



CCEDC is a 501(c)4 non-profit corporation established in 1992 to coordinate economic development throughout Columbia County, Wisconsin. The corporation is staffed by a full-time director and is governed by a Board of Directors.

CCEDC is under a reorganization and restructure due to the discontinued funding from Columbia County for 2019. The County has requested CCEDC ask businesses for financial support along with communities, due to Columbia County budgetary con-

MISSION

To foster and encourage activities in the county that result in constructive economic development and/or result in an improved quality of life.

VISION

A collaborative partner with stakeholders in leading strategic change in Columbia County, leveraging opportunities to be the gateway location for vocation, education, recreation, and avocation.

VALUES

Catalyst for economic development.

Communities—support vital agricultural rural communities and close-knit villages and cities.

Entrepreneurship—provide resources, support and networks for new and existing businesses.

Diversity—embrace the multi-cultural heritage, natural beauty, tourism, manufacturing, agriculture, and educational assets that abound in Columbia County; and

Collaborate—mutually work together with key stakeholders.

RETAINING & EXPANDING EXISTING BUSINESSES

CCEDC has assisted a number of businesses with retention and expansion, helping to provide information, funding and additional resources. Some businesses received initial support from CCEDC and went on to expand multiple times adding to the tax base. Sometimes, it's a request for demographic information, what makes a community better for expansion and what programs and funding are available.



PROMOTING NEW BUSINESS FORMATION

Since 1995, CCEDC assisted 2,162 business prospects and 21 businesses with the previous Revolving Loan Fund. CCEDC transferred the USDA RLF to MadREP in the amount of \$324,210.00 to utilize in the 8 County region. CCEDC works with local, regional and state partners to assist entrepreneurs and direct them to available resources. CCEDC also supports entrepreneurship through the newly formed Start-In Madison Region platform, and the Innovations Champion Group which CCEDC formed with Sauk, Marquette and Columbia Counties, and SBDC.



ASSISTING COMMUNITIES & ORGANIZATIONS

CCEDC helps retain and grow existing businesses, attract new business investment, nurture local entrepreneurs and replenish lost income. New dollars invested or spent in a community generate more economic activity. New capital investment in real property generates a continuous revenue stream through property taxes. CCEDC provides the mechanism to foster growth and positive change. We hold community forums with speakers on housing, transportation, workforce and economic conditions to address issues moving forward.



ADDITIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

COVID-19 created uncertainty for businesses, communities and citizens. CCEDC formed an Economic Recovery Team with stakeholders in the business community, education and public health. The team conducted surveys on needs and areas of concern, identified resources and shared relevant information on funding and assistance.





**Columbia
County**

Economic Development Corporation

CCEDC serves as a clearinghouse of information for local businesses, individuals, and organizations, helping to identify needs, resources, and connections.

“UNIVERCITY YEAR” PROGRAM PROJECTS:

- Portage New Northside Business Park—Conceptual Site Plan & Marketing Plan
- Rio Fire Dept. Grant Writing & Funding Opportunities
- CCEDC Website Redesign
- Workforce Development across Columbia County

CCEDC wishes to thank Alliant Energy Foundation for its sponsorship of the UniverCity Program.

CCEDC is utilizing this opportunity for impact projects that advance our vision and work across the area...a collaborative partner with stakeholders in leading strategic change in Columbia County, leveraging opportunities to be the gateway location for vocation, education, recreation, and avocation.

To find out more about the UniverCity Year program visit:
<https://univercity.wisc.edu>

“CCEDC came through for us when we needed someone to communicate our concerns to the Governor’s office prior to the Safer at Home order. We are thankful for the vital work CCEDC does for the area.”

- Bruce Jonet, Cardinal FG

Cheryl Fahrner, Executive Director
P: 608-742-6161
ccedc6161@gmail.com

LOCAL GRANTS CONNECTIONS

CCEDC has provided information about grant opportunities to local school districts and community organizations Among them:

- CCEDC forwarded 2018 State of Wisconsin School Safety Grant Funding information to all school districts in Columbia County. Over two rounds, 31 awards were made, totaling **\$2,514,548**.
- CCEDC also notified schools of the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) Fab Lab Grants. In Spring 2019, a **\$25,000** award went to Fall River School District, supporting the purchase of equipment for a high-technology workshop with computer-controlled manufacturing components such as 3D printers, laser engravers, computer numerical control routers and plasma cutters. Others have also applied and received Fab Lab Grants 2020-21 Poynette **\$33,122**; Columbus School District **\$25,000**.
- After receiving information from CCEDC, River Haven Homeless Shelter received **\$5,200** Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA) Foundation Grant Award in 2018, to assist in the improvement of the state’s housing for special needs population.

INFORMATION NETWORKING

CCEDC frequently responds to requests for information from businesses, communities, consultants, federal and state departments. During the COVID crisis, CCEDC has shared information about financial relief programs, including:

- Badger Bounceback Grants and Funding
- Federal Paycheck Protection Plan (PPP) and Economic Injury Disaster Loans
- State of Wisconsin “We’re All In” grant, which provided assistance to self-employed individuals who were quarantined
- Pandemic Unemployment Assistance
- Wisconsin Main Street Bounceback Grants

BROADBAND EXPANSION

CCEDC has written letters of support for Public Service Commission Broadband Expansion Grants, and has also supported educational partners in broadband expansion efforts. In March 2020, **\$470,524** in awards were awarded for high speed service to 947 residents and 84 businesses:

- Charter Communications—Village of Randolph project will build a cable internet service past 81 business and 694 residential location in the Village of Randolph. **\$104,034**
- Marquette-Adams Telephone Cooperative, Inc.—Town of Marcellon project will build Fiber to the Premises service past 2 business and 133 residential locations along Highway 33. **\$193,689**
- Marquette-Adams Telephone Cooperative, Inc.—Town of Newport fiber project will build Fiber to the Premises service past 1 business and 120 residential locations in the Town of Newport. **\$172,801**

We continue to support Broadband Expansion and are asking residents and businesses to please take the Broadband Speed Test by 8/31/22 at: madisonregion.org/test-your-speed/

1800 KUTZKE ROAD, ROOM 110
P.O. BOX 323 | PORTAGE, WI 53901
ccedc.com