

**Region 2 Planning & Development Council
Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
2020-2024**



**Region 2 Planning & Development Council
400 Third Avenue
Huntington, West Virginia 25701**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Region 2 Planning and Development Council is a council of governments in southwestern West Virginia. Collaborating with shared resources, their goal is to achieve optimal administration of planning and development functions. Council members are elected officials and additional appointees representing 31 units of governments in six counties, Cabell, Lincoln, Logan, Mason, Mingo and Wayne. Exchange of information and educational opportunities take place at Council meetings with an emphasis on development and regional growth. The Council is charged with the responsibility of preparing the Regional Development Program and implementing economic and community development projects.

Mission, Structure and Programs

Mission: It is the mission of Region 2 Planning & Development Council to strengthen the development potential of the six-county planning district and its member communities by efficiently providing skilled staff to augment local development efforts.

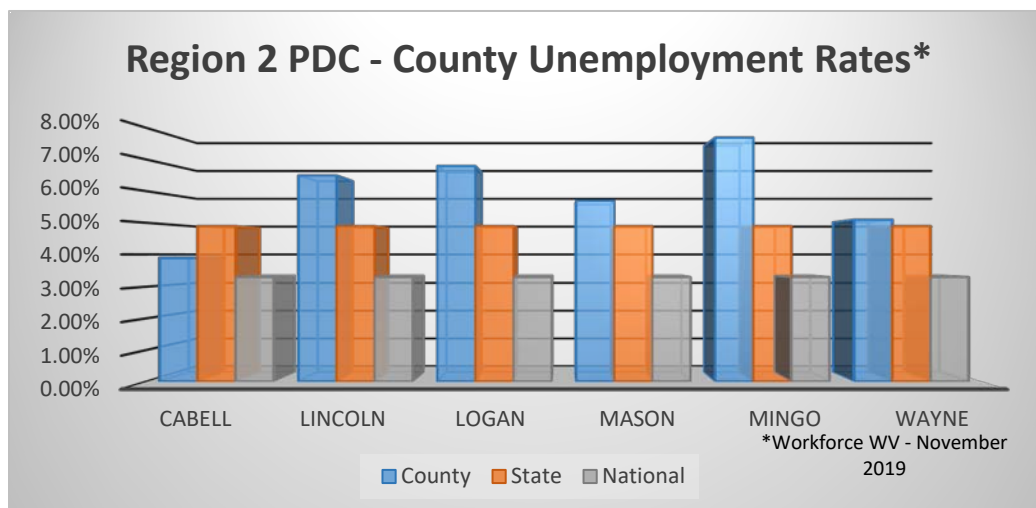
Structure: The Council is composed of the chief elected official of each member government, and additional community stakeholders who represent a variety of interest groups including business, education, healthcare, labor and minority interests. Total membership of 56 includes representation of six (6) county governments and twenty-five (25) municipalities.

Programs: The Council conducts a Regional Development Program that includes fulfillment of regional planning obligations to state and federal agencies and preparation of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), which is the Regional Development Plan (RDP). A Technical Assistance program is in place to address a variety of local concerns, including project development assistance, strategic planning, project financing, data services and information and referral. A Grant Writing program produces sound applications for funding and other local needs. Grant Administration is provided to ensure compliance with state and federal regulations once funding is in place. Capacity Building for community leadership and development is delivered through special training events and routine programs during Council meetings.

SUMMARY BACKGROUND

Regional Overview

Region 2 Planning and Development Council (PDC) is comprised of six counties in the southwestern portion of West Virginia. Included are Cabell, Lincoln, Logan, Mason, Mingo and Wayne Counties. The most populous County is Cabell with 93,244 citizens, followed by Wayne County with 39,944, Logan County with 32,607, Mason County with 26,718, Mingo County with 23,785 and lastly, Lincoln County having a population of 20,599. In terms of economic health, three (3) of Region 2's counties – Lincoln, Logan and Mingo – are designated as “Distressed” by the Appalachian Regional Commission. This exceeds the number located in any other Regional Planning & Development Council's jurisdiction in the state of West Virginia. Cabell County leads the Region in per capita income, as well as having the lowest unemployment rate, \$42,939 and 3.9 percent, respectively. Logan County has the next highest per capita income level at \$36,525, albeit their unemployment rate stands at approximately 6.8 percent, the sixteenth highest in the state. The per capita income in Wayne County is the next highest, at \$33,637, while their unemployment rank is at 5.1 percent. The next highest per capita income by County is Mason at \$33,318, with a statewide unemployment rate of 5.7 percent. Mingo County's per capita income of \$32,051 does not correlate with their unemployment rank of 7th highest in the state at 7.7% percent. Lincoln County, while having the lowest per capita income at \$30,549, has an unemployment rate of 6.5 percent, eighteenth highest out of the 55 counties in the State. With the exception of Cabell, unemployment in every county in the Region exceeds the State and the National averages, currently at 4.9 percent and 3.3 percent, respectively.



