

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) 2025



2025 Community Meeting Recap for the Community of Lane Deer

Annually, Southeastern Montana Development Corporation (SEMDC) initiates public input throughout a four-county region to assist in developing a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). In the past, we have held community meetings to gain insight into trends, strengths, and concerns in various communities. This year we distributed an online survey to assess how things have changed from last year, and to note what projects are priorities to be completed for the following year(s). These conversations are incorporated into a five-year CEDS planning document created by SEMDC to be utilized in the process to assist the communities in Southeastern Montana.

SEMDC is working with citizens and communities to find ways to maximize positive impacts and mitigate negative ones. The more individuals in each community that understand economic change and its impacts, proactively plan, and communicate within the community and region, the better the outcomes will be.

Developed by:

Southeastern Montana Development
Corporation (SEMDC)

www.semdc.org

406.748.2990

Lame Deer CEDS Meeting 2025

Strengths

\$\$ available from 2 Brownfields groups for cleanup of sites	Improved Sidewalks and Street names / signs / beautification project
Availability of New Markets Tax Credits	July 4th Powwow
Basic Services (Grocery and Hardware)	Land Resources (445,000 acres trust land) Bear Butte, Thunder Child
Beauty of the area	Laundry Mat
Blooming entrepreneurial spirit (Various Funding and CDKC College)	Local Artists
Boys and girls club	Market Tongue River Land
Business Opportunities	Medical Facility
Casino and Restaurant (provides jobs)	Mobile Meat Processing
CDKC Language Preservation Program	Mini Mall Full
CDKC PAR Project/Funding	Natural Resources – Water Rights and Mineral Rights
CDKC Simulator Training Equipment	New Grocery Store in Ashland
CDKC Solar Install Training Program	New MT Job Service Office
Chief Dull Knife College – Campus Plan/Expansion (5-year plan)	Non-Profits/Community and Youth
Colstrip Future Stability	Northern Cheyenne Tribal Housing Authority
Colstrip Job Outlook	Northern Cheyenne President (Gene Small)
Community Pride	Office Supply Store- Tribal Owned
Curbside Garbage Pick Up	One Car Service/Repair Centers
Designation as Opportunity Zone	Outdoor Recreational Opportunities
Disaster Mitigation Plan Complete	Peoples Partnership for Community Development
Drug Court Started	Rodeo Grounds
Elder Commission Feeding Program	Solar in Residential with Training offered
Expansion of 911 / Radio Signals	Stakeholder Coalition
Family Spirit Program / Family Culture	Thrift Store
Financial Institution	Tongue River water rights
Flour Grinder/Depot/Bakery/Cash Store	Train youth at CDKC and Tribal Housing Authority
Fitness / Wellness Center	Transfer Station Completed
Food Pantry/ Bank	Tribal Propane Business
Gas Station – Depot (2)	UCC Codes (financing, liens) established/Court Law & Order Codes
History/Archeology	Young community/population increasing
Highway 212 Project and attention to problems	Younger generation is interested in seeing change and improvements
Grant Writing Company Hired for Tribe	Water Fill Stations

