

County Council of Cuyahoga County, Ohio

Resolution No. R2026-0178

Sponsored by: County Executive Ronayne/Department of Development	A Resolution adopting the 2026 Update to the 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: Councilmember Turner	

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 2026 Update to the 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 2026 Update to the 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. Turner, the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted.

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

Nays: None

Dale A. Miller

County Council President

7/22/2026

Date

Chris Ronayne

County Executive

7/22/2026

Date

Andria Richardson

Clerk of Council

7/22/2026

Date

First Reading/Referred to Committee: June 9, 2026

Committee(s) Assigned: Economic Development & Planning

Additional Sponsorship Requested on the Floor: July 21, 2026

Journal CC063

July 21, 2026

Cuyahoga County Economic Development Plan 2026 Update

Exhibit A to Resolution R2026-0178

Strategies

- Support unified regional economic development priorities
- Encourage shared incentives across organizations, including Fed/State funding
- Foster innovation and adaptation to mega-trends, including AI
- Align county functions and priorities

MISSION

We inspire, support, and invest in businesses & development to drive equitable economic opportunity.

Strategies

- Connect and leverage existing municipality networks
- Prepare municipalities with the tools and insight to build strong local economies
- Improve access to essential services in all areas of the county

1

Promote economic development ecosystem alignment and business growth

2

Be the resource to the 59 municipalities

VISION

Empowering business... transforming lives

Help create a growing, strong workforce

4

Strategies

- Identify and communicate workforce needs so that workforce system leaders can address them
- Enhance career visibility and pathways across Municipalities
- Promote wealth building in underserved communities
- Combat systemic discrimination in housing, education, and employment

3

Support regional business retention, attraction, and expansion

Strategies

- Improve long-term planning and investment
- Prioritize and support new development in key industry sectors
- Fund physical development including real estate

Enablers

Marketing and Communications Access to Data Create Internal Systems/Processes Operational Excellence

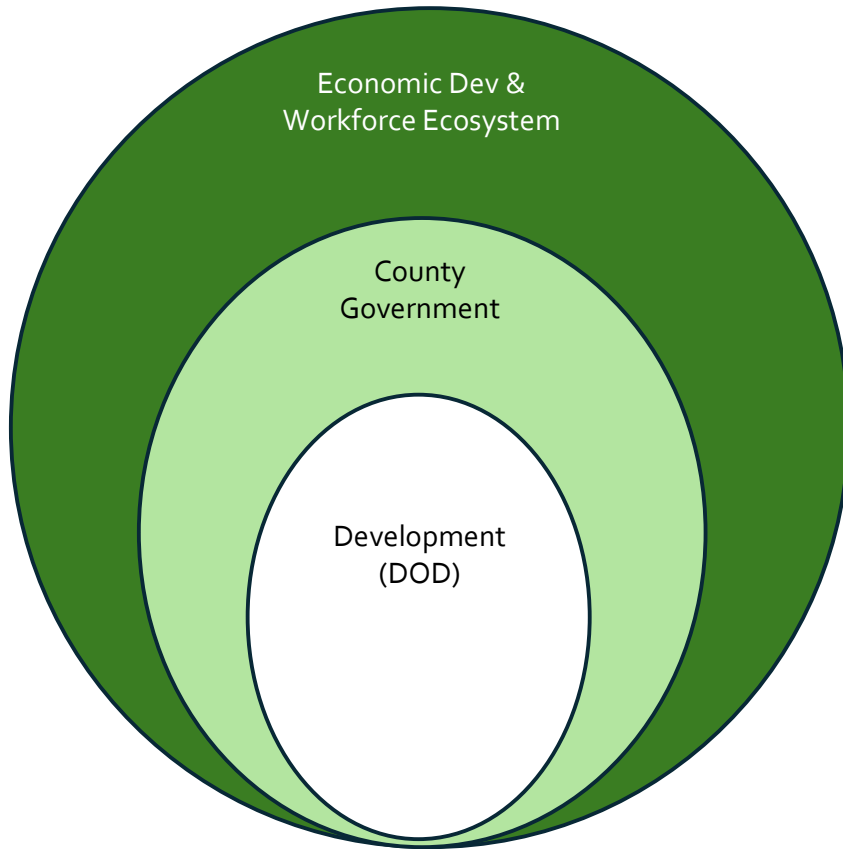
Cuyahoga County 5-Year Economic Development Plan - 2026 Update							
Pillar		Strategy		Activities	Time Frame		
					2026	2027	28-29
Promote economic development ecosystem alignment and business growth	1	Support a unified regional economic development approach		Meet with county economic development partners through regular participation in regional and county-wide meetings	x		
				Be a hub of information for the business community, building on partner engagement through the Office of Small Business	x		
				Use economic and business data to guide and inform investments. Incorporate insights into county RFPs and potential county public benefits policies.		x	
	2	Encourage shared incentives and metrics across organizations		Understand partner goals and objectives and how Development can best be a resource to them.	x		
				Examine structural barriers to collaboration. Appropriately use County resources to increase collaboration opportunities and potential collaborative solutions.		x	
				Monitor federal and state policy and funding changes, and adjust programs to leverage federal and state resources for local development	x		
	3	Foster innovation and adaptation to mega-trends, including AI		Integrate safe use of AI into economic development planning and programming	x		
				Partnering with the higher ed and business community, develop and disseminate consensus views on the role of AI, along with its benefits and risks		x	
	4	Align county functions and priorities		Fully use the existing integrated development cluster to align county departments	x		
			Use intelligence from the business community to shed light on ways sister functions can drive economic growth		x		
			Enable a review of the resource capacity of the regional collaboration team		x		