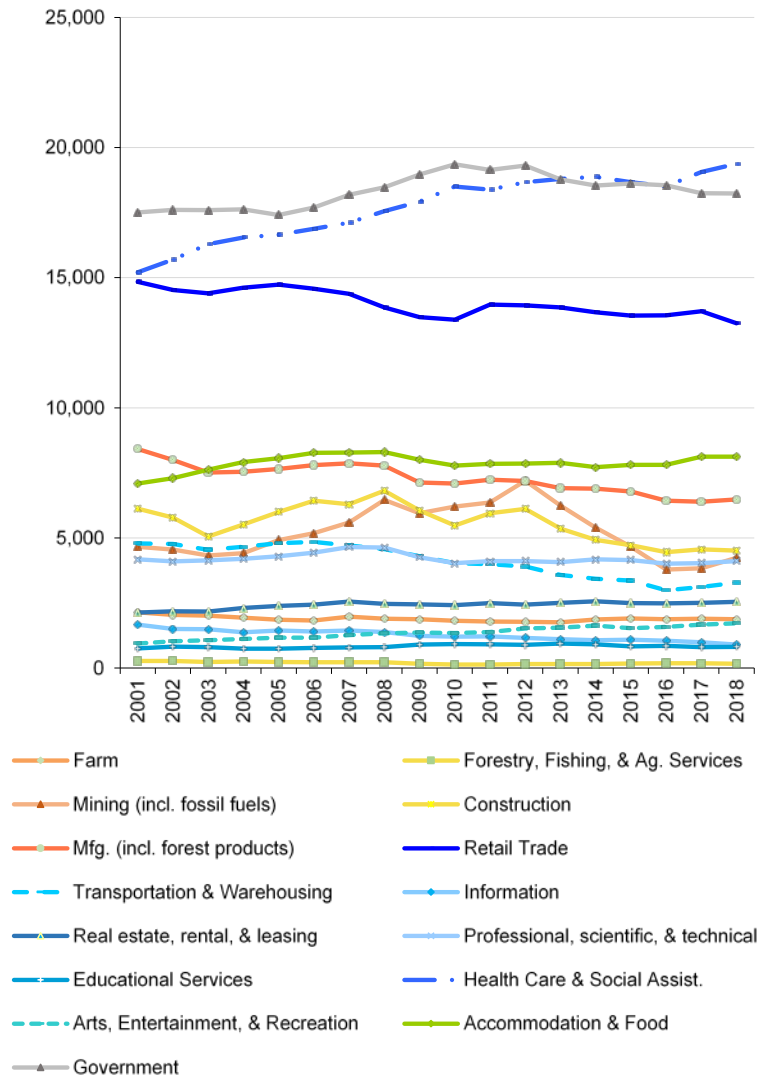
In terms of poverty rates, the average for the six-county region is 22%, in comparison to the 17.8% state rate and the 11.8% national rate. West Virginia is one of only two states nationally to experience an increase in the poverty rate from 2016 to 2017 (based on Census data released in September 2018).

Throughout the region, major employment sectors include health care, education, manufacturing and retail. Cabell Huntington Hospital and St. Mary's Hospital in Cabell County are two of the larger employers in the Region, along with Marshall University. Other leading employers include Logan General Hospital in Logan County, Pleasant Valley Hospital located in Mason County, and the Veterans (VA) Hospital in Wayne County. Walmart is a significant employer in Cabell, Wayne, Logan, and Mason counties. Historically, extraction industries, specifically coal and timber, and associated supply chain businesses, have constituted the mainstay of employment in Mingo and Logan counties. However, jobs in mining and timber are down by a massive 46% in just the last six years, with some parts of the state losing as much as 70 percent of their coal mining jobs alone. In fact, since 2008 the state's overall coal mine output plunged by almost half from over 157 million to 80 million short tons in 2016. Closure of a coal-fired power plant in Mason County in 2016 idled hundreds of workers. Worker commute patterns in Region 2's six counties have resulted in devastating financial impacts that have ravaged local economies throughout the area. The loss of tax revenues and coal severance income has sharply reduced the Counties' capacity to provide support to even the most critical of services – first responders, including fire and police protection, ambulance transport, and disaster recovery personnel – for their residents.