Concerns

911 system has issues	Lack of Marketing – Unique Experiences to tourist.
Basic Water/Sewer Infrastructure- Not Mapped	Lack of preventative health care
BIE potentially closing NCTS	Lack of proactive groups/actions
Broadband Access/Capacity	Lack of Public Safety
Bullying culture in schools	Lack of Regional Busing – Schools
Challenges for establishing additional water systems	Lack of services and media/communication source; Lack of communication with outside the Northern Cheyenne
Concern over funding CDKC expansion needed.	Lack of Skilled workers – no apprenticeship programs.
Concern over the impact on families who are affected by the loss of coal jobs/greater impact due to family structures	Language Preservation Program
Concerns over lack of Communication to tribe members.	Law enforcement not present – increased drug activity.
Court System	Low percentage of people with Driver's Licenses/can't access services or work
Cultural oppression within tribes and community members.	Natural Resources for data center and Coal Mining
Day Care Centers/Childcare	Need for Outdoor recreational opportunities
Dependent on Federal \$\$	Negative Outside Business Perceptions
Drug and alcoholism problems (especially prescription drugs)	No Addiction Recovery Center
Emergency Communication System	No assistance for Grandparents
Extremely High Crime Rate	No Local Nursing Home / No Hospice Service
Food Distribution Facility Needed	No nighttime (after 10 pm) resources
Funding for Family Spirit Program	No rest stop
Future of culture – no youth education from elders to youth to preserve heritage.	No way to fund road maintenance
High dropout rate	No Youth Center for those who don't fit Boys and Girls club ages
Human Trafficking prevalent	Non-Natives working on Reservation and spending \$\$ elsewhere.
Hwy 212 – dangerous	Obstacles in getting a loan on the reservation
Inability to attract private capital- need business park	Preparedness for next pandemic is lacking
Increasing Tension with Tribal Government	Proximity to Billings – hard for businesses/Retail Leakage
Isolation adds to transportation expense	School District
Labor training/ready workforce, life skills	Senior Housing / no resources for assistance.
Lack of adequate pharmacy services	Shortage of Police/Inconsistent Funding
Lack of access to Pre-paid Credit Cards	Storage is an issue (Distribution)
Lack of Community Center or place for Public Meetings	Suicide rate/Lack of Suicide Prevention
Lack of Community Involvement	Tough to recruit for professional jobs

Lack of Follow Through on Projects	Train young people and they leave
Lack of housing: safe, secure, and maintained	Transit System
Lack of Jail in Lane Deer	Turnover in health professionals at IHS facility
Lack of jobs for people of all age's persons	Tribal Government Concerns of stability
Lack of laundry service	Vacant houses and land (blight)
Lack of Lodging	Water not being used to irrigate
Lack of marketing mineral and water rights	Water quality
Lack of money in the budget for economic development	

Economy

Establish a Long-Term Funding Strategy / Community Growth Plan

Plan for a long-term funding strategy to provide for the increasing needs of Northern Cheyenne population.

Housing, Quality of Life, Services

Build Stakeholder Collaboration and Human Services Coalition

Begin to establish more networking between stakeholders already working in the area. Share information, become aware of efforts and progress in certain areas, support more human service programs.

Food Distribution Center

Build a food distribution center with a full commercial kitchen to house a food bank in a permanent location.

Law Enforcement

Law Enforcement lacking on the reservation; bring attention to these matters to create more safety for residents.

Providing Access to Mental Health Facilities / Nursing Home Facilities / Dialysis Center

Build a mental health facility to assist with the influx of mental health issues within the tribal population and elderly population.

Training Center

Establish Training Center/Site in southeastern Montana for opportunities in the Energy/Utility/Reclamation industries/ Vo-Tech Training Classes.

Tribal Data Center

Information on the reservation seems to be fragmented. Establish a clearinghouse/data center to collect information necessary to accurately tell the story of the situation/obtain funding for projects.

Tribal Education Building

Support the construction of a tribal education building that would be the headquarters for all education at Northern Cheyenne Reservation.

Youth Center and Skate Park

Children that don't fit the ages of the Boys and Girls club have no healthy activities and a lack of safe places to socialize or hang out/obtain food. Develop other activities other than sports.

Infrastructure

911 Addressing / Tele-Communication

Need to update the 911 addressing system to make it easier to find homes in an emergent situation. Also need to improve the emergency telecommunication systems.

Filling Stations for Water

Increase the access to water filling stations throughout the Reservation.

Highway 212 Safety Initiative

Continue to work toward more safety and enforcement on Highway 212; make MDT, Highway Patrol, and lawmakers aware of specific needs on Highway 212 on the Northern Cheyenne reservation and all along the corridor.

Infrastructure/ Water and Sewer

Continue to repair water lines that are very old. Upgrades needed for Sewer Lagoon. Seems to be An inflow/infiltration problem in the Lame Deer sewer system. Fire hydrants are outdated and need repair.