

2025-2030



COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

STRONGER TOGETHER:

A Blueprint for Regional Growth



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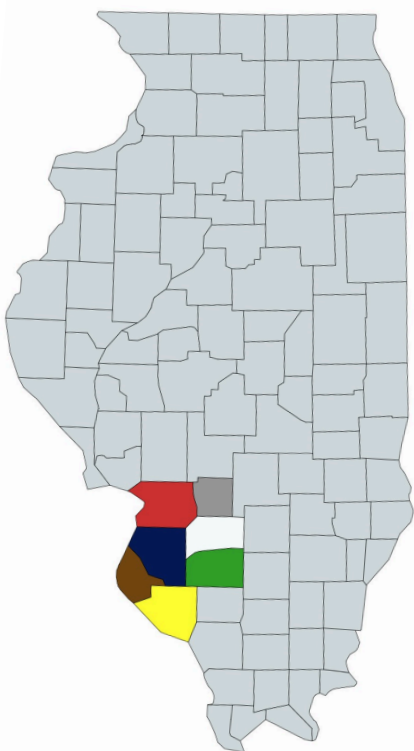
Conclusion



SOUTHWESTERN ILLINOIS METROPOLITAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (SIMAPC)

Established in 1963 as a derivative of Illinois statute the Southwestern Illinois Metropolitan and Regional Planning Commission (SIMAPC) was created. The Illinois General Assembly recognized that the welfare, health, prosperity, moral, and general well-being of all the people in the State of Illinois are largely dependent upon the orderly development (economic, social, environmental) of the southwestern Illinois metropolitan and regional counties. In order to provide for such development in the southwestern Illinois region, it is imperative that sound, comprehensive, general and functional plans for the area are devised to guide and coordinate the development of our region.

We are dedicated to fostering sustainable economic development and growth within our communities. Our team is committed to creating opportunities and enhancing the quality of life for all residents. Through strategic planning and collaboration, we aim to build a prosperous future for generations to come.



OUR VISION

We envision a future where every community, urban or rural, flourishes through collaborative planning, innovative design, and inclusive engagement with all stakeholders while preserving the unique identities of our communities for generations to come.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to support economic diversification and resilience in both urban and rural areas, fostering entrepreneurship, innovation, and job creation while leveraging the strengths of our urban centers and rural landscapes to promote sustainable and equitable growth for all residents.

TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

At SIMAPC, transparency and accountability are at the core of everything we do. We operate with integrity and ensure that our actions align with the best interests of the communities we serve.

SOUTHWESTERN ILLINOIS CEDS

The Southwestern Illinois Metropolitan Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) represents a shared vision for economic growth within the seven-county Southwestern Illinois region. The intent of the CEDS is to create jobs, diversify the economy, improve living conditions, and enhance the region's economic prosperity.

To guide the Southwestern Illinois Region forward, the CEDS dissects the region's demographics and economic indicators; documents the region's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats; and lays out the region's goals and priorities.

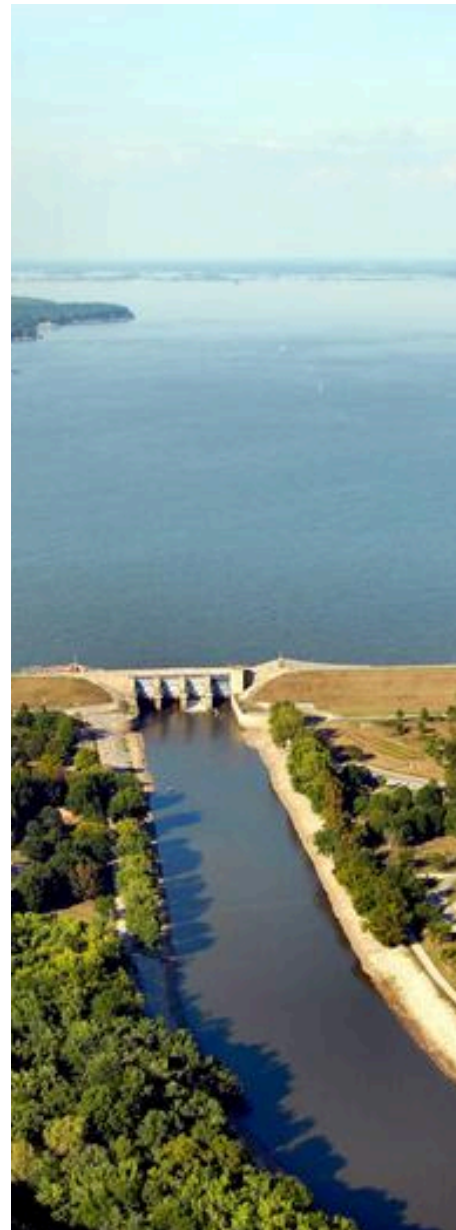
A CEDS is requirement to apply for assistance under the Economic Development Administration's (EDA) Public Works and Economic Adjustment programs. SIMAPC will continue to seek assistance as a designated Economic Development District (EDD) for Southwestern Illinois.

As an EDD for the region, SIMAPC plays an important supporting role in local economic development, fostering collaboration between the region's local jurisdictions, economic development organizations, and the EDA.

The EDD helps support regional priorities for projects and investments.

SIMAPC is responsible for updating and submitting a new CEDS every five years. SIMAPC will continue to offer communication and outreach to the region in order to take full advantage of the resources and support of the Economic Development Administration and other supporting entities.

The CEDS document will be readily available for the public and stakeholders to review and consult. As a public document, the CEDS can be utilized as a guide to the regional economy as local decision makers work to improve it.





ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

CEDS COMMITTEE

The redesign and overhaul of SIMAPC CEDS is overseen by a selection of committee members, comprised of 14 stakeholders. All seven counties are represented, and members have a variety of backgrounds. This includes elected officials, as well as economic development staff and local jurisdictions.

COUNTY STAKEHOLDERS

Each county will include stakeholders designated by the respective CEDS Committee Chair. Stakeholder sessions will be held in person in each respective county.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

A 30-Day public comment period will be scheduled to invite stakeholders to review the CEDS document to provide any feedback.

CEDS ADOPTION

After all feedback has been received and the CEDS has been formatted, the Executive Committee will formally adopt the strategy.