The region is well-served by multiple transit modes. Interstate 64 and U.S. highways 52 (scheduled for 4-lane construction start 9/2020), 60, 35 (4-lane construction completion expected 3/2021) and 119, along with State Routes 2, 10 (newly 4-laned from Logan to Man), and 152, make up the major arteries of ground transportation. Other forms of transit include rail, river and air. The region's rail system is served by both Norfolk & Southern and CSX. The Heartland Intermodal Gateway, located at Prichard in Wayne County, utilizes the Norfolk and Southern (N&S) rail system to connect the Port of Virginia in Norfolk to Chicago and beyond. Where necessary to the Intermodal project, N&S re-constructed tunnels to be double stack accessible in Logan and Mingo Counties. Opened in 2015, and while still anticipated to ultimately result in the creation of a substantial number of job opportunities, the intermodal facility has experienced slower than expected development. This too is a reflection of the depression in the coal and timber industries, as the amount of tonnage moved has sharply declined, and N&S has significantly reduced operations, a further depiction of the flagging economic conditions. Major waterways in the region include the Big Sandy, Tug, Guyandotte and the Ohio, which is the largest and most navigable of these rivers. The Port of Huntington Tri-State, located on the Ohio River, is the largest inland shipping port in the United States. The Port's tonnage moves over 80 million tons of cargo per year. Primary air transport is provided to the region by the Huntington Tri State

Airport (HTS) located in Wayne County, just outside of Kenova. Flights depart daily to not only regional hubs, such as Charlotte, but also, by direct flight, to other locations as far away as Florida. The FedEx operation located at HTS is significant in the support of cargo flights that transport packages between the Tri-State region and the FedEx and UPS global hubs in Memphis, Tennessee and Louisville, Kentucky, respectively. Smaller, general aviation airports located in Cabell, Logan, Mason, and Mingo Counties connect private and corporate aircraft to the 5,136 public airports throughout the United States. In 2017, Mingo County's Appalachian Regional Airport received \$733,927 from the U.S. Department of Transportation to improve operations and safety, with the added benefit of encouraging area economic development. Notably, Logan County Airport serves as a base of operations for Air Evac Lifeteam providing emergency helicopter transportation from the remote areas of the state to specialty hospitals throughout the Region.

Employment by Industry, Region 2



Heritage tourism, agriculture – both traditional and new advancements, and recreation are three particular sectors that have seen a resurgence, and growth in emphasis on their contribution to the diversification of the economies, which is essential to the economic viability and well-being of the population in the Region’s six counties. Agribusiness exemplified by such initiatives as Refresh Appalachia and local farm-to-table/school initiatives are among the endeavors to recapture and reinvent the significant agricultural business segment in the region. Recreationally, the award-winning Hatfield McCoy Trail system consists of over 700 miles of professionally managed trails and is ranked as one of the nation’s top-rated systems. With facilities in four of the six counties – Lincoln, Logan, Mingo and Wayne – the Trails annually generate a total economic impact of more than \$22 million. Each locale in Region 2 has its unique character, with very specific needs and goals, and opportunities as well. They all share the recognized Appalachian strength, determination and innovation of its people while being challenged with bringing those inherent qualities, and the extraordinary promise they hold, to fruition. Confronted by the nation’s harshest opioid and drug addiction epidemic, and highest overdose death rate in the nation, it is an ever-present shadow, with southern WV being especially punished. Further, due to the rural nature and beautiful but rugged terrain, coupled with the level of poverty in the region, access to high speed, reliable, affordable broadband service has proven to be a roadblock to job retention and growth, education and workforce training, and telemedicine applications in all six counties. Efforts to overcome each of these barriers to progress are ongoing and have experienced a renewed vigor as local leadership and dedicated citizens step up to confront them.

Region 2 is located in the Tri-State region of West Virginia, Ohio, and Kentucky. This area is approximately halfway between Pittsburgh, PA and Louisville, KY along a strategic east-west corridor. Thanks to an efficient transportation network that includes the Tri-State Airport, the largest tonnage barge port on the Ohio River, an interstate highway system that conveniently links the area to the Midwest, East Coast, and Southern markets and superior rail networks, people and products move smoothly throughout the region. The primary growth centers of the region are within a 24-hour drive of 44% of the U.S. industrial market and 37% of the U.S. consumer market. More than 66% of the U.S. population and 30% of the Canadian population are within an overnight delivery of the region.

In the region, a very small percentage of land is devoted to industrial sites, most of which are clustered in and around the growth centers. The designated growth centers are made up primarily of residential, retail, service and light manufacturing uses, while rural areas include mainly conservation, recreation and wetland uses scattered throughout the timberlands.

Cabell County



Cabell County is located along the Ohio River, bordering both Ohio and Kentucky. Cabell is comprised of approximately 282 square miles and is predominantly urban with 78% of the population living in the urban area. The rural parts of Cabell include 179,853 acres of farmland, or 22.4% of the total area of the county, and 407 working farms. The rest of the county is considered timberland and/or mountainous. Cabell County is home to Marshall University and the Thundering Herd football team, which annually draws nearly

