

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission

# 2013 Performance Report

BERKSHIRE REGION COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Submitted to the U.S. Economic Development Administration on November 26, 2013

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Section 1. Introduction</b> .....	3
<b>Section 2. Existing Regional Conditions &amp; Regional Trends</b> .....	4
<b>Section 3. Goals &amp; Objectives Performance Report</b> .....	14
<b>Section 4. Priority Projects Status Report</b> .....	20
<b>Section 5. Performance Measures</b> .....	53

## **APPENDICES**

---

**Appendix “A”** - 24 Month Local Area Unemployment Statistics

**Appendix “B”** - Most Recently Available Data on Per Capita Income and Stats America Unemployment Data from the American Community Survey (2006-2010)

**Appendix “C”** - Economic Distress Criteria Map

**Appendix “D”** – 2013 Active Priority Projects Matrix

**Appendix “E”** - 2012-2013 CEDS Committee Members

DRAFT

Funding for this report was provided by the U.S. Economic Development Administration

## **SECTION 1. INTRODUCTION**

The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) is the designated regional planning agency for the thirty (30) towns and two (2) cities in Berkshire County, Massachusetts. In 2011, BRPC staff under the direction and guidance of an advisory committee (CEDS Committee) developed a comprehensive economic development strategy for the Berkshire Region (2011 Berkshire CEDS). The 2011 Berkshire CEDS serves as a guide for establishing regional economic goals and objectives, developing and implementing a plan of action, and identifying investment priorities and funding sources.

Economic Development Administration (EDA) regulations (13 CFR 303.6 (C)) require Planning Organizations to submit an updated CEDS performance report on an annual basis. In November 2012, the CEDS Committee submitted its 2012 Annual Performance Report to the EDA. The CEDS Committee is pleased to submit its 2013 Annual Performance Report (Report) to the EDA.

The Report discusses existing regional conditions and trends, provides updates on the region's progress towards reaching its goals and objectives and provides information relevant to the performance measures set forth in the 2011 Berkshire CEDS. The Report also contains an updated Priority Project list with seventeen (17) new projects added to the list as the result of a second project solicitation.

DRAFT

## **SECTION 2. EXISTING REGIONAL CONDITIONS & REGIONAL TRENDS**

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission staff, on behalf of the CEDS Committee, reviewed the data and statistics contained in Chapter 2 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS and the 2012 Performance Report to ensure that data reflects the most recent data available. This Report contains updated information on median household incomes, employment statistics, economic sector information and a summary of the areas in Berkshire County that meet EDA's distress criteria.

DRAFT

## A. MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME IN BERKSHIRE COUNTY

*Table 2.1 Median Household Income (1999, 2009, 2011).*

Municipality	Median household income in 1999	Median Household Income in 2009	Median Household Income in 2011	Percent Change ('99-'11)	Percent Change ('09-'11)
Adams	\$32,161	\$38,340	\$39,080	21.5%	1.9%
Alford	\$49,632	\$82,500	\$85,833	72.9%	4.0%
Becket	\$46,806	\$42,031	\$41,852	-10.6%	-0.4%
Cheshire	\$41,981	\$57,419	\$56,597	34.8%	-1.4%
Clarksburg	\$43,362	\$52,054	\$54,095	24.8%	3.9%
Dalton	\$47,891	\$57,222	\$52,285	9.2%	-8.6%
Egremont	\$50,000	\$51,856	\$50,848	1.7%	-1.9%
Florida	\$43,000	\$53,333	\$46,458	8.0%	-12.9%
Great Barrington	\$45,490	\$52,843	\$48,561	6.8%	-8.1%
Hancock	\$45,347	\$74,205	\$78,571	73.3%	5.9%
Hinsdale	\$42,500	\$60,766	\$62,596	47.3%	3.0%
Lanesborough	\$46,496	\$66,458	\$66,071	42.1%	-0.6%
Lee	\$41,556	\$50,599	\$51,835	24.7%	2.4%
Lenox	\$45,581	\$60,604	\$54,622	19.8%	-9.9%
Monterey	\$49,750	\$41,625	\$42,083	-15.4%	1.1%
Mount Washington	\$53,125	\$65,833	\$68,750	29.4%	4.4%
New Ashford	\$51,250	\$69,583	\$63,854	24.6%	-8.2%
New Marlborough	\$46,875	\$57,917	\$67,528	44.1%	16.6%
North Adams	\$27,601	\$35,401	\$36,424	32.0%	2.9%
Otis	\$51,488	\$63,750	\$63,672	23.7%	-0.1%
Peru	\$44,531	\$66,250	\$68,523	53.9%	3.4%
Pittsfield	\$35,655	\$43,188	\$44,513	24.8%	3.1%
Richmond	\$60,917	\$87,682	\$88,125	44.7%	0.5%
Sandisfield	\$45,972	\$62,411	\$60,104	30.7%	-3.7%
Savoy	\$41,477	\$55,500	\$58,068	40.0%	4.6%
Sheffield	\$45,082	\$47,145	\$52,181	15.7%	10.7%
Stockbridge	\$48,571	\$55,096	\$53,698	10.6%	-2.5%
Tyringham	\$60,250	\$93,750	\$94,375	56.6%	0.7%
Washington	\$54,583	\$68,906	\$69,286	26.9%	0.6%
West Stockbridge	\$51,000	\$68,750	\$75,543	48.1%	9.9%
Williamstown	\$51,875	\$63,045	\$72,743	40.2%	15.4%
Windsor	\$51,389	\$74,750	\$74,866	45.7%	0.2%
<b>Berkshire County</b>	<b>\$39,047</b>	<b>\$48,907</b>	<b>\$48,705</b>	<b>24.7%</b>	<b>-0.4%</b>
<b>Massachusetts</b>	<b>\$50,756</b>	<b>\$64,509</b>	<b>\$65,981</b>	<b>30.0%</b>	<b>2.3%</b>
<b>US</b>	<b>\$41,994</b>	<b>\$51,914</b>	<b>\$52,762</b>	<b>25.6%</b>	<b>1.6%</b>

Source: 2000 US Census, 2006-2010 ACS

## OBSERVATIONS AND TRENDS

The median household income for Berkshire County **decreased** by -0.4% between 2009 and 2011. The rate of inflation for this time period was 4.9%.

The median household income for Berkshire County increased from 2000 to 2009 (24.7%). The rate of inflation for this period was 24.6%.

The 2011 median household income for Berkshire County (\$48,705) remained below the national average (\$52,762) and well below the state average (\$64,509).

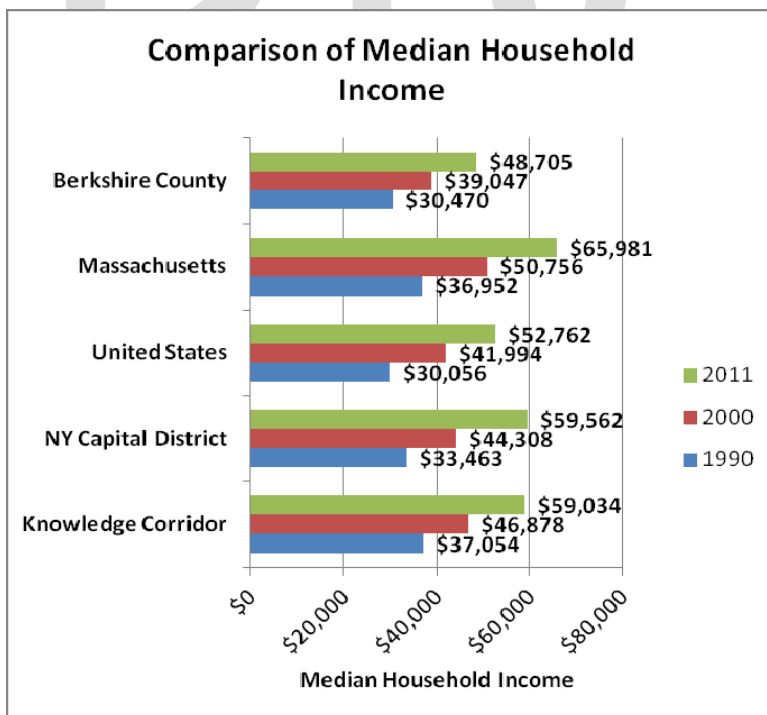
**Table 2.2 Median Household Income of Surrounding Regions (1990, 2009, 2011).**

Area	1990	2000	2009	2011
Knowledge Corridor	\$37,054	\$46,878	\$57,755	\$59,034
NY Capital District	\$33,463	\$44,308	\$57,905	\$59,562
Berkshire County	\$30,470	\$39,047	\$48,907	\$48,705
Massachusetts	\$36,952	\$50,756	\$64,509	\$65,981
United States	\$30,056	\$41,994	\$51,914	\$52,762

Source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey, 2006-2010

\* The Knowledge Corridor consists of nearby Hampshire (MA), Hampden (MA) and Hartford (CT) Counties. The NY Capital District consists of nearby Albany (NY), Rensselaer (NY), Saratoga (NY) and Schenectady (NY) Counties.

**Figure 2.1 Median Household Income of Surrounding Regions (1990, 2000, 2011).**



Source: U.S. Census, American Community Survey, 2006-2010

## OBSERVATIONS AND TRENDS

The median household income for Berkshire County decreased slightly from 2009 to 2011, while the median household income for the Knowledge Corridor and NY Capital District both increased for the same time period.

The median income for Berkshire County households remained below the median household incomes for the two surrounding regions (Knowledge Corridor and NY Capital District) discussed in the 2011 Berkshire CEDS.

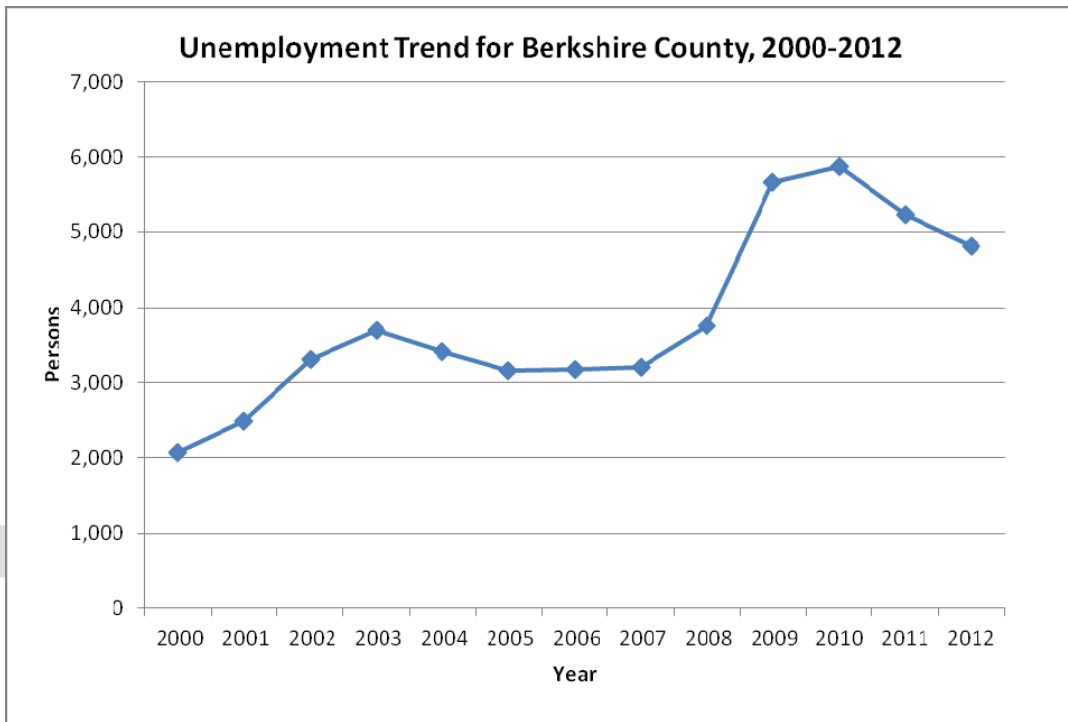
### **B. EMPLOYMENT IN BERKSHIRE COUNTY**

*Table 2.3 Employment Statistics (2000-2012).*

Year	Month	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Area Rate	Massachusetts Rate	US Rate
2000	Annual	70,160	68,092	2,068	2.9	2.7	4
2001	Annual	71,082	68,590	2,492	3.5	3.7	4.7
2002	Annual	72,706	69,395	3,311	4.6	5.3	5.8
2003	Annual	72,654	68,958	3,696	5.1	5.8	6.0
2004	Annual	72,125	68,705	3,420	4.7	5.2	5.5
2005	Annual	72,646	69,485	3,161	4.4	4.8	5.1
2006	Annual	73,467	70,292	3,175	4.3	4.8	4.6
2007	Annual	72,929	69,717	3,212	4.4	4.5	4.6
2008	Annual	73,055	69,288	3,767	5.2	5.3	5.8
2009	Annual	73,092	67,425	5,667	7.8	8.2	9.3
2010	Annual	72,790	66,909	5,881	8.1	8.3	9.6
2011	Annual	72,532	67,309	5,223	7.2	7.3	8.9
2012	Annual	71,631	66,814	4,817	6.7	6.7	8.1

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Figure 2.2 Unemployment Trends (2000-2012).