CEDS COMMITTEE

ST. CLAIR COUNTY

Mark Kupsy, Chair
Randy Bolle, Vice Chair

MADISON COUNTY

Chris Slusser
Dave Tanzyus

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Gerald Brockmeier

BOND COUNTY

Brad Criner
Dave Koonce

MONROE COUNTY

Doug Garmer
Pam Poettker

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

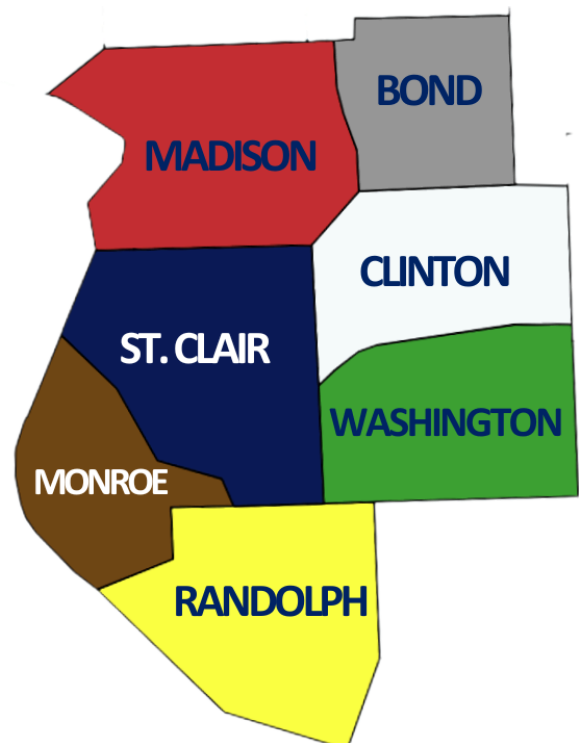
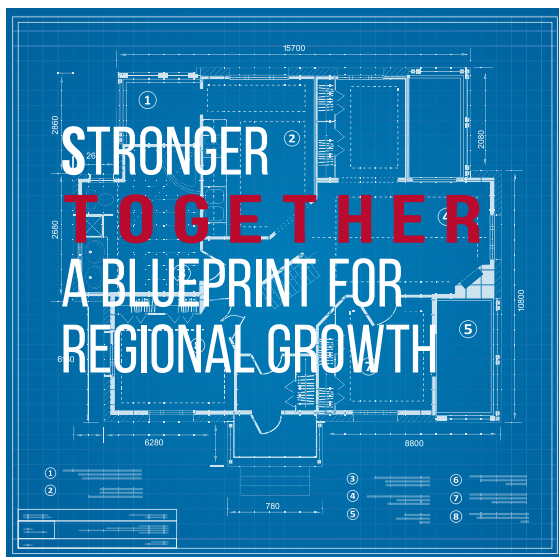
Kyle Anderson, Leadership Council Southwest Illinois
Tracey Glenn, IL DCEO

CLINTON COUNTY

Ann Schroeder

RANDOLPH COUNTY

Clyde Boyd
Dave Holder



STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

The Southwestern Illinois Metropolitan and Regional Planning Commission (SIMAPC) prioritizes strong collaboration with local, regional, state, and federal agencies to align planning and economic development efforts across the region. The Commission works closely with the seven county governments, over 110 municipalities, and numerous townships and special districts to ensure coordinated planning. A key partnership exists with the East-West Gateway Council of Governments, which shares jurisdiction over three Illinois counties. A longstanding Memorandum of Agreement between the two agencies defines roles and avoids duplication of services, enhancing regional efficiency.

SIMAPC also maintains ongoing coordination with regional organizations such as the Greater St. Louis Inc., Bi-State Development, the Southwestern Illinois Council of Mayors, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, regional education offices, and workforce development boards. Transportation planning is aligned with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), whose District 8 Engineer serves on the Commission's General Assembly. Additionally, the Commission leverages support from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), particularly for grant funding and technical assistance. Federal policy alignment is achieved through regular engagement with Region V offices of various federal agencies, ensuring the Commission's work remains strategic and impactful.



**Illinois
Department of Commerce
& Economic Opportunity**



**Illinois Department
of Transportation**



**Leadership Council
Southwestern Illinois**



ENVIRONMENT

The Southwestern Illinois Region is centrally located in the Midwestern portion of the United States. The Region is bordered on the west by the Mississippi River and the City of St. Louis.

The Southwestern Illinois Region contains seven counties. These include Bond, Clinton, Madison, Monroe, Randolph, St. Clair and Washington. The counties of Clinton, Madison, Monroe, and St. Clair are included in the Illinois portion of the St. Louis Metropolitan Statistical Area (SMSA).

The region is characterized by a mix of suburban, urban, and rural communities, as well as notable landscapes like the American Bottoms Floodplain and Bluffs along the Mississippi River in the western portion of the area and large areas of agricultural land to the east.

TOTAL SQUARE MILES

3750

2023 US CENSUS POPULATION

648,148

Population Density
172.3 person/per sq. mile

AVERAGE MEDIAN AGE

40.84

Females older than Males.
Region is older than United States Average.



POPULATION CONCENTRATION

Within the Region, a wide variety of land uses and densities are present. The major urbanized areas are concentrated in Madison and St. Clair Counties, which together contains roughly 80 percent of the Region's population.



111 INCORPORATED MUNICIPALITIES

Smallest: Kaskaskia (21) Randolph County
Largest: Belleville (42,404) St. Clair County

POPULATION AND LABOR

County	Population	Growth	Labor Force	Unemp. Rate	Per Capita Income	Median Income	Poverty Rate
Bond	16,576	▼	3501	.70%	\$32,665	\$61,603	13.6%
Clinton	27,087	▲	8876	3.2%	\$41,334	\$82,314	7.5%
Madison	263,017	▼	92,567	6.2%	\$40,869	\$74,800	11.10%
Monroe	34,696	▲	8311	3.0%	\$49,438	\$101,635	4.9%
Randolph	29,815	▼	10,168	1.5%	31,900	\$68,870	11.8%
St. Clair	251,149	▼	71,616	4.0%	37,824	\$70,178	13.4%
Washington	13,575	▼	6,615	-5.8%	38,507	\$75,652	8.7%

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

Strengths:

- Monroe County leads in nearly all metrics: highest income levels, lowest poverty, and positive population growth.
- Clinton County also performs well economically, with strong household income and low poverty.

