

## Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) 2024



### 2024 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 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 2024

### 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
Highway 212 Project and attention to problems	

## 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; Lack of communication with outside the Northern Cheyenne
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 – 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

## **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.

### ***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.

### ***Law Enforcement***

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

### ***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 emergent 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.