



MSU EDA UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR REGIONAL ECONOMIC INNOVATION

PARTNERS



- Higher Education
- Business
- Entrepreneurs
- Economic Development Districts
- Workforce Organizations
- Local Governments

ACTIVITIES



- Applied Research
- Technical Assistance
- Knowledge Transfer
- Capacity Building
- Entrepreneurial Support

MEASURES



- Interviews
- Surveys
- Social Media Analytics

Michigan State University (MSU) EDA University Center for Regional Economic Innovation (REI) is working to build a new economic development ecosystem by leveraging higher education assets to support the co-creation, co-application, and co-dissemination of innovative economic development strategies that will yield high growth entrepreneurship, job creation, and economic innovation throughout the state. Community engagement, strategic partnerships, collaborative learning, and networking are at the center of REI's approach.

ACTIVITIES

Since 2011, the MSU U.S. EDA University Center for Regional Economic Innovation (REI) has supported over 160 innovative economic development projects in Michigan, spurring high-growth entrepreneurship, job creation, and economic innovation. REI partners have achieved remarkable success, including; over \$68 million in public and private investments generated by 87 Student-Led, Faculty-Guided projects; over 60 Co-Learning Plans; and 15 Co-Implementation projects (Innovation Fellowships). The Center seeks to incorporate the tools, models, and policies identified in Co-Learning Projects into practice in communities around Michigan.

REI supports peer learning, knowledge transfer, and capacity building to strengthen the state's economic development organizations and professionals through webinars, papers, events, and other tools. The REI Network is a responsive virtual community of nearly 3,000 members from the Michigan public and private sectors. who are engaged in strategic partnerships and collaborative learning. A consultative panel comprised of statewide knowledge-based experienced experts, provide counsel and advise REI faculty and staff. The Network focuses on various areas such as regional talent and innovation infrastructure.



MSU Center for Regional Economic Innovation (REI)



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COVID-19 RESPONSE

Through CARES Act funding, the MSU EDA University Center team embarked on the Comprehensive Economic Recovery Initiative (CERI) project in July 2020 to support sustainable and equitable long-term recovery in communities across the state. CERI facilitates projects in focus areas identified by the REI network as essential components of healthy and equitable communities, including: Resiliency Planning, Circular Economies, Financial Resiliency, and 21st Century Infrastructure. The CERI project supported 16 projects/initiatives aimed at bolstering COVID recovery in communities across the state. Partners on these projects range from community engaged faculty at MSU, Economic Development Districts, non-profit farms, economic development associations, and individual community members.

LEVERAGING

REI's formalized network structure allows it to leverage the experience and assets of other Michigan higher education institutions, economic development organizations, and experts. REI also actively draws upon resources from within MSU, including faculty expertise, data resources, and the use of student expertise. REI's Co-Learning and Innovation Fellow projects draw upon the aggregate knowledge and experience of practitioners, scholars, and leaders to create actionable knowledge and design innovative development strategies.

FOUR PILLARS OF FOCUS:

Resiliency Planning: Facilitates comprehensive planning that can assist communities to speed their recovery after experiencing natural or man-made shocks.

21st Century Communications Infrastructure: Works with key partners to develop and support activities that increase access in rural and low-income urban communities and build the capacity of communities to use online platforms for civic engagement, commerce, and education.

Financial Resiliency: Increases and expands the capacity of community financial institutions and individuals to invest in local businesses by collaborating with community capital experts, state planning agencies, local governments, community anchor institutions, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, private financial institutions, and others.

Circular Economies: Provides technical assistance to accelerate the growth of circular economy businesses in Michigan by identifying economic recovery efforts and other strategic resources that assist individuals, businesses, and communities to navigate resources that support the development of businesses and services maximizing efficient use of local/regional supply chains.



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