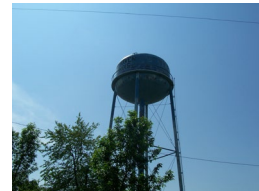




2021–2026

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)



Southeastern Illinois Regional Planning and Development Commission

Produced with financial support provided by SIRP&DC Members and by the:

United States Department of Commerce
Economic Development Administration (EDA)



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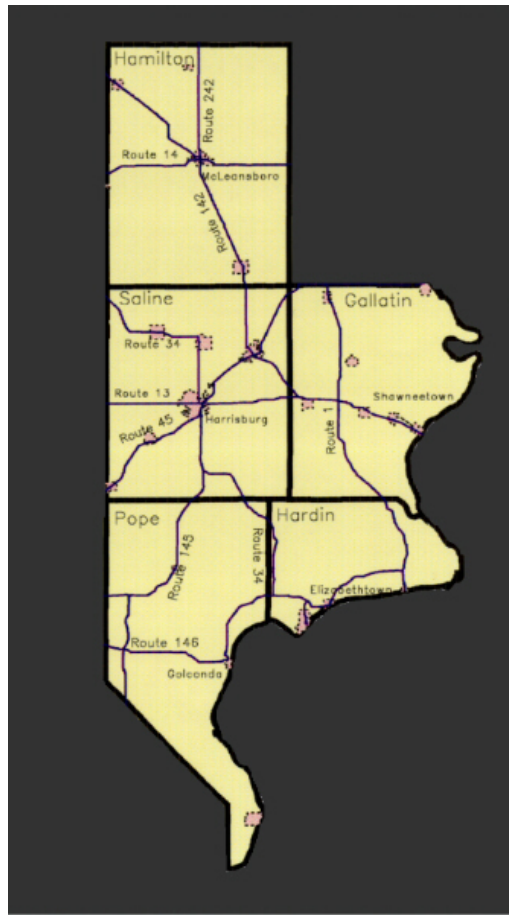
SUMMARY AND INTRODUCTION

The 2021 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the Southeastern Illinois Regional Planning and Development Commission's District serves as the guide for community and economic development in the five counties comprising the Economic Development District. The service area includes the counties of Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Pope and Saline. There are 24 incorporated municipalities within the region.

The document gives an overview of the general description of the area, natural resources, environmental issues, political geography, population and the labor force, economy, infrastructure and services, planning and economic development activities and evaluation of the existing and potential assets and liabilities of the area.

The document is used to guide the local units of government and to provide the governmental entities with a tool for long-range planning activities. The document also outlines the District's goals, objectives, development strategies and implementation plan.

SIRP&DC DISTRICT MAP



DISTRICT ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT

The Southeastern Illinois Regional Planning and Development Commission serves the following five counties: Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Pope and Saline. The office is located at 230 West Poplar Street in Harrisburg, Illinois

The Southeastern Illinois Regional Planning and Development Commission was established in accordance with the Illinois Compiled Statutes, as amended, and was given authority under these enabling statutes by specific resolutions passed by each of the governing boards of the participating counties. The current by-laws stand as amended by the Commission on February 20, 2019.

Governing Body

The Board of Commissioners of the Southeastern Illinois Regional Planning and Development Commission is the policy making body of the Agency. The Board recognizes that the Economic Development Administration is the cognizant agency of the Commission. The Commission appoints an Executive Director who has general supervision over the administration of its business affairs, subject to the direction of the Board of Commissioners. The Executive Director is charged with the management of the projects of the Commission. The compensation of the Executive Director is determined by the Board of Commissioners. The Commission employs additional personnel as it deems necessary to exercise its powers, duties and functions as prescribed by the statutes of the State of Illinois, applicable thereto, the resolutions of the governing bodies of the counties of Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Pope and Saline. The selection and compensation of such personnel are determined by the Commission, subject to the laws of the State of Illinois. Under the direction of the Board, staff prepares an annual budget including Economic Development Administration planning grant assistance.

All members of the Board play an active role in the decision-making processes. The commission's membership consists of four (4) representatives from each of the five counties, of which one is an ex-officio member and four are appointed members. The Chairman of the County Board or Board of County Commissioners of each county, or a written, elected designee of his/her choice, is an ex-officio member of the Commission, and is entitled to vote on all matters. The Chairman of each County Board or Board of County Commissioners appoints, subject to the confirmation of the County Board of his/her County, four members who are residents of the County they are chosen to represent. One of the four members is a County Board member or other elected official representing a unit of general local government within the County; two shall hold no elected office and are representative of a major citizen group in the County (e.g. persons representing a minority or low income group, or having special familiarity with the local issues such as housing, education, economic development, transportation, health, recreation/tourism or environmental problems); and one is a Village President or Mayor, or municipal board member selected by a Chairman of the county Board or Board of County Commissioners.

SIRP&DC STAFF

Alene Carr - Executive Director
Abbey Reeves - Economic Development Coordinator
Eric Fodor - Regional Planner
Nicole York – Regional Planner-Special Projects

THE COMMISSION'S GENERAL ACTIVITIES

Mission Statement:

Regional Planning and Development Commission is to provide professional quality service to the local governments and residents of our five-county region (Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Pope and Saline counties) and to promote and foster growth, economic diversification, and prosperity within the region by securing and administering grants for public works, housing rehabilitation, economic development projects and operation of the Revolving Loan Fund. SIRP&DC will also research, develop and implement strategies that will fulfill the needs of sustainable development.

The mission statement of Southeastern Illinois Regional Planning and Development Commission reflects the development issues of the region that are being addressed by staff. Economic and community development are key issues to achieving sustainable development. The SIRP&DC was formed in 1968 to serve the counties of Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Pope and Saline. The Economic Development Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce designated the Southeastern Illinois Regional Planning and Development Commission as an Economic Development District in 1969. SIRP&DC's primary concern is the preparation and implementation of the District's Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The District's CEDS is an analysis of the Region's strengths and weaknesses and lists the goals and objectives of the District. The CEDS Committee is composed of SIRP&DC's Board of Commissioners and private stakeholders in the community. This committee provides local input into the development, maintenance, and adoption of the CEDS.

Since its inception, SIRP&DC has provided numerous services to the Region. The Commission serves as a center for district statistics and project information. As a part of this activity, SIRP&DC was designated as the regional clearinghouse for Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Pope and Saline Counties. Local government units such as municipalities and county governments use the Commission as a liaison with the State and Federal agencies concerned with comprehensive planning and development in the District. SIRP&DC also serves as the Region's data census bank.

The priority goal of the Commission is to create new jobs and to stimulate private sector investment by making available long-term, low down-payment, reasonable priced financing for capital investment projects. In this capacity, SIRP&DC enhances the public/private partnership linkages in the five-county area and addresses the needs of the Region such as job creation, retention, and business expansion.

Technical Assistance: The Commission provides technical advice, grant writing, and administrative services for several programs at the state level such as the Community Development Assistance Program (CDAP) from the Department of Commerce, Small Business Administration, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Illinois Department of Transportation Economic Development Program (EDP) and Truck Access Route Program (TARP). The Commission also provides technical assistance, grant writing, and administrative services for federal programs such as the USDA - Forest Service, USDA - Rural Development, Department of Justice, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Delta Regional Authority (DRA) and EDA Public Works projects. Eligible projects include public facilities such as water, sewer, housing rehabilitation, workforce development, business retention and expansion, and community and economic development projects.

Revolving Loan Fund: The Commission's alternative financing system provides low-cost financing for growth of the District's business community. A vital portion of our lending system is the Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Program. The RLF Program was implemented in 1984 and has proven to be a very effective method of providing area businesses with the funds for expansion or start-up and job creation/retention. The fund initially consisted of \$500,000 from the Economic Development Administration and \$166,666 from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs. In June of 1990, the Farmers Home Administration granted SIRP&DC a \$100,000 Industrial Development Grant to recapitalize the RLF Program. SIRP&DC has received another Industrial Development Grant in the amount of \$119,500 from the Farmers Home Administration in 1992. In December of 1998, Rural Development approved an \$80,000 Rural Business Enterprise Grant for the recapitalization of the RLF. The Economic Development Administration approved a grant in the amount of \$170,415 to recapitalize the Revolving Loan Fund program. In addition, the Commission has received a \$30,000 grant from the State of Illinois and has provided \$43,035 to recapitalize the fund. The RLF has generated more than \$1.2 million in program income. Furthermore, over \$5.0 million has been lent out to 110 business start-ups and expansions while leveraging over \$23 million in private and public funds. What is more important, approximately 847 jobs have been saved or created using the RLF. Of this aggressive portfolio, only \$709,650 has been written off for fifteen (15) lost accounts since 1984. That corresponds to an approximated default rate of 14%. These funds are available for business owner or investors locating in or located in the Southeastern District. Once a loan is made and repayment begins, the money is placed back into the fund so that it may accumulate and be loaned out again. The initial round of loans has been made and recaptured monies are accumulating. The Loan Review Committee, which is composed of five (5) members drawn from the Board of Commissioners and the Executive Director of the Commission (6 total), recommends action on each loan to the entire body of Commissioners. The RLF is the main incentive of our alternative financing system and it offers long-term financing at lower interest rates to businesses as an enticement to expand or locate in the southeastern District. SIRP&DC is currently working with EDA on the defederalization of the RLF but will still maintain an RLF for small business lending.

Micro lending Program: One of the most accessible lending programs offered by the Commission is a micro lending program. The Commission set up a Micro Loan Fund Program with \$30,000 from a Rural Business Enterprise Grant from Rural Development and a \$10,000 line-item grant from the State of Illinois. This program allows for a client to borrow up to \$10,000 for equipment or working capital. There is no job creation or retention required and there are lower closing fees, which makes this loan program attractive for start-up businesses, home-based or cottage industries and entrepreneurs in the area. The initial funds from this program were loaned out and the Commission has received \$43,700 in Rural Business Enterprise Grant funds to recapitalize the fund. SIRP&DC has closed twelve (12) micro loan loans since inception. Seven (7) of these loans have been able to pay off, thus allowing more funds to be available.

Business & Community Development Fund: We have received a \$750,000 Intermediary Relending Program loan from Rural Development to set up our Business & Community Development Fund. The funds are to be used for eligible community development and business financing projects. These funds are available for new or expanding businesses, and in some instances, the retention of existing businesses. In addition, these funds are offered to units of local government, special taxing districts and public non-profit organizations for community development projects. The Commission has closed seven (7) business loans under the Business & Community Development Fund.

