



IGNITE Hidalgo County

Igniting Minds. Igniting Involvement. Igniting Economies.

HISTORY

Hidalgo County [applied for and received a grant](#) from the U.S. Department of Commerce's [Economic Development Administration](#) to develop an asset map and Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy in the summer of 2007. The County put out a Request for Proposals/Qualifications in October 2008. [The University of Texas-Pan American](#) was awarded the contract in February 2009. The contract was negotiated and finalized in March 2009, and work began on the project in April 2009.

WHAT IS ASSET MAPPING?

Every region has its own unique set of assets -- both tangible and intangible -- that can be leveraged for workforce and economic development to enhance its competitive position and support innovation-based growth. [Asset mapping](#) identifies the assets a region has (human, intellectual, financial, physical, institutional capital), provides a comparison to other regions, identify gaps, provides an understanding of networks and cultural attitudes, gives a baseline to judge future progress, and provides a base for strategic planning.

WHAT IS A CEDS?

A [comprehensive economic development strategy \(CEDS\)](#) is designed to bring together the public and private sectors in the creation of an economic roadmap to diversify and strengthen the regional economy. The CEDS analyzes the regional economy and serves as a guide for establishing regional goals and objectives, developing and implementing a regional plan of action, and identifying investment priorities and funding sources. A CEDS sets forth a strategy necessary to solve the economic development problems of the region, clearly defines the metrics of success, and provides a useful benchmark by which a regional economy can evaluate opportunities with other regions in the national economy.

WHO WILL DEVELOP THE CEDS?

The asset map and CEDS for Hidalgo County will be developed with broad-based input from the community through an asset mapping research process and an economic development strategic planning process that involves public and private sector participation. The UTPA project team will lead development of the asset map and the CEDS with a Strategy Committee, an Asset Mapping Subcommittee, and input from other key stakeholders and the public through meetings.

WHAT OTHER COMMUNITIES HAVE DONE A CEDS?

In Texas:

South Plains Economic Development District of Lubbock
15 county region
Population approximately 386,742

West Central Texas Economic Development District Corporation of Abilene
19 county region
Population approximately 340,000

Around the Country:

Connecticut – Fairfield County
Population approximately 900,000
Most populous county in State

Michigan – Northwest Michigan Council of Governments
Population approximately 297,210

New York – Mohawk Valley Economic Development District of Mohawk, NY