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Figure 2.3 Labor Force and Employed Worker Trends (2000-2012).



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics



## OBSERVATIONS AND TRENDS

The unemployment rate for Berkshire County (6.7%) remained below the national average (8.1%) in 2012 and equal to the state average for 2012 (6.7%).

The unemployment rate for Berkshire County continues to improve. The unemployment rate for Berkshire County decreased by 0.5% between 2011 and 2012.

The labor force in Berkshire County continues to shrink. The labor force decreased by 901 people between 2011 and 2012.

### **C. OTHER TRENDS IN BERKSHIRE COUNTY**

**Table 2.4 Number of Establishments (2009-2011-2012).**

Industry Sector Descriptions	Number of Establishments						
	2009	2011	2012	# Change '09 - '12	# Change '11 - '12	% Change '09 - '12	% Change '11-'12
<b>Total, All Industries</b>	4,816	4,921	4,760	-56	-161	-1.16	-3.27
11 - Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	29	27	30	1	3	3.45	11.11
21 - Mining	8	9	8	0	-1	0.00	-11.11
23 - Construction	596	591	547	-49	-44	-8.22	-7.45
31-33 - Manufacturing	171	170	165	-6	-5	-3.51	-2.94
DUR - Durable Goods Manufacturing	99	97	94	-5	-3	-5.05	-3.09
NONDUR - Non-Durable Goods Manufacturing	72	73	71	-1	-2	-1.39	-2.74
22 - Utilities	14	13	14	0	1	0.00	7.69
42 - Wholesale Trade	128	129	126	-2	-3	-1.56	-2.33
44-45 - Retail Trade	692	685	655	-37	-30	-5.35	-4.38
48-49 - Transportation and Warehousing	98	101	96	-2	-5	-2.04	-4.95
51 - Information	89	84	86	-3	2	-3.37	2.38
52 - Finance and Insurance	166	161	159	-7	-2	-4.22	-1.24
53 - Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	140	136	120	-20	-16	-14.29	-11.76
54 - Professional and Technical Services	354	363	346	-8	-17	-2.26	-4.68
55 - Management of Companies and Enterprises	15	16	19	4	3	26.67	18.75
56 - Administrative and Waste Services	250	249	241	-9	-8	-3.60	-3.21
61 - Educational Services	92	93	94	2	1	2.17	1.08
62 - Health Care and Social Assistance	398	411	398	0	-13	0.00	-3.16
71 - Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	109	120	115	6	-5	5.50	-4.17
72 - Accommodation and Food Services	489	514	492	3	-22	0.61	-4.28
81 - Other Services, Ex. Public Admin	821	898	901	80	3	9.74	0.33
92 - Public Administration	157	151	148	-9	-3	-5.73	-1.99

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

## OBSERVATIONS AND TRENDS

- From 2011 to 2012 the number of establishments in Berkshire County decreased by 161 establishments compared to an increase of 105 from 2009 to 2011.
- From 2009 to 2012 the number of establishments in Berkshire County decreased by 56 establishments.
- From 2011 to 2012, only six (6) industry sectors experienced an increase in the number of establishments and these sectors are:
  - Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting

- Utilities
- Information
- Management of Companies & Enterprises
- Educational Services
- Other Services
- From 2011 to 2012, the industry sectors experiencing the largest decrease in the number of establishments are:
  - Construction
  - Retail Trade
  - Real Estate Rental & Leasing
  - Professional and Technical Services
  - Health Care & Social Assistance
  - Accommodations & Food Services

**Table 2.5 Average Monthly Employment by Sector (2009-2011-2012).**

Industry Sector Descriptions	Average Monthly Employment						
	2009	2011	2012	# Change '09 - '12	# Change '11-'12	% Change '09-12	% Change '11-'12
<b>Total, All Industries</b>	60,540	60,364	60,568	28	204	0.05	0.34
11 - Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	177	175	183	6	8	3.39	4.57
21 - Mining	108	135	53	-55	-82	-50.93	-60.74
23 - Construction	2,956	2,733	2,765	-191	32	-6.46	1.17
31-33 - Manufacturing	4,910	4,627	4,663	-247	36	-5.03	0.78
DUR - Durable Goods Manufacturing	1,798	1,852	1,852	54	0	3.00	0.00
NONDUR - Non-Durable Goods Manufacturing	3,112	2,775	2,811	-301	36	-9.67	1.30
22 - Utilities	313	294	316	3	22	0.96	7.48
42 - Wholesale Trade	902	1,031	1,062	160	31	17.74	3.01
44-45 - Retail Trade	8,469	8,710	8,690	221	-20	2.61	-0.23
48-49 - Transportation and Warehousing	1,119	1,037	1,045	-74	8	-6.61	0.77
51 - Information	1,014	996	986	-28	-10	-2.76	-1.00
52 - Finance and Insurance	2,042	2,021	1,937	-105	-84	-5.14	-4.16
53 - Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	624	501	477	-147	-24	-23.56	-4.79
54 - Professional and Technical Services	2,575	2,571	2,637	62	66	2.41	2.57
55 - Management of Companies and Enterprises	222	227	228	6	1	2.70	0.44
56 - Administrative and Waste Services	2,082	2,092	2,000	-82	-92	-3.94	-4.40
61 - Educational Services	7,352	7,287	7,719	367	432	4.99	5.93
62 - Health Care and Social Assistance	11,453	11,489	11,604	151	115	1.32	1.00
71 - Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	1,870	2,000	1,933	63	-67	3.37	-3.35
72 - Accommodation and Food Services	6,844	6,744	6,950	106	206	1.55	3.05
81 - Other Services, Ex. Public Admin	3,068	3,174	2,822	-246	-352	-8.02	-11.09
92 - Public Administration	2,440	2,521	2,498	58	-23	2.38	-0.91

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

## OBSERVATIONS AND TRENDS

The average monthly employment for the region increased by 204 people between 2011 and 2012 compared to the 176 person decrease between 2009 and 2011.

Sectors with the greatest increase in average monthly employment between 2011 and 2012

- Educational Services
- Accommodation and Food Services
- Health Care and Social Assistance
- Professional and Technical Services

Sectors with the greatest decrease in average monthly employment between 2011 and 2012

- Other Services, Exc. Public Administration
- Administrative & Waste Services
- Mining
- Arts, Entertainment & Recreation

The average monthly employment in the construction and manufacturing sectors increased between 2011 and 2012 compared to a decrease in average monthly employment in those sectors between 2009 and 2011.

The average monthly employment in the retail trade sector decreased between 2011 and 2012 compared to an increase between 2009 and 2011.

The average monthly employment in the real estate sector decreased between 2011 and 2012, continuing the negative trend in this sector since 2009.

The average monthly employment in the educational services and accommodation and food service sectors experienced an increase in average monthly employment between 2011 and 2012 reversing the negative trend in these sectors since 2009.

*<Intentionally Left Blank>*

**Table 2.6 Average Weekly Wages by Sector (2009-2011-2012).**

Industry Sector Descriptions	Average Weekly Wages - Berkshire County						
	2009	2011	2012	# Change '09 - '12	# Change '11-'12	% Change '09 - '12	% Change '11-'12
<b>Total, All Industries</b>	\$ 743	\$766	\$771	\$28	\$5	3.77	0.65
11 - Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	\$ 432	\$447	\$431	(\$1)	(\$16)	-0.23	-3.58
21 - Mining	\$ 1,073	\$1,184	\$999	(\$74)	(\$185)	-6.90	-15.63
23 - Construction	\$ 900	\$916	\$922	\$22	\$6	2.44	0.66
31-33 - Manufacturing	\$ 1,173	\$1,284	\$1,271	\$98	(\$13)	8.35	-1.01
DUR - Durable Goods Manufacturing	\$ 1,062	\$1,022	\$1,021	(\$41)	(\$1)	-3.86	-0.10
NONDUR - Non-Durable Goods Manufacturing	\$ 1,238	\$1,459	\$1,435	\$197	(\$24)	15.91	-1.64
22 - Utilities	\$ 1,466	\$1,614	\$1,603	\$137	(\$11)	9.35	-0.68
42 - Wholesale Trade	\$ 849	\$936	\$943	\$94	\$7	11.07	0.75
44-45 - Retail Trade	\$ 489	\$478	\$482	(\$7)	\$4	-1.43	0.84
48-49 - Transportation and Warehousing	\$ 681	\$725	\$728	\$47	\$3	6.90	0.41
51 - Information	\$ 792	\$859	\$841	\$49	(\$18)	6.19	-2.10
52 - Finance and Insurance	\$ 1,074	\$1,271	\$1,291	\$217	\$20	20.20	1.57
53 - Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	\$ 609	\$626	\$617	\$8	(\$9)	1.31	-1.44
54 - Professional and Technical Services	\$ 1,223	\$1,283	\$1,314	\$91	\$31	7.44	2.42
55 - Management of Companies and Enterprises	\$ 1,515	\$1,169	\$1,150	(\$365)	(\$19)	-24.09	-1.63
56 - Administrative and Waste Services	\$ 687	\$701	\$721	\$34	\$20	4.95	2.85
61 - Educational Services	\$ 797	\$821	\$816	\$19	(\$5)	2.38	-0.61
62 - Health Care and Social Assistance	\$ 833	\$844	\$857	\$24	\$13	2.88	1.54
71 - Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	\$ 453	\$457	\$471	\$18	\$14	3.97	3.06
72 - Accommodation and Food Services	\$ 333	\$337	\$341	\$8	\$4	2.40	1.19
81 - Other Services, Ex. Public Admin	\$ 476	\$459	\$445	(\$31)	(\$14)	-6.51	-3.05
92 - Public Administration	\$ 815	\$831	\$835	\$20	\$4	2.45	0.48

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

## OBSERVATIONS AND TRENDS

The growth of average weekly wages in Berkshire County continues to trail the rest of the Commonwealth. The average weekly wages for all sectors in Berkshire County only increased by 0.65% between 2011 and 2012 compared to a statewide increase of 2.09% for all sectors during the same time period.