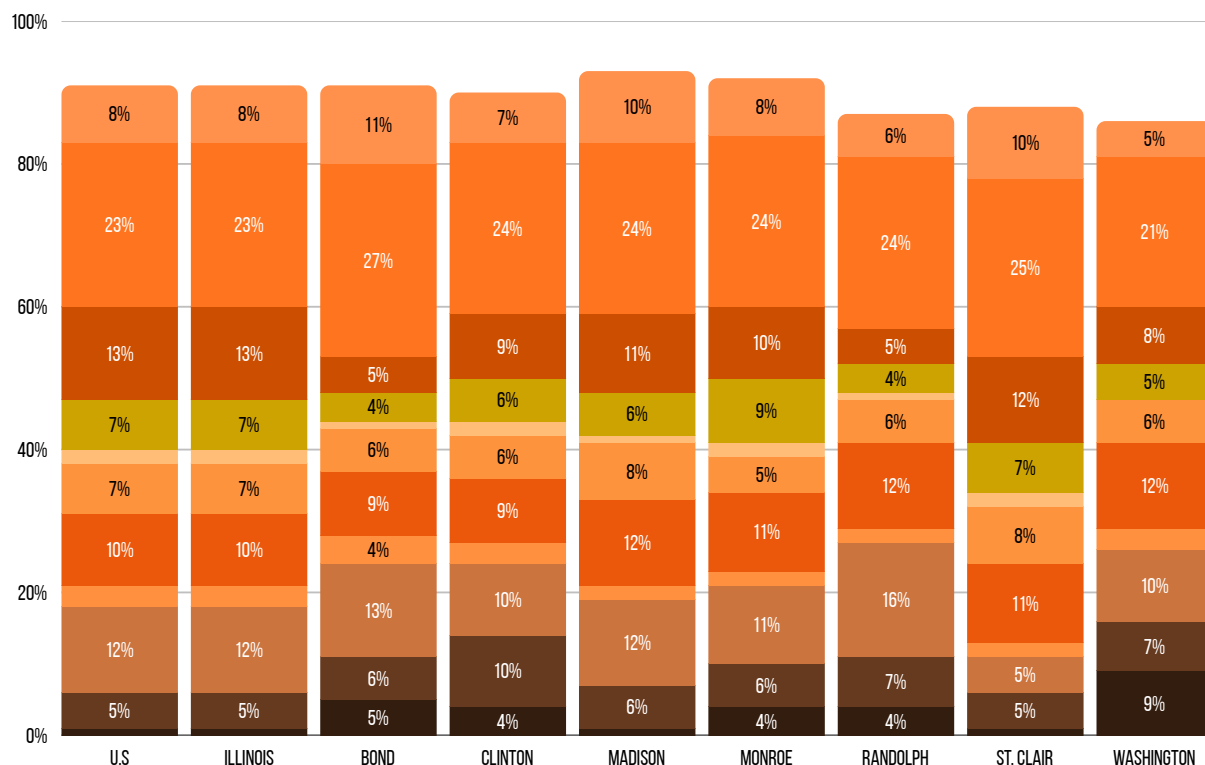
Stable Performers:

- Washington County maintains a good income level and moderate poverty despite population decline.
- Randolph County shows average income metrics but benefits from a large labor force.

Areas of Concern:

- Bond County faces challenges with low income, high poverty, and a small labor force.
- St. Clair and Madison Counties, while more populous, show signs of economic strain with high unemployment, negative growth, and poverty above 11%.

JOBS BY INDUSTRY



 Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing/Hunting & Mining

 Constuction

 Manufacturing

 Wholesale Trade

 Retail Trade

 Transportation/Warehousing & Utilities

 Information

 Finance/Insurance & Real Estate

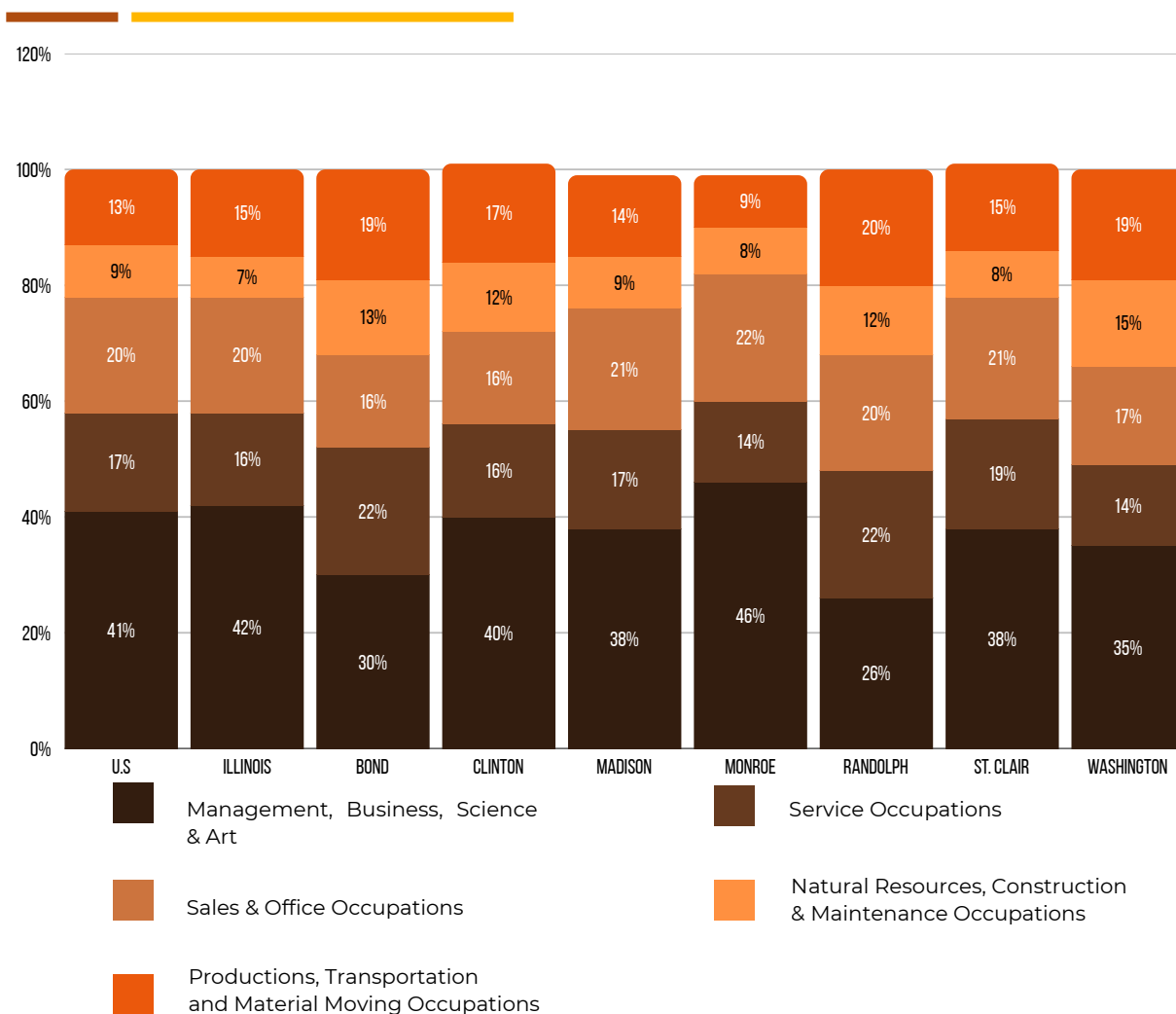
 Professional, Scientific, Management Administrative & Waste Management

 Educational, Healthcare & Social Assistance

 Arts, Entertainment, Recreation Accommodations & Food Service

The SIMAPC Region has a higher percentage of jobs in the Educational, Healthcare & Social Assistance industries compared to Illinois and the United States.

