

Tools for Economic Development

Funded by the Economic Development Administration



Identify Levels of Distress:

Measuring Distress – A Tool for Economic Development

www.statsamerica.org/distress/distress.html

Developed by the Indiana Business Research Center, this tool provides practitioners a fast, simple way to calculate whether a county, region, or neighborhood may meet grant thresholds for unemployment and income.

Develop a Strategic Plan:

Know Your Region: A Template for Future Prosperity

www.knowyourregion.org/

The Know Your Region curriculum provides a framework that communities can undertake to engage in regional strategic planning. Designed by Western Carolina University, the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, and the Council for Community and Economic Research (C2ER), this project led to the development of a curriculum and interactive website with tutorials, links, podcasts, and videos.

Determine Your Regional Strengths:

Unlocking Rural Competitiveness: The Role of Regional Clusters

www.ibrc.indiana.edu/innovation/

Created by Purdue University and the Indiana Business Research Center, this project provides practitioners tools to identify the industry clusters in their region.

Innovation in American Regions

www.statsamerica.org/innovation - coming winter 2009!

With this project, Purdue and the Indiana Business Research Center have expanded on their work in *Unlocking Rural Competitiveness*. When complete, this website will provide practitioners the following additional tools to help identify and build upon their regional strengths:

Occupational Clusters

This tool helps practitioners identify the skill-levels of their population and occupational clusters in their region.

Innovation Index

Built upon data from four areas (human capital, economic dynamics, productivity and employment, and economic well-being), the Innovation Index provides practitioners an easy-to-compare method of assessing the innovation capacity of their region.

Decide Among Competing Projects:

Region Project Evaluation Tool

www.eda.gov/Research/ToolsOfTrade.xml

This tool, created by the W.E Upjohn Institute for Employment Research provides qualitative and quantitative analysis of a project to help economic development practitioners determine its likelihood of success in a given region.

Investment Analysis

www.statsamerica.org/innovation - coming winter 2009!

This tool, created by Purdue University and the Indiana Business Research Center, provides practitioners tools to assist them in prioritizing projects.