Sectors with the greatest increase in average weekly wages from 2011 to 2012:

- Professional and Technical Services
- Finance and Insurance
- Administrative & Waste Services

Sectors with the greatest decrease in average weekly wages from 2011 to 2012:

- Mining
- Non-Durable Goods Manufacturing
- Management of Companies and Enterprises
- Information

## **D. ECONOMIC DISTRESS CRITERIA FINDINGS FOR THE 2013 PERFORMANCE REPORT**

### ***Unemployment (13 CFR 301.3(a)(i))***

No municipality in Berkshire County has an unemployment rate that is for the most recent 24 month period for which data is available, at least one (1) percentage point greater than the national average unemployment rate. Please see Appendix “A” for more information.

*Note: If the latest data from the American Community Survey is used then twelve (12) census tracts in Berkshire County meet the economic distress criteria as to unemployment. Please see Appendix “B” for more information.*

### ***Per Capita Income (13 CFR 301.3(a)(ii))***

Seven (7) census tracts in Berkshire County have a per capita income that is, for the most recent period for which data is available, eighty (80) percent or less of the national average per capita income. Please see Appendix “B” for more information.

### ***Economic Distress Criteria Map***

Please see Appendix “C” for more information.

## SECTION 3. GOALS & OBJECTIVES PERFORMANCE REPORT

Chapter 4 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS sets forth six goals and objectives for the region. This section highlights the activities being taken to help the region meet these goals and objectives.

1. To implement unified regional economic development initiatives.
2. To advance the region's economic progress through the use of current and pertinent data.
3. To increase the economic competitiveness of the region in the global economy.
4. To stabilize and strengthen the region's workforce.
5. To advance high-quality infrastructure and community improvements to support development, redevelopment and revitalization of the built environment.
6. To facilitate the region's assessment, remediation and redevelopment of buildings and sites.

### GOAL # 1: TO IMPLEMENT UNIFIED REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES.

#### Representative Activities:

- ✓ The Berkshire Chamber of Commerce, Berkshire Visitors Bureau, Berkshire Economic Development Corporation and the Berkshire Creative Economy Council continue to provide regional economic development services under the name 1Berkshire. Examples of the services provided by 1Berkshire are a Regional Marketing Program and a Regional Retention/Attraction Program.
- ✓ The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission continued work on the *Sustainable Berkshires Regional Plan* that will guide public and private initiatives and investments in the region for the next twenty to thirty years.
- ✓ The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, Franklin County Community Development Corporation and Franklin Regional Council of Governments partnered on an EDA funded initiative to provide technical assistance to businesses along the Route 2 corridor in Western Massachusetts that were adversely affected by Tropical Storm Irene in 2011.
- ✓ The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission through the *Keep Berkshires Farming Initiative* is working with a number of municipalities and individuals to improve access to local and healthy food while supporting farm viability and providing assistance to new and operating agricultural related businesses. (2013 Berkshire CEDS Priority Project, see pg. 30 of this Report for a complete update)
- ✓ Berkshire Enterprises is now co-located with 1Berkshire at the Central Station in downtown Pittsfield. The new space will provide wireless internet access and private phone lines for each of its participants along with a private conference room available for meetings and consultations.

**GOAL # 2: TO ADVANCE THE REGION'S ECONOMIC PROGRESS THROUGH THE USE OF CURRENT AND PERTINENT DATA.**

**Representative Activities:**

- ✓ The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission continued to operate a data clearinghouse and indicators website (Berkshire Benchmarks) focused on improving the quality, volume and access to information and statistics for the Berkshire region.
- ✓ The Berkshire County Regional Employment Board continued its bi-annual publication of its Workforce Blueprint that examines the critical and emerging industries and identifies the necessary skills that the workforce must possess to support the identified industries. (2013 Berkshire CEDS Priority Project, see pg. 28 of this Report for a complete update)
- ✓ The City of North Adams and the Town of Great Barrington continue to develop new comprehensive plans that will guide land use and development decisions made in those municipalities for at least the next ten years.
- ✓ 1Berkshire provides local data to the Council for Community and Economic Research (CCER) that helps populate the national cost of living index published by the CCER.

**GOAL # 3: TO INCREASE THE ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS OF THE REGION IN THE GLOBAL ECONOMY.**

**Representative Activities:**

- ✓ 1Berkshire maintained a site and building locator website to assist interested parties in identifying buildings and sites in Berkshire County that are available for lease or purchase. The website received over 400 visits per month over the past 12 months and lists nearly 130 properties.
- ✓ 1Berkshire launched the Nonprofit Business Network to provide networking and educational opportunities for nonprofit business professionals in Berkshire County; facilitate collaboration on projects; and to unite the nonprofit sector in matters requiring advocacy from a larger entity.
- ✓ 1Berkshire provided eight business incubator spaces to assist sole proprietors or micro-business proprietors with the transition from their home to an incubator into a commercial space.

## **GOAL # 4: TO STABILIZE AND STRENGTHEN THE REGION'S WORKFORCE.**

### **Representative Activities:**

#### **Upgrading Skills of the Current Workforce:**

- ✓ The Berkshire County Regional Employment Board continues to promote the Commonwealth's Workforce Training Fund grants and Hiring Incentive grants. These grants are awarded to regional industries to implement worker training programs. During FY13, 13 companies received \$366,153 to train 513 workers and generated \$725,000 in training resources. (2013 Berkshire CEDS Priority Project, see p. 28 of this Report for a complete update)
- ✓ The Berkshire County Regional Employment Board continued its Industry Sector Initiative that promotes the development of strategies to address critical workforce needs and shortages in the Berkshire region. In the past five (5) years, the BCREB helped to generate \$1.2M; leveraged \$1.8 million and trained 348 people in Green Technology/Photovoltaic Training and Healthcare which assisted 27 companies with their workforce needs. During FY13, the BCREB secured an additional \$350K to assist the healthcare sector with training. (2013 Berkshire CEDS Priority Project, see pg.29 of this Report for a complete update)
- ✓ Two companies in Berkshire County received state Workforce Training Funds. Sinicon Plastics Inc. of Dalton received a \$29,450 dollar award to train 20 employees, 5 additional jobs are expected to be created as a result of the training. Greylock Federal Credit Union based in Pittsfield with several branches county wide received a \$154,720 award to train 254 employees, 1 additional job is expected to be created as a result of training.

#### **Developing the Skills of Unemployed/Underemployed Residents:**

- ✓ The Berkshire County Regional Employment Board, BerkshireWorks, Berkshire Community College and McCann Technical School continued its Industry Sector Initiative that promotes the development of strategies to address critical workforce needs and shortages in the Berkshire region. Strategies were developed to assist the STEM, Advanced Manufacturing and Healthcare industries.
- ✓ BerkshireWorks Career Center provided services to 4,500 people and 500 companies during fiscal year 2013.

#### **Pipeline Development:**

- ✓ The Berkshire County Regional Employment Board, in partnership with 12 local high schools and 4 colleges, continues to offer its Connecting Activities Internship Program that connects high-school students and post-secondary students with industry training programs and internships to help students develop work-readiness and industry specific job skills. 500 youth annually in internships, 1500 youth in career awareness; 1000 youth in STEM programming; and 50-100 youth in subsidized work experience. (2013 Berkshire CEDS Priority Project, see p. 29 of this Report for a complete update)
- ✓ The Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, in partnership with a number of public school districts and colleges, continued to participate in the Berkshire Compact. The Compact is a county-wide initiative



focused on promoting a diverse range of educational opportunities in the region. The premise of the Compact is that everyone regardless of their circumstances should have the opportunity to aspire to higher education. During FY'13, 1,200 6th grade students from 20 schools visited 4 college campuses; implemented Wee Read program for 1,500 children to promote literacy; and implemented a Youth Leadership program for 29 high school juniors.

- ✓ The Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts continued operation of the Berkshire Hills Internship Program (B-HIP) that provides unique and hands-on training to the youth of Berkshire County in the field of arts management (2011 Berkshire CEDS Priority Project, see pg. 50 of this Report for a complete update).

#### **Post-Secondary/Vocational Training Opportunities:**

- ✓ During FY'13 Berkshire Community College and BerkshireWorks Career Center received \$800,000 to develop medical coding, tech path and hoisting license certificate programs.
- ✓ Berkshire Community College and McCann Technical School developed seven (7) green facilities and photovoltaic training programs which trained 57 people.
- ✓ Berkshire Community College and McCann Technical School developed and trained 288 people in the healthcare industry.
- ✓ The Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts continued operation of the Berkshire STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) Pipeline to build connections among higher education, primary and secondary education, business and non-profit agencies to improve science, technology, engineering and math education for students. MCLA hosted a Science Fair and STARlab Planetarium for students. (2013 Berkshire CEDS Priority Project, see p. 31 of this Report for a complete update)
- ✓ Pittsfield Adult Learning Center implements post-secondary training in electricity and metal fabrication.

#### **Basic Skills/Work Readiness Efforts:**

- ✓ The Berkshire County Regional Employment Board and BerkshireWorks implemented its first Work Readiness Curriculum workshops for 80 area youth during FY'13.
- ✓ The Berkshire County Regional Employment Board and Berkshire Chamber of Commerce worked to enhance the work-readiness programs in the high schools.
- ✓ Berkshire Community College is implementing a Work Keys training program

**GOAL # 5: TO ADVANCE HIGH-QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENTS TO SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT, REDEVELOPMENT, AND REVITALIZATION OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT.**

**Representative Activities:**

- ✓ The MassBroadband 123 regional fiber-optic network is substantially complete with approximately 92% of the fiber optic network installed. Once the network is complete nearly 1,200 key community anchor institutions like schools, libraries and public safety facilities across 123 communities in Massachusetts will have access to high speed broadband internet. (2011 Berkshire CEDS Priority Project, see p. 31 of this Report for a complete update)
- ✓ The 40 member town WiredWest Communications Cooperative Corporation continued work on developing a solution to the last-mile broadband internet issue (i.e. how to connect residences and businesses to the MassBroadband 123 regional fiber optic network. WiredWest has completed a detailed business plan, a survey of utility poles, a detailed marketing survey, and pre-subscription surveys, (2011 Berkshire CEDS Priority Project, see p. 31 of this Report for a complete update)
- ✓ The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission and the Housatonic Railroad Company are working on a feasibility study for the reintroduction of passenger rail service to Berkshire County. The study is being funded by the United States Department of Transportation. (2011 Berkshire CEDS Priority Project, see pgs. 35 & 48 of this Report for a complete update)
- ✓ The City of Pittsfield completed Phase I and Phase II of its Airport Safety Improvement project which included realigning and extending the asphalt runway to meet FAA runway safety area standards. (2011 Berkshire CEDS Priority Project, see pg. 34 of this Report for a complete update)
- ✓ The Pittsfield Economic Revitalization Corporation received \$150,000 to award to local small businesses to assist them with implementing broadband technology.
- ✓ Williams College is constructing a new \$80 million library and media center. The estimated date of completion for the project is August 2014.
- ✓ The Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute continued its campus expansion program, which includes the construction of a new 44,400 square foot Visitor, Exhibition and Conference Center; renovation of the existing museum building; and a new landscape design. The project is expected to be completed in summer 2014.
- ✓ The Route 7/Pittsfield South Street Reconstruction Project is on-going with an estimated cost of \$6 million and estimated date of completion in June 2014. (2011 Berkshire CEDS Priority Project, see pg. 32 of this Report for a complete update)
- ✓ The Town of Adams began construction on a \$2 million public infrastructure project at Greylock Glen. (2011 Berkshire CEDS Priority Project, see pg. 35 of this Report for a complete update)

**GOAL # 6: TO FACILITATE THE REGION'S ASSESSMENT, REMEDIATION AND REDEVELOPMENT OF BUILDINGS AND SITES**

**Representative Activities:**

- ✓ The Berkshire Brownfields Program received a \$400,000 EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant. (2013 Berkshire CEDS Priority Project, see pg. 23 of this Report for a complete update)
- ✓ The Town of Lee received an EPA Brownfields Area Wide Planning Grant to assist the town with assessing the potential contamination issues and planning for the future use of their vacant mill sites.
- ✓ The Southern Berkshire Community Development Corporation is moving forward with the remediation of the New England Log Homes site. The SBCDC is awaiting the results of a new bioremediation process to determine whether it can be used to remove the contamination at the site. In addition, the SBCDC received an additional \$1,959,400 dollars in Brownfields Redevelopment Funds through MassDevelopment. (2011 Berkshire CEDS Priority Project, see pg. 40 of this Report for a complete update)

DRAFT

## SECTION 4. NEW PRIORITY PROJECTS & STATUS REPORT

This section contains updates for the projects listed on the Project Priority List in the 2011 Berkshire CEDS, as well as new projects submitted and included for 2013. A project summary and update is included at the page indicated for each project on the Project Priority List.

