

# County Council of Cuyahoga County, Ohio

## Resolution No. R2025-0212

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| Sponsored by: <b>County Executive Ronayne/Department of Development</b> | <b>A Resolution</b> adopting the 2025 Economic Development Plan in accordance with Section 7.05 of the Cuyahoga County Charter and Section 801.01 of the Cuyahoga County Code; and declaring the necessity that this Resolution become immediately effective. |
| Co-sponsored by:<br><b>Councilmember Turner</b>                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

**WHEREAS**, Section 7.05 of the Cuyahoga County Charter requires the Director of Development, in conjunction with the County Executive and in consultation with the Economic Development Commission, to prepare and present to the Council by the first day of June of each year a proposed five-year economic development plan for the County, for actions to be carried out by the County itself, and in cooperation with other public and private agencies and organizations, for the purpose of enhancing the prosperity and well-being of the County and its residents and communities; and

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective in order that critical services provided by Cuyahoga County can continue and to provide for the usual daily operation of a county entity.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO:**

**SECTION 1.** The County's 2025 five-year economic development plan, including all changes thereto approved by Council, is hereby adopted in accordance with Section 7.05 of the Cuyahoga County Charter and Section 801.01 of the Cuyahoga County Code. The final adopted plan is attached hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference.

**SECTION 2.** Pursuant to Section 801.02 of the Cuyahoga County Code, the Clerk of Council is hereby authorized to publish the 2025 five-year economic development plan adopted by County Council pursuant to Section 7.05 of the Cuyahoga County Charter on the County Council's website.

**SECTION 3.** It is necessary that this Resolution become immediately effective for the usual daily operation of the County; the preservation of public peace, health or safety in the County; and any additional reasons set forth in the preamble. Provided that this Resolution receives the affirmative vote of at least eight members of Council, it shall take effect and be in force immediately upon the

earliest occurrence of any of the following: (1) its approval by the County Executive through signature, (2) the expiration of the time during which it may be disapproved by the County Executive under Section 3.10(6) of the Cuyahoga County Charter, or (3) its passage by at least eight members of Council after disapproval pursuant to Section 3.10(7) of the Cuyahoga County Charter. Otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

**SECTION 4.** It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council relating to the adoption of this Resolution were adopted in an open meeting of the Council, and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

On a motion by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Ms. Simon, the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted.

Yeas: Casselberry, Gallagher, Schleper, Conwell, Jones, Houser, Simon, Kelly, Sweeney and Miller

Nays: None

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|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| <u>Dale Miller</u>                                                                         | <u>7/10/2025</u> |
| County Council President                                                                   | Date             |
| <u></u> | <u>7/11/2025</u> |
| County Executive                                                                           | Date             |
| <u>Andria Richardson</u>                                                                   | <u>7/9/2025</u>  |
| Clerk of Council                                                                           | Date             |

First Reading/Referred to Committee: June 10, 2025  
Committee(s) Assigned: Economic Development & Planning

Additional Sponsorship Requested on the Floor: June 30, 2025

Legislation Substituted on the Floor to add the Appendix and Assessment to the Economic Development Plan: July 8, 2025

Journal CC059  
July 8, 2025

# 2025 Cuyahoga County 5-Year Economic Development Plan

## APPENDIX

This appendix presents additional information on topics related to the 2025 update of Cuyahoga County's Five Year Economic Development Plan.

### Relationship to Previous Economic Development Plan

Cuyahoga County's Economic Development Plan is updated each year. For the 2025 annual update, the Department of Development engaged a consultant with significant experience to support a full strategic planning process. This process started with an environmental scan, stakeholder identification, and dozens of stakeholder interviews. It continued by benchmarking Cuyahoga County's current economic development capacity against national peer counties. Based on this work, staff and Cuyahoga County's Economic Development Commission crafted a vision, mission, strategic pillars, strategies, and activities, along with recommended metrics.

The 2025 plan focuses on using Cuyahoga County's capacity and resources for best impact, in alignment with other important actors in our regional economic development system. Many of the key strategies from prior year plans are reflected in this new focus on regional alignment:

The 2024 plan lists 8 activities to advance Cuyahoga County as a regional economic hub (Strategy 1.1). These activities call for partnerships with regional actors in education, health care, business support, business attraction, site development, and technology. The updated 2025 plan sharpens the focus on system alignment and coordination in each of these areas (Pillars 1 and 2).

While the 2025 plan does not list specific sub-county economic development organizations, it is worth noting that Cuyahoga County will continue to engage with high performing organizations, including the Aerozone Alliance, for their business retention, expansion, and attraction work.

The 2024 plan supports business retention, expansion, and attraction (Strategy 1.2). The updated 2025 plan continues to highlight this fundamental economic development work as Pillar 3.

The 2024 plan lists specific manufacturing sector activities (Strategy 1.3). The updated 2025 plan includes manufacturing as a key industry sector for ongoing support (Pillar 3, Strategy 10).

The 2024 plan lists specific innovation support activities (Strategy 1.4). The updated 2025 plan calls for innovation and adaptation to mega-trends, including AI. (Pillar 1, Strategy 3).

The 2024 plan emphasizes place-based development (Strategy 2.5). The updated 2025 plan includes a strategy to fund physical development, including real estate (Pillar 3, Strategy 9).

The 2024 plan notes that Cuyahoga County's Climate Action Plan is in progress (Strategy 1.6). The updated 2025 plan calls for aligning resources to fully support climate action and sustainability, through Cuyahoga County's integrated development cluster (Pillar 1, Strategy 4). As an example, the Department of Development is working with Sustainability to incorporate resources and incentives for sustainable development into all of its existing lending programs.

The 2024 plan calls for actions to attract and retain talent and increase labor force participation (Objective 2). The updated 2025 plan continues support for regional talent attraction and retention (Pillar 4, Strategy 13). The updated 2025 plan sharpens the focus on specific actions to increase career pathways and improve job quality (Pillar 4, Strategies 13 and 15).

The 2024 plan calls for initiatives to support equity (Strategy 3.1). The updated 2025 plan continues this commitment to equity by promoting wealth building in underserved communities (Pillar 4, Strategy 14) and combatting system discrimination (Pillar 4, Strategy 15).

The 2024 plan calls for support for Cuyahoga County's housing policy and housing program. The updated 2025 plan continues this support through the integrated development cluster (Pillar 1, Strategy 4) and also through appropriate housing investments (Pillar 3, Strategy 9).

The 2024 plan noted that work was underway to finalize economic measures with timely data available at the county level. These measures have now been identified in the 2025 plan. Outcome measures can be derived from publicly available economic data, with some processing. Output measures are derived from Department of Development performance reporting, and from data that can be obtained from regional economic development partners and municipalities.

### Assessment of Progress on 2024 Plan

The following Excel worksheet notes progress on specific action items in the 2024 plan. Going forward, progress on the activities of the updated 2025 plan will be assessed at the end of each calendar year, as part of the annual plan update that will be completed during the second quarter.