JOBS BY OCCUPATION

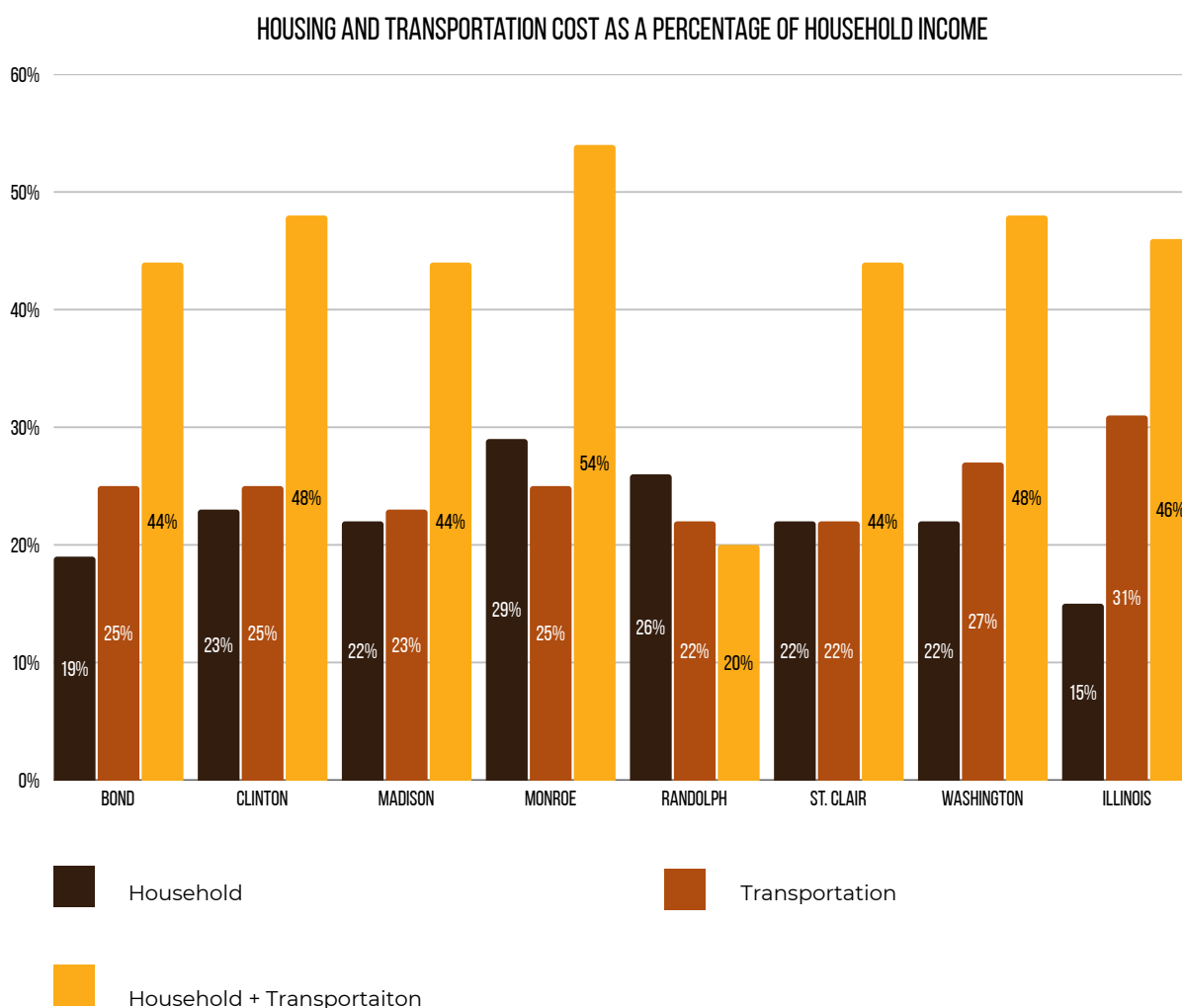


According to the Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) Long Term Occupational Projections, the transportation and material moving industry is expected to have the largest occupational growth.

The SIMAPC Region has more job occupations in this category than Illinois and the United States. Construction, business, and healthcare continue to be strong growth occupational sectors. The SIMAPC Region can capitalize on this segment by leveraging educational systems to fuel the school to work pipeline while retaining residents and reducing outward migration.

A strong regional surge in warehousing and light manufacturing has facilitated the need for ongoing workforce training. The region has numerous colleges that have strong workforce training programs. In addition, there has been an increase in workforce training programs that focus on junior and senior high school students. We receive a steady stream of job training resource funding inquiries from our stakeholders.