### **A. PRIORITY LIST 2013 BERKSHIRE CEDS**

#### **Completed Projects**

- Pittsfield Municipal Airport Safety Improvement Project (pg. 34)
- Route 8 Corridor Redevelopment – Gravel Bank Redevelopment (pg. 37)

#### **Projects Representing the Greatest Needs Regionally**

- ✚ **NEW** Small Business Revolving Loan Fund (pg. 30)
- ✚ **NEW** Berkshire Regional Planning Commission Brownfields Program (pg. 23)
- ✚ **NEW** Keep Berkshires Farming (pg. 30)
- ✚ **NEW** Workforce Training Fund & Express Program (pg. 28)
- ✚ **NEW** Berkshire Labor Market Blueprint (pg. 28)
- ✚ **NEW** Connecting Activities High School Internship Program (pg. 29)
- ✚ **NEW** Industry Sector Initiatives (pg. 29)
- ✚ **NEW** Berkshire Compact for Education & Berkshire County STEM Pipeline Network (pg. 31)
- Regional Telecommunications Network (pg. 31)
- Regional Highway Access Improvements, including a north-south Limited Access Highway serving central and northern Berkshire County (pg. 32)
- Alternative Energy & Energy Infrastructure Improvements (pg. 34)
- Regional Passenger Rail Improvements (pgs. 36/49)
- Regional Economic Development District (pg. 48)

#### **Projects that Enhance the Region: Physical Development**

- ✚ **NEW** Memorial School Redevelopment Project (pg. 22)
- ✚ **NEW** Saint James Place (pg. 22)
- ✚ **NEW** Former Nessacus School Redevelopment (pg. 23)
- ✚ **NEW** McCain Business Park (pg. 24)
- ✚ **NEW** First Street/ Common Park Rehabilitation Project (pg. 24)
- ✚ **NEW** Berkshire Museum 21<sup>st</sup> Century Energy Project (pg. 25)
- ✚ **NEW** Hancock Shaker Village Renovations (pg. 26)
- ✚ **NEW** Mohawk Theater Restoration (pg. 27)
- ✚ **NEW** Northern Berkshire Scenic Railway (pg. 27)
- Development of the Greylock Glen Outdoor Recreation & Environmental Center (pg. 36)
- Former Commonwealth Sprague Site (Brown Street) (pg. 37)
- Route 8 Corridor Redevelopment (pg. 38)

- Life Science Center at William Stanley Business Park (pg. 38)
- William Stanley Business Park (pg. 39)
- Crane Stationary Mill-Redevelopment (pg. 39)
- Hubbard Avenue Development Area (pg. 41)
- Berkshire Mall/ Civic Center/ Hotel (pg. 41)
- New England Log Homes Site (NELH) (pg. 41)
- River School Redevelopment Project (pg. 42)
- Redevelopment of the Historic Great Barrington Fairgrounds (pg. 43)
- Monument Mills Area Reuse Planning (pg. 43)
- Redevelopment of Historic Great Barrington Firehouse (pg. 44)
- West Street Water Line Upgrade (pg. 45)
- Downstreet Art Project (pg. 45)
- McKay Street Pedestrian Improvements & Parking Garage Restoration (pg. 46)

**Projects that Enhance the Region: Programs, Initiatives, Studies, Education, or Other**

- Adaptive Reuse of Mills (pg. 46)
- City of Pittsfield Municipal Airport Industrial Park Feasibility Study (pg. 47)
- Regionalization of the City of Pittsfield’s Municipal Airport (pg. 47)
- Berkshire Creative Initiatives (pg. 49)
- Berkshire Hills Internship Program (pg. 51)
- Berkshire Creative Initiative (pg. 52)

**Inactive Past Priority Projects**

- Sports Complex (pg. 40)
- Downtown Parking Strategy (Great Barrington) (pg. 49)
- Housatonic School Redevelopment (pg. 44)
- Berkshire Farm to School Feasibility Study (pg. 48)
- Berkshire Creative Initiative – Berkshire Festival (pg. 51)

## **B. 2013 ACTIVE PRIORITY PROJECTS MATRIX**

Please see Appendix “D” for the Active Priority Projects Matrix that categorizes projects based upon economic significance and stage of development/implementation.

## **C. NEW PRIORITY PROJECTS – 2013**

<b>Project Name: Memorial School Redevelopment Project</b>
<b>Project Location:</b> Adams
<b>Project Summary:</b> The size and prominent location of the Memorial School building on Route 8 in downtown Adams creates opportunities for innovative reuse of the building and its grounds. Redevelopment of the 69,786 square foot building has the potential to have a regional impact by providing new workforce housing, as well as nonprofit and public spaces. New uses could provide a catalyst to additional investment in Adams and the region.
This project is consistent with goals 1, 3, and 5 of the 2011 CEDS
<b>Funding Source(s):</b> Several sources of funding are being investigated, including: Berkshire Brownfields; USDA Rural Services; EDA; HUD; and MassDevelopment
<b>Projected Job Creation:</b> The exact number of jobs to be created or retained is unknown at this time.
<b>Related Linkages:</b> The site is well positioned on the Route 8 Corridor in the northern gateway of downtown Adams as such it has potential to spur spin-off investment in this centrally located area. Redevelopment will promote the reuse of the historic property and facilitate job growth.
<b>Timeframe:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In September 2012 the Memorial School building was returned to the town of Adams.</li><li>• In October 2012 the town entered into initial negotiations with two parties regarding this property. However, at this point those negotiations are at an indefinite halt due to needed repairs to the building’s roof that have not yet taken place.</li><li>• The town is currently working with BRPC and MassDevelopment to undertake an architectural/ engineering assessment.</li><li>• In fall 2013, an environmental analysis is expected to be complete.</li></ul>
<b>Most Recent Update:</b> June 14, 2013

<b>Project Name: St. James Place</b>
<b>Project Location:</b> Great Barrington
<b>Project Summary:</b> The 150 year old building, formally St. James Episcopal Church, known for its exceptional acoustics will be restored into a home for classical music, the theatrical arts, public lectures, and other educational & cultural gatherings. The renovated 8,500 square foot Parish House will include a reception hall with a full service kitchen, as well as, office and meeting space for local nonprofits and service organizations including the food pantry. The building is in the Taconic-West Avenues National Register Historic District and historic tax credit funds have been used for building stabilization activities in the initial project phase.
This project is consistent with Goals 2, 3, 5 and 6 of the 2011 CEDS.
<b>Funding Source(s):</b> The preliminary budget for this project is 6 million dollars. These moneys are to come from Federal and State historic tax credits; private grants; foundation funds; and private gifts.

<b>Project Name: St. James Place</b>
<b>Projected Job Creation:</b> The exact number of jobs to be created or retained is unknown at this time.
<b>Related Linkages:</b> The project will have a regional impact by renovating the landmark building located in the southern gateway to downtown. It will support community needs, arts, and culture in the entire Southern Berkshire region. The new project may offer incubator space for small and growing businesses.
<b>Timeframe:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2010 the engineering and market feasibility were completed.</li> <li>• Design for the project is expected to be complete this year (2013).</li> <li>• In 2015 an environmental analysis for the project is expected to be complete.</li> <li>• In 2014 the identified zoning permit is expected to be obtained.</li> </ul>
<b>Most Recent Update:</b> June 14, 2013

<b>Project Name: Berkshire Regional Planning Commission Brownfields Program</b>
<b>Project Location:</b> Regional
<b>Project Summary:</b> The BRPC Brownfields Program is a two part assessment program and revolving loan fund used to provide municipalities with the resources to assess and cleanup brownfields sites. Through its assessment program, BRPC hires a licensed site professional to investigate potential contamination on municipally owned sites. The revolving loan fund program provides loans (and sub-grants) to municipalities and other entities to help pay for the actual physical removal of the contamination from the site. The purpose of this program is to promote the reuse and redevelopment of contaminated vacant or underutilized properties.
This project is consistent with Goal 6 of the 2011 CEDS
<b>Funding Source(s):</b> U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Grant
<b>Projected Job Creation:</b> The exact number of jobs to be created or retained is unknown at this time.
<b>Related Linkages:</b> The eventual cleanup of contaminated sites can lead to private investment, and redevelopment; which has potential to increase the local tax base. The program also makes funding available on a county-wide basis.
<b>Timeframe:</b> On-going
<b>Most Recent Update:</b> June 14, 2013

<b>Project Name: Former Nessacus School</b>
<b>Project Location:</b> Dalton
<b>Project Summary:</b> The proposed project will redevelop the long vacant school into 15-20 affordable housing units with a senior housing component. Redevelopment of this site will eliminate a blighted aspect of the neighborhood, hopefully creating a ripple-effect and encouraging new investment.
This project is consistent with Goal 6 of the 2011 CEDS.
<b>Funding Source(s):</b> Potential funding sources include Preliminary-Tax Credits, MHFA, and DHCD.

<b>Project Name: Former Nessacus School</b>
<b>Projected Job Creation:</b> This project will create a considerable amount of temporary construction jobs. A property manager position and maintenance staff will also be needed for the property once construction is complete.
<b>Related Linkages:</b> The project has potential to have regional impact by providing much needed affordable housing in a key location, which is walkable and near public transit.
<b>Timeframe:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A feasibility study, preliminary site plan, and design are all currently underway for this project (Summer 2013).</li> </ul>
<b>Most Recent Update:</b> June 14, 2013

<b>Project Name: McCain Business Park</b>
<b>Project Location:</b> Dalton
<b>Project Summary:</b> The intent of this project is to create a shovel ready business & industrial park along Route 8, a key east/west transportation corridor. This project would facilitate the redevelopment of a former industrial site at 540 Hinsdale Road in Dalton. This site is well suited for the plastics and engineering service industries.  This project is consistent with Goal 6 of the 2011 CEDS.
<b>Funding Source(s):</b> MassWorks, Economic Development Administration
<b>Projected Job Creation:</b> The exact number of jobs to be created or retained is unknown at this time.
<b>Related Linkages:</b> Reinvestment in this property as a center for business and industrial innovation has potential to stabilize & strengthen the region's workforce and increase the economic competitiveness of the region within the global economy. The project has potential to enhance the local tax base. Dalton has one of the highest taxes in the county and increased commercial activity would be a tremendous benefit, by helping to reduce the tax burden on the residents.
<b>Timeframe:</b> Unknown
<b>Most Recent Update:</b> June 5, 2013

<b>Project Name: First Street Common Park Rehabilitation Project</b>
<b>Project Location:</b> Pittsfield
<b>Project Summary:</b> This multi-phase, multi-year project seeks to improve pedestrian connections while installing new landscape treatments to revitalize the park and its connection to downtown. The First Street Common is used to promote regional events which take place there and attract residents from throughout the Berkshires. Overall enhancement of the park contributes to an improved quality of life and has potential for investments. Rehabilitation of the downtown park represents much needed improvements after a period of deferred maintenance and no investment over many years.  This Project is consistent with Goal 5 of the 2011 CEDS.
<b>Funding Source(s):</b> To be determined
<b>Projected Job Creation:</b> The exact number of temporary construction and landscaping jobs to be created is unknown at this time.
<b>Related Linkages:</b> Contributes to the protection of open space. Promotes health and wellness by providing recreation space.