Enterprise Zone: The SIRP&DC has provided technical assistance to the Saline County Industrial Development Company (SCIDCo) in the creation, operation and expansion of the Saline County Enterprise Zone Program and acts as the Zone Administrator. Activities include assistance with marketing, expanding the boundaries of the Enterprise Zone and adding new taxing districts. The Enterprise Zone program will continue until through DCEO until the year 2034.

Opportunity Zones: There are five areas designated within the SIRP&DC district that are Federal Opportunity Zones. SIRP&DC has worked with the other districts within the Delta Regional Authority to put together a prospectus for the Opportunity Zones with the lower 16 counties in Illinois. SIRP&DC will work to promote and encourage investment from Opportunity Funds with the designated Zones.

Miscellaneous Applications: The SIRP&DC provides technical assistance in the preparation of grant applications and administration for the following: Illinois Department of Natural Resources Boat Access, IDNR Open Spaces & Land Acquisition, Illinois Department of Natural Resources Bike Path, IDNR C2000 Watershed programs, Illinois State Wildlife Grants, USDA Forest Service Economic Recovery Program, Department of Justice LLEBG, Department of Justice COPS, Illinois Department of Transportation Truck Access Route Program and Economic Development Program, FEMA Fire Fighters Program, Homeland Security Assistance to Firefighters, Secretary of State Illinois State Library, IDOT Enhancement Program, Delta Regional Authority and Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity Program applications. The staff is assisting various municipalities and counties in the administration of legislative assisted grants.

REGIONAL ECONOMIC PROFILE

Background Information: The Southeastern Illinois Regional Planning and Development Commission are composed of the following counties: Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Pope and Saline. This region has a severely depressed economy and a high incidence of underemployment and unemployment.

The rural and isolated nature of this region is the cause for several factors to the region's condition. This area has an extremely high concentration of elderly with increasing and unmet needs, poor and inadequate health care, and inadequate childcare. The most isolated portions of the region are as much as 45 minutes from medical care of any kind. The region is severely lacking in hospital, nursing home and assisted living facilities. Daycare facilities are nearly as scarce as the health services. In addition, all the childcare facilities within the region have standard hours; therefore, working, single parent mothers (this group makes up a large percentage of the population) cannot access employment opportunities that require shift work or odd hours. In addition to suffering long-term economic distress, the region has lost several major employers in the last several years. These losses have had a devastating effect on these counties in the loss of tax base and income for residents. Also, the loss of tax base has affected the ability of the local governments to provide even basic services to residents. The school districts are losing children and are struggling to survive and provide basic education. The loss of tax base has affected the infrastructure necessary for economic development. Deteriorating infrastructure is a continuing problem for not only the economic development of the region, but also the public health and safety of residents. Water and wastewater systems are aging and deteriorating. The local governments and water districts do not have the financial means to maintain and improve their systems.

General Description of Area: The Southeastern Illinois District consists of five predominately rural counties in the extreme southeastern portion of Illinois. The five counties (Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Pope and Saline) consist of approximately 1,711 square miles and encompass 24 incorporated municipalities with a total population of 47,749. The Ohio River forms the eastern and southern boundaries of the Region and acts as the dividing line between Illinois and the states of Indiana and Kentucky; three counties (Gallatin, Hardin, and Pope) lie on the western banks of the Ohio River.

The Southeastern Illinois Region is primarily composed of three physiographic regions: Mount Vernon Hill County, Shawnee Hills Section and Coastal Plain Province. The Mount Vernon Hill County occupies the northern half of the five-county region and extends to the southernmost limit of glaciation in the state. It is characterized by broad expanses of level to moderately undulating configurations of modest relief dissected by drainage ways with slight to moderately steep slopes. It passes sandstone, shale, coal, and limestone and clay formations, stemming from the Pennsylvania Period. The Shawnee Hills Section constitutes the bulk of the southern half of the Region. It intersects Saline and Gallatin Counties and includes virtually all the area to the south except for the southernmost tip of Pope County. This Region is largely consumed by the Shawnee National Forest. Its rolling hills are under laid by Pennsylvania and Mississippi limestone, sandstone, shale, clay and small deposits of Devonian and Silurian dolomite and limestone. The Coastal Plain Province occupies the southernmost tip of Pope County. Unconsolidated material covers older Paleozoic rock and produces a generally low, flat terrain which is drained by only a few scattered streams.

The five-county region features the humid continental climate typical of Southern Illinois, with its generally considerable variations in temperature. Precipitation is uniformly distributed throughout the year with slight maximums during March and April. Average annual precipitation varies from 38-46 inches, with precipitation tending to be greater to the South. Changes in the weather normally results from low pressure fronts moving east. Summers are typically warm and occasionally prolonged, with temperatures generally exceeding 90 degrees Fahrenheit. Winters are usually mild with the coldest weather occurring in December or January. An advantage to the Region's southern location are long growing seasons. The growing season ranges from 185-190 days in northwest Hamilton County to 205-210 days in extreme southern Pope County. The length of the growing season is conducive to agriculture diversification of crops.

Natural Resources: Natural resources include coal, natural gas, oil, limestone, sand, zinc, lead, fluorspar, and timber. The demand for the region's high sulfur coal, which is primarily found in Hamilton, Saline and Gallatin Counties, declined in the 1990's due to the Clean Air Act of 1990. Currently due to efforts by the State of Illinois to diversify dependency upon foreign energy sources, the coal industry is steadily declining, and more coal mines are being shuttered. Natural gas and oil exploration, which has primarily occurred in Gallatin, Hamilton, and Saline Counties, has also declined in the area. Fluorspar deposits are mainly concentrated in Hardin County, although some fluorspar comes from Pope County. These counties had historically been the principal domestic suppliers of the mineral for the United States market. All the local fluorspar mines have closed except for a few individual mining operations. The local fluorspar industry suffered major cutbacks due to stiff competition from Mexico and other foreign markets.

Forestry products have considerable economic importance for the Region. The Shawnee National Forest attracts many tourists each year. In addition, the wealth of timber reserves in the region represents an important opportunity for local revenue. The Shawnee National Forest amended plan called for the harvest of approximately 3.4 million board feet of hardwood, 6 million board feet of pine and 600,000 board feet of pin oak. Reduced national forest harvest levels and wilderness designations have combined to lower the available resource base. There are 15 recognizable commercial forest types in the Shawnee National Forest. About 65% of the forest is oak-hickory and 15% is pine. The job sectors most affected by national forest management are timber, recreation, minerals, and government employment. The unique natural features and historical points of interest existing in the Region have potential for supporting a tourism and recreation industry. Most of these features lie within the Shawnee National Forest. Some of these features are as follows: Garden of the Gods Recreation Area and Wilderness Area, Williams Hill, Rim Rock Recreation Trail, Pounds Hollow Recreation Area, Cave-in-Rock Ferry, Rose Hotel and Golconda Marina. The Shawnee National Forest currently encompasses 144,228 acres of the total acreage of Gallatin, Hardin, Pope and Saline Counties. Of that total 144,228 acres, 17,365 acres are designated as wilderness area. There are four wilderness areas within the five-county region. The wilderness areas are as follows: 1) Burden Falls covers 3,565 acres in Pope County and 108 acres in Saline County; 2) Garden of Gods covers 289 acres in Gallatin County, 1,065 acres in Hardin County, 549 acres in Pope County and 1,608 acres in Saline County; 3) Bay Creek covers 2,866 acres in Pope County; and 4) Lusk Creek covers 6,838 acres in Pope County.

Listed below is the breakdown of the most recently documented Shawnee National Forest land in the Southeastern District.

COUNTY	ACRES IN COUNTY	ACRES WITHIN PROCLAMATION BOUNDARY*	TOTAL # OF SNF ACRES IN COUNTY	% SHAWNEE NATIONAL FOREST
GALLATIN	200,601	54,242	11,296	6.00%
HAMILTON	276,480	0	0	0.00%
HARDIN	115,200	98,820	27,501	24.00%
POPE	261,120	218,617	91,372	35.00%
SALINE	241,920	31,020	14,059	6.00%
DISTRICT	1,095,321	402,699	144,228	13.00%

The agriculture base continues to decline due to farmland consolidation and new technology. The statistics listed below are taken from the 2012 U.S. Census of Agriculture:

	# OF FARMS	AVERAGE FARM SIZE In ACRES
GALLATIN	165	1,087
HAMILTON	552	363
HARDIN	161	227
POPE	322	205
SALINE	452	321

These facts and amounts from 2017 are based on averages. In 2012 there were a total of 1,880 farms in the five-county region and in 2017 there is now 1,652 therefore, the total number of farms has decreased by 228 in the 5-year period.

Environmental Issues: Timber production is an important benefit from the National Forests. The timber supplied from the Shawnee National Forest helps meet the public demand for wood products. There is disagreement about whether timber should be harvested from the Shawnee National Forest. Some believe that the Shawnee National Forest should contribute to meeting the nation's timber needs, while other believe that harvesting should not be allowed and argue over what methods should be utilized. Concerns include the effects of timber harvest on wildlife, water quality, visual quality and recreation. They also expect the Shawnee National Forest to show a profit when timber is sold. Other people are concerned that a reduced harvest from the Shawnee National Forest will hurt the local economy and the livelihood of sawmills in the Region. The Shawnee National Forest 1992 Amended Plan examined the following areas for environmental consequences: clear cutting or shelter wood timber harvest, selective timber harvest, open land management for wildlife, prescribed burning, filter-strip management, management within Forest Interior Management Units, management of candidate Wild and Scenic Rivers, Equestrian riding and riding of ATVs and OHMs, road and trails management, federal minerals management and management of candidate Wilderness Study areas. Effects were predicted for several physical, biological, economic, and social resources. Of those who support timber harvest, some agree that methods such as selection harvest are needed to be environmentally sensitive and socially responsive. Some people support clear cutting and want as much of the Forest as

possible to be available for timber production to support the local timber industry or to provide the best wildlife habitat for game species. Beneath the Shawnee National Forest is a wealth of mineral resources owned by the federal government, corporations, and private citizens. These minerals can provide important resources for our nation's industry and income to the federal and county governments. Mineral production usually requires some changes in the forest. Roads, mine shafts, drill rigs, tanks, pipelines, pumps, or open pits may be needed to develop the mineral resource. There is concern about the effects of oil and gas leasing on the forest environment. Some people do not think that oil and gas development is an appropriate use. Others urge additional restrictions for special management areas and developed recreational sites. Still others want as much of the federal mineral estate as possible open to energy and minerals exploration and are concerned that unnecessary restrictions will compromise the ability to discover the resources vital to our nation's needs.

