

The Economic Development Administration Community Economic Adjustment Program Fact Sheet

In the fall of 2006, the University of Michigan's Center for Economic Diversification received a grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) to partner with the Center for Automotive Research Group (CAR) to assist communities in Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, and Wisconsin that are experiencing severe economic hardship due to shifts in the automotive manufacturing sector and automotive manufacturing plant closings. The EDA Community Economic Adjustment Program (CEAP) is designed to serve as a demonstration project for response to sudden economic dislocation caused by major changes in the basic structure of state and regional economies, in this case, economies impacted by automotive manufacturing plant closures. While there has been a trend in the past decade to idle and close plants, initiate layoffs, and offer early retirements and buyouts, since 2005 the increased activity in all these categories has left the industry in an uncertain environment.

The objective of the program is to assist communities in maximizing their strengths and equipping them with the necessary resources to develop proposals for an effective response to economic distress. The purpose of the project is two-fold:

1. To organize the region for the purpose of developing collaborative partnerships and equipping stakeholders with the necessary tools, federal and state resources, to assist in recovery of the community.
2. To assist communities with efforts to organize and prepare strategic socio-economic recovery proposals that would identify specific projects and proposals to alleviate economic distress.

Each participating community will be provided the following resources:

- **Resource Guide:** The Resource Guide provides over 600 potential grants that communities might want to pursue through Federal, State, Local, and Non-Profit funding agencies to fund proposed projects.
- **Strategic Economic Recovery Workbook:** The workbook helps provide assistance as the community creates a strategic planning team to identify key issues and potential projects through the creation of a short-term strategic plan for economic recovery over a period of 3-6 months.
- **Regional and Community Profiles:** The profile is a compilation of information that gathers economic, demographic, geographic, infrastructure, educational, and social information on communities and places it together in a single source document for the community to use as a resource throughout their planning.
- **Community Workshop:** The workshop is supported by local stakeholders where Federal, Regional, and State agency representatives introduce their programs and meet with community leaders one-on-one to discuss project proposals that can be developed. This provides a tremendous opportunity to network and gain information on potential grants and services available.
- **Proposal Assistance:** The CEAP program will assist stakeholders in preparing specific project proposals.