

INGHAM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION 2008 INITIATIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Our mission is to increase the economic vitality and quality of life countywide by planning and coordinating development efforts, providing services, and facilitating advantageous partnerships. The following three initiatives will receive the special focus and energies of the Ingham EDC in 2008.

INITIATIVE: Market Ingham County as the premier place to do business, work, and live.

Activities:

Promote the area's largest development opportunity sites with aerial photos, descriptions and incentive information.

Create and expand a web site with a directory of Economic Development Contacts, including small businesses fact sheets and commonly requested information.

Create and maintain a database as a source for local, regional, and international business site searches in Ingham County.

INITIATIVE: Develop and expand initiatives to support entrepreneurship, business start-ups, and small business stability and growth.

Activities:

Staff will facilitate Ingham County community's applications for the MSUE Creating Entrepreneurial Communities (CEC) program.

Staff will Coach in the CEC program, assigned to support program development in Meridian Township.

Staff will identify and promote programs and activities to enhance Ingham County's recognition as an Entrepreneurial Community.

INITIATIVE: Proactively increase and improve applications for state and federal funding to support businesses and business development in Ingham County.

Activities:

Identify foundation, state and federal grants or alternate funds to assist the County community's special projects.

Encourage Ingham communities to apply for funds to support projects to enhance their economic development value.

For grant purposes, develop parts of an application or prospectus to include Ingham County and its communities' statistics, demographics, etc.

**AREAS OF EDC STAFF WORK CONCENTRATION
CONSISTENT WITH CURRENT JOB DESCRIPTION
2008**

The Ingham County EDC staff implements the initiatives and programs for the EDC. As such, they undertake a number of operational activities that are integrated into the job descriptions of the staff and complement the EDC and BRA board goals. These include, but are not limited to the following:

Expand the EDC Business Retention program.

Activities:

Continue regular visits to County employers to maintain useful relationships and to determine what needs the County and the EDC can assist with.

Collaborate in a regional business retention program with the Lansing Area Economic Partnership (LEAP) to target firms throughout the Lansing/Tri-county area.

Develop and/or maintain summary information about Ingham County's economic base, our business clusters, our diversified industries and our business resources.

Develop and implement programs to support agricultural based business development while considering rural quality of life and farmland and open space preservation.

Activities:

Develop a plan of support for Agricultural Business and present it to the Ingham County Agriculture Preservation board.

Assist the Agriculture Preservation Board in developing and implementing an agriculture preservation program in the County. Assist Agricultural Preservation Board staff with an application for state and federal funding for an Agriculture Preservation Program.

Participate actively in regional economic development initiatives.

Activities:

Continue membership in the Regional Economic Development Team subcommittee of LEAP.

Consider participation in the LEAP.