Political Geography: The Region is composed of five counties and 24 municipalities. Three of the five counties (Gallatin, Hamilton, and Saline) operate under the township form of government and two counties (Hardin and Pope) have precincts; therefore, each county has a minimum of three levels of government: township/precinct, municipal and county. In addition, there is one river conservancy district (Saline Valley Conservancy District) that encompasses portions of the five counties.

Population and Labor Force: Since the 1960's the decline of employment opportunities in the District's main employment base (coal industry and agricultural sector) account for the majority of this population loss. There was a slight up-tick in the 1980's due largely to coal and fluorspar industry hiring. However, in the past 40 years a much faster population decline has occurred. The age distribution of the population that is over 65 plays into the fact that the labor force has fewer individuals. Since the elderly are not in the labor force, this places a stronger portion of the growth potential onto the younger population. The district's historical population patterns are listed below:

	1970 Population	1980 Population	1990 Population	2000 Population	2010 Population	2014 Population	2019 Population
Gallatin	7,418	7,590	6,909	6,445	5,589	5,291	4,828
Hamilton	8,665	9,172	8,499	8,621	8,457	8,296	8,116
Hardin	4,914	5,383	5,189	4,800	4,470	4,129	3,821
Pope	3,857	4,404	4,373	4,413	4,320	4,276	4,177
Saline	25,721	28,448	26,551	26,733	24,913	24,612	23,491
Total	50,575	54,997	51,521	51,012	47,749	46,604	44,433

COUNTY	2019 POPULATION % AGE 65 AND OLDER
GALLATIN	23.3%
HAMILTON	21.8%
HARDIN	25.7%
POPE	28.0%
SALINE	20.3%
ILLINOIS	15.6%
U.S.	16.0%

The following is a breakdown of the population change by City in the SIRP&DC Region:

City Name	2014 Census	2019 Census
Gallatin County		
Village of Equality	643	458
Village of Junction	88	101
Village of New Haven	406	376
Village of Old Shawneetown	199	81
Village of Omaha	249	285
Village of Ridgway	741	788
City of Shawneetown	1,224	1,249
Hamilton County		
Village of Belle Prairie City	63	61
Village of Broughton	286	123
Village of Dahlgren	389	607
Village of Macedonia	52	47
City of McLeansboro	2,753	2,613
Hardin County		
Village of Cave-in-Rock	304	273
Village of Elizabethtown	255	247
City of Rosiclare	1,044	694
Pope County		
Village of Eddyville	85	98
City of Golconda	822	825
Saline County		
Village of Carrier Mills	1,813	1,827
City of Eldorado	4,139	4,149
Village of Galatia	808	883
City of Harrisburg	8,989	8,994
Village of Muddy	37	44
Village of Raleigh	272	302
Village of Stonefort	348	316

The Southeastern Illinois Regional Planning and Development Commission's counties have made significant gains in per capita income between 2005 to 2019. However, the District still falls below the state and national statistics. Recent Per Capita Income levels were as follows:

COUNTY	2005 PER CAPITA INCOME	2013 PER CAPITA INCOME	2014 PER CAPITA INCOME	2019 PER CAPITA INCOME
GALLATIN	\$21,769	\$23,862	\$42,743	\$33,377
HAMILTON	\$24,656	\$21,960	\$40,904	\$27,702
HARDIN	\$22,000	\$22,366	\$33,435	\$28,932
POPE	\$22,455	\$20,448	\$29,850	\$22,065
SALINE	\$25,383	\$21,596	\$36,588	\$25,342
ILLINOIS	\$36,264	\$29,666	\$47,643	\$30,038
UNITED STATES	\$25,036	\$28,155	\$28,889	\$34,103

The continuation of the aging population trend and the population loss of the District indicate that District per capita income levels have not increased as compared to the national and state figures. The District also has an extremely high number of individuals and families living below the poverty level. The following information reflects the percentage below the poverty level with children under 18:

GALLATIN	31.0%
HAMILTON	21.9%
HARDIN	35.5%
POPE	29.3%
SALINE	30.5%
ILLINOIS	17.8%

The District also has an extremely high number of individuals and families living below the poverty level. The following information reflects the percentage below the poverty level:

	2010 Poverty Levels	2014 Poverty Levels	2019 Poverty Levels
GALLATIN	16.7%	17.5%	19.0%
HAMILTON	16.6%	14.0%	12.7%
HARDIN	25.4%	20.6%	18.0%
POPE	16.5%	19.7%	16.9%
SALINE	21.3%	21.0%	15.7%
DISTRICT	19.3%	18.56%	16.46%
ILLINOIS	14.4%	23.7%	11.5%

The decline of employment opportunities in the District's main employment base (coal industry, forestry, and agricultural sector) accounts for most of a 35% population loss. The 2019 Census revealed a slight decrease in poverty levels for most of the district. This decrease in poverty levels suggests growth factors; however, these data are deceiving. With the 2020 Census, each of our five counties are estimated to lose additional population which will in-turn create additional loss in income for the region.

County	2000	2010	2014	2019
Gallatin	6,445	5,589	5,291	4,828
Hamilton	8,621	8,457	8,296	8,116
Hardin	4,800	4,320	4,129	3,821
Pope	4,413	4,470	4,276	4,177
Saline	26,733	24,913	24,612	23,491
Total	51,012	47,749	46,604	44,433

The population in the 5 counties of the District has dropped almost 16% in the last 20 years. The Southeastern Illinois Regional Planning and Development Commission's counties have made significant gains in per capita income in the years between 1970 and 1996; however, in 1999, three counties (Gallatin, Hamilton and Saline) lost significant ground while Hardin and Pope had slight increases in per capita income. The 2019 per capita income showed the same downward trend and the District still falls significantly below the state level of \$30,038 and national statistics of \$34,103 for per capita income. Levels of income determine many things for residents; including quality of life and the number of resources a resident can put back into the community.

District unemployment rates have exceeded both the state and national figures for over the past two decades. Four of the five counties have been designated as Labor Surplus Areas (areas of substantial and persistent unemployment). All four of these counties have had this distinction since 1967. Unemployment rates have fluctuated sporadically in the District due to seasonal employment opportunities and through unemployment calculation methods. The District believes that two unemployment rates are promoted and District unemployment rates. They are the statistical rate and the perceived rate. The statistical unemployment rate reflects the Illinois Department of Employment Security calculations where unemployment claims, job applications and other information is used to calculate an unemployment rate according to the U. S. Department of Labor Standards. These unemployment rate calculation methods have calculation assumptions which distort the true situation. An example is that a person is discounted from the unemployment rolls due to the length of time being counted or failure to make a claim. These calculation assumptions skew

District unemployment rates downward. Therefore, a perceived unemployment rate may be more realistic than the statistical unemployment rate of the Department of Employment Security. The perceived unemployment rate does not allow employed person to "fall through the cracks" of the Department of Employment Security.

The perceived unemployment rate is generally four percentage points above the statistical unemployment rate. Recent Annual Average Unemployment Rates are listed below:

Dec. 2020 Unemployment					
Gallatin	5.5	Pope	5.0		
Hamilton	3.8	Saline	6.6	Illinois	7.6
Hardin	6.3			U.S.	6.7

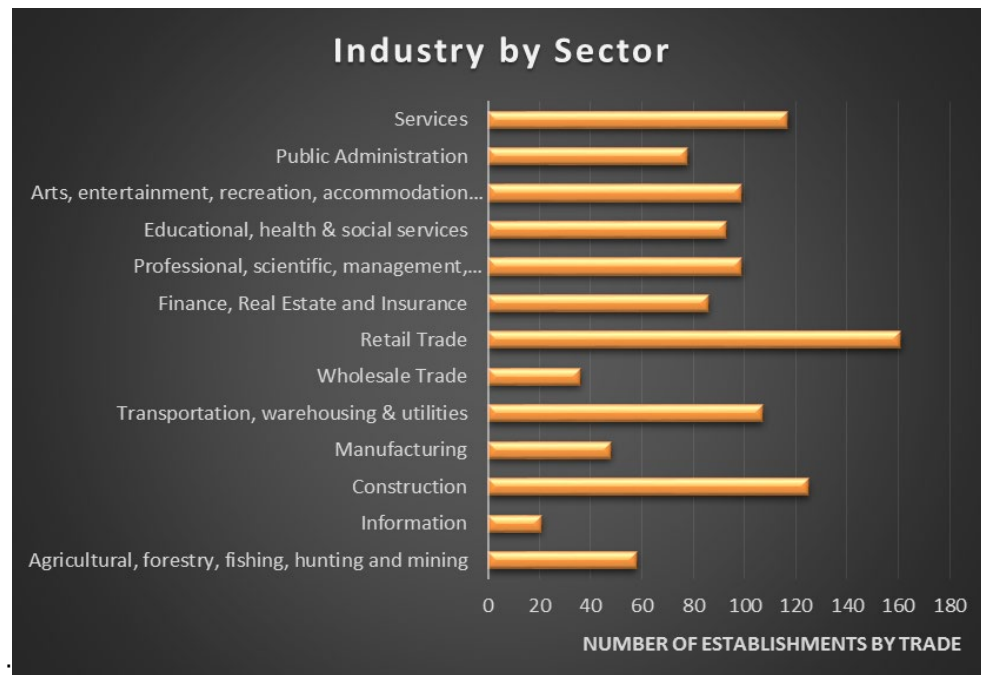
During the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020, SIRP&DC's district has remained around the US average for unemployment which means that the district has been able to maintain and keep employers during such difficult times. The district private sector employment opportunities are based largely on the following sectors: agricultural, mining, retail trade and service industries. The largest sources of employment throughout the State of Illinois are in the manufacturing, trade, and service industries. The District's employment in the service sector contradicts with the state sector employment levels. In the Southeastern Region, employment in the service industries is usually associated with seasonal and/or part-time employment. The instability of the District's employment patterns have contributed to the lack of a diversified employment base and low education achievement of the population base.

District labor force strengths include a manually skilled workforce and low wage rates as compared to other areas. This combination strongly supports the location of a low-technology manufacturing facility. The District has a large supply of manually skilled, but undereducated laborers. The changing marketplace increases the need for the District's labor force to obtain basic educational and marketable job skills. Wage rates in the District are much lower than the available state-wide wage statistics.

Education is a social characteristic that affects the labor force and economic levels of the Region's residents. The annual enrollment for part-time and full-time students at Southeastern Illinois College is approximately 5,000.

