build an education platform to rapidly retrain displaced workers to adapt to new careers. Link education, workforce & business owners/industry to identify needed education/training to rapidly meet employment demands.

Roundtable Sessions
Two-day sessions segmented into 7 sectors—participants included business owners, industry experts, and regional stakeholders. Identified the need for collaboration, promotion of Maine brand, opportunities, high-speed internet access, skilled/educated workforce, expanded public transportation, and business

Recommendations

Sectors of Impact
Industries with potential to emerge as economic drivers:
- Forestry & Wood Products
- Emerging Technology
- Boat Building & Composites
- Tourism & Hospitality
- Bioscience & Healthcare
- Agriculture & Food Production
- Construction & Skilled Trades

Cross-Cutting Strategies
Key questions/decision points, strategies & initiatives were identified:
- Advance learning economy
- Push innovation & entrepreneurship
- Fund and advance broadband connectivity

Supporting Sectors
Create platform to move opportunities within each sector by supporting strategies to foster growth:
- Education
- Infrastructure
- Workforce Development

Implementation

Expansion of Broadband/Digital Literacy
Foster a collaborative partnership between local, regional, legislative, experts, and current internet providers, working with communities to assess current capacity. The end product will be a community-based business plan that promotes a shared investment between consumers and providers.

Projects for Exploration/Implementation
Roster of 60+ projects identified by regional stakeholders/partners/businesses poised for growth opportunity.

Industry-Specific Technical Assistance
Support sector and business revitalization by providing technical assistance from an industry, local, regional, statewide, national & international perspective. Connect intersecting businesses.

Bridging Education & Training with Business
Create a nimble and responsive environment for education, workforce, and business/industry to identify and prepare the workforce to meet employment demands.