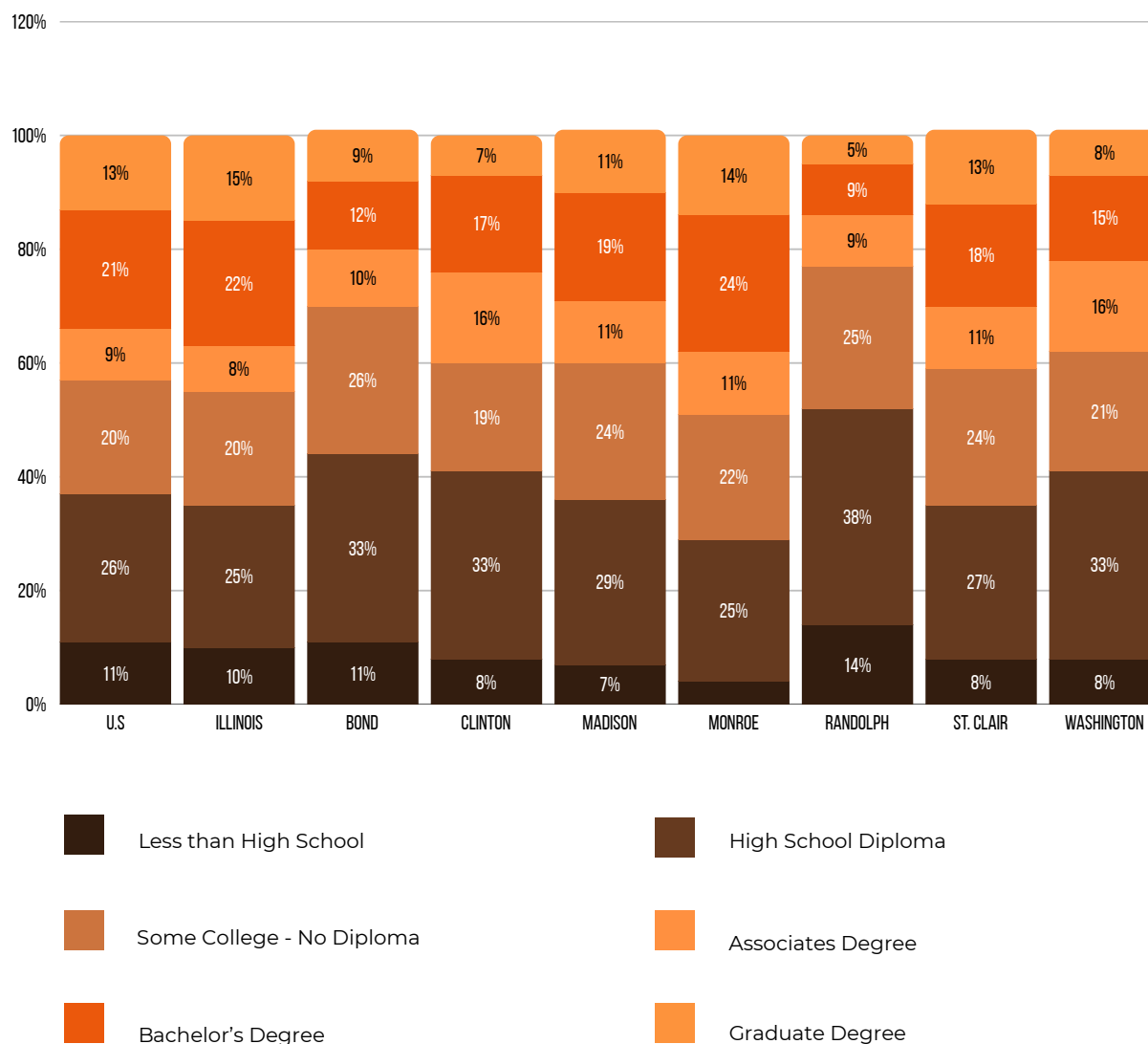
HOUSING + TRANSPORTATION



The SIMAPC region faces challenges with affordability when the costs of housing and transportation are viewed together, as indicated by the H+T Affordability Index.* The Index defines affordability as the combined costs of housing and transportation being at or below 45% of household income. In the SIMAPC region, average households housing and transportation costs are approximately 47%.

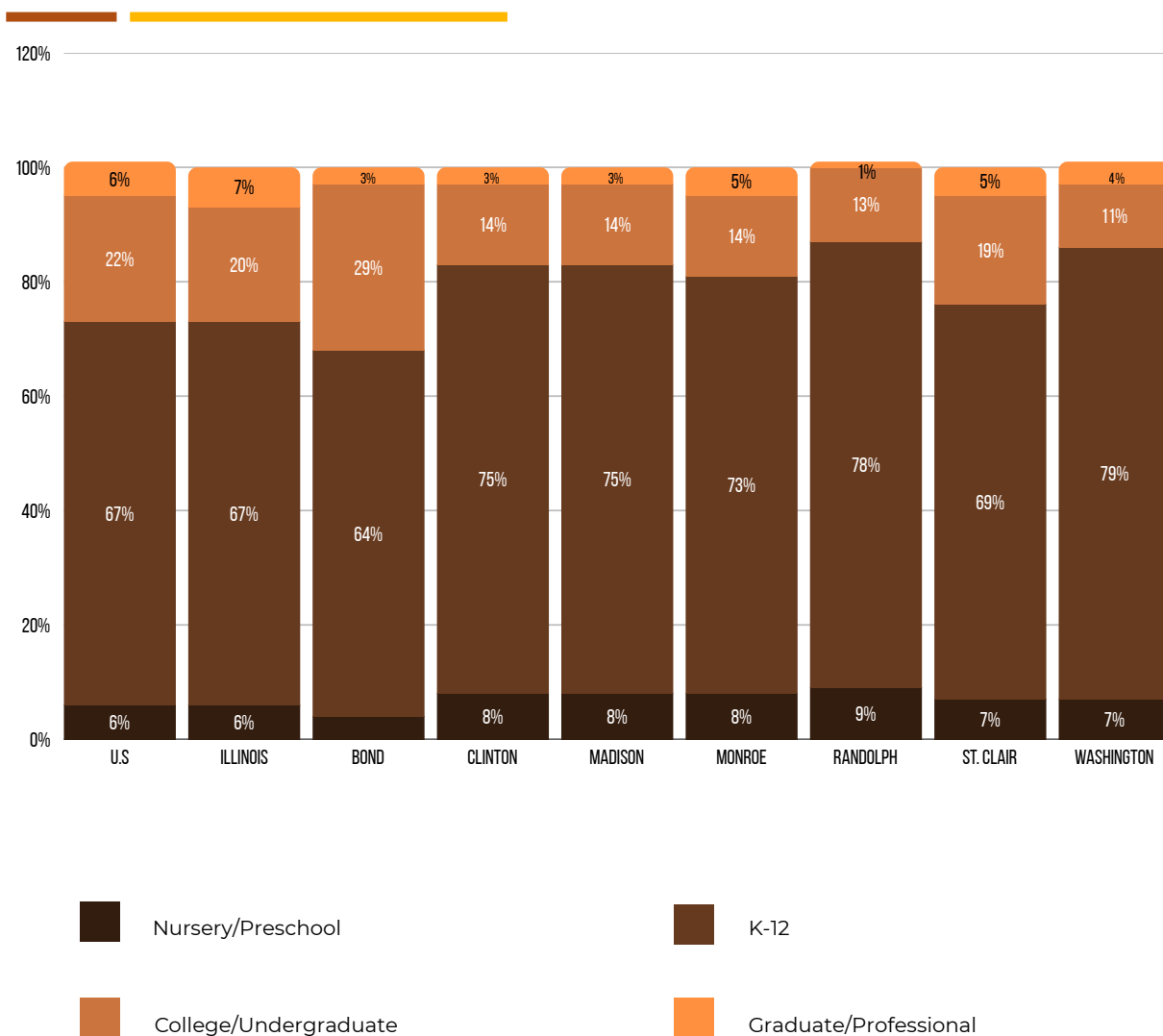
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT 25+ YEARS