<b>Project Name: First Street Common Park Rehabilitation Project</b>
<b>Timeframe:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phase 1 of this project has been completed.</li> <li>• Phase 2 is expected to start this summer and be completed in 2014.</li> <li>• The timelines for Phases 3 &amp; 4 are currently unknown.</li> </ul>
<b>Most Recent Update:</b> June 14, 2013

<b>Project Name: Berkshire Museum 21<sup>st</sup> Century Energy Project</b>
<b>Project Location:</b> Pittsfield
<b>Project Summary:</b> The Berkshire Museum’s Energy Project will serve as a model for retrofitting an old building to maximize energy efficiency. The 110 year old historic building requires specific temperature and humidity controls for the preservation of a wide range of materials including paintings, an aquarium, and live animal exhibits. Conventional stabilization of the museums temperature and humidity would add significantly to the Museum’s Energy demand. The developed plan will conversely decrease the use of electricity and natural gas needed by the Museum while providing optimal environmental conditions. An upgrade to the HVAC system will include a premium efficiency chiller that will also produce heat to help stabilize humidity within the building. The project will also include building envelop & lighting improvements, and possibly PV roof panels. The Museum is also planning to install an accessible, passenger-operated elevator, upgraded fire suppression system, and other public safety features. The Museum serves the greater Berkshire region, including families, tourist and school districts throughout the county and in the adjoining towns in Vermont, Connecticut, and New York.  This project is consistent with Goals 1, 3, and 5 of the 2011 CEDS.
<b>Funding Source(s):</b> Grants from the U.S. Department of Energy, MassDevelopment, Northeast Utilities, Berkshire Gas, and additional grants from outside Berkshire County
<b>Projected Job Creation:</b> The project is expected to create 35 to 40 temporary construction jobs over an 18 month period.
<b>Related Linkages:</b> This project will increase the capacity of the museum to provide an exceptional experience to visitors through state of the art updates.
<b>Timeframe:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In January 2013 a feasibility study was completed.</li> <li>In June 2013 engineering and design plans were completed.</li> <li>In June 2014 local construction permits and a state permit for the elevator will be obtained.</li> <li>In September 2014 new construction will begin on this project.</li> </ul>
<b>Most Recent Update:</b> June 14, 2013

**Project Name: Hancock Shaker Village Renovations**

**Project Location:** Pittsfield, Hancock

**Project Summary:**

- **Visitor Service Buildings Exterior Renovations:** Exterior repair to siding and windows, as well as exterior painting will provide the necessary improvements to the “modern buildings” on the property. These buildings make up the visitors center including: the Center for Shaker Studies (admissions area, exhibit halls, community space, archives, etc.) the Museum Store, and the Harvest Café. Interior upgrades include the installation of HVAC and kitchen equipment to modernize the Café. Investment in infrastructure upgrades will increase Hancock Shaker Village’s ability to better serve their customers and their staff.
- **Laundry & Machine Shop Exterior Repairs, Painting and Interior Reinterpretation:** The project will begin with exterior repair of the clapboard, window frames etc. then the 9,600 square foot external wall surface of the Laundry & Machine Shop will be painted. This building is an important part of Hancock Shaker Village both historically and as a part of interpreting the Shaker story. The second phase of this project includes interior analysis of paint and reinterpretation of the building and redesign of the foot traffic pathways inside the building. Investment in this critical infrastructure will enable growth and development.
- **1793 Meeting House Exterior Wall Stabilization and Painting:** This project includes repair of the clapboards and gutters on the north facing side of the 1793 Meeting House structure at Hancock Shaker Village. If possible the project will include a collaboration of Pittsfield High School Students supervised by HSV staff. Investment in this critical infrastructure will enable growth and development.

This Project is consistent with Goals 1 and 3 of the 2011 CEDS.

**Funding Source(s):** Benjamin Moore, Kresge Foundation, Berkshire Life, Hancock Shaker Village Building Reserve Fund, 1772 Foundation, Amelia Peabody, IMLS, American Express Foundation, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Fund

**Projected Job Creation:** This project will create 3 to 4 construction jobs for the duration of the improvements and will retain 8 to 10 jobs in visitor services, Harvest Café, and Village Store. An unknown number of construction jobs will be created.

**Related Linkages:** The project will provide support for education on site, retain historic preservation, and has potential to increase tourism.

**Timeframe:**

- **Visitor Service Buildings Exterior Renovations:** In May 2013 engineering and design for this project were completed. In June 2013 city building permits will be obtained.
- **Laundry & Machine Shop Exterior Repairs, Painting and Interior Reinterpretation:** At this time 15% of the funding for this project had been obtained. The rest of the funding is expected to be secured in December 2013. Implementation dates are unknown at this point.
- **1793 Meeting House Exterior Wall Stabilization and Painting:** In May 2013 engineering and design were completed for this project.

**Most Recent Update:** June 14, 2013

<b>Project Name: Mohawk Theater Restoration</b>
<b>Project Location:</b> North Adams
<b>Project Summary:</b> This project seeks to restore the Mohawk Theater built in 1938. The 1,200 seat Art Deco theater is the last of its kind in North Adams over time the city has lost its other two theaters to fire and urban renewal. Located on Main Street in the heart of downtown North Adams the theater has potential to provide a future economic catalyst for investment and growth toward a healthier downtown. The city has joined forces with the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA) to make this location a part of a 'downtown campus.' A fully functional theater would be able to provide a 'teaching and training' facility to support MCLA's Art and Performing Art's disciplines. A refurbished theater would also be well poised to become another destination point in Northern Berkshire County, alongside other existing assets like Mass MoCA, Clark Art Museum and Heritage State Park.  This project is consistent with Goals 3, 4, 5, & 6 of the 2011 CEDS.
<b>Funding Source(s):</b> Unknown
<b>Projected Job Creation:</b> This project is expected to create 20 temporary construction jobs and upon project completion 8 FTE's are anticipated. These numbers were derived from the businesses consulting firm Concord Square Planning & Development of Boston, MA.
<b>Related Linkages:</b> The project is expected to bolster investment by attracting private buyers to purchase the adjacent vacant spaces downtown. Restoration of the theater will facilitate growth in the Arts and Entertainment concentration within the region adding another cultural venue to the regions long list of attractions including Tanglewood, Jacob's Pillow, and the Colonial Theater. Renovation of the theater would give new life to this underutilized asset which has sat vacant since 1992. This project also provides historic preservation and potential for increased tourism.
<b>Timeframe:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2009 phase 1 construction which included stabilization for core and shell improvements were completed.</li> <li>• In 2012 the initial feasibility study (conducted in 1998) was updated.</li> <li>• By the end of 2013 or the beginning of 2014 match funds are expected to be secured.</li> </ul>
<b>Most Recent Update:</b> June 14, 2013

<b>Project Name: Northern Berkshire Scenic Railway</b>
<b>Project Location:</b> Regional
<b>Project Summary:</b> Berkshire Scenic Railway (BSR) is looking to provide scenic railway tours between Adams and North Adams along 5 miles of railroad track to be acquired by the Commonwealth. Adams has submitted, through other funding sources, a proposal to construct a station facility at the south end of the line using an existing property and building. The city of North Adams does not have any such infrastructure. This project proposes to create a station complex at the northern end of the line. It is the intent that this facility will be designed to replicate the original North Adams Union Station and provide support services for travelers as well as exhibit space. A station at each end of the line will make service more attractive and provide information directing passengers to restaurants, shops, and other cultural attractions. This project will require right-of-way acquisition by the Commonwealth, upgrades to the existing rail corridor and tracks. BSR is working closely with Mass DOT to have the tourist trains operating by the summer of 2014.  This project is consistent with Goal 3 of the 2011 CEDS.

<b>Project Name: Northern Berkshire Scenic Railway</b>
<b>Funding Source(s):</b> Unknown
<b>Projected Job Creation:</b> Unknown
<b>Related Linkages:</b> This project is expected to provide and additional tourist attraction for northern Berkshire County.
<b>Timeframe:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In summer 2014 tourist trains are expected to be operational.</li> </ul>
<b>Most Recent Update:</b> August 7, 2013

<b>Project Name: Workforce Training Fund &amp; Express Program</b>
<b>Project Location:</b> Berkshire County
<b>Project Summary:</b> The program helps to market and assist local or regional industries in applying for WTFP, Express & Hiring Incentive Training Grants. These funds are used to implement training programs to upgrade the skills of their workforce. Training programs of this nature help companies remain competitive in a growing global economy. Technical assistance in conducting needs assessments and grant formulation is also provided as part of this program.
This project is consistent with Goals 3 & 4 of the 2011 CEDS.
<b>Funding Source(s):</b> Not provided
<b>Projected Job Creation:</b> On average this program provides funding to 6 companies (within a calendar year) and each company hires between 1-5 people.
<b>Related Linkages:</b> Many small to medium businesses would not be able to provide necessary training without these funds. These programs allow workers to retain their jobs by providing training in emerging skill sets. They also allow individuals who obtain these skill sets to advance their careers and provide opportunity for new employment opportunities.
<b>Timeframe:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This initiative is fully operational and ongoing.</li> </ul>
<b>Most Recent Update:</b> June 14, 2013

<b>Project Name: Berkshire Labor Market Blueprint</b>
<b>Project Location:</b> Berkshire County
<b>Project Summary:</b> Development of a labor market study, the <i>Workforce Development Blueprint</i> includes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An update of the Berkshire County labor market supply and demand</li> <li>Identification of critical industry sectors</li> <li>Identification of emerging industry sectors</li> <li>Education &amp; training requirements needed to develop short-term and long-term solutions</li> </ol> <p>Knowing the growing and emerging companies can assist partners in obtaining necessary workforce and economic development grants. The process and subsequent document help to identify the strengths, weaknesses, and gaps within the region so appropriate training can be developed.</p>

<b>Project Name: Berkshire Labor Market Blueprint</b>
This project is consistent with Goals 1, 2, 3 & 4 of the 2011 CEDS.
<b>Funding Source(s):</b> Not provided
<b>Projected Job Creation:</b> Unknown
<b>Related Linkages:</b> This initiative supports workforce development.
<b>Timeframe:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In September 2012 the most recent Workforce Development Blueprint was published.</li> <li>• An annual update will be completed in September 2013.</li> <li>• In September 2014 a new Workforce Development Blueprint will be published.</li> </ul>
<b>Most Recent Update:</b> June 14, 2013