Cuyahoga County 5-Year Economic Development Plan – 2026 Update							
Pillar		Strategy		Activities	Time Frame		
					2026	2027	28-29
Be the resource to the 59 municipalities	5	Connect and leverage existing municipality networks		Continue collaboration with the County Department of Equity and other community engagement entities to ground programs in what the community wants and needs	x		
				Meet with city, village, township, and county council district leaders regularly understand their goals, gaps and challenges	x		
				Continue collaboration with County Planning for Land Use, Zoning, Planning, and Transit Oriented Development	x		
	6	Prepare municipalities with the tools and insight to build strong local economies		Continue to assign staff to segmented groups of municipalities to more effectively provide the right services to the right stakeholders	x		
				Support municipalities in site preparation and promotion including with Team NEO	x		
				Advise on investments that will strengthen economic competitiveness		x	
		Provide economic development expertise to decision makers to help them best plan, secure, and allocate infrastructure investments to advance needed growth		x			
	7	Improve access to essential services in all areas of the county		Offer assistance in accessing county resources for local economic development	x		
				Regularly share information about resources and initiatives through an economic development newsletter and social media	x		
			Support the County Housing Plan and implementation work lead by the Department of Housing and Community Development to expand the supply of and access to market-rate and middle-income housing	x			
			Complete an asset & sector map to illustrate high impact sectors			x	
		Use municipality feedback to refine the county’s city-focused programs, including support for Downtown Cleveland office markets and suburban commercial strips	x				

Cuyahoga County 5-Year Economic Development Plan - 2026 Update						
Pillar		Strategy	Activities	Time Frame		
				2026	2027	28-29
Support regional business retention, expansion, attraction	8	Improve long-term planning and investment	Leverage insights from County Planning, which reviews the intersection of land use and economic growth and recommends investment opportunity	x		
			Leverage external resources. County to be active in collaboration to access federal and state resources for site preparation and promotion. Support appropriate public-private partnerships to attract new funding resources to stimulate economic growth	x		
	9	Fund physical development including real estate				
			Monitor effectiveness and return on investment of current county financing programs including Lending, and scale programs delivering high return on investment	x		
	10	Prioritize and support new development in key industry sectors	Provide federal brownfield remediation funding to facilitate new development. Support priority of state demolition and brownfield funding for Cuyahoga County projects.	x		
			Invest in physical development that will strengthen economic competitiveness, including market rate Housing, Downtown Apartments, Real Estate, Sites	x		
	11	Strengthen business support				
			Complete an Employment Location Quotient exercise to quantify Cuyahoga County's Comparative Advantage by sector		x	
			Using data and insights from ecosystem partners, focus attraction and retention work on industry sectors with potential for out-size growth and impact, including Manufacturing, Healthcare, Sustainability and Freshwater.		x	
			Continue Office of Small Business high-impact services for small business retention, expansion, and attraction	x		
			Adjust County lending programs to better meet the specific needs of local businesses and with right-sized, right-timed, and right-targeted financing options, while maintaining public accountability, transparency, and equity in lending.	x		
			Coordinate with employer-facing partners to identify and understand needs of thriving businesses and residents	x		

