

2018 Economic Resilience Element

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Mid-Shore Regional Council of Maryland



PROJECT DETAILS

DIFFICULTY: Medium

COST: > \$25,000

TIMEFRAME: Six (6) Months

DELIVERABLES: Economic Resilience element (for inclusion in the Mid-Shore CEDS)

CORE COMPETENCIES:

- Planning
- Resiliency
- Economic Development
- Stakeholder Engagement

RESULTS: A strategy to help the Mid-Shore's regional economy more resilient to economic shocks and/or natural or man-made hazards.

PROJECT TEAM

Vision Planning and Consulting

CLIENT CONTACT

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The Mid-Shore Regional Council (MSRC) of Maryland selected VPC to develop an Economic Resilience Element for their regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The goal of the Resilience Element is to provide a framework for the regional economy to be able to prepare for, withstand, avoid, and/or quickly recover from an economic shock and/or a natural or man-made disaster. This successful project led to receiving additional funding from the EDA, and development of additional tools to aid in future decision making.

PROJECT SUMMARY

The project comprised the development of an Economic Resilience element for inclusion into the Mid Shore CEDS. VPC Staff reviewed the Comprehensive Plan and Hazard Mitigation Plan for each of the three Mid-Shore Counties: Caroline, Dorchester, and Talbot. The review identified pertinent information, policies, and existing actions in the plans that relate to Economic Resilience. The plan review helped inform the development of a regional Economic Resilience Strategy.

VPC developed a survey via Survey Monkey, for the 70 members of the MSRC CEDS Committee. The survey was designed to glean tacit and other institutional information related to economic development, hazard risk, and overall economic resilience, while providing a level of awareness regarding different Economic Resilience factors. Survey results offered insight on: the chief impediments to becoming an economically resilient region; rankings of the regional economic weaknesses; and coordination between economic development, emergency management, and other support services available to local businesses and industries.

VPC developed goals and objectives for Economic Resilience, and associated actions to enhance the Mid-Shore economy's ability to withstand, prevent, and recover from an economic shock. Actions included those related to: infrastructure; workforce development and training; and business continuity planning.

VPC ensured coordination with the CEDS Committee members throughout the process. Engagement with the Committee was key to developing an Economic Resilience element that encompassed the: 1) needs and vulnerabilities of the three counties; and 2) desires of all stakeholders including representatives from the Senate, US House of Representatives, Academia, businesses, and local, and regional governments.

Using the CEDS as a baseline, the MSRC submitted an EDA Supplemental Financial Assistance Request and subsequently was awarded \$400,000. This led to the creation of the Eastern Shore Economic Recovery Project, including an economic resiliency toolkit, which houses dashboards that point to the economic health of the region. Tools provide easy-to-use economic data for decision-making during crisis situations. Stakeholders now have a reliable way to gauge the impact of an economic crisis and the corresponding recovery metrics.

The Economic Resiliency Toolkit/Economic Recovery Program and Mid Shore CEDS received the following awards: the 2022 MEDA Economic Development Program Award, the IEDC Regional and Cross Border Collaboration Award, and the 2022 NADO Aliceann Wohlbruck Impact Award. Looking ahead, the State of Maryland Department of Commerce has received funding to expand this project to create similar dashboards for other regions of Maryland.