2020-2021 Enrollment Information					
County	School	Pre-K	Elementary	High School	Total Enrollment
Gallatin	Gallatin CUSD 7	40	487	206	733
Hamilton	Hamilton Co CUSD 10	75	677	346	1098
Hardin	Hardin County CUSD 1	15	349	135	499
Pope	Pope Co CUD 1	22	323	166	511
Saline	Galatia CUSD 1	20	252	120	392
Saline	Carrier Mills-Stonefort CUSD 2	26	298	129	453
Saline	Harrisburg CUSD 3	91	1133	549	1773
Saline	Eldorado CUSD 4	99	682	334	1115
Total		388	4201	1985	6574

Economy & Industry Sectors: The major economic industry sectors of the economy of the five-county region are retail trade, construction, transportation, warehousing, and utilities. Other emerging sectors include recreation, accommodation and food services as the tourism industry continues to grow in the region. Four of the five counties (Gallatin, Hardin, Pope and Saline) are in the seven-county Ohio River Scenic Byway and Southernmost Illinois CVB. These areas are viewed as providing a major boost to the development of the tourism industry sector of the economy within the region. The Employment by sector according to the 2020 according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics listed below:



Over 45% of the land in Pope County and over 24% of the land in Hardin County is within the Shawnee National Forest. The economies of these Counties are strongly influenced by the National Forest. The Shawnee National Forest directly contributes to the economy through the jobs and income generated by recreation use, timber production, mineral production, and the Forest Service payroll. Twenty-five percent of the receipts generated on the Forest are paid to the counties as well as payments in lieu of taxes. The Forest provides many other benefits to the local economies such as road maintenance, bridge repair, and cooperative law enforcement programs. The Forest also provides a desirable setting attractive to companies that may consider moving to the area. Employers want to provide a high quality of life for their associates and are attracted by the natural setting and recreation opportunities provided on the Shawnee National Forest. Most people also recognize the important role that the Shawnee National Forest plays in the economy of Southern Illinois; however, there is disagreement about how the Shawnee National Forest can best support the local economy.

The Shawnee National Forest plays a primary role in recreation and tourism. However, some people feel that commodity production will hurt tourism and that tourists will not come to the Shawnee National Forest if there is any sign of timber harvest, mining, or drilling for oil and gas. Others feel that timber and mineral production will not harm tourism if it is done in a way that is sensitive to the environment.

The capital markets in most of rural America are dominated by commercial banks. They are the depositories for the funds of numerous individuals, business units and the government. Through their lending and investing activities, they provide substantial financing to all major sectors of the economy. Commercial banks play in the supply of credit to rural areas. There are two primary types of bank organization, holding companies and independent banks. Holding companies are corporations that normally have many subsidiary banks under their control. The independent bank is typically a locally owned and operated business without subsidiaries or affiliates. The Banterra Cooperation owns eight banks in the Region. The eight banks are in McLeansboro, Ridgway, Harrisburg, Eldorado, Rosiclare, Elizabethtown, Cave-in-Rock and Golconda. Legence Bank in Harrisburg, Eldorado and Galatia are owned by the same holding company. The Peoples National Bank in Harrisburg and McLeansboro are also owned by the same bank holding company. The First Mid-Illinois of Harrisburg is now owned by a Mattoon, Illinois based company. Other banks in the district are Farmers State Bank in Harrisburg, First State Bank of Eldorado (branch in Equality) and the Bank of Marion in Carrier Mills. Loans are the primary source of investment income for banks. Loans are classified into three major categories. Consumer loans are extended for such things as home mortgages, automobile purchases and other personal non-business uses. Loans to finance agricultural production are business loans to farmers for production of agricultural commodities. Commercial and industrial loans are business loans for other than agricultural enterprises. The banks in the area usually deal with personal loans for homes, cars, etc. rather than business loans. There does not appear to be a shortage of loans for personal use in the region. Commercial banks in the region have increased investment in securities and decreased investment in commercial and industrial loans. This decreased activity is due to the tighter credit lines offered by the small banks in the region. The commercial banking sector appears to have the capacity to serve existing credit demands from business and industry. This is apparent from the modest growth in total deposits, total securities, and total loans. Other factors influencing lending practices are state and federal regulations. Specific examples include the following: Community Reinvestment Act, Federal Truth in Lending Act and Environmental Protection Agency regulations.

Infrastructure and Services: An excellent measure of an area's economic stability is the supply and demand for housing. According to the U.S. Census Bureau in 2019, there were 4,825 vacant homes in the Region or 20% of the total 23,547 homes. Of this total, 22.3% of the homes in Pope County and 20.5% of the homes in Hardin County are for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use. In Gallatin, Hamilton and Saline Counties, the percentage is averaging 3.7% for recreational housing.

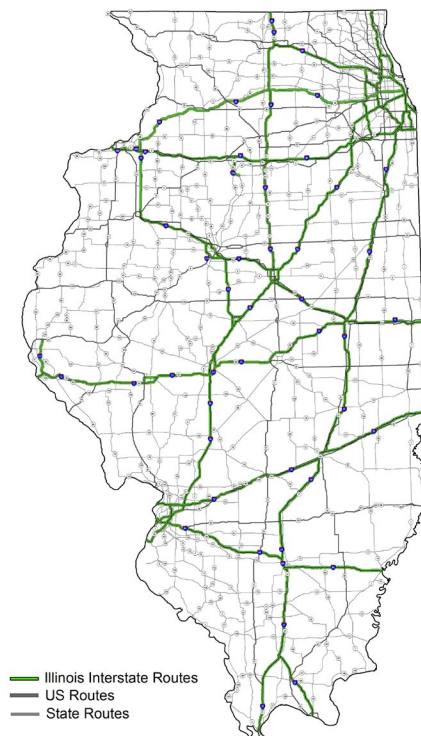
The number of substandard housing units in the Region is increasing as compared to the state. In addition, 11,268 or 48% of the homes in the district were built prior to 1960. It is estimated that more than 60% of the houses in the district need housing rehabilitation. The reasons for the increasing sub-standard housing rate can be tied directly to the economy of the Region. Many residents of the sub-standard housing units are elderly, who are on a fixed income, female-headed households and the long-term unemployed. These groups are not financially able to maintain and upgrade their housing units.

The quality and availability of medical care in the District has declined. Existing hospitals are in Harrisburg, Rosiclare, Eldorado and McLeansboro. Through joint efforts, the hospitals have been able to upgrade equipment and the accessibility of medical services and specialists. Harrisburg Medical Center closed its obstetrical unit in 1987. With this closure, there is not a single hospital in southeastern Illinois that delivers babies. The Primary Care Group in Harrisburg does provide obstetrical care, but patients must go to Carbondale or Marion, Illinois or Paducah, KY for the delivery. The population of the region is aging. Approximately 22% of the population of the region is over age 62. With the increased elderly population, it is anticipated that the need for medical services will continue to increase. Other medical services available in the region include the following: dental, orthodontics, eye care, dialysis, and cancer treatments. Health clinics are in Saline, Pope and Hardin counties.

The infrastructure of a community is essential in developing a growing, vital community. Infrastructure consists of water, sewer, transportation and police and fire protection. Water and sewer system improvements are a top priority for the District in promoting economic and community development. Rural fire districts exist in Pope County and the Dahlgren area in Hamilton County. The creation and expansion of rural fire districts is needed. Police protection by municipalities and sheriff's departments is limited due to budget constraints. All state and federal law enforcement agencies are stationed in or readily available to the region.

The Southeastern Region is served by one conservancy district and twelve water districts. They are as follows: Saline Valley Conservancy District, Hamilton County Water District, Illinois American Water Company, Prospect Water District, Dale Water District, Hardin County Water District, Liberty-Ledford Water District, Mitchellville Water District, Corinth Water District, Gallatin-White Water District, Fort Massac Water District, Raleigh Water District and Millstone Water District. Approximately one-half of the 24 municipal water systems own their source of water and the other half purchase water from another source. Of the 24 municipalities in the Southeastern Region, only four (Junction, Macedonia, Omaha and Old Shawneetown) do not have sewer services. None of the remaining communities are on the EPA restricted list. Improvements are needed in many of the individual systems.

Transportation: Four main highways surround the Region. They are: Interstate 57 to the west; Interstate 64 to the north; Interstate 24 to the south; and U.S. 41 to the east. These main highways are easily accessible from the area on state highways that are in good to fair condition. Illinois Route 13, which cuts through the region into Williamson County, is one of the major highways for persons moving in and out of the District. Route 13 was recently converted to a four-lane to the Saline County line. Illinois Route 1 runs north and south through Gallatin and Hardin Counties. Illinois Route 45 is also a high traffic highway in the District. The Ohio River provides a natural vein of a transportation system. The nearest SMSA's to the Region are St. Louis, Missouri at 130 miles; Evansville, Indiana at 50 miles; Nashville, Tennessee at 180 miles; Louisville, Kentucky at 140 miles; and Chicago, Illinois at 350 miles; The Shawnee Hills on the Ohio National Scenic Byway winds through the beautiful scenery and historical attractions in Saline, Gallatin, Hardin, and Pope Counties.



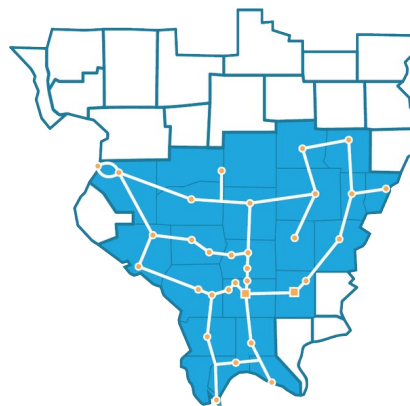
Conservation areas are in Hamilton County and Saline County. The Dolan Lake Conservation Area is approximately 34 miles southeast of Mt. Vernon, Illinois. The Saline County Conservation Area is located approximately 12 miles southeast of the City of Harrisburg.

The Saline County Industrial Company owns and maintains two industrial parks in Saline County. Industrial Park #1 is located in Harrisburg and is full. Industrial Park #2 is located on Route 34 between Harrisburg and Raleigh. Approximately 40 acres are available for development in the full-service park. These 40 acres are included in the Saline County Enterprise Zone Program and are accessible by rail. The Saline County Industrial Development Company is in the process of acquiring additional acreage for a new industrial park on the west side of Harrisburg. The City of Harrisburg and the City of Eldorado and the County of Saline have small plots available for industrial development.

Communications: The five-county region knows and understands the role technology plays in the economic development of the region. The quality of life that its citizens enjoy and come to expect. Access to future technology is critical and tied to the ability to send and receive information. As broadband capabilities become critical infrastructure in the region, the five-county region has a strong backbone in voice, broadband and fiber network to generate additional economic growth in the region.

