

## Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) 2023



### 2023 Community Meeting Recap for the Community of Lame 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 held in-person meetings, to discuss 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.

This year it was especially important to host community meetings because of the economic impacts on our region recently. SEMDC is working with citizens and communities to find ways to maximize positive impacts and mitigate negative ones. The more individuals in each community 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)

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## Lame Deer CEDS Meeting 2023

### Group Discussion

Rather than perform a typical Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats assessment, SEMDC led the group through the exercise by having them first examine the results of last year's meeting and then adding or modifying the information already developed. The lists below are what the group developed through meeting responses.

### Strengths

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

## Concerns

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 911 system has issues   | Lack of Marketing – Unique Experiences to tourist.                            |
| Basic Water/Sewer Infrastructure- Not Mapped  | Lack of marketing mineral and water rights                                    |
| Broadband Access/Capacity   | Lack of money in the budget for economic development                          |
| Bully culture in schools  | Lack of preventative health care  |
| Challenges for establishing additional water systems  | Lack of proactive groups/actions  |
| Concern over funding CDKC expansion needed.   | Lack of Public Safety   |
| Concern over the impact to families who are affected by the loss of coal jobs/greater impact due to family structures | Lack of services and media/communication source                               |
| Concerns over lack of Communication to tribe members.   | Lack of Skilled workers – no apprenticeship programs.                         |
| Court System  | Language Preservation Program   |
| Cultural oppression within tribe and community members.   | Law enforcement not present – increased drug activity.                        |
| Day Care Centers/Childcare  | Low percentage of people with Driver’s Licenses/can’t access services or work |
| 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 nighttime (after 10 pm) resources  |
| Food Distribution Facility Needed   | No rest stop  |
| Funding for Family Spirit Program   | No way to fund road maintenance   |
| Future of culture – no youth education from elders to youth to preserve heritage.                                     | No Youth Center for those who don’t fit Boys and Girls club ages              |
| High dropout rate   | Non-Natives working on Reservation and spending \$\$ elsewhere.               |
| Human Trafficking prevalent   | Obstacles in getting a loan on the reservation                                |
| Hwy 212 Initiative – dangerous  | Preparedness for next pandemic is lacking                                     |
| Inability to attract private capital- need business park  | 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 Lame Deer   | Turnover in health professionals at IHS facility                              |
| Lack of jobs for all ages persons   | Vacant houses and land (blight)   |
| Lack of laundry service   | Water not being used to irrigate  |
| Lack of Lodging   | Water quality   |

## **Working Groups**

In this second activity, the group was asked to discuss projects that would assist in addressing some of the weaknesses or needs in the community. At the end of the identification of meaningful projects, the group was asked to vote for specific projects. They were allowed to place 3 marks as they chose with one by three various projects or all their stickers by a particular project.

## **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.

### **Proposed Economic Projects receiving votes.**

CIP/Growth Plan - 1 Vote

## **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.

### ***Busby Boys and Girls Club***

Support the establishment of the Busby Boys and Girls Club to further the activities already established in Lame Deer.

### ***Busby Solar Project***

Provide support for a solar project located at Busby.

### ***CDKC Master Plan / Add STEM building***

Revisit the CDKC master plan, pursue adoption of the plan and start with the implementation of expanding the campus to provide more programs and adequate classrooms. Add a STEM building to encourage science, technology, engineering, and mechanical studies.

### ***Day Care Center***

Safe and dependable daycare services are badly needed. Day Care at college has closed.

### ***Food Distribution Center***

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

### ***Hemp Growing/Processing***

Research opportunities for growing and processing hemp.

### ***Market Unique Adventures to Tourists***

Market native adventures to tourists to explore the area and bring in \$\$.

***Provide Access to Mental Health Facilities***

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

***Training Center***

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

***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 on Northern Cheyenne Reservation.

***Travel Center***

Construct Travel Center to serve vehicle traffic on Hwy 212.

***Wood Bundling Business***

Package wood to be available for heating assistance on the 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

**Proposed Housing, Quality of Life, and Services Projects receiving votes.**

Training Center – 7 Votes

Youth Activities/ Skate Park- 5 Votes

Access to Mental Health- 4 Votes

Food Distribution Center- 4 Votes

CIP/Growth Plan/Market to Tourist – 3 Votes

Data Center- 1 Vote

**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 emergent telecommunication systems.

***Filling Stations for Water***

Increase the access to water filling stations throughout the Reservation.

***Hwy 212 Initiative***

Working with Powder River County and Big Horn County to create a safety corridor on HWY 212

*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.

**Infrastructure Projects receiving votes.**

HWY 212- 4 Votes