Cuyahoga County 5-Year Economic Development Plan - 2026 Update									
Pillar		Strategy		Activities	Time Frame				
					2026	2027	28-29		
Help create a growing, strong workforce through coordination	12	Identify and communicate workforce needs so that workforce system leaders can address them		Coordinate with partners who interact with employers & job seekers including Greater Cleveland Works, the Workforce Funders Group, the Greater Cleveland Partnership, Cuyahoga Community College, Team NEO, Destination Cleveland.	x				
				Support the Greater Cleveland Works Employment Quality Initiative with outreach and resourcing of best practices for employers to invest in people			x		
				Continue to support the work of high performing sector partnerships, a proven approach to leveraging community impact for business and economic growth	x				
	13	Enhance career visibility & pathways across municipalities		Help our municipalities know about and access the workforce development programs and services available in their community.	x				
				Support regional strategies to retain residents, such as the Talent Alliance	x				
	14	Promote wealth building in underserved communities		Identify gaps and solutions regarding workforce funding sources, including underserved-business funding needs	x				
				Seek opportunity to build incentives for greater alignment between municipal and county development			x		
	15	Combat systemic discrimination in housing, education, and employment		Support efforts that bring alternative solutions to finding workers and better access to jobs via improved transportation, childcare, and healthcare	x				
				Seek opportunity to promote rewards for companies that provide good livable wage jobs, promote inclusion in hiring and contracting, actively pursue programs that establish alternative workforce solutions, and that implement LEED/green construction				x	

Cuyahoga County 2026 Economic Development Plan Metrics



Cuyahoga County Outcomes – Benchmarked vs. three largest Ohio counties

- Countywide number of persons employed
- Countywide median household income
- County Gross Domestic Product (GDP)
- Countywide labor force participation rate
- Countywide households with family-sustaining earnings (disaggregated)
- Countywide population (highlighting working age and skilled residents)

County Government Economic Plan Outputs

- Business growth and attraction opportunities with multi-party collaboration
- County staff assistance provided to municipalities
- Acres of land available and ready for development
- County funds and leveraged funds invested in business growth
- Jobs created and retained through county investment that meet “good jobs” criteria
- Number of businesses that are attracted and retained countywide
- Utilization of workforce ecosystem resources
- Residents placed and retained in jobs through the public workforce system

Department Of Development Outcomes

- Small businesses assisted (disaggregated)
- Small business jobs created and retained (disaggregated)
- Sites Promoted

Assessment of Progress and Revisions to ED Plan 2025-26

Cuyahoga County 5-Year Economic Development Plan - Assessment of Progress 2025-2026 and Changes							
Pillar		Strategy	Assessment	Adjusted Activities	Updated Time Frame		
					2026	2027	28-29
Promote economic development ecosystem alignment and business growth	1	Support a unified regional economic development approach	Meetings ongoing	Meet with county economic development partners through regular participation in regional and county-wide meetings	x		
			Created Newsletter	Be a hub of information for the business community, building on partner engagement through the Office of Small Business	x		
			Contracted with CSU; advised on community benefits ordinance	Use economic and business data to guide and inform investments. Incorporate insights into county RFPs and potential county public benefits policies.		x	
	2	Encourage shared incentives and metrics across organizations	Ongoing review	Understand partner goals and objectives and how Development can best be a resource to them.	x		
			Collaborating to develop new programs	Examine structural barriers to collaboration. Appropriately use County resources to increase collaboration opportunities and potential collaborative solutions.		x	
			Evolving programs in light of policy changes	Monitor federal and state policy and funding changes, and adjust programs to leverage federal and state resources for local development	x		
	3	Foster innovation and adaptation to mega-trends, including AI	Refining approach	Integrate safe use of AI into economic development planning and programming	x		
			Engaging and gathering information	Partnering with the higher ed and business community, develop and disseminate consensus views on the role of AI, along with its benefits and risks		x	
	4	Align county functions and priorities	Executing	Fully use the existing integrated development cluster to align county departments	x		
			Engaging and gathering information	Use intelligence from the business community to shed light on ways sister functions can drive economic growth		x	
			Future project	Enable a review of the resource capacity of the regional collaboration team		x	

Cuyahoga County 5-Year Economic Development Plan - Assessment of Progress 2025-2026 and Changes					Updated Time Frame		
Pillar		Strategy	Assessment	Adjusted Activities	2026	2027	28-29
Be the resource to the 59 municipalities	5	Connect and leverage existing municipality networks	Adjusted due to federal policy changes	Continue collaboration with the County Department of Equity and other community engagement entities to ground programs in what the community wants and needs	x		
			Meetings are ongoing	Meet with city, village, township, and county council district leaders regularly understand their goals, gaps and challenges	x		
	6	Prepare municipalities with the tools and insight to build strong local economies	New focus on TOD	Continue collaboration with County Planning for Land Use, Zoning, Planning, and Transit Oriented Development	x		
			Executing with staff assignments	Continue to assign staff to segmented groups of municipalities to more effectively provide the right services to the right stakeholders	x		
			Ongoing support	Support municipalities in site preparation and promotion including with Team NEO	x		
	7	Improve access to essential services in all areas of the county	Monitoring information	Advise on investments that will strengthen economic competitiveness		x	
			Shifting to advisory role	Provide economic development expertise to decision makers to help them best plan, secure, and allocate infrastructure investments to advance needed growth		x	
			Executing	Offer assistance in accessing county resources for local economic development	x		
			Executing	Regularly share information about resources and initiatives through an economic development newsletter and social media	x		
			Ongoing support	Support the County Housing Plan and implementation work lead by the Department of Housing and Community Development to expand the supply of and access to market-rate and middle-income housing	x		
			Future project	Complete an asset & sector map to illustrate high impact sectors			x
			Collaborating, with new programs planned	Use municipality feedback to refine the county's city-focused programs, including support for Downtown Cleveland office markets and suburban commercial strips	x		