<b>Project Name: Connecting Activities High School Internship Program</b>
<b>Project Location:</b> Berkshire County
<b>Project Summary:</b> This program provides a mechanism to develop career pathways and implement readiness workshops for individuals entering the workforce. It also places students in internships or training programs so they may successfully compete in post-secondary education and employment opportunities. <i>Connecting Activities</i> is a structured work and learning program which annually connects 500 high school students with internships, provides 1,500 students with career exploration activities, and 15 educators with Teacher Externships. Approximately 30% of the student interns are paid contributing to regional investment.
This project is consistent with Goals 1, 3 & 4 of the 2011 CEDS.
<b>Funding Source(s):</b> Not provided
<b>Projected Job Creation:</b> Annually BCREB places approximately 500 high school students in internships. About 25% of those students obtain employment after completing their internship.
<b>Related Linkages:</b> This initiative supports education and workforce development.
<b>Timeframe:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This initiative is fully operational and ongoing.</li> </ul>
<b>Most Recent Update:</b> June 14, 2013

<b>Project Name: Industry Sector Initiatives</b>
<b>Project Location:</b> Berkshire County
<b>Project Summary:</b> The Berkshire County Regional Employment Board engages partnering employers and education/ training providers based on a need to develop strategies necessary to address critical workforce needs and shortages regionally. For FY'13, FY'14, and FY'15 the BCREB will be concentrating their efforts on the healthcare and manufacturing sectors.
This project is consistent with Goals 1, 2, 3 & 4 of the 2011 CEDS.
<b>Funding Source(s):</b> Not provided
<b>Projected Job Creation:</b> The healthcare grant will create or retain 85 jobs. Additional opportunities

<b>Project Name: Industry Sector Initiatives</b>
from addition grants will also be created.
<b>Related Linkages:</b> This initiative supports workforce development.
<b>Timeframe:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This initiative is fully operational and ongoing.</li> </ul>
<b>Most Recent Update:</b> June 14, 2013

<b>Project Name: Keep Berkshires Farming</b>
<b>Project Location:</b> Regional
<b>Project Summary:</b> The purpose of Keep Berkshires Farming is to increase the amount of food that is both produced and consumed in the county by supporting 'the right' market conditions. This means overcoming potential barriers to market such as a lack of aggregation and distribution, value-added processing, meat processing, marketing or other economic factors that can render small-scale farming commercially unviable. The project will: create a collection of original data concerning local food supply and demand; formulate a strategy to strengthen local agricultural production and food access; then implement that strategy.  Partners in this effort include the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, Glynwood Center, Berkshire Grown, Berkshire County Farm Bureau, Food Bank of Western Massachusetts.  This project is consistent with Goals 1 & 2 of the 2011 CEDS.
<b>Funding Source(s):</b> Not provided
<b>Projected Job Creation:</b> Unknown
<b>Related Linkages:</b> Supporting local food production helps to foster long term ecological sustainability for the region.
<b>Timeframe:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This initiative is fully operational and ongoing.</li> </ul>
<b>Most Recent Update:</b> June 14, 2013

<b>Project Name: Small Business Revolving Loan Fund</b>
<b>Project Location:</b> Regional
<b>Project Summary:</b> The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission is exploring the development of a small business revolving loan fund in Berkshire County. This program would assist small businesses that cannot secure traditional bank financing for expansions or upgrades. The details of the program are dependent on the source of funds.  This project is consistent with Goal 3 of the 2011 CEDS.
<b>Funding Source(s):</b> USDA Intermediary Re-lending Program
<b>Projected Job Creation:</b> Unknown
<b>Related Linkages:</b> This project will provide support for all types of small businesses regionally.



<b>Project Name: Small Business Revolving Loan Fund</b>
<b>Timeframe:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unknown</li> </ul>
<b>Most Recent Update:</b> June 14, 2013

<b>Project Name: Berkshire Compact for Education &amp; Berkshire County STEM Pipeline Network</b>
<b>Project Location:</b> Regional
<b>Project Summary:</b> This initiative attempts to improve access to post secondary education and raise the aspirations of all Berkshire County residents to pursue 16 or more years of education and/or training in a technical field. The program also strives to build connections between the needs of the workplace and the local education system by providing students with knowledge about career options. Through the <i>Berkshire County Goes to College</i> program 1,200 6 <sup>th</sup> grade students from around the county visited either, MCLA, BCC, Williams College, or Bard at Simon’s Rock to learn about college life. In April 2013, 1,500 copies of the book <i>The Tiny Seed</i> by Eric Carle were distributed to young children at reading events through the <i>Wee Read Berkshire County</i> program.  This project is consistent with Goal 5 of the 2011 CEDS.
<b>Funding Source(s):</b> \$10,000 dollars from Berkshire United Way to implement <i>Berkshires County Goes to College</i> , A grant from Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation along with funds from, MCLA, the Berkshire Athenaeum, & Childcare of the Berkshires supports the <i>Wee Read Berkshire County</i> initiative. The DIGITS program is free to schools and operates on an opt-in basis. The STEM Pipeline receives funds and volunteer help from MCLA, and SABIC Innovative Plastics.
<b>Projected Job Creation:</b> Unknown
<b>Related Linkages:</b> These initiatives and programs seek to ready the workforce for Berkshire County in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. They also seek to create interest in these fields at a young age.
<b>Timeframe:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This initiative is fully operational and ongoing.</li> </ul>
<b>Most Recent Update:</b> July 9, 2013

**D. UPDATES BY PROJECT**

<b>Project Name: Regional Telecommunications Network</b>
<b>Project Summary:</b> Many communities in the Berkshires have no access or partial access to high speed broadband level internet service. This project includes two initiatives, each with the same goal of constructing a high speed fiber-optic network to provide broadband levels of internet service to residents and businesses in Western Massachusetts. (For additional information, see p. 79 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS).
<b>Project Update(s):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Middle-Mile: 2013 Update:</b> The Massachusetts Broadband Institute continues to install the middle mile fiber optic network throughout the County. The MBI estimates that it has installed approximately 92% of the fiber optic cables to be installed. The southernmost portion of the</li> </ul>

### Project Name: Regional Telecommunications Network

network has been installed and will be operational in the immediate future for municipalities to access. **2012 Update:** The MassBroadband 123 regional fiber-optic network is currently under construction. The anticipated date of completion is June 2013. The Massachusetts Broadband Institute has procured Axia NGN to operate the network. Axia NGN has registered twenty-four (24) service providers to provide communication services over the network. Please see <http://www.massbroadband.org/> for more information.

- **Last Mile: 2013 Update:** Wired West continues to raise funds and work collaboratively with the Massachusetts Broadband Institute. The Governor of Massachusetts has proposed an additional \$40 million dollars to assist with constructing the last-mile of fiber optics. If and when this money becomes available will influence the next steps that WiredWest will take. **2012 Update:** Forty (40) municipalities in Western Massachusetts have formed the WiredWest Communications Cooperative Corporation in August 2011 to provide a legal structure to finance, build and operate a fiber-optic telecommunications network. Work completed to date by WiredWest includes, GIS mapping of utility poles, roadways and structures, identification of possible hub locations, completion of an in-depth marketing survey, issuance of a request for information for engineering services, issuance of an RFP for high-level network design. The final business plan and projected financial statements will be completed by November 2012. Please see <http://wiredwest.net/> for more information.

### Project Name: Regional Highway Access Improvements, including a north-south Limited Access Highway serving central and northern Berkshire County

**Project Summary:** The Regional Highway Access Improvements project is a grouping of highway improvement proposals that would install a wide array of highway improvements throughout the County. (For additional information, see p. 82 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS).

- **Limited Access Highway.** This project will improve access, relieve traffic congestion and implement safety upgrades through the construction of a new vehicular corridor from the Massachusetts Turnpike (I-90) to municipalities in central and north Berkshire County.
- **South Street (Rte. 7/20) Improvements.** This project entails the replacement of deteriorated pavement, enhancements to side street access points and improvements to unsafe locations through signal upgrades in the City of Pittsfield.
- **Route 8/Friend Street Intersection Improvements.** This project will correct safety deficiencies and enhance traffic flow in the Town of Adams. 25% design completed.
- **Berkshire Medical Center (BMC) Area/North Street Improvements.** This project will address several intersections and roadway deficiencies in order to improve safety conditions on the east side of the Berkshire Medical Center complex in the City of Pittsfield and improve the regional north-south traffic flow on Route 7.
- **Route 7/20 Corridor Access Management Improvements.** This project will reduce turning



conflicts and improve safety conditions in concert with changes to zoning bylaws in the City of Pittsfield and the Town of Lenox.

- **East Street Reconstruction.** This project will add capacity and replace deficient sections of roadway between downtown Pittsfield and Merrill Road to improve regional traffic flow and facilitate the redevelopment of the Williams Stanley Business Park.
- **First Street Improvements.** This project will increase the capacity and turning movements on Route 7, the main north-south truck route through the City of Pittsfield. This project also includes upgrades to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act retrofits, pavement reconstruction, and signal modernization.
- **Route 20 Traffic Improvements (Lee/Lenox) or pursuit of a new I-90 Interchange.** This project seeks to alleviate heavy truck traffic, improve walkability, promote economic development, and ease congestion in the Town of Lee's downtown and improve regional access to I-90 (Massachusetts Turnpike).
- **Westside Connector.** This project establishes a new connector road between West Housatonic Street (US 20) and West Street in Pittsfield with the aim of reducing traffic congestion at critical downtown intersections along Routes 7/20.
- **Route 8 Alternating Passing Lane (Cheshire/Lanesborough).** This project will add capacity, improve safety, and alleviate congestion to coincide with anticipated increases in north-south travel between the central and northern Berkshires.

#### Project Update(s):

- **Limited Access Highway 2013 Update:** Corridor management alternatives analysis is on-going. **2012 Update:** No significant progress to report. A corridor management analysis is programmed into the current Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and should commence after October 1, 2012.
- **South Street (Rte. 7/20) Improvements 2013 Update:** Construction on this project is on-going. **2012 Update:** Construction on this project is currently in progress. Completion is anticipated in the summer of 2013.
- **Route 8/Friend Street Intersection Improvements 2013 Update:** Project is still under design with construction expected to begin in 2014. **2012 Update:** Project is at 25% design. Construction is expected to start in 2013 or 2014.
- **Berkshire Medical Center (BMC) Area/ North Street Improvements 2013 Update:** Construction work and signalization improvements are still under construction. **2012 Update:** This project is included in the 2015 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP). No design. (MassDOT Project ID 606233).
- **Route 7/20 Corridor Access Management Improvements 2013 Update:** No significant progress to report on zoning bylaws. **2012 Update:** Both Pittsfield and Lenox have draft "final" zoning bylaws of a corridor management overlay district to help manage and reduce the number of access points onto Route 7/20.
- **East Street Reconstruction 2013 Update:** The project is still in the design phase. **2012 Update:** This project is at 25% design. No construction date.
- **First Street Improvements 2013 Update:** No significant progress to report. **2012 Update:** First

Street is currently being resurfaced. Intersection and signalization improvements are included in the 2015 TIP (MassDOT Project ID 606233).

- **Route 20 Traffic Improvements (Lee/Lenox) or pursuit of a new I-90 Interchange 2013 Update:** a corridor management alternatives analysis is on-going. **2012 Update:** No significant progress to report.
- **Westside Connector 2013 Update:** No significant progress to report. **2012 Update:** No significant progress to report.
- **Route 8 Alternating Passing Lane (Cheshire/Lanesborough) Update:** No significant progress to report. **2012 Update:** No significant progress to report.

#### **Project Name: Pittsfield Municipal Airport Safety Improvements**

**Project Summary:** The Pittsfield Municipal Airport does not comply with current Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) design requirements for runway safety areas. This two-phase project will correct those deficiencies and bring the airport in to compliance with applicable FAA regulations. (For additional information, see p. 81 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS).

