
From: Lucille Johnson
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2016 3:43 PM
To: 'keith.self@collincountytexas.gov' <keith.self@collincountytexas.gov>
Subject: NCTCOG is Requesting a Letter of Support for the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies and the Submission of Application to the Economic Development Administration for Economic Development District Designation for the North Central Texas Region

Good Afternoon Judge Self,

The North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG), in conjunction with more than 140 regional economic development stakeholders, elected officials, regional institutions of higher learning, local government staffs and private sector participants, has spent the past 16 months preparing a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies for the North Central Texas Region, as part of the requirement to seek Economic Development District designation to make Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance funds through the U. S. Economic Development Administration available for communities and projects in the region.

In October, 2013, The NCTCOG Executive Board authorized the submission of a planning grant application to the U. S. Economic Development Administration for funds to develop a regional CEDS, which is the major component of the requirement to form an Economic Development District (EDD) that represents the North Central Texas region. This region is the only area within the five-state State EDA area (Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas) that does not have an EDD.

In late July 2014, NCTCOG was awarded funding from U.S. EDA to begin an up-to-three-years project to prepare the CEDS. With in-kind funding matching assistance from more than 140 public and private sector regional stakeholders, known as the *Committee-of-the-Whole*, the planning process to prepare the CEDS began. The *Committee-of-the-Whole* was divided into five clusters representing common regional locations, and a sixth cluster, the University cluster, was formed to address education areas. The clusters met individually to conduct area SWOT analyses and collectively to discuss and prepare the CEDS.

A completed draft CEDS was placed on NCTCOG's website for public input, placed on the websites of members of the *Committee-of-the-Whole* for public input, and five public meetings were held throughout the region seeking public input. At The *Committee-of-the-Whole*'s meeting on January 11, 2016 the document was finalized and a vote was taken to seek NCTCOG Executive Board authorization to submit the document to EDA. At its February 25, 2016 monthly

Executive Board meeting, members of the NCTCOG Executive Board unanimously passed a resolution authorizing the submission of the CEDS to EDA for approval. On March 8, 2016, the CEDS was submitted to EDA, and on March 15, 2016, we received notification from EDA approving the CEDS (letter attached).

The next steps toward Economic Development District designation includes the receipt of letters of support from our County Judges, and we are requesting your assistance with a letter. Attached are two sample letters you might choose to use, or you might wish to pen your own. Please assist us with a letter of support for the submission of the North Central Texas Region to receive Economic Development District designation. Please send your letter to NCTCOG to be included in the EDA submission packet. You can email a copy of the letter to my attention at ljohnson@nctcog.org, fax a copy to me at 817-704-2543, or mail a copy to my attention at North Central Texas Council of Governments, P. O. Box 5888, Arlington, TX 76005.

We have also included a link to the CEDS for your review. Please let me know if I can provide further information.

[Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy \(CEDS\) for the North Central Texas Region](#) [PDF]

<http://www.nctcog.org/CEDS/index.asp>

Respectfully,