30,000 people to home games in the City of Huntington. Through the Huntington Museum of Art – the largest in West Virginia, the Huntington Symphony Orchestra, and the renowned Marshall Artist Series, area residents and visitors are afforded a myriad of cultural experiences. Additionally, Huntington is home to the nationally acclaimed, award-winning Rose Garden located at Ritter Park, featuring over 3,000 roses. The City of Huntington, selected as the \$3,000,000 grand prize winner of America’s Best Communities competition, produced a plan known as the Huntington Innovation Project (HIP). The plan is comprised of four parts, with three being devoted to specific neighborhoods. In Barboursville, Tanyard Station, a regional retail development totaling over 200,000 square ft. on a 50-acre property is under construction. It will be home to large anchor stores, retail outlets, restaurants, a bank, hotel and a gas station, with four establishments opening by year-end. Located in Milton, WV Blenko handmade glass is an American institution and has been in business since 1893. Also in Milton, and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the former Morris Memorial Hospital 189-acre site will be transformed as part of a public-private partnership between the City and Jeff and Patricia Hoops. The redevelopment is planned to include the rehabilitation of the existing hospital facility into a hotel, and the addition of athletic fields, horse stables and trails, a 250-seat wedding chapel and more.

Lincoln County



Lincoln County is located east of Wayne County and southeast of Cabell County. Lincoln County covers approximately 437 square miles and is considered entirely rural. Approximately 8.5% of the county is made up of farmland with 177 working farms, while the rest is timberland and/or mountainous. Lincoln County is known for its distinction as the birthplace of General Charles ‘Chuck’

Yeager, whose statue stands outside the Town of Hamlin's Middle School. Lincoln County is also an attractive place for outdoor enthusiasts, with the continuing development of both the Coal and the Guyandotte Water Trails, and multiple put-ins. Additionally, there is the Big Ugly Wildlife Management Area, located on 3,061 acres of beautiful countryside in Lincoln County and open to public hunting and fishing. Hunting opportunities include deer, grouse, raccoon, squirrel, and turkey here, as well as at the Upper Mud River Wildlife Management Area. The latter also features a 307-acre lake for boating and fishing, and a community shooting range. The Henson House in Hamlin is a renovated structure, repurposed as a center housing a shared workspace, barber shop, agricultural packing center for local farmers, and an Airbnb - the first lodging ever located in Lincoln County. A sizeable group of concerned and committed citizens, working in concert with the Lincoln Economic Development Authority, the incorporated municipalities (Hamlin and West Hamlin), the WV Community Development HUB, the Small Business Administration and Region 2 PDC, hold meetings and workshops with the goal of resurrecting and reinvigorating sectors of their economy to once again be economic generators. Their efforts are primarily focused on tourism, local artisans and agriculture, which in the past has been a lucrative force in the County.



Logan County

Logan County is located between Mingo and Boone Counties, south of Lincoln County. Logan County is approximately 454 square miles in area, with 71% considered to be rural. There are only 8 working farms located in Logan County, and the remainder of the rural area is mountainous terrain and/or timberland. Logan County is home to Chief Logan State Park, which serves as a wonderful location for tourists to enjoy the beautiful landscape the county has to offer, as well as hosting numerous meetings and workshops at the lodge and conference center located there. The Park is accessible from U.S. 119 (Corridor G) just outside of Fountain Place Plaza and the City of Logan. Recreational and thrill seekers can also visit Bearwallow Trail System, which is one of the three (3) original Hatfield and McCoy Trails for all-terrain vehicles (ATV). Bearwallow is one of the hardest trails in the Hatfield and McCoy network. In addition, it is located near the historic site of the Battle of Blair Mountain. The Battle of Blair Mountain was the result of years of bitter labor disputes between the miners and coal companies of southern West Virginia and the largest uprising in US history since the Civil War. In an effort to encompass the County's definitive coal-related history, plans were recently announced for the development of a 900-acre outdoor adventure theme park, that could feature a zip-coaster, ziplines and a rail

coaster, as well as a recreated coal camp and a local artisan makerspace. Finally and importantly, located adjacent to the Logan County Airport is a WV Air National Guard installation. This facility is utilized as a low altitude drop zone and an unimproved airstrip that enables Guard officers to acquire dirt runway certification.

Mason County



Mason County is located along the Ohio River and north of Cabell County. The county is approximately 432 square miles in size and 65% of that is classified as rural. Of all six counties in the region, Mason County is the most agricultural with farmland comprising 45.2% of the total county area and 876 working farms. Of the remaining area, 35% is urban and the remainder is made up of mountainous timberland, river basin and steep sloping hills. Mason County, the northern-most county in the Region 2 PDC