Cuyahoga County 5-Year Economic Development Plan - Assessment of Progress 2025-2026 and Changes					Updated Time Frame		
Pillar		Strategy	Assessment	Adjusted Activities	2026	2027	28-29
Support regional business retention, expansion, attraction	8	Improve long-term planning and investment	Ongoing	Leverage insights from County Planning, which reviews the intersection of land use and economic growth and recommends investment opportunity	x		
			Ongoing, focus on support for public private partnerships	Leverage external resources. County to be active in collaboration to access federal and state resources for site preparation and promotion. Support appropriate public-private partnerships to attract new funding resources to stimulate economic growth	x		
			Ongoing performance and impact assessment	Monitor effectiveness and return on investment of current county financing programs including Lending, and scale programs delivering high return on investment	x		
	9	Fund physical development including real estate	Focus on funding	Provide federal brownfield remediation funding to facilitate new development. Support priority of state demolition and brownfield funding for Cuyahoga County projects.	x		
			Ongoing	Invest in physical development that will strengthen economic competitiveness, including market rate Housing, Downtown Apartments, Real Estate, Sites	x		
	10	Prioritize and support new development in key industry sectors	Planned with CSU	Complete an Employment Location Quotient exercise to quantify Cuyahoga County's Comparative Advantage by sector		x	
			Focus on data and policy to emphasize sectors	Using data and insights from ecosystem partners, focus attraction and retention work on industry sectors with potential for out-size growth and impact, including Manufacturing, Healthcare, Sustainability and Freshwater.		x	
	11	Strengthen business support	Ongoing	Continue Office of Small Business high-impact services for small business retention, expansion, and attraction	x		
			Specific lending program adjustments in progress	Adjust County lending programs to better meet the specific needs of local businesses and with right-sized, right-timed, and right-targeted financing options, while maintaining public accountability, transparency, and equity in lending.	x		
			Ongoing	Coordinate with employer-facing partners to identify and understand needs of thriving businesses and residents	x		

Cuyahoga County 5-Year Economic Development Plan - Assessment of Progress 2025-2026 and Changes					Updated Time Frame		
Pillar		Strategy	Assessment	Adjusted Activities	2026	2027	28-29
Help create a growing, strong workforce through coordination	12	Identify and communicate workforce needs so that workforce system leaders can address them	Ongoing, refined list of workforce partners	Coordinate with partners who interact with employers & job seekers including Greater Cleveland Works, the Workforce Funders Group, the Greater Cleveland Partnership, Cuyahoga Community College, Team NEO, Destination Cleveland.	x		
			Focusing on the Employment Quality Initiative	Support the Greater Cleveland Works Employment Quality Initiative with outreach and resourcing of best practices for employers to invest in people		x	
	13	Enhance career visibility & pathways across municipalities	Supporting with limited County funds available	Continue to support the work of high performing sector partnerships, a proven approach to leveraging community impact for business and economic growth	x		
			Ongoing outreach with Greater Cleveland Works	Help our municipalities know about and access the workforce development programs and services available in their community.	x		
	14	Promote wealth building in underserved communities	Focus on Talent Alliance	Support regional strategies to retain residents, such as the Talent Alliance	x		
			Ongoing	Identify gaps and solutions regarding workforce funding sources, including underserved-business funding needs	x		
	15	Combat systemic discrimination in housing, education, and employment	Ongoing	Seek opportunity to build incentives for greater alignment between municipal and county development		x	
			Ongoing	Support efforts that bring alternative solutions to finding workers and better access to jobs via improved transportation, childcare, and healthcare	x		
			Ongoing	Seek opportunity to promote rewards for companies that provide good livable wage jobs, promote inclusion in hiring and contracting, actively pursue programs that establish alternative workforce solutions, and that implement LEED/green construction			x