



Nebraska Economic Development Certified Community Program Recertification

Eligible applicants: Entry into the Economic Development Certified Community program is open at any time to any community in Nebraska. For the purpose of the program, a community is a single entity.

Every three years, communities with the EDCC designation must submit a recertification application that includes the following:

- A long-range community strategic plan that includes economic development
- Marketing materials to support strategic plan
- A long-range funding plan
- Current and consistent information in LOIS, NEDI and community websites
- An economic development evaluation delineating successes and disappointments
- A letter from applicant municipal government identifying lead economic development agency and local contact person for this program.

Each community's EDCC status is valid for three years from date of approval of EDCC application. During this three-year period, each certified community shall participate in an ongoing Recertification program as described below. Within three months prior to the EDCC expiration date, each certified community must submit a Recertification Application packet, via email and 5 MB or less in size, to Linda Black at linda.black@nebraska.gov.

RECERTIFICATION PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

I. Long-Range Strategic Plan

Within this three-year period, each community must participate in a long-range strategic planning process. This process should include:

- Assessment of the community's assets and liabilities.
- Identification of key local issues
- Outline of goals and objectives; objectives should describe the key results to be achieved, measures of progress and target dates for achievement
- Development of strategic actions that will bring about the accomplishment of your goals and objectives
- Implementation plan that includes organizational responsibilities, resource allocation, and a one-year work program (annual action plan)
- Evaluation methods that will enable your organization to determine if it is achieving the result expected. The plan should be flexible enough to allow for emerging opportunities.

At the conclusion of this process, the leadership of your organization and the community should have a three-to-five year plan. The plan should identify what needs to be done to foster economic development as well as the process and steps to accomplish.

II. Marketing Materials

Provide a copy of pertinent marketing materials as attachments.

III. Long-Range Funding Plan

The long-range funding plan should be an outgrowth of your long-range strategic plan. Identify the cost for implementation of each strategy as well as identify potential resource providers. Include the cost for time and travel of staff, contracted service providers and volunteers involved in the projects. Also, identify other organizational needs, including adequate staffing, equipment, and resources to operate an efficient and productive economic development business. Include necessary capital reserves to respond to immediate business opportunities. Identify funding sources for a ongoing operation of economic development group. Budget should reflect above information and must balance.

IV. Current and consistent information in LOIS, NEDI and Community Websites

- Sites
- Buildings
- Community profiles
- Community economic development web site(s) (provide links).

V. Current Labor Information

- A labor survey must not be older than three years.

VI. Business Retention Activity

- Describe ongoing business retention and expansion activities, as well as the organization's recognition efforts.

VII. Economic Development Evaluation

Prepare and submit an evaluation of the economic development efforts in your community during the three years since you were recognized as an EDCC. This evaluation should include quantifiable results, such as:

- _____ # of new manufacturing businesses located in your community/county
- _____ # of new jobs created from these new manufacturing/service-sector businesses
- _____ # of new small businesses created in your county
- _____ # of new jobs created from these new small businesses
- _____ # of business expansions
- _____ # of new jobs created from these business expansions

- _____ # of businesses closed
- _____ # of jobs lost due to business closures
- _____ # of industrial sites developed
- _____ # of volunteers working on economic development with you

List collaborative efforts with other local and regional economic development organizations

Examples _____

Describe status of infrastructure extensions/upgrades needed to serve industrial/business sites and parks to meet community’s targeted industry goals.

Describe any additions to controlled industrial/business and sites’ inventory, including size and geographic location.

List all presently available buildings, including square footage and geographic location.

The information outlined above should be submitted to Linda Black at linda.black@nebraska.gov

Applicants need to treat this application as a “Request For Proposal”.

Separate attachments and label them in thumbnail or provide a “Table of Contents” that is “clickable”. Make it easy for potential prospect and reviewers to easily find appropriate information/attachments and return to main body of application.