area, is rich with outdoor recreation activities, such as boating and fishing, due to being bordered by both the Ohio and Kanawha Rivers. These rivers have shaped the County's narrative as evidenced by the Point Pleasant Riverfront Park, a picturesque showpiece. Here, visitors can immerse themselves in the area's distinctive story where on the river side of the floodwall, the historic battle of Point Pleasant (considered by many to be site of first battle of American Revolution) is depicted in murals created by a world-famous artist and shared interactively by a narrative broadcast over a public audio system as visitors tour the Park. It is an educational gem and is widely utilized by student groups. An 800-seat amphitheater for seasonal performances, and the annual Sternwheel Regatta add to the Parks use and appeal. Mason County also has a wealth of attractions and events for both history buffs and mystery enthusiasts alike. The area's unique early-American history is additionally showcased throughout the County. From a Pre-Revolutionary War battlefield at Tu-Endi-Wei State Park, or Fort Randolph, a replica of one of the earliest area settlements at Krodel Park, to the WV State Farm Museum or the annual Battle Days Festival. Home to the popular Mothman Festival and Mothman Museum, which were named after the much-discussed "moth-like" creature sightings that occurred in the county in the late 1960's after the tragic Silver Bridge collapse. Both the festival and the museum found their genesis in response to renewed interest in the Mothman generated by the 2002 release of the Lakeshore Entertainment film, *The Mothman Prophecies*, starring Richard Gere. Possessing one of the premier (and few) sites appropriate for large-scale economic development projects, Apple Grove in southern Mason County is recognized as such by the Business and Industry Division of the WV Development Office and has been designated by the Governor's office as one of

roughly 20 WV Opportunity Zones. This 1,000+ acre site, served by river, rail, a good highway, public water, 3-phase power and natural gas, represents one of the county's best chances to secure its economic future.

Mingo County



Mingo County is located along the Tug Fork River, west of Logan County and south of Wayne County. Mingo County has roughly 432 square miles within its borders and 89% is rural. There are only 8 working farms in Mingo County due to the extremely mountainous terrain. Mingo County, situated in the heart of the Hatfield-McCoy Trail System region, offers visitors the options of the Rockhouse, Devil Anse, and Buffalo Mountain trails for their ATV/UTV riding pleasure. These three interconnected trails

span over 300 miles and have designated community connectors in the Towns of Gilbert, Matewan, and Delbarton, the Horsepen Mountain Community, and the City of Williamson. These community connectors have served to open up once remote areas to increased tourism activity, subsequently boosting the lodging and trail-related equipment sales/rentals and infusing the local economies as they struggle to diversify and remain financially viable. For example, the Town of Gilbert is now home to Trailfest, one of the premier UTV, ATV, and Dirtbike riding events in the nation. The Town of Matewan's Historic District truly brings the County's considerable mining history to life as it boasts sites from both the notorious Hatfield-McCoy family feud and the Coal Wars, including the Matewan Massacre and the Battle of Blair Mountain, as well as featuring the Mine Wars and Depot Museums. The Health and Wellness Center, located within the City of Williamson, began the Sustainable Williamson initiative which focuses not only on local health, but also serves as a regional incubator for emerging local businesses. The Mingo County Redevelopment Authority has been working with the Refresh Appalachia Program to establish sustainable training and job development in agribusiness through the development of a large hydroponic rooftop greenhouse in downtown Williamson. The greenhouse will supply the local food market and a regional food hub. A new, second facility – Blue Acre Aquaponics - has just opened. Mingo County boasts three (3) industrial parks to which they continue to recruit new industrial and manufacturing clients, especially aviation related businesses via their AEROready certification.

Wayne County



Wayne County is located south of Cabell County along the Ohio and Big Sandy rivers. Wayne County is the most western county in the state. The largest of the region's six counties, Wayne County covers 506 square miles made up of 38% urban and 62% rural area. Wayne County has 11.9% of its total area devoted to farmland on which 237 working farms exist. Wayne County boasts the award-winning tourist attraction and educational program, Heritage Farm Museum and Village. Heritage Farm is the recipient of

the Mountain State Award, recognized for "standing above the rest in excellence in programming", and the first West Virginia Smithsonian-affiliated Museum. Heritage Farm Museum and Village continues to have a positive effect on tourism at the county and regional level, to the degree that a heritage tourism corridor, which will dramatically upgrade access to the Farm and other area attractions, is being planned. Wayne County is also home to Beech Fork State Park, which offers some of the best recreational opportunities in West Virginia's southwestern region. Visitors to this 3,144-acre park can hike in the hills, swim, fish or take a boat out on Beech Fork Lake. The Ramsdell House in the Town of Ceredo is reputed to have been built on the site of an Adena Indian burial mound, and contained a hidden basement used in the Underground Railroad. The house, a historic landmark, has been restored and now serves as a museum. Located in the City of Kenova, Virginia Point Park is the western most "point" in West Virginia. Also found in Kenova is the renowned "Pumpkin House" with its annual presentation of over three thousand lit jack-o'-lanterns, each one different from the others. An estimated annual 30,000 tourists and sightseers from around the globe come to see this phenomenon. In Wayne County's agricultural sector, their Farm to School Program, which emphasizes the practice of sourcing local food for schools and providing agriculture, health and nutrition education, has seen significant success. This provides support to local growers and encourages further self-sustaining efforts.