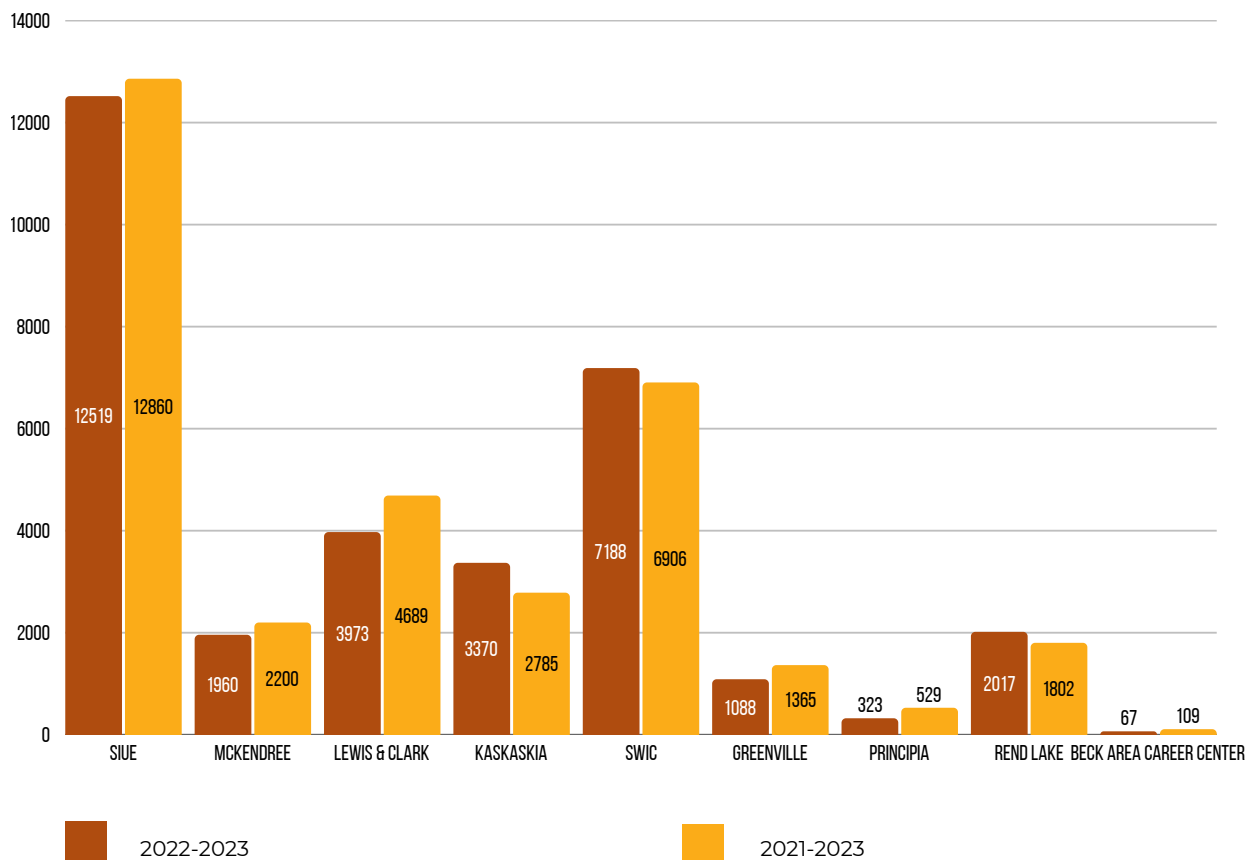
The SIMAPC region is relatively well educated. The region has a larger percentage of the population with Some College and an Associate's Degree compared to Illinois and the United States. Over 30% of the population measured in Madison, Monroe, and St. Clair Counties have a Bachelor's or Graduate Degree.

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT



The SIMAPC region has higher enrollment rates for pre-school and secondary education compared to Illinois and the United States. Bond County has the highest enrollment rate for College and Undergraduate studies. All Counties in the SIMAPC Region have lower Graduate enrollment rates compared to Illinois and the United States.

COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY ENROLLEMENT



The universities in the SIMAPC Region have seen a decrease in enrollment rates. Kaskaskia, SWIC, and Rend Lake have seen increases in overall enrollment rates.

REGIONAL ASSETS



AGRICULTURE

The Southwestern Illinois Region has a robust agricultural economic component. There are 5,027 individual farms in the region with Washington, St. Clair, Clinton and Madison having the most farms. There are 1,750,216 total acres of farmland in the region, with Washington County having the highest area. There are 1,553,125 crop acres in the region with Washington, Clinton and Madison having the highest production of Corn, Wheat and Soybeans. The region also has a strong cattle and calf industry with Clinton and Washington having the highest production.



INDUSTRY CLUSTER

The Southwestern Illinois Region has prominent industry clusters (Total Assets of 19 Billion Dollars) ranging from advanced & light manufacturing to long existing heavy industry with strong agriculture, food processing, biomedical healthcare, data centers, finance and insurance, aviation, metal fabrication, e-commerce, energy production, chemical and medical processing, multi-modal transportation networks, warehouse distribution supply chain, cybersecurity and geospatial intelligence innovation sectors.

(Source: Leadership Council of Southwestern Illinois)



TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

The Southwestern Illinois Region is known for its centrally located geographical setting and an expansive network of transportation infrastructure. This includes the convergence of 5 Interstate Highways and 6 Class I Rail Lines. Transportation related organizations include St. Louis Lambert International Airport, Scott Air Force Base, St. Louis Downtown Airport, America's Central Port District and Kaskaskia Regional Port District.

SIMAPC has provided technical support and grant writing and administration services for most of these organizations. Funding sources for this support have included EDA, DCEO, DRA, IDOT and US DOT.

A strong transportation network is critical for spurring economic growth and business retention.

REGIONAL ASSETS



ENERGY SECTOR

- Illinois is the sixth-largest energy-consuming state in the nation, and its industrial sector, which includes petroleum refining, coal mining, and agriculture, uses the most energy of any end-use sector in the state.
- Illinois ranks fourth in the nation in crude oil refining capacity behind Texas, Louisiana, and California, and the state's 4 refineries can process nearly 1 million barrels of crude oil per calendar day.
- The estimated recoverable coal reserves in Illinois are the second-largest in the nation after Montana, and the state's coal mines account for 6% of U.S. total coal production.
- Illinois is the third-largest ethanol-producing state and also the third-largest producer of biodiesel.
- Illinois generates more electricity from nuclear energy than any other state, and it accounted for about 13% of U.S. nuclear power generation in 2023.

Coal-fired power plants have been the second-largest electricity providers in Illinois from 2009 until 2023. However, coal's contribution to in-state generation declined significantly from 46% of electricity net generation in 2009 to 15% in 2023, as about 9,000 megawatts of coal-fired generating capacity shut down during that period in response to stricter emissions regulations and economic pressures. About 2,700 megawatts of coal-fired capacity shut down in 2022.^(41,42,43,44) The state's natural gas-fired generation reached its highest level ever in 2023. Natural gas-fired power plants provided almost 16% of Illinois's electricity net generation in 2023, about four times more than a decade earlier. Wind-powered generation closely followed, accounting for 12% of in-state generation. Other sources of energy, led by solar power, biomass, and hydropower, accounted for almost all the rest of the state's net generation in 2023 ⁽⁴⁵⁾.

41 U.S. EIA, Electricity Data Browser, Net generation for all sectors (thousand megawatthours), Illinois, Annual, 2001-23.
 42 U.S. EIA, Electricity, Preliminary Monthly Electric Generator Inventory (based on Form EIA-860M as a supplement to Form EIA-860), Inventory of Operating Generators as of July 2024, and Inventory of Retired Generators as of July 2024, Plant State: Illinois, Technology: Conventional Steam Coal.
 43 Joyce, Stephen, "Illinois Governor Signs Bill Shutting Coal Plants for Good (1)," Bloomberg Law (September 15, 2021).
 44 U.S. EIA, "U.S. coal-fired electricity generation decreased in 2022 and 2023," Today in Energy (May 10, 2024).
 45 U.S. EIA, Electricity Data Browser, Net generation for all sectors (thousand megawatthours), Illinois, Annual, 2001-23.
www.eia.gov



REGIONAL SWOT

The regional CEDS committee met through a series of in-person and virtual meetings to discuss each county's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. SIMAPC also conducted a public open house session in each of the seven counties.