**2013 Update:** This project has been completed.

**2012 Update:** Phase one which started in October 2010 was substantially complete as of August 2012 with small tasks remaining; Closeout and completion of Phase 1 is expected presently (fall of 2012). Phase two of the project began late October 2011 and as of August 2012 is approximately 50% complete. Major milestones of the project include the replication of wetlands impacted by construction, tree obstruction removal to comply with FAA air navigation clear zones, substantial completion of FAA runway safety areas, completion of runway asphalt that included a 1400 foot shift to the east (not yet open for aircraft operations), grading for the new South Mountain Road realignment around the airport, and substantial completion of the new Wild Acres facilities. Substantial completion of the overall project is estimated to be December 2012 barring any adverse weather or unforeseen circumstances.

#### **Project Name: Alternative Energy and Energy Infrastructure Improvements**

**Project Summary:** The Alternative Energy and Energy Infrastructure Improvements project is a consolidated project grouping of various energy proposals from throughout the county. (For additional information, see p. 84 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS).

**Project Update:**

- **Solarize Pittsfield and Lenox 2013 Update:** As of February 2013, fifty-nine (59) homes have installed residential solar photovoltaic systems under this program. **2012 Update:** The City of Pittsfield and the Town of Lenox partnered with the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center and the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources to offer residents a program that encourages the adoption of small scale solar photovoltaic systems through a coordinated education, marketing and outreach effort combined with a tiered pricing structure that provides increased savings as more residents and business participate.
- **Hydro-electric Facilities 2013 Update:** (1) The Littleville Power Company is constructing a new \$3 million dollar hydropower plant in the Glendale section of Stockbridge, MA. The new hydropower plant is expected to add 22% more energy to the region's power grid. (2) The Crane Company installed a new 250 kW hydro-electric turbine at the Byron Weston Mill at a cost of \$ 2.7 million dollars.
- **Solar Photovoltaic Facilities 2013 Update:** (1) The Town of Lee has contracted with a solar developer to construct three separate solar installations totaling 3 MW. The town projects a savings of \$1.57 million dollars over the life of the project (20 years). (2) The Town of Adams contracted with a solar developer to construct a 1.1 MW solar photovoltaic installation on its former landfill. The construction of the project is finished and the solar installation became operational in late summer of 2013. (3)The Town of Dalton issued a request for proposals for a solar photovoltaic installation on its 5.5 acre capped landfill. (4) The City of North Adams will soon issue a request for proposals for the construction of solar photovoltaic installations on a few city owned properties. (4) Many other municipalities are in various stages of considering solar photovoltaic systems on municipally owned land.
- **Regional Energy Plan 2013 Update:** The regional energy plan is in development as a part of the Sustainable Berkshires Regional Plan.

## Project Name: Regional Passenger Rail Improvements

**Project Summary:** The Regional Passenger Rail Improvements project, a project grouping of the East to West and Pittsfield to Connecticut passenger rail projects, will promote public and private investment and upgrades to the region's rail network to facilitate expanded passenger rail service. (For additional information, see p. 86 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS).

**2013 Update:** The feasibility study is on-going with June 2014 as the anticipated date of completion. Funding for upgrades to the rails and safety improvements was provided in the FY'14 state transportation bill. However, the availability of the funds for this purpose is dependent on whether the State of Connecticut is willing to make a similar commitment to the restoration of passenger service along this corridor. **2012 Update:** The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission applied for and was awarded a \$240,000 grant from the United States Department of Transportation to conduct a feasibility study to identify potential passenger rail station locations in Berkshire County along a rail line owned by the Housatonic Railroad.

## Project Name: Development of the Greylock Glen Outdoor Recreation & Environmental Education Center

**Project Summary:** The Town of Adams is the designated developer for the Greylock Glen Outdoor Recreation & Environmental Education Center. It is envisioned as a four-season outdoor recreation and environmental education destination. This project is expected to include high quality lodging and conference facilities, a campground (tent sites and cabins), a performing arts amphitheater, an environmental education center, Nordic ski center, and a multi-use trail system. (For additional information, see p. 87 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS).

**2013 Update:** The first phase of infrastructure improvements including: water, sewer, and natural gas will be completed by the end of 2013. The second/final phase of infrastructure improvements is expected to be completed in conjunction with the first phase of development. **2012 Update:** The Site Master Plan as a whole, which includes all 1,063 acres, has been completed and a MEPA Certificate was issued to the plan on May 2010. Over the past year, 100% of the design plans have been completed for necessary infrastructure improvements to serve the Glen development. The Town was awarded \$2M from the 2011 Supplemental Budget for first phase of improvements. This work was bid in spring 2012 and construction started on May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012. In September the town applied for 2012 MassWorks funding (\$1.9M) to complete the second (final) phase of infrastructure improvements. Overall Project permitting is essentially complete: Wetlands delineation completed – ORAD issued by Adams Conservation Commission (Oct. 2011); Special Permit (PURD) issued for the Project by the Adams Planning Board (August 2012); NOI for Invasive Species Management Plan filed by DCR and is currently under Conservation Commission consideration.

Proposed Phase I: Campground and Multi-use Trail System: Marketing study for the Campground completed; Town now developing RFP for Campground developer/operator, initiating preliminary design work for Campground, and preparing draft leases to be executed with the Commonwealth and

**Project Name: Development of the Greylock Glen Outdoor Recreation & Environmental Education Center**

private developer partners. Expect to issue Campground RFP later in fall 2012.

Needed improvements at Route 8/Friend Street intersection are now at 25% design; design public hearing anticipated late in 2012. Construction for intersection improvements could begin as early as fall 2013. In September 2011, the Town issued a Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEI) for the lodge & conference center but received little response from hotel developers. It is now expected to be the final component of the entire project.

**Project Name: Former Commonwealth Sprague Site**

**Project Summary:** The former Commonwealth Sprague Site, on Brown Street in North Adams, is a site ripe for redevelopment. All structures on the property have been demolished, however, it is expected that certain infrastructure (utility) upgrades would be necessary to develop the site. The property is zoned for the development of industrial type uses. (For additional information, see p. 89 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS).

**2013 Update:** No new development has been proposed for this location. As of June 2013 the site remains disinvested and vacant. **2012 Update:** All of the former factory buildings (and other out-buildings) have been demolished, and the site has been leveled and cleared. The presence of contamination at the site is not known.

## Project Name: Route 8 Corridor Redevelopment

**Project Summary:** The Route 8 Corridor Redevelopment project, a project grouping, is a multi-pronged redevelopment proposal to better use underutilized sites adjacent to Route 8. The project proposals in this grouping include:

- **Gravel Bank Redevelopment.** A 13.4 acre site slated for redevelopment as a commercial and/or industrial site. This site has been identified as a possible location for a new Super Wal-Mart; however, it has not been developed yet.
- **North Adams Plaza Redevelopment.** A 26.7 acre site slated for redevelopment as a commercial and/or industrial site. This site has been identified as a possible location for a new Lowes; however, it has not been developed to date.
- **Old Route 8 Corridor Improvements.** This project is a right-of-way improvement project. This project includes the upgrading of paving, the widening of the roadway (to meet modern standards) and utility improvements. If completed, this project has the potential to improve access to the Gravel Bank site and will allow development of underutilized properties surrounding the road corridor.

(For additional information, see p. 90 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS).

### Project Update(s):

- **Gravel Bank Redevelopment: 2013 Update:** The new Super Walmart opened its doors in April 2013. The store currently employs 180 full and part time individuals. **2012 Update:** Substantial progress has been made at this site. Wal-Mart started construction in spring 2012 on their new building located at this site. The opening of the store is slated for spring of 2013.
- **North Adams Plaza Redevelopment: 2013 Update:** No new development has been proposed for this location. As of June 2013 the site remains disinvested and vacant. **2012 Update:** All buildings at the former N.A. Plaza have now been cleared. No new development has occurred at this site.
- **Old Route 8 Corridor Improvements: 2013 Update:** The project proponent is currently working with BRPC to place this project on a future TIP. **2012 Update:** No significant progress has been made at this site. Future plans include obtaining illustrative design plans and having the project be placed on a future TIP.

## Project Name: Life Science Center at William Stanley Business Park

**Project Summary:** This project proposes to construct and create a "Life Science Center" for training of technicians in the areas of bio-tech and semi-conductors clean room technology and to house a company or companies in related fields. (For additional information, see p. 91 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS).

**2013 Update:** Approximately 50% of project funding is currently available; including a \$6.5 million dollar earmark identified in Chapter 130 of the Acts of 2008, Section 2B. Match funds are expected to be secured in Summer 2014. A feasibility study is currently underway, slated for completion by the end of summer 2013. Preliminary building renderings have been prepared but specific design work will be complete in December 2013. An environmental analysis is anticipated to be complete by March of

**Project Name: Life Science Center at William Stanley Business Park**

2014. **2012 Update:** Representatives from the William Stanley Business Park are currently working with the Massachusetts Life Science Center to develop a business model and strategic plan to qualify for the release of funding from a \$6.5 million dollar earmark to construct a building at the site. The submission of this plan is set for the end of this calendar year.

**Project Name: William Stanley Business Park**

**Project Summary:** The William Stanley Business Park project proposes to redevelop 52-acres of the former General Electric Transformer Plant site, in Pittsfield, into a business/industrial park. Twenty six acres of the site have been prepared for redevelopment and are “shovel ready.” The remaining portion of the site is pending funding for the completion of engineering designs and the installation of infrastructure. To direct redevelopment efforts at the site the William Stanley Business Park of the Berkshire Master Plan was developed in 2003. (For additional information, see p. 92 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS).

**2013 Update:** Some infrastructure construction in the form of a new bridge and street improvements are anticipated to begin in the fall of 2014. The majority of infrastructure improvements are at 75% design stage, with expected completion in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2015. In July 2013, Waterstone Retail Development proposed constructing a 200,000 square foot retail store at the site producing an estimated 200 full and part-time jobs that may alter the future plans of the business park. **2012 Update:** The land (18+ acres) for the William Stanley Business Park was deeded from GE to PEDAs in February 2012. The Mountain One Financial Center opened in April 2012; the 7,000 sq. foot building employs 25 people.

**Project Name: Crane Stationery Mill Redevelopment**

**Project Summary:** The Crane Stationery Mill Redevelopment project is an adaptive reuse proposal to utilize a 100,000 sf. multi-story mill being vacated by Crane & Company. There have been a number of developers interested in converting the structure into commercial (incubator) and residential space. (For additional information, see p. 93 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS).

**2013 Update:** The Stationery Mill was sold in July 2013 to an investor group that has proposed converting the larger mill to a multi-tenant commercial space. **2012 Update:** Crane & Co. has announced that it will be consolidating its stationery paper operations to its facility in North Adams. Crane & Co. will vacate the stationery mill on Flansburg Avenue in Dalton in the near future and list the building for sale/lease. The Town of Dalton has completed a redevelopment study of the building and has drafted a RFP that has been submitted to Crane & Co. for its consideration.

## Project Name: Hubbard Avenue Development Area

**Project Summary:** The Hubbard Avenue Development Area project, a project grouping, is a development/redevelopment area that contains multiple project proposals that are interlinked. The project proposals in this grouping include:

- **Hubbard Avenue Improvements.** A roadway improvement project that, involves limited straightening, road widening, turn lane enhancements, replacement of a railroad bridge, and possible widening the bridge over the Housatonic River and related intersection.
- **Ashuelot Park Development.** This 56.15 acre site is identified as a development area in the Town of Dalton for an industrial park. The site contains an existing 275,000 sf. facility (209,000 sf. of manufacturing space and 66,000 sf. of office space) and the rest is undeveloped. A site plan laying out the build-out of the park and a Runoff Water Management Plan has been completed for the site.
- **Schnopps-Roberts Site.** This 38.6 acre site is another identified development area in the Town of Dalton. Conceptually, the site is envisioned to be a business/industrial subdivision. Two initial planning studies for the build-out of the site have been completed.