SWOT ANALYSIS

A SWOT analysis is the most effective way to organize a region's competitive advantages, as well as its relative disadvantages. This SWOT analysis identifies the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats currently facing the six-county area that comprises the Region 2 Planning and Development Council. The following analysis took place over a period of two meetings, held on

December 13, 2019 and January 10, 2020, and was collected through the input of community and economic development leaders and stakeholders throughout the region:

Strengths

- Character of the people
- Tourism Assets
- Collaboration
- Workforce Training Resources
- Short commuting times
- Improved infrastructure
- Access to multi-modal infrastructure
- Quality of life
- Low cost of living
- Low energy costs
- Cost effective labor
- Low business cost
- Multigenerational labor force
- Worker loyalty
- Proximity to larger markets
- Large military participation/training

Weaknesses

- Lack of shovel-ready sites and lack of information on said sites
- Transportation (highways)
- Same fix for everything – more individualized approaches need to be taken
- Declining population/brain drain – unmotivated workforce remaining
- Quality of life deficiencies (i.e. broadband)
- Dilapidated structures/abandoned properties

Opportunities

- Agritourism – crafts/artisanal products
- Coal Research – new uses
- Downtown Revitalization – including brownfield redevelopment
- Hemp production
- Emerging technical/IT sector
- Healthcare sector

Threats

- Opioid epidemic
- Environmental/flooding hazards
- Regulatory issues
- Lack of available capital
- Aging population/declining health
- Foster care system
- State image (both external and internal)

STRATEGIC DIRECTION / ACTION PLAN

Vision Statement

Region 2 Planning & Development Council envisions a productive, healthy population comprised of a 21st century-ready workforce, and served by modern infrastructure and a diverse, growing economy.

Goals and Objectives

Goal 1 – Strengthen the quality of the region’s workforce.

Objectives:

- Support existing workforce training and development efforts, e.g., Coalfield Development Corporation’s 33-6-3 model; Workforce Investment Board (WIB) programs; and vocational and community and technical education.
- Support the development of workforce training targeting in demand, 21st century skillsets.
- Support establishment of a Business Development Coaching Program.
- Support development of a generational workforce transition mechanism.

Goal 2 - Assist communities (especially coal-impacted) in economic diversification efforts.

Objectives:

- Promote new, clean coal technologies.
- Promote economic resilience programs, both existing and proposed, by our partners throughout the region.

Goal 3 – Improve and develop basic infrastructure throughout the region.

Objectives:

- Continue efforts to bring public water and wastewater to residents still without these services.
- Coordinate and support efforts for access to affordable, high-speed broadband throughout the region.
- Support the continuing and planned enhancement of the region’s transportation system.
- Assist local communities in evaluating and implementing housing projects.

Goal 4 – Support the expansion of tourism, agriculture and agritourism business development opportunities throughout the region.

Objectives:

- Support and pursue funding opportunities for expansion of the existing and anticipated trail systems, including motorized, rail, river, equestrian and historic venues.
- Participate with efforts to reinvigorate existing and create new agricultural endeavors, including Farm-to-Table; local growers; farmers markets and retail outlets; aquaponics; high tunnel, extended season growing; large-scale commercial production and market penetration.
- Expand and market agritourism, i.e., on-farm product sales, farm tours, on-site lodging and events (weddings, reunions, and like gatherings).

Goal 5 – Support downtown revitalization and brownfield redevelopment efforts.

Objectives:

- Renovation and/or demolition of dilapidated structures.
- Procure available funding, both State and federal, for the identification, assessment and remediation of impacted properties.
- Identify properties eligible for the State and federal Historic Register(s).

Goal 6 – Ensure economic resilience through ongoing hazard mitigation efforts, both social and environmental.

Objectives:

- Coordinate with existing and emerging treatment, rehabilitation and reintegration efforts in the opioid crisis.

- Ongoing information update and efforts to mitigate flooding hazards, including identification and replacement of high-risk private water crossings.

Goal 7 – Foster the availability of APCo/Insite qualified economic development sites.

Objectives:

- Assist with securing funding to develop adequate infrastructure services.
- Develop and maintain an inventory of ready, available sites in the region.
- Enable targeted site marketing campaign.

Action Plan

Transition away from an economy primarily dependent on a single industry and its related supply-chain businesses, i.e., extraction of coal, timber, oil and gas, to a vibrant business climate characterized by a balance of new investment, supporting existing businesses, and fostering local entrepreneurship. This requires upskilling the workforce while addressing the impediments posed by social and environmental hazards, the out migration of the youth and their talents, and the ongoing lack of adequate basic infrastructure (water, wastewater, transportation, housing, and high speed-broadband), thereby strengthening the region. This ensures the general well-being of the region’s population. Additionally, Region 2 PDC will assist housing developers with multi-family housing projects in the areas of Cabell, Lincoln, Logan, Mason, Mingo and Wayne counties that have necessary infrastructure in place. Housing development fulfills the specified goals of this plan and such development receives Region 2 PDC’s full support.