Telecommunication Service Provider: Clearwave Communications - In August of 2010, Clearwave Communication, as part of the Illinois Broadband Opportunity Partnership (IBOP) received one of only a handful of grants awarded by the National Opportunities Program (BTOP) to develop rural broadband. Located in Harrisburg, Illinois since 1996, Clearwave Communications has become a new-generation communications company offering a complete package of telecommunications services for business and residential users, including a full-suite of voice solutions, high-speed data and Internet access and Internet services-all from one source, on one easy-to-understand bill, with just one number to call for all your needs. Not just another reseller, Clearwave Communications is a facilities-based service provider that owns and manages its own network equipment, which means more responsive and reliable service for you. In addition to our full line of Clearwave voice and data services, we offer several other products and services that help people communicate or improve their quality of life. With the help of these federal and state grants, as well as private funding, Clearwave will be building much needed middle-mile infrastructure to make broadband accessible in the rural areas of southern Illinois, as well as directly connecting colleges, K-12 schools, libraries, health care providers and public safety entities. Since 2013, the Illinois Broadband Opportunity Partnership-Southern has laid more than 740 miles of fiber optic cable through 23 counties and connected 232 community anchor institutions to the next generation network.

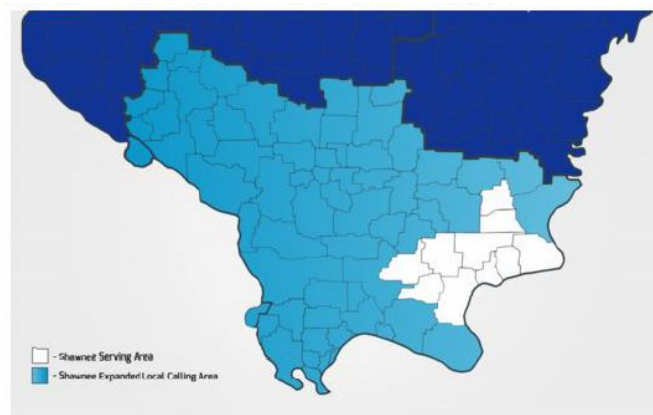
Hamilton and Saline Counties are serviced by Clearwave



Clearwave Service Area

Telecommunication Service Provider: Shawnee Communications - Also In 2010, an additional telecommunications supplier in the district, Shawnee Telephone Company, received grant and loan funds through USDA's Rural Utility Service and USDC's National Telecommunications Information Administration to upgrade broadband capability in Hardin County. Through the ARRA/BTOP stimulus grant, they were able to build fiber throughout the community. Additionally, the counties of Hardin, Pope and Gallatin have many pockets of dead cellular service. For most of the county the voice and internet services provided by Shawnee Telephone Company are the only reliable source of connectivity. Shawnee Telephone Company (RUS Designation, IL-538) was originally incorporated in 1948 under the name of Equality Telephone Company (RUS Designation, IL-557). In 1966 Equality Telephone purchased Hardin County Telephone, and almost since inception Shawnee initiated its long and prosperous relationship with the Rural Electric Administration (REA) and Rural Utility Service (RUS). This long partnership between Shawnee and RUS continues to ensure a high level of service quality and commitment of telecommunication access to the citizens in one of the most remote areas of the country.

Hardin, Pope and Gallatin are serviced by Shawnee Communications.



Shawnee Communications Service Area

Other Development Activities: The Southeastern Illinois Regional Planning and Development Commission provides professional planning and community and economic development services for the five counties of Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Pope and Saline. SIRP&DC was formed in 1968 and is an Economic Development District designated in 1969 by the Economic Development Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce. All five counties are active participants in the Commission. The Commission covers the areas of public facilities, housing rehabilitation and community and economic development. The Saline County Industrial Development Company operates and maintains the 3 industrial parks in Saline County and serves as the lead organization for the Saline County Enterprise Zone. The Hamilton County Economic Development Commission is composed of volunteers and serves as the lead organization for the Rural Partners Program in Hamilton County and operates the Enterprise Zone Program in Hamilton County. The Chambers of Commerce in the area are composed primarily of volunteers and part-time clerical staff. The following localities have Chambers of Commerce: Saline County and Hamilton County. Other community programs include the Hardin County Main Street. Hardin County Main Street was established in 2000 as a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation. Main Street serves as an umbrella organization for groups seeking to do community development in Hardin County. It is the only county-wide Main Street organization in the State of Illinois. The main thrust of the organization's economic development efforts has been in the form of tourism promotion. In addition to Hardin County Main Street, Golconda and Eldorado Main Street group operates with only volunteers.

District SWOT

The CED's committee evaluated six (6) individual capital categories to develop the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT)

1) Social/Cultural:

Strengths:

- Large network of community organizations, churches, schools, and foundations with many volunteers
- Strong resilient communities
- Cross boundary projects
- Lots of history in the region
- Quality of life (small hometowns)
- Centrally located within driving distance of larger metro areas

Weaknesses:

- Lack of funding to help organizations and communities provide additional services to their patrons
- Population decline in the region
- Lack of funding to create cultural experiences
- Lack of local ownership
- Lack of lodging for tourist and visitors to the region
- Apathy of residents toward any growth or progress
- Volunteer and/or manpower to conduct projects

Opportunities:

- Enhancement of local emerging tourism industry
- Enhancement of local chambers and CVB's
- Attract more upscale lodging establishments (hotels and bed & breakfasts)
- Seek funding for rehabilitation for vacant/deteriorated buildings for new use

Threats:

- Lack of prioritization of resources for the region
- Communities competing for the same resources (human and capital)

2) Natural:

Strengths

- Abundance of natural resources including land, water, air, aggregate rock, and coal
- Scenic beauty
- Miles and Miles of hiking and equestrian trails in the Shawnee National Forest

Weaknesses:

- Maintenance of facilities in Shawnee National Forest and state park locations within the five-county region
- Lack of IDNR/State budget for improvements at state-owned facilities
- Underutilization of regions tourism sites

Opportunities:

- More markets for aggregate rock
- Marketing of locally grown produce to institutions such as colleges, hospitals, nursing homes and others
- Agricultural diversification within the regions farming community

- Processing plants for locally grown foods
- Shawnee National Forest tourism opportunities
- Tourism within the region's forests, state parks and Ohio River
- Search for alternative cleaner uses for fuel/coal/petroleum
- Have more involvement in Shawnee National Forest plans for involvement to the SNF and facilities

Threats:

- Legal restrictions on usages of the Shawnee National Forest areas
- Over reliance on few water systems
- Downturn of coal industry and regulations
- External businesses from out of the region

3) Individual/Intellectual:

Strengths:

- Availability of services through local hospitals, rural health clinics and health departments
- Local Community College (Southeastern Illinois College)
- Access to broadband mostly throughout region

Weaknesses:

- Lack of well-trained work force with strong work ethics
- Lack of job opportunities for highly educated individuals
- High number of populations with no high school/ GED diplomas
- Lack of civic-minded younger individuals
- Lack of specialized healthcare services such as cardiology, cancer, and obstetrics
- Lack of quality transportation for healthcare
- Drug and substance abuse in rural areas
- Access to specialized mental health services
- Few outlets for local entrepreneurs
- Rural regions without connectivity

Opportunities:

- Expanding access to public transportation
- Rehabilitation facilities for drug and substance abuse
- Recruitment of higher skilled medical specialists for local hospitals, clinics, and centers
- Encourage more involvement with local leadership training for younger population
- Develop more classes for small business and low-income students with emphasis on online/internet sales
- Develop more fiber/broadband connections for fringe areas within district
- Create more job opportunities for unemployed/underemployed work force
- Promote work training programs to develop soft skills and work ethics for employment

Threats:

- Lack of stable funding/adequate funding for medical services
- Surrounding states providing greater incentives for businesses and college graduates

4) Financial:

Strengths:

- Many large financial institutions

Weaknesses:

- Not enough local opportunities to invest in small communities
- Impoverished region of the state
- Communities lack funds to leverage grant opportunities

Opportunities:

- Access to capital through other avenues such as Angel and Capital investors

Threats:

- High poverty levels and individuals with low wages
- Restrictions on loan job creations/retention

5) Political:

Strengths:

- Communities work well with local state representative and elected officials
- Strong elected official presence in the region

Weaknesses:

- District boundaries with one representative for one large geographic area. Distance and location prohibit long visits to communities.
- Low population density gives us little political power state-wide and federally

Opportunities:

- Encourage region to collectively care about legislation that improves district
- Close relationships within district means issues can be brought to state and federal legislators

Threats:

- Other areas have more political pull for resources

6) Built:

Strengths:

- Good broadband/fiber networks in some communities
- Many communities with TIF and Enterprise Zones

Weaknesses:

- Declining available buildings due to lack of use and deterioration
- Declining populations for repayment of loans for infrastructure upgrades
- Aging infrastructure in all communities
- Lack of sidewalks (walkable communities)
- Non ADA compliant buildings within district
- Poor lighting in residential areas
- Rural areas still lacking water / sewer / broadband

Opportunities:

- Seek funding for replacement of aging infrastructure through federal EDA, EPA, USDA, DRA and state resources
- Enhance bike paths and trails
- Enhance public transportation in rural communities. (Larger transit providers have forgotten their rural roots)

Threats:

- Declining population in all counties in the district
- Old unusable buildings for new development

REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The following list of goals, objectives and policies have been identified and adopted by the CEDS committee which are used to guide the District's community and economic development programs.

PRIMARY GOALS

GOAL 1: MODERNIZATION AND EXPANSION OF COMMUNITY FACILITIES, INFRASTRUCTURE AND TRANSPORTATION

OBJECTIVE: Expand and/or upgrade existing or nonexistent water and sewer systems, assist in obtaining funds for the construction of community buildings, sidewalk repairs, parking facilities, courthouse renovations and jail facilities and assist local governments and water districts to comply with the regulations of the Clean Water Act of 1986. Promote upgrades to the Region's transportation network.

Further improvement planning in the region, providing county and city governments the technical assistance needed to develop and maintain the region's essential infrastructure and transportation system. Work with cities, municipalities, counties and rural districts to help access financing to address the needs of roads and bridges along with water and sewer systems.