The common theme among all counties was workforce training, infrastructure improvement, business retention and growth, and the expansion and support of rail and river transportation services. The ability to focus on these issues will help to maintain economic resilience in the region.



STRENGTH

- Location
- Transportation
- Access to markets
- Strong workforce education and training network
- Competitive cost of living
- Opportunity zones
- Cohesive regional identity



WEAKNESS

- Aging water and sewer infrastructure
- Lack of affordable housing in rural areas
- Poor local road conditions
- Urban sprawl
- Abandoned industrial properties (Brownfields)
- Lack of Broadband in rural communities.



OPPORTUNITIES

- Warehousing expansion
- Railway network expansion
- Intermodal transportation services
- Expansion on the Kaskaskia and Mississippi Rivers
- Grow and train workforce,
- Enhance business retention,
- Attract new businesses,
- Redevelop underutilized properties.



THREATS

- Energy transition from coal to natural gas and other forms of energy
- Aging population
- Decline in population
- Lack of broadband in rural areas
- Decline in public funding
- Increased flooding.

ANALYSIS:

Stakeholders voiced a strong desire to maintain and cultivate current levels of public /private partnerships and foster continued communication of economic development opportunities and resources available to the counties, municipalities and SIMAPC.

Each CEDS committee meeting and public information session provided an opportunity to discuss county specific and regional information critical to developing the SWOT analysis. This is a regional SWOT.



STRATEGIC DIRECTION

In the past, SIMAPC identified similar goals addressed in the last CEDS document, however, with more collaborations, innovative processes implemented in the region, economic resilience is on the cusp of success. The goals listed on the follow page identify the regions needs.

- Long-Term impact and sustainability
- Regional impact
- Provide employment opportunities to people with a variety of skill levels and employment sectors
- Recognize the region's strength and challenges
- Promotes and supports public and private partnership

EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

The evaluation framework serves as a tool to measure progress on the successful implementation of the overall CEDS. It is an important element of the ongoing planning process and assists with answering how well SIMAPC is doing and/or the region. The CEDS is reviewed annually by the committee and submitted to EDA. The review serves as a performance report. In response to the findings of the evaluations, the CEDS may be adjusted by SIMAPC under the guidance of the committee. This will allow the CEDS to be flexible and responsive to the economic development needs of district/region. Each annual review will address these six objectives: Realistic goals, objective of goals, competent strategies, milestones, stakeholders, and time frame.

ECONOMIC RESILIENCY

Regional economic prosperity is linked to an area's ability to adapt, avoid, withstand, and/or quickly recover from major disruptions to an economic base. Some examples of disruptions include:

- Downturns in economy
- Impact on demand for locally produced goods and consumer spending
- Downturns in specific economic sectors
- External shocks like an exit of a major employer
- Natural or man-made disasters

The CEDS process provides a critical mechanism to identify regional vulnerabilities and prevent and/or respond to economic disruptions. SIMAPC supports responsive initiatives. This will enhance resiliency in the region.

STRATEGIC GOALS

The Southwestern Illinois Metropolitan and Regional Planning Commission (SIMAPC) CEDS Plan was prepared in collaboration with the Seven County Region Stakeholders.

The long-term purpose of the CEDS is to provide a framework to increase regional cooperation, identify available resources and pursue economic prosperity.

Although the goals for the region are the same, each individual county has prioritized the action items to reflect their individual economic development needs. SIMAPC will work with each county during the CEDS implementation process to ensure the assistance provided will support their identified goals.

1

ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION

To retain, expand, and diversify the regional economic base by developing targeted industrial zones that attract emerging industries and high-demand sectors, driving job creation, raising incomes, and strengthening the region's tax base

2

REIGNITE GROWTH & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Reignite small business growth and entrepreneurship by leveraging partners to provide access to financing, tailored mentorship, networking opportunities, and training resources.

3

ELEVATE SKILLED LABOR

Meet emerging market demands by enhancing education initiatives, increasing annual income and implementing strategies for talent retention.

4

INFRASTRUCTURE

Develop and implement strategic investments in port infrastructure, rail systems, and intermodal logistics to boost export capacity, driving regional Gross Domestic product output.

5

PROTECT & SUPPORT

Provide resources that enhance their competitiveness, facilitate workforce development, and promote innovation, ensuring job retention and economic stability in the region.





GOAL #1 ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION

OBJECTIVE:

To retain, expand, and diversify the regional economic base by developing targeted industrial zones that attract emerging industries and high-demand sectors, driving job creation, raising incomes, and strengthening the region's tax base

STRATEGIES

- Identify and map enterprise and opportunity zones
- Develop targeted industry attraction plan
- Gain knowledge of current incentive and financing tools
- List of shovel ready sites with strong potential for development

STAKEHOLDERS

- Regional Economic Development Organizations
- County and Municipal Governments
- Private sector and Site Selectors
- Workforce and education partners

MILESTONES

- Completed industrial zone inventory
- Secure MOUs with local governments for collaboration
- Partner for site tours
- Attract one new business in a targeted sector within a designated zone

TIME FRAME

ON - GOING



GOAL #2 REIGNITE SMALL BUSINESS GROWTH & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

OBJECTIVE:

Leverage partners to provide access to financing, tailored mentorship, networking opportunities, and training resources, creating a robust support system where local entrepreneurs can thrive and innovate.

STRATEGIES

- Create a small business resource center
- Link entrepreneurs with experienced business and industry experts
- Knowledge of available financing
- Foster networking opportunities

STAKEHOLDERS

- Small Business Development Center at SIUE
- Local Chambers of Commerce
- Small Business Administration
- Financial Institutions
- Local Municipalities

MILESTONES

- Create resource links on Website
- Identify and share local resources
- Attend local events

TIME FRAME

ON - GOING



GOAL #3 ELEVATE SKILLED LABOR

OBJECTIVE:

Meet emerging market demands by enhancing education initiatives, increasing annual income and implementing strategies for talent retention.

STRATEGIES

- Support regional efforts to address workforce priorities
- Increased awareness of training & certification programs offered locally
- Support career readiness programs
- Participated in local workforce investment boards

STAKEHOLDERS

- Local K-12 Schools
- Local Colleges & Universities
- Technical Training Centers
- Illinois Workforce Innovation Board
- Local Employers
- Industry Associations

MILESTONES

- Participate in local workforce innovation board
- Create connections for workforce initiatives
- Participate in career exploration

TIME FRAME

ON - GOING

GOAL #4 INFRASTRUCTURE

OBJECTIVE:

Develop and implement strategic investments in port infrastructure, rail systems, and intermodal logistics to boost export capacity, driving regional Gross Domestic product output.