Regional Project List

Project Name	Applicant	County	Project Type	Potential Funding Sources	Estimated Cost
Chattaroy Sewer Extension & Rehabilitation	Mingo County PSD	Mingo	Sewer	WDA, DEP/SRF, COE, ARC, IJDC	\$3,250,000
Rt. 2 Sewer Extension	Pea Ridge Sewer PSD	Cabell	Sewer	IJDC, DEP/SRF, USEDA	\$29,280,000
Barboursville Sewer	Village of Barboursville	Cabell	Sewer	DEP/SRF, IJDC, USDA	\$13,998,450
Apple Grove Sewer	Mason County Dev. Authority/PSD	Mason	Sewer	COE, AEP, IJDC-Econ. Dev., USEDA, DEP/SRF	\$12,000,000

Williamson Water	City of Williamson	Mingo	Water	USDA, CDBG, ARC	\$12,578,000
Apple Grove Broadband	Mason County Commission	Mason	Broadband/Econ. Development Infrastructure	USDA, ARC	-
RCBI Tri-State AMT	Region 2 PDC	Cabell/Wayne	Workforce Development	ARC POWER	\$1,500,000
Hamlin Sewer	Hamlin PSD/Lincoln Co. Devel. Authority	Lincoln	Sewer/Job Creation	DEP/SRF, IJDC – Econ Dev., USDA	\$2,500,000
Trails to Future	Lincoln Co. Devel. Auth.	Lincoln	Economic Development/Tourism	TAP, US Forestry Svc.	\$300,000
Logan County Broadband Enhancement	Logan County Commission/Devel. Authority	Logan	Broadband/Econ. Development Infrastructure	USDA, ARC	-
New Haven Sewer	Town of New Haven	Mason	Sewer	DEP/SRF, IJDC	-
Mingo Co. Air Transportation Park	Mingo County Redevelopment Authority	Mingo	Economic Development/Sewer	DEP/SRF, IJDC	\$100,000
Salt Rock Sewer	Salt Rock Sewer PSD	Cabell	Sewer	USDA, DEP/SRF	-
Fort Gay Water	Town of Fort Gay	Wayne	Water	BPH/DWTRF, IJDC,	\$2,000,000
Beech Fork Lodge	Wayne County Commission	Wayne	Economic Development/Tourism	USDA, WVDO	-
River Trails Development	National Coal Heritage Area Authority	Cabell, Lincoln, Logan Mingo, Wayne	Economic Development/Tourism	TAP	-
Town of Wayne Sewer	Town of Wayne	Wayne	Sewer	DEP/SRF, IJDC, USDA	-
Pumping Stations Upgrade	City of Huntington/Huntington Sanitary Board	Cabell	Economic Development/Sewer	USEDA, DEP/SRF	\$2,000,000
Bio Manufacturing Corridor	Wayne County Development Authority	Cabell, Wayne, Lincoln, Logan, Mingo	Economic Develop. /Environmental Infrastructure/Job Creation		
Gilbert/Hanover Water	Mingo County Commission	Mingo/Wyoming	Water, Economic Development/Tourism	CDBG, ARC, USEDA, COE, IJDC, Local	\$7,800,000
Stepping Stones Infrastructure	Stepping Stones, City of Kenova	Wayne	Water, Sewer	Local, USDA	\$150,000
West Hamlin Water	Town of West Hamlin	Lincoln	Water	USDA	\$5,000,000
Alum Creek Sewer	Lincoln PSD	Lincoln	Sewer	USDA, IJDC, DEP/SRF	-
Twelvepole Rising	Wayne Co. Econ. Devel. Authority	Wayne	Econ.Develop/ Tourism/Envir.Preservation	DEP/AML, EPA, BPH/DWTRF	-
Lincoln County Equestrian Initiative	Lincoln Co. Economic Devel. Authority	Lincoln	Economic Devel., Tourism	DOD, WV Air Nat'l Guard	-
Williamson Broadband	Williamson Health & Wellness Center	Mingo	Broadband Infrastructure/ Economic Development	ARC	-
PDP Building Sewer	Mason Co. Development Authority	Mason	Economic Development/Sewer	CDBG, IJDC-WVDO	\$250,000
Air Trans. Park - Access Road	Mingo County Redevelopment Authority	Mingo	Economic Development	WV Access Road	-
Downtown/Historic Restoration	Matewan	Mingo	Economic Development/Tourism	SHPO, IJDC - WVDO	-
Sidewalk Upgrade	Town of Wayne	Wayne	Economic Development/Walkability	TAP	\$300,000
Downtown/Historic Restoration	Town of Fort Gay	Wayne	Economic Development/Tourism	SHPO	-
Williamson Sewer	City of Williamson	Mingo	Sewer	DEP/SRF, IJDC, USDA	-

EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

The completion of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) document is a very important action for the Region 2 Planning & Development Council area. With fifty-six Council members, the updated CEDS report is important for two reasons: 1.) The CEDS 5-year report allows the Regional Council to evaluate the successes of projects over the 5-year period, as well as the implementation of plans; 2.) The 5-year CEDS update provides the Council a way to assess and establish priorities and associated actions for the 2020-2024 timeframe. The Region 2 Planning & Development Council evaluates the success of the CEDS with the following measurements:

1. Number of applications completed – this measurement shows the continued need for Region 2 PDC’s services, and the types of projects and the respective priorities that local communities seek to accomplish.
2. Number of projects managed by staff – this measurement substantiates the need for Region 2 PDC’s expertise in providing project administration functions in advancing the region’s priorities.
3. Number of new customers served with infrastructure (i.e., water, sewer, broadband) – this documents the number of new customers receiving water, sewer, and/or broadband. Since these types of projects continue to be among the region’s top priorities, the Council sees this as a true measurement of how successful the Region continues to be in providing new and improved infrastructure services to the area.
4. Number of new jobs created/retained as a result of the CEDS – this data illustrates the support of the workforce realized with assistance from Region 2 PDC.

The CEDS Committee and Region 2 PDC identified these particular benchmarks to facilitate quantification of the results. Congruently, in large part, the accomplishments the staff realizes for its communities are immeasurable. Together, these provide but a glimpse of the PDC’s value to the Region.

ECONOMIC RESILIENCE

Region 2 PDC, in its most recent effort to update the information used to best respond to and mitigate hazards, expanded upon, and reorganized data to produce a more cohesive plan for the region. The PDC addresses economic, natural and human-caused disasters that can and may affect the unincorporated areas of Cabell, Lincoln, Logan, Mason, Mingo and Wayne counties as well as all municipalities within the counties. A large, inclusive group of stakeholders is included in gathering and maintaining current and accurate information. Among these are elected officials, emergency services providers, development authority directors, floodplain managers, and via outreach meetings and social media, the public at large throughout the PDC’s jurisdiction. Historically, the counties in the region have suffered from natural hazards as a result of severe storms and flooding. From December of 2009 through June of 2016, there were 13 disaster declarations in Region 2 counties, with every one of the six locales impacted multiple times. Recovery efforts continue in parts of these areas. In areas already suffering from notably high rates of poverty and unemployment - which are in general associated with the extremes of the opioid crisis and related drug overdose deaths - the economic downturn in the coal industry decimated revenues throughout the Region 2 PDC area. Financial support provided by the counties to local emergency services, law enforcement, firefighters, school districts, libraries and other critical agencies diminished or, in some cases, evaporated. The skyrocketing unemployment and associated loss of job opportunity wreaked havoc on human capital in all six counties and correlated with the explosion of the drug crisis. In 2017, WV had the highest rate of drug overdose deaths in the US. From 2014 through 2017 (most current CDC data), the six counties in Region 2 had a known total of 1,790 deaths due to drug overdose. Several counties in the Region 2 PDC area consider the opioid crisis to be at the top of their list of hazards in their counties, second only to flooding.

The County Health Rankings and Roadmaps website keeps track of how healthy a community is with the goal of building awareness about health. This table shows the available data since 2014 of overdose deaths by county.

TABLE 2.2.1.A OVERDOSE DEATHS BY COUNTY					
County	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total
Cabell	167	201	125	177	670
Lincoln	46	58	22	24	150
Logan	103	116	57	65	341
Mason	40	45	26	26	137
Mingo	68	94	55	50	267
Wayne	52	73	48	52	225
Total	476	587	333	394	1,790

Source: County Health Rankings & Roadmaps

Resilience planning in Cabell, Lincoln, Logan, Mason, Mingo and Wayne counties that comprise Region 2 PDC is about building stronger, healthier

communities, households, local economies, and business enterprises that are sustainable during times of economic downturn, regardless of the cause. Region 2 collaborates with the Economic Development Authorities and other local alliances and community leaders in each of the six counties, along with federal and state partners, to provide funding and assistance aimed at providing new employment opportunities, workforce retraining/education, and investments into critical infrastructure. The goal of these programs is the diversification and expansion of the economic base, thereby averting a future financial collapse like that resulting from the contraction of the extraction industries and related businesses. Region 2 PDC takes a proactive approach to these problems because of the unfortunate nature of the region being prone to physical and economic hardship. Region 2 will continue working to ensure that the six-county area is best equipped and able to manage any future physical, economic or human-caused hardship that should arise.

Region 2 – Statistical Overview

- Population
- Earnings and Employment
- Demographics
- Age and Gender
- Commuting Patterns
- Poverty Prevalence
- Educational Attainment
- Housing Characteristics
- Housing Affordability
- Employment in Commodity Sectors
- Travel & Tourism Employment Trends
- Timber Employment Trends
- Non-Labor Income
- Cabell County – Statistical Snapshot
- Lincoln County – Statistical Snapshot
- Logan County – Statistical Snapshot
- Mason County – Statistical Snapshot
- Mingo County – Statistical Snapshot
- Wayne County – Statistical Snapshot
- Business Development
- Opioid Epidemic
- Opportunity Zones