POLICIES:

1. Identify the essential water and sewer systems in each member county.
2. Identify the essential roads and bridges present in each member county.
3. Prioritize and promote the development and improvements of all infrastructure that serves counties, cities and multiple locations.
4. Improve municipal water systems, rural water district systems, sewage treatment facilities.
5. Work with communities to construct community and civic centers, or multi-purpose buildings and/or improvements.
6. Work with communities to improve flood control procedures and develop flood control projects.
7. Promote and encourage necessary repairs of the Regions state highways and secondary roads.
8. Promote improvements to Illinois Routes 1, 34 and 145.
9. Promote regular maintenance of the Regions secondary roads and promote cooperation agreements with counties, cities, villages and United States Forest Service.
10. Promote public transportation systems for the elderly, students and low-income residents of the district.
11. Promote cooperation between county road officials and district road officials to coordinate a long-term road maintenance program.
12. Promote runway enlargements and other improvements for Harrisburg-Raleigh Airport.
13. Encourage improved maintenance of township roads.
14. Work with County Engineers to pursue various grant programs.
15. Work with County Engineers to upgrade portions of the designated National Scenic Byway
16. Work with communities and providers to ensure quality fiber and broadband connections to all residents.

GOAL 2: SUPPORT NEW JOB GENERATION AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

OBJECTIVE: Create an environment in which existing businesses and aspiring entrepreneurs can access the ideas, services, capital, labor, and infrastructure needed to achieve success in their business ventures. Utilize the Revolving Loan Fund and Micro Lending Programs to lower the Region's unemployment rate.

POLICIES:

1. Promote the use of training programs as economic development incentives.
2. Address the need for unskilled and semi-skilled labor in Southeastern Illinois by working with the local community college and Small Business Development Center in offering services the region and local economic development organizations related to business assistance services. Make SBDC staff and local development groups aware of the various programs SIRP&DC has in place for funding of small businesses.
3. Identify the business service limitations of the SBDC and seek to establish or implement other programs that address those gaps.
4. Promote the retraining of the Region's coal miners for other job classifications. Work with the coal industry to utilize existing reserves and to create/retain jobs in the region.
5. Use the regional and local Revolving Loan Fund Programs, Business Community & Development Loan Program, Micro Lending Program and other state and federal business loan programs to induce economic development within the District. Encourage localities to include regional loan funds in local economic development proposals and to pursue additional funds for business development.
6. Interact with other economic development groups both in and out of the District. Coordinate and cooperate with other Economic Development Districts in Southern Illinois and in the State of Illinois to promote state funding for Economic Development Districts and Southern Illinois Regional Planning and Development Commissions. Participate with the tourism groups for economic development and tourism projects for the region.
7. To work with and provide technical assistance to the District's chambers of commerce and the economic development groups of the District.
8. To work with the representatives of utility companies to increase economic development expertise and to combine economic development resources.
9. Use the Administrative Services Program to induce local economic development. To expand the Lender Commitment Program throughout the District. To encourage District banking institutions to consider longer financing terms for economic development projects.

GOAL 3: STRENGTHEN MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENTS

OBJECTIVE: Assist local units of government to stay abreast of new legislation and assist in the promotion of new technical improvements to provide the District's residents with up-to-date police and fire protection. Provide technical assistance to units of local government concerning state and federal legislation. Provide technical assistance to units of local government on the process of formulating goals and capital improvement plans and budgets. Provide training for elected and appointed officials of the Region on relevant topics.

POLICIES:

1. Encourage local elected officials to attend workshops relating to the operation of municipal governments and other regulatory topics such as solid waste management.
2. Encourage the establishment of a permanent surcharge for use by local governments.
3. Promote the adoption of personnel policies and safety plans to limit the liability exposure of local governments.
4. Work with local governments to obtain state and federal funding for community facility projects.
5. Assist local governments in the budgeting process and inform local officials on new government financing techniques and of the opportunities involved with privatization of local government services.
6. Act as a liaison agency to promote local needs at the state and federal level.
7. Assist local governments with solid waste management activities and encourage the establishment of intergovernmental groups to address solid waste management.

OBJECTIVE: To protect the residents of the region.

POLICIES:

1. Promote county-wide 911 communications systems and networking possibilities for multi-county systems.
2. Increase police protection in the District communities and counties.
3. Promote the modernization of local firefighting equipment.
4. Promote the establishment of county-wide fire districts and intra-county networking.
6. Promote the establishment of centralized dispatching.
7. Promote the establishment of fire hydrants in rural areas.
8. Promote Emergency Services Disaster Agencies and encourage the exploration of grant funds for equipment, etc.
9. Work with fire departments to address potential legislation affecting equipment and training requirements.
10. Assist fire districts in the application processes for grant funds.
11. Promote drug and gang awareness programs.
12. Promote the use of the COPS and other Department of Justice Programs.
13. Promote the DARE program in the School Districts.

GOAL 4: IMPROVE QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF HOUSING

OBJECTIVE: Promote the quality and quantity of housing in the Region to meet the needs of the Region's residents. Increase the quality and/or quantity of housing in the Region by the year 2020.

POLICIES:

1. Promote utilization of public housing to meet the public housing needs throughout the Region.
2. Promote private development of housing units and subdivisions.
3. Promote housing rehabilitation projects for low-to-moderate income persons utilizing the Illinois Community Development Assistance Program, Rural Development housing programs, Illinois Housing Trust Funds, etc.
4. Increase the number of housing units for the elderly.
5. Work with the Illinois Housing Development Authority and others to develop programs to assist first-time homeowners, etc.

GOAL 5: PROMOTE NATURAL RESOURCES AND TOURISM INDUSTRY

OBJECTIVE: Expand the job opportunities of the area through the promotion of tourism. Assist local governments to promote and businesses to utilize the natural resources of the District and promote the diversification of the agriculture and agri-business industries.

POLICIES:

1. Promote large scale tourism development in southeastern Illinois.
2. Promote the increase of signage of the Shawnee National Forest.
3. Work with Southern Illinois Tourism and Convention Bureau and Southern Illinois Tourism to promote Southeastern Illinois.
4. Encourage development of brochures and other advertising measures to promote tourism.
5. Encourage development and/or improve water access facilities at the following:
 1. City of Rosiclare
 2. Village of New Haven
 3. Village of Cave-in-Rock
 4. Village of Elizabethtown
 5. City of Golconda
 6. Village of Old Shawneetown
6. Promote the establishment and expansion of tourism centers in Harrisburg, Gallatin, Pope and Hardin counties.
7. Promote historical preservation from the State at the following sites within the region:
 - a. McCoy Library in McLeansboro
 - b. Saline County Historical Museum
 - c. Mansion in Golconda
 - d. Marshall House Bank and First National Bank in Old Shawneetown
 - e. Rose Hotel in Elizabethtown
 - f. St. James Episcopal Church in Hamilton County

- g. Dahlgren Depot
 - h. Dam 51 Houses in Golconda
 - i. Westwood Cemetery in Gallatin County
 - j. Cave-in-Rock
 - k. Battery Rock in Hardin County
 - l. Camp Mather/Camp Logan near New Shawneetown
 - m. Crenshaw House (Old Slave House) in Gallatin County
8. Promote recreational facilities to compliment the Golconda Marina and other sites in Gallatin, Hardin and Pope Counties.
 9. Work with other agencies in promoting tourism and encourage local tourism groups to utilize public dollars to develop brochures and response centers to receive information requests for prospective visitors.
 10. Provide technical assistance and seek funding for the establishment of and/or improvements to parks within the Region utilizing the state Land and Water Conservation Fund Program.
 11. Promote the development of additional lodging facilities throughout the five-county region.
 12. Promote the Ohio River Scenic Byway in its promotion of the river region.
 13. Promote the National Civil War Trail development and the development of the Lewis & Clark Trail.

OBJECTIVE: To provide information on regulation of local natural resources and to coordinate development activities with citizens and governmental agencies. To sustain and further develop the agriculture industries to further coordinate agriculture opportunities and government policies to District citizens.

POLICIES:

1. Encourage development of business/industry for alternative uses for coal, fluorspar, oil, and other minerals and at the same time protect the environment.
2. Use environmental conservation efforts to protect and preserve the existing environment.
3. To promote good forest management and multiple forest uses for the Shawnee National Forest.
4. To promote the natural resources of the area by soliciting secondary natural resource processors.
5. Promote efficient and profitable production of traditional crops and livestock with an environmentally sound management system.

GOAL 6: STRENGTHEN THE REGIONS ECONOMIC RESILIENCY

OBJECTIVE: Assist local governments, communities, business, and organizations to develop goals, strategies and actions that can mitigate the effects of an economic incident, natural disasters, or climate or healthcare emergencies.

During COVID-19 in 2020 and 2021 many of our healthcare providers have remodeled facilities to accommodate and have expanded services to include additional departments so residents do not have to travel as far for services.

Education providers have pivoted to provide online classes and establish wireless access for students that are in rural areas. Many are adjusting to a “new normal” educational setting.

During this pandemic, we have learned that we have to challenge ourselves not only to think outside the box but to work outside of the offices.

POLICIES:

1. Encourage expansion of healthcare systems to change their methods of delivery during natural disasters and healthcare emergencies.
2. Engage and undertake appropriate community planning for pre-disaster recovery and mitigation planning.
3. Participate and encourage implementation of business succession / rebuilding efforts.
4. Participate and assist in planning for educational changes with all levels of education (primary, secondary and post secondary)
4. Provide communication between local government and the local business community and healthcare providers.
5. Assist local government in efforts to restore all sectors of the community, including critical infrastructure, essential services, business retention and the redevelopment of damaged housing units.
6. Coordinate services between local, state, and federal resources
7. Assist in business financing with Revolving Loan Funds after a disaster
8. Ensure resources are available for those who are younger and weaker such as the aged populations and special needs residents. Work with the local chapters of the American Red Cross and local ministerial alliances to provide resources where needed during and after a disaster.

GOAL 7: IMPROVE HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS

OBJECTIVE: Promote the expansion of health care facilities in the Region. Provide health care facilities to the Regions residents. To strengthen the Districts health care systems and health care providers. To expand and upgrade the Districts ambulance services.

POLICIES:

1. Pursue grants for the Harrisburg Medical Center, Hamilton Memorial Hospital, Hardin County Hospital and Ferrell Hospital.
2. Promote the establishment of a regional hospital system with networking capabilities to serve rural counties.
3. Encourage development of and/or expand home health care services.
4. Encourage cooperation among health planning organizations.
5. Support emergency room service and ambulance services throughout the Region.
6. Encourage changes in legislation to stabilize insurance rates for health care personnel and facilities.
7. Support and encourage adequate health care and emergency services for residents of the Southeastern Region.
9. Encourage and foster quality health care at a reasonable cost.
10. Encourage the upgrade and expansion of the Regions nursing homes, adult day care and assisted living facilities.
11. Increase public/private partnership programs for disease, chemical and physical abuse victims to improve the general well-being of residents and reduce stress and all kinds of abuse throughout the Region.
12. Promote the establishment of obstetrical care in the Region.