STRATEGIES

- Identify & prioritize key infrastructure projects
- Pursue funding for Those Projects
- Strengthen intermodal connections
- Work with key partners to increase regions visibility as an intermodal hub for business

STAKEHOLDERS

- Kaskaskia River Port District
- America's Central Port District
- Southwestern Port District
- Bi-State Freightway District
- East-West Gateway Council of Governments
- Illinois Department of Transportation
- United States Department of Transportation
- USACoE
- Local, County and State Government
- Delta Regional Authority

MILESTONES

- Secure additional DRA Funding for KPRD Projects
- Create a priority projects List
- Work with industry partners to create awareness of volume moved through multimodal methods
- Establish lines of communications between development planners and transportations planners

TIME FRAME

ON - GOING

GOAL #5 PROTECT & SUPPORT

OBJECTIVE:

Provide resources that enhance their competitiveness, facilitate workforce development, and promote innovation, ensuring job retention and economic stability in the region.

STRATEGIES

- Identify areas with lack of internet connectivity
- Support co-working spaces
- Support on-going security efforts for regional lite-rail system
- Support regional efforts to bring aviation jobs to area
- Support Scott Air Force Base

STAKEHOLDERS

- Broadband Providers
- Local Workforce Investment Boards
- Local, County and State Government
- Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (Office of Broadband)
- Scott Air Force Base
- Southwest Illinois Leadership Council
- Metro-link

MILESTONES

- Upgrade rural areas with broadband
- Attend Scott Air Force briefing
- Promote safe use of Metro-link
- Partner with SWIL Leadership Council on Aviation Summit
- On-going attendance and partnership with local governments

TIME FRAME

ON - GOING



GOAL PRIORITIES

BOND COUNTY

ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION

To retain, expand, and diversify the regional economic base by developing targeted industrial zones that attract emerging industries and high-demand sectors, driving job creation, raising incomes, and strengthening the region's tax base.

PROTECT & SUPPORT

Provide resources that enhance their competitiveness, facilitate workforce development, and promote innovation, ensuring job retention and economic stability in the region.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Develop and implement strategic investments in port infrastructure, rail systems, and intermodal logistics to boost export capacity, driving regional Gross Domestic product output.

REIGNITE SMALL BUSINESS GROWTH & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Leverage partners to provide access to financing, tailored mentorship, networking opportunities, and training resources, creating a robust support system where local entrepreneurs can thrive and innovate.

ELEVATE SKILLED LABOR

Meet emerging market demands by enhancing education initiatives, increasing annual income and implementing strategies for talent retention.



GOAL PRIORITIES

CLINTON COUNTY

PROTECT & SUPPORT

Provide resources that enhance their competitiveness, facilitate workforce development, and promote innovation, ensuring job retention and economic stability in the region.

ELEVATE SKILLED LABOR

Meet emerging market demands by enhancing education initiatives, increasing annual income and implementing strategies for talent retention.

ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION

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INFRASTRUCTURE

Develop and implement strategic investments in port infrastructure, rail systems, and intermodal logistics to boost export capacity, driving regional Gross Domestic product output.



GOAL PRIORITIES

MADISON COUNTY

PROTECT & SUPPORT

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ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION

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INFRASTRUCTURE

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ELEVATE SKILLED LABOR

Meet emerging market demands by enhancing education initiatives, increasing annual income and implementing strategies for talent retention.



GOAL PRIORITIES

MONROE COUNTY

PROTECT & SUPPORT

Provide resources that enhance their competitiveness, facilitate workforce development, and promote innovation, ensuring job retention and economic stability in the region.

ELEVATE SKILLED LABOR

Meet emerging market demands by enhancing education initiatives, increasing annual income and implementing strategies for talent retention.

REIGNITE SMALL BUSINESS GROWTH & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

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INFRASTRUCTURE

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ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION

To retain, expand, and diversify the regional economic base by developing targeted industrial zones that attract emerging industries and high-demand sectors, driving job creation, raising incomes, and strengthening the region's tax base.



GOAL PRIORITIES

RANDOLPH COUNTY

INFRASTRUCTURE

Develop and implement strategic investments in port infrastructure, rail systems, and intermodal logistics to boost export capacity, driving regional Gross Domestic product output.

ELEVATE SKILLED LABOR

Meet emerging market demands by enhancing education initiatives, increasing annual income and implementing strategies for talent retention.

PROTECT & SUPPORT

Provide resources that enhance their competitiveness, facilitate workforce development, and promote innovation, ensuring job retention and economic stability in the region.

ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION

To retain, expand, and diversify the regional economic base by developing targeted industrial zones that attract emerging industries and high-demand sectors, driving job creation, raising incomes, and strengthening the region's tax base.

REIGNITE SMALL BUSINESS

GROWTH & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Leverage partners to provide access to financing, tailored mentorship, networking opportunities, and training resources, creating a robust support system where local entrepreneurs can thrive and innovate.



GOAL PRIORITIES

ST CLAIR COUNTY

ELEVATE SKILLED LABOR

Meet emerging market demands by enhancing education initiatives, increasing annual income and implementing strategies for talent retention.

PROTECT & SUPPORT

Provide resources that enhance their competitiveness, facilitate workforce development, and promote innovation, ensuring job retention and economic stability in the region.

ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION

To retain, expand, and diversify the regional economic base by developing targeted industrial zones that attract emerging industries and high-demand sectors, driving job creation, raising incomes, and strengthening the region's tax base.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Develop and implement strategic investments in port infrastructure, rail systems, and intermodal logistics to boost export capacity, driving regional Gross Domestic product output.

REIGNITE SMALL BUSINESS GROWTH & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Leverage partners to provide access to financing, tailored mentorship, networking opportunities, and training resources, creating a robust support system where local entrepreneurs can thrive and innovate.



GOAL PRIORITIES

WASHINGTON COUNTY

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CONCLUSION

Building a Resilient, Competitive, and Inclusive Regional Economy

The Southwestern Illinois region stands at a pivotal moment; one that demands bold action, innovative thinking, and strategic collaboration. Through this Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), SIMAPC has outlined a unified vision to drive long-term prosperity by diversifying the regions economic base, elevating its workforce, empowering entrepreneurs, and investing in the infrastructure that supports sustainable growth.

By prioritizing targeted industrial development, strengthening small business and entrepreneurs, advancing workforce skills, and modernizing our infrastructure, this strategy positions the region to compete not only regionally but also globally while preserving the unique character and strengths of our communities. It recognizes that economic resilience is not just about growth; it's about adaptability, equity, and preparing for the challenges of tomorrow.

Success will depend on continued cooperation among public, private, nonprofit, and education partners. Together, SIMAPC will cultivate the conditions where innovation thrives, talent is retained, jobs are created, and communities prosper. This CEDS is the beginning of a process to launch a shared commitment to shape a stronger, smarter, and more connected Southwestern Illinois region.



**10025 Bunkum Rd
Fairview Heights, IL 62208**



618-344-4250



info@simapc.com



simapc.org