GOAL 8: DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY EXPANSION

OBJECTIVE: Prepare residents to successfully compete for employment opportunities, both inside and outside of the Region, including retraining to meet the new and changing demands in business and industry. Increase the educational level of the Region's residents. To place the region's unemployed and underemployed in classroom and work-site training programs and to increase the overall employee skill level which will encourage economic development. Provide the labor force with educated and trained workers. To strengthen the Districts school systems and junior college to increase the basic education and skill level of the District.

POLICIES:

1. Promote programs which can draw into the labor force the untapped, unskilled and semi-skilled persons in the region.
2. Support the efforts of agencies which have the mission and resources to implement the necessary educational/training and job placement activities to create a more skilled labor force.
3. Promote labor management groups to increase open communications and increased job opportunities.
4. Promote the diversification of available technical training.
5. Encourage the development of additional trade school offerings to certificate, journeyman and/or associate degree level at Southeastern Illinois College.

6. Encourage the region's high schools to upgrade and expand vocational training programs.
7. Promote the programs offered by the SIC Small Business Development Center.
8. Promote vocational training to targeted industries of the District.
9. Provide technical assistance for the modernization and expansion of the Region's educational and vocational facilities.
10. Promote programs to reduce the number of high school drop-outs.
11. Create a climate within the school which will decrease negative environmental influences and allows students to reach their educational potential.
12. Provide educational opportunities to create a skilled work force.
13. To offer educational programs that will enhance the economic development of the Southeastern Illinois Region.
14. Increase the education level of all citizens in the Region to enhance basic education, improve learning ability and improve the Southeastern Regions labor market.

REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The following strategies correspond with the stated and adopted goals and objectives of the Southeastern Illinois Regional Planning and Development Commission and outline the implementation of the economic development program of the Southeastern Illinois Regional Planning and Development Commission.

The Southeastern Illinois Regional Planning and Development Commission staff and board will participate in a joint effort with other local and statewide agencies toward achieving the goal of decreasing the unemployment rate of the region. The staff will pursue funding for the development of industrial parks and sites as locations for industrial development. The Southeastern Illinois Regional Planning and Development Commission will utilize the regional and local revolving loan funds and other incentive programs to induce economic development. The availability of funds will be publicized through personal contacts, newspaper articles and interaction with economic development groups. District staff will continue efforts to recapitalize the District Revolving Loan Fund. Staff will continue to work with local tourism groups to expand the tourism market of Southeastern Illinois.

The Southeastern Illinois Regional Planning and Development Commission will work with local municipal and county governments to obtain funding for community facility improvements through the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Economic Development Administration, Rural Development, Delta Regional Authority, Illinois Rural Bond Bank, Department of Justice, FEMA, and Illinois Development Finance Authority. Community facility projects include water, sewer, public buildings, and public safety and flood control projects.

The Southeastern Illinois Regional Planning and Development Commission will participate in a joint effort with local, state, and federal agencies to meet the housing needs of the Region's residents, promote increased funding for homeless problems in rural areas, assist local units of government in pursuing housing rehabilitation grants and work with District financial institutions to establish loan programs to encourage housing rehabilitation and development. Funds will be pursued through the Illinois Housing Development Authority and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.

The Southeastern Illinois Regional Planning and Development Commission will work with local governments to strengthen the local units of government and will act as a consultant to assist the local units of government to establish standard operating procedures in personnel and safety. SIRP&DC will provide technical assistance to local units of government pertaining to legislation, contact with our legislators and in formulating capital improvement plans for water and sewer improvements.

The Southeastern Illinois Regional Planning and Development Commission will work with local officials, state, and federal agencies in the promotion of the District as a tourism destination. Specific tourism development projects have been identified and funding will be pursued for the implementation of these projects. The Commission will work with Hardin County Main Street, Main Street Golconda, Inc., Saline County Tourism, Southernmost Tourism, and other entities to promote the National Scenic Byway and Ohio River Scenic Byway, Shawnee National Forest, and other tourist destinations within the region to spur economic development.

The Southeastern Illinois Regional Planning and Development Commission will participate with other local, area wide and statewide agencies toward achieving the development of the human resource base of the District.

The Southeastern Illinois Regional Planning and Development Commission will develop economic development information concerning the educational institutions of the area, involve job training officials with economic development location clients to provide job-training needs, encourage legislation to prohibit drop-outs under the age of 18 from obtaining a driver's license, promote drug and alcohol abuse programs in the schools, promote sex education in local schools aimed at the prevention of teenage pregnancy, promote day care centers at local high schools to encourage teenage parents to stay in school and to teach other students the responsibilities of being a parent, promote additional social counseling programs, promote vocational training in local high schools, vocational centers and junior colleges, encourage educators to work with area industries to determine labor force requirements, promote work/study programs, promote literacy programs and encourage adults to utilize the junior college system to expand educational opportunities.

The Southeastern Illinois Regional Planning and Development Commission will work with local, state, and federal agencies to improve and upgrade the transportation network of the District. The Commission will work with the County Engineers to take advantage of potential funding sources.

The Southeastern Illinois Regional Planning and Development Commission will work with the health care facilities of the Region, state and federal agencies and local governments to achieve the expansion and upgrades of health care facilities in the District. SIRP&DC will encourage state legislation that will decrease the financial risk of providing medical services in rural areas and support regional health department programs and clinics for rural areas.

The Southeastern Illinois Regional Planning and Development Commission will work with local, state, and other officials to provide the Districts residents with up-to-date police and fire protection, promote the federal surplus equipment program and fire equipment grant programs, promote the establishment of rural fire districts, and promote the upgrade of equipment in existing municipal fire and police departments and County Sheriff's offices.

The Southeastern Illinois Regional Planning and Development Commission will promote the utilization of the natural resources of the Region, encourage strong working relationships between local, state and federal environmental officials, encourage the development of Shawnee National Forest potential for recreation, tourism, timber and other multi-use purposes, support agricultural infrastructure, encourage the development and utilization of agricultural services and centers, support farm credit system and encourage financial institutions to make credit available to farmers and agri-business, support agricultural production research and diversification and work with local Soil and Water Conservation Districts to improve water quality and preserve the soil. The Commission will work to promote the Coal Infrastructure Program through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The SIRP&DC will work to establish the Saline Basin Watershed Partnership to promote the Illinois Department of Natural Resources C2000 Program.

The Scope of Work for the District is composed of projects that are both short-term and long-term and of an ongoing basis. The planning process includes the establishment of goals and objectives and an evaluation of the process. Listed below is the Scope of Work:

I. Planning Projects

A. Business Programs

1. Continue to provide assistance to municipalities and counties to develop formal economic development industry expansion and retention programs.
2. Continue to work with other local, state, and federal agencies in the development and promotion of economic and community development policies and strategies for regional development.
3. Continue to work with various tourism groups to promote the National Scenic Byway and Ohio River Scenic Byway.

B. Preparation of Community Profiles

1. Continue to prepare and update community profiles of District localities.
2. Continue to prepare and update Enterprise Zone brochures.
3. Continue to update and maintain a building and site information file.
4. Continue to work with tourism groups to develop brochures.
5. Maintain a website.

II. Planning Activities

- A. Continue to promote the goals and strategies of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).
- B. Continue to provide assistance to county and municipal governments in the areas of planning, implementation, guidelines, legislation interpretation and grant application preparation and administration.
- C. Continue to provide assistance to economic development groups, tourism groups and special purpose districts.
- D. Continue to provide grant alerts to local units of government.

III. Administrative Planning:

- A. Staff will continue to prepare and submit an annual CEDS Update.
- B. Staff will prepare one Annual report for submittal to the Economic Development Administration for required submittal periods.
- C. Staff will prepare quarterly Financial Reports for submittal to the Economic Development Administration and will have an annual audit as required by Planning Grant and Office of Audits, Inspector General's Office.

D. Staff will continue to administer the Revolving Loan Fund.

E. Staff will supply information concerning plant closings and the status of industrial development within the District annually and as required by the Economic Development Administration.

F. Staff will continue to prepare grant applications and administer grants on behalf of district local units of government, special district, and not-for-profit organizations.

G. Staff will continue to administer the Micro loan Program and the Business and Community Development Fund.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES EVALUATION

The Southeastern Illinois Regional Planning and Development Commission have identified goals and objectives and will evaluate the accomplishments of the District on the following levels:

- 1) Increase in the employment level of the region.
- 2) Increase in the average wage of the region.
- 3) Increase in per capita income levels of the region.
- 4) Increase in public and private sector investments in the region.
- 5) Level of technical assistance provided to local governments and organizations in the region.

For items 1 thru 4, documentation can be gathered to show the increases in employment, average wage, per capita incomes, and the amount of public and private sector investments.

Increases in the employment levels and average wages are tracked thru the various loan programs that the agency operates and thru the input data from the Illinois Department of Employment Security.

Increases in per capita income levels can be tracked through census data.

For public and private sector investments, levels are tracked thru the various grants and projects that the agency prepares and administers. Private sector investments can also be tracked to determine increases in property tax valuations.

Technical assistance is provided to local governments and not-for-profit groups in the five-county region and can be tracked by the number of inquiries and responses.

The SIRP&DC realizes that not all evaluation methods can show the benefits and for some items, the evaluation process is subjective and cannot be quantified. Many projects that the agency is involved with improve the quality of life for the residents which in many ways is difficult to quantify. These items will be used to evaluate the activities of the District on an annual basis.

2021
Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

Appendix

Regional and State Partners

Illinois Department of Commerce

Saline County Industrial Development Company

Saline County Chamber of Commerce

Small Business Development Center at Southeastern Illinois College

Southeastern Illinois College

Egyptian Health Department

Southern Seven Health Department

Hamilton County Economic Development

Ameren Utilities

Southeastern Illinois Electric Cooperative

Clearwave Communications

Shawnee Communications

U.S. Department of Agriculture – Rural Development

U.S. Forest Service – Shawnee National Forest

Southernmost Illinois Convention and Visitors Bureau

Hardin County Main Street, Inc.

Golconda Main Street

Ohio River Scenic Byway

Stronger Economies Together Group

University of Illinois Extension Services

Rides Mass Transit District

Ferrell Hospital

Hardin County General Hospital

Harrisburg Medical Center

Hamilton County Memorial Hospital

NAMES AND AFFILIATIONS OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Chairperson – Chad May, Hamilton County
 First Vice-Chairman – Neil Wagner, Pope County
 Second Vice-Chairman – Bruce Tolley, Saline County
 Secretary – David Robinson, Hardin County
 Treasurer – Tracey McGuire, Gallatin County

Name	County	Economic Interest
Lucinda Schmitt	Gallatin	Private Sector - Higher Education / Tourism
Tracey McGuire	Gallatin	Government Employee
Ron Woods	Gallatin	Public Official
Mark York	Gallatin	Public Official / Retired Teacher / Tourism
Chad May	Hamilton	Public Official / IT
John Chapman	Hamilton	Public Official / Private Sector - Insurance
Dick Deitz	Hamilton	Public Official
Glenn Miller	Hamilton	Agriculture
Rhonda Belford	Hardin	Private Sector - Medical / Tourism / State Employee
Michael Johnsey	Hardin	Private Sector - Corrections
David Robinson	Hardin	Public Official
Charles Soward	Hardin	Private Sector – Retired Finance
Larry Steward	Hardin	Public Official / Workforce / Higher Education
Scott Trovillion	Pope	Private Sector - Retired Insurance Adjuster
Larry Richards	Pope	Public Official / Agriculture
Neil Wagner	Pope	Private Sector - Higher Education / Workforce
Randy Switzer	Pope	Private Sector – Public Utilities
Ollie Brown	Saline	Public Official
Bruce Tolley	Saline	Public Sector / Owner, Title Company
Jim Grimes	Saline	Private Sector – Corrections
Phyllis Ferrell	Saline	Private Sector - Education

COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

	Member	Area of Interest
1	Angie Hampton – CEO Egyptian Health Dept. (618) 273-3326 ext 2119	Public, Behavioral, and Environmental Health – Ms. Hampton is the CEO of a 3 county Health Department that offers over 30 different programs in the fields listed above. She currently supervises 140 employees and has a budget of over \$6M
2	Lori Cox 618-252-5400	Executive Director, Saline County Chamber Director of Small Business Development Center
3	John McPeck	Public Sector – Mayor of Harrisburg, IL Local Business Owner
4	Brad Housewright	Economic Developer – Saline County Industrial Development Company
5	Todd Carr Quality Improvement Officer – Hardin County General Hospital 618-285-6634	Health Care – Mr. Carr is the Quality Improvement Director for Hardin County General Hospital – a 25 bed critical access hospital in Hardin County. President of Hardin County Main Street Chairman of Southernmost Tourism Bureau Village of Elizabethtown Trustee Chairman of Hardin County Historical Society
6	Susan Odum Extension Educator	University of Illinois Extension Educator – Community & Economic Development Stronger Economies Together Group
7	Larry Richards, SIRP&DC	Economic Development – Appointed County Official
8	Chad May, SIRP&DC	Economic Development – Appointed County Official

PUBLIC NOTICE

The 2021-2026 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Pope and Saline counties has been completed by Southeastern Illinois Regional Planning and Development Commission (SIRP&DC) as pursuant to the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Commission Grant Award #ED18CHI3020009. A copy of the CEDS is available for review on the SIRP&DC website at www.sirpdc.org. If you would like a copy of the CEDS, please call SIRP&DC at 618-252-7463 or email your request to acarr.sirpdc@clearwave.com. Comments regarding the CEDS will be received at SIRP&DC, Attn: Alene Carr, Executive Director, P.O. Box 606, Harrisburg, Illinois 62946 until April 23, 2021.

The Public Notice was issued in the Dollar Saver on March 23, 2021 providing opportunity for public viewing and commenting of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. A copy of the CEDS was delivered to each of the following County Clerks: Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Pope and Saline. When comments were received, the CEDS would be reviewed and comments will be addressed. A written response will be sent to the individual/organization commenting.

On April 21, 2021, the CEDS will be adopted by the Southeastern Illinois Regional Planning & Development Commission.

As of April 23, 2021 there were no comments received in regards to the 2021-2026 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.

CERTIFICATE OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF ILLINOIS
COUNTY OF SALINE

) SIRPDC
) 80 Bay 606
) Danvers, IL 62446

SI DOLLAR SAVER, INC., a Corporation, organized and existing pursuant to the laws of the State of Illinois, does hereby certify that it is the PUBLISHER, of THE SI DOLLAR SAVER; that said SI DOLLAR SAVER is a secular and public newspaper of general circulation in said county, printed and published weekly) in the English language, in the City of Galatia in said County of Saline and State of Illinois, and is a newspaper as defined in Chapter 100, Section 5, Illinois Revised Statutes.

It further certifies that the said SI DOLLAR SAVER has been regularly published in said City of Galatia, County of Saline and State of Illinois for at least six months prior to the date of the first publication of the notice hereinafter mentioned.

It further certifies that a Public Notice-2021-2026 CEDS, of which the annexed notice is a true printed copy, has been regularly published in said newspaper 1 times, once in each week for 1 successive weeks, the first publication thereof having been made in the issue of said newspaper published on 2/23 and the last publication thereof having been made in the issue of said newspaper on 3/23.

In Witness Whereof, the said SI DOLLAR SAVER, publisher aforesaid, has caused its name to be hereunto signed on this 23 day of March 2021

Publication Fee \$ 47.00

SI Dollar Saver
By Jeanette Bond
Jeanette Bond, Publisher

CERTIFICATE NO. 671

AUCTIONS • CLASSIFIEDS • LEGALS



**Re-Elect
Tim Mitchell
for
Harrisburg Township
Trustee**

WANTED

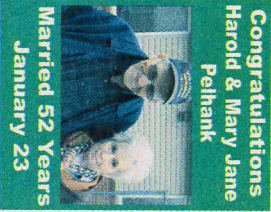
Pay In Cash! Old Furniture, Antiques, Collectibles, Old Metal Signs, Old Coins, Old Marbles, Crocks & Jugs, Quilts, Costume Jewelry, Blue Canning Jars, Etc... 270-498-3518 3/23

WORKWANTED

Retired Nurse, Available to sit with elderly or disabled. 618-313-0678 3/30

NOTICE

See Someone's Photo on the Internet? Tell them you saw it. TFN

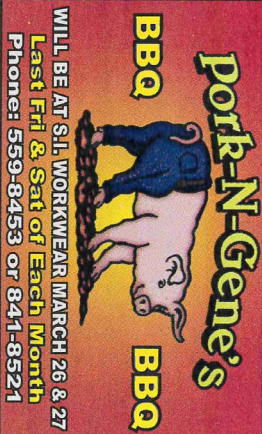


**Congratulations
Harold & Mary Jane
Pelhank
Married 52 Years
January 23**



**Happy Birthday
Pamela White
March 26**

**Live Public Auction
Saturday March 27th, 10 AM
Wilson Auction Center**
Location: 25 Veterans Drive in Harrisburg. Turn onto Veterans Drive off of Hwy. 13 bypass at the Napa store and we are on the left.



**Pork-N-Gene's
BBQ
BBQ
WILL BE AT S.I. WORKWEAR MARCH 26 & 27
Last Fri & Sat of Each Month
Phone: 559-8453 or 841-8521**

SPECIAL

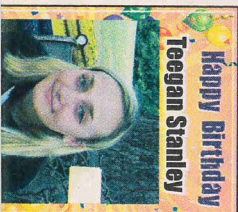
Red Camper Shell for Full Size Pick Up Truck, Blue Camper Shell for Full Size Pick Up with Tail Gate Door, Has one broke window glass. 618-272-7117 after 2 pm. TFN

SPECIAL

Smith & Wesson AR 15, Package Deal, Ammo Carry Case, 4 magazines, 120 rounds ammo. So. IL. Guns and Holsters, 500 W. Poplar, Harrisburg, (618)841-0391. 3/30

SPERLING Construction
Expert Drywall Finishing
Now Spray Painting Houses
Jared Spelling • Owner
618-841-9910

NOTICE
Small home repairs, in Senior helping Senior! Teddy Ray Price 618-284-2464 office 628-499-TFN



**Happy Birthday
Teegan Stanley**

PUBLIC NOTICE

The 2021-2026 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Pope and Saline counties has been completed by Southeastern Illinois Regional Planning and Development Commission (SIRP&DC) as pursuant to the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Commission Grant Award #ED16CH13020009. A copy of the CEDS is available for review on the SIRP&DC website at www.sirpdc.org. If you would like a copy of the CEDS, please call SIRP&DC at 618-252-7463 or email your request to acarr.sirpdc@clearwave.com. Comments regarding the CEDS will be received at SIRP&DC, Attn: Aleene Carr, Executive Director, P.O. Box 606, Harrisburg, Illinois 62946 until April 24, 2021.

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
GALLATIN COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

ESTATE OF MARY FRANCES SKAGGS, Deceased
CASE NO. 2021-P-2

CLAMOR NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of MARY FRANCES SKAGGS. Letters of Administration have been granted to Lacie J. McDonald, 62984, R. 2, Box 79, Shawneetown, an Independent Executor. The estate will be administered without Court Supervision, unless under Section 5/23-4 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/23-4) any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to the Clerk of Court. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of Court, Gallatin County Courthouse, Shawneetown, Illinois 62984, or with the representative, or both, within 6 months from March 23, 2021, the date of first publication of this notice or three (3) months after the date of mailing a copy of this notice to creditors whose addresses and names are known to the decedent (deceased), whichever is later, and any claim not filed within that period shall be forever barred. Copies of this notice shall be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

Dated this 17th day of March, 2021
Lacie J. McDonald, Executor
By: J. David L. Wood
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 725
Shawneetown, IL 62984

323.390.406

**ANNUAL
TOWN MEETING
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**

To the legal voters, residents of the town of Raleigh in the County of Saline and State of Illinois, that the Annual Town Meeting of said Town will take place on TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 2021 being the second Tuesday of said month at the hour of 7:00 o'clock P.M. at the Raleigh Township Building, 125 S. Main Street, Raleigh, Illinois for the transaction of the miscellaneous business of the said town, and after a Moderator having been elected will proceed to hear and consider reports of officers, and decide on such measures as may, in pursuance of law, come before the meeting, and especially to consider and decide the following: No



RESOLUTION

2021-04

WHEREAS, the Southeastern Illinois Regional Planning and Development Commission, in order to participate in the benefits of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965, as amended, is required by said act to prepare a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the counties of Gallatin, Hamilton, Hardin, Pope and Saline, and

WHEREAS, the Southeastern Illinois Regional Planning and Development Commission has undertaken planning and development activities on behalf of the region, as provided by the State of Illinois Compiled Statutes, and

WHEREAS, the Southeastern Illinois Regional Planning and Development Commission has incorporated individual county plans into a five-county district document, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS that the Southeastern Illinois Regional Planning and Development Commission concurs with the District Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy and will use the program to support future planning and development strategies and activities.

Passed this 21st day of April 2021.


Chad May, Chairperson


David Robinson, Secretary