(For additional information, see p. 94 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS).

### Project Update(s):

- **Hubbard Avenue Improvements: 2013 Update:** No significant progress to report **2012 Update:** No significant progress to report.
- **Ashuelot Park Development: 2013 Update:** The existing 275,000 sq. ft. building (Building #1) of the former Beloit Corp. Manufacturing Building was sold in July 2013 to a private party. The intended use of the building is a multi-tenant industrial space. **2012 Update:** Crane & Co. will be vacating the existing building on-site as part of its stationery plant consolidation in North Adams. Future plans for the building and site are unknown at this time.
- **Schnopps-Roberts Site: 2013 Update:** No significant progress to report. **2012 Update:** The Town of Dalton through its Development and Industrial Commission is actively involved with the stakeholders of the property. The parties are working towards entering into a memorandum of understanding to facilitate the development of a small industrial park on these two properties.

## Project Name: Sports Complex

**Project Summary:** The Sports Complex project, which is in a conceptual stage of development, is a development proposal looking to construct an enclosed sporting complex containing an estimated 450,000ft of synthetic surfaced playing fields to accommodate year round sporting activities and



events. (For additional information, see p. 96 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS).

**2013 Update:** No significant progress to report. This project has been moved to an inactive status because the project proponent has not provided updates for two consecutive years. **2012 Update:** No significant progress to report.

#### **Project Name: Civic Center/Hotel**

**Project Summary:** The Civic Center/Hotel project proposes to develop a multi-use regional convention and performance center, IMAX theater, hotel, community center and parking deck. The total project cost estimated for this project is \$34.5 million. (For additional information, see p. 97 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS).

**2013 Update:** Proponents continue efforts to move this project forward. However, construction of some or all of phase 1 development has been pushed back and is now expected in 2014/2015.

**2012 Update:** This project has been summarized and is intended to be implemented in three phases.

1. New state of the art movie theaters, restaurants, and the inclusion of Berkshire Carousel are in the final stage of planning and design; construction on this phase of the project is expected to be completed 2013/2014.
2. The addition of an IMAX (or IMAX equivalent type theater) and other general enhancements to the overall shopping center and shopping experience. This phase of the project is currently in its planning and development stage.
3. Proposed expansion of the mall to include a Civic & Convention Center/ Hotel. This phase of the project is still in the early conception. Proponents of this phase are still evaluating and advancing ideas to further the implementation of the project.

#### **Project Name: New England Log Homes (NELH)**

**Project Summary:** This project is a redevelopment proposal of the abandoned and contaminated former NELH brownfield site in downtown Great Barrington. The redevelopment proposal includes the remediation of known contaminants, development of mixed-use commercial and housing space, and the creation of a public gathering space along the Housatonic River. The total project site encompasses 8 acres of land and is estimated to cost \$25 million. (For additional information, see p. 98 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS).

**2013 Update:** Construction at the site is anticipated to begin in 2015. The 80 acre site is being remediated into a 30 unit continuing care facility, 40 units of affordable or market rate housing, and 40,000 sq. ft. of commercial space. Great Barrington is a State-designated Economic Target Area (ETA)

**Project Name: New England Log Homes (NELH)**

and the site is located within an Economic Opportunity Area (EOA). The preliminary budget for this project is \$30 million dollars. The project proponents are awaiting the results of bio-remediation tests before finalizing its remediation plan. **2012 Update:** The demolition stage for this project has been completed. The redevelopment program has been defined as: 45 units of affordable rental housing; 30-40,000 sq. foot commercial space; and 40 units of assisted living. Final site planning and design of the remediation plan has commenced.

**Project Name: River School Redevelopment**

**Project Summary:** This project is a redevelopment proposal of the former Searles/Bryant School complex in Downtown Great Barrington. The redevelopment proposal includes 40 housing units (40% are below \$250,000 and 25% are statutorily affordable), 17,000 sf. of commercial space, and public space with an integrated river walk. (For additional information, see p. 99 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS).

**2013 Update:** The proposed project for the former Searles School building includes approximately 40 for-sale residential housing units, including 10 affordable units, and 10,000 sq. ft. of retail space. This site is located within an Economic Opportunity Area. There is also an alternative plan being explored that would replace the retail component of the proposal with a new theater and art gallery. An environmental analysis of this project was completed this year. In 2014 engineering and design are expected to be completed. **2012 Update:** The Bryant School redevelopment into the Iredale Mineral Cosmetics corporate headquarters is 50% complete. The anticipated date of completion for the project is spring 2013. The market-rate housing component is awaiting the return of the housing market. Affordable units are expected to be pre-developed in 2013. The development of additional commercial space is on hold.

**Project Name: Redevelopment of Great Barrington Fairgrounds**

**Project Summary:** This project includes the redevelopment of the 57-acre historic Great Barrington Fairground and racetrack for mixed-use commercial, agricultural incubator, housing and open space/recreation uses. (For additional information, see p. 100 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS).

**2013 Update:** A private group of investors has purchased the site. The new owners of the site would like to develop the site in a sustainable and community oriented manner. Environmental analysis for remediation and engineering/design are also anticipated to be completed this year. In 2014 permits are expected to be obtained. **2012 Update:** The fairgrounds are under contract to be purchased presently (October 2012). Preliminary redevelopment plans are currently underway. The number of jobs is still estimated at 20, but subject to change as the project progresses. The current redevelopment plan calls for substantial agricultural and educational components; as well as a five acre

solar farm, and potentially a location to house seasonal workers. Projected completion for this development is expected in 2016.

**Project Name: Monument Mills Area Reuse Planning**

**Project Summary:** The Monument Mills Area Reuse Planning initiative, a Town based effort, looks to work with various mill owners, interested developers and the community to develop a comprehensive redevelopment/reuse plan for underutilized mills throughout the village of Housatonic. Through this planning process, the Town would examine potential uses, infrastructure needs and deficiencies, permitting and financing options to facilitate the redevelopment of approximately 250,000 sf. of underdeveloped space. (For additional information, see p. 101 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS).

**2013 Update:** The proposed project will redevelop the National Historic Register property into approximately 100 mixed residential units, 12,000 sq. ft. for office and/or retail use, and integrated on-site parking, restaurant/café space, and a River Walk reconnecting the village to the Housatonic River. The site is located within an Economic Opportunity Area (EOA). In 2014 an environmental analysis and engineering/design are expected to be complete. In 2015 permits are expected to be obtained. **2012 Update:** At this time the project remains in study and design. Private Property owners continue to study the feasibility and marketability of projects. The town has not been directly involved in this process. However, the town has convened its permitting staff, State DEP staff, and property owner representatives to discuss wetland, flood plain, and historic mill district redevelopment procedures and guidelines.

**Project Name: Redevelopment of Historic Great Barrington Firehouse**

**Project Summary:** This project is the adaptive re-use and historic renovation of the former Great Barrington Fire House into a vocational education and job-training center. The new facility will provide young people and members of the community with educational training, jobs and career counseling. It is directed at being a catalyst for employment growth in Berkshire County. Vocational programs will include wood working, construction trades, high-tech and the culinary arts. In addition, the new facility will house a restaurant with an enlarged kitchen to be utilized for culinary classes. The Great Barrington Historical Society and Museum will occupy approximately 2,500 sf. in the renovated building. (For additional information, see p. 102 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS).

**2013 Update:** A preliminary budget estimates total development will cost \$2 million dollars. Transfer of site ownership from the Town to the project sponsor is currently underway and will be completed by the end of the calendar year. An environmental analysis for remediation is expected to be completed by the end of 2013 as well. In 2014 permits for the project are anticipated to be obtained. **2012 Update:** An environmental assessment of the site has been completed. The site is under contract to be purchased presently (October 2012). Funding for this project has not changed and continues to be supported by multiple sources. The project is expected to be completed in 2014.

**Project Name: Housatonic School Redevelopment**

**Project Summary:** The Housatonic School Redevelopment project (or Housatonic Commons Project) is the adaptive re-use of the former Housatonic Elementary School into a mix-use complex with 11 affordable housing units and 6,000 sf. of commercial/non-profit space for organizations (i.e. BRIDGE, Town Satellite Offices/Daycare Facility, etc.). The project will provide affordable workforce housing options for residents of southern Berkshire County, which is one of the largest impediments to attracting and retaining employees and overall workforce in southern Berkshire County. (For additional information, see p. 103 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS).

**2013 Update:** No significant progress to report. The project proponent requested that this project be moved to an inactive status. **2012 Update:** Currently this project is still in the study and design phase. The town did not award the sale of the school and subsequently convened a School Re-Use Task Force to examine re-use options. The original project was deemed not viable and did not proceed. A task force of citizens has been established and met numerous times to produce a report to advise the Board of Selectman on next steps. The Board and Town Manager have revised the RFP to sell the building. That RFP will be issued with a new project selected through that process.

**Project Name: West Street Water Line Upgrade**

**Project Summary:** The purpose of this project is to enhance and enable the growth of future and proposed industries along the West Housatonic Street corridor and to increase the capacity of water flow to the southwest section of the City of Pittsfield. The City's Master Plan, updated in 2009, identified the West Housatonic corridor as a critical corridor for future industrial growth. The West Street Water Line project will include the replacement of 5,000 ft. of existing 10-inch water main pipe with a 16-inch pipe. The increased pipe size will improve capacity to the corridor and the southwest section of the City through connections along Fort Hill Road. (For additional information, see p. 104 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS).

**2013 Update:** At this time grant funding for the other half of this project has been secured. The City of Pittsfield will provide a 1 to 1 match with the EDA for \$1,030,000 dollars to complete these upgrades.

**2012 Update:** As of August 2012 the project is at 100% design. Half of the funding has been authorized to be borrowed by the City Council. The other half of the funding is being sought out through grants, but has not been secured at this time.

**Project Name: DownStreet Art Project**

The DownStreet Art program is a public art initiative designed to revitalize downtown North Adams, by harnessing existing arts organizations and events and transforming vacant and open spaces into arts destinations. The DownStreet Art program will be used to define the City of North Adams as a cultural haven. (For additional information, see p. 105 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS).

**2013 Summary:** The program is currently embarking on its sixth season. Over 9 galleries are opening new exhibitions each month and 40 different artists are participating in the festival this summer/fall. Several businesses have opened encouraged by the increased foot traffic, including 2 new galleries on Main St. PRESS Gallery moved into an empty storefront next to Gallery 51, creating an entrance between the two for easy pass through. This collaboration enabled the PRESS Gallery to be open 7 days a week, to employ and serve more people. **2012 Update:** DownStreet Art organized and completed its fifth edition. This year over 80 artists participated and approximately 10,000 people attended the festival that ran from June 26, 2012 through October 25, 2012. DownStreet Art is becoming very successful in making the sale of art a source of income for local artists.

**Project Name: McKay Street Pedestrian Improvements & Parking Garage Restoration**

**Project Summary:** The purpose of this project is to restore and upgrade the 15+ year old McKay Street parking structure and improve key pedestrian routes from the parking facility to Pittsfield's Central Business District. (For additional information, see p. 106 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS).

**2013 Update:** Update of the parking structure is almost complete. The City is now looks forward to Phase 3 and 4 for the McKay Streetscape update. These phases will coincide with the completion of construction down the City's main business corridor. Intent of this project is to enhance the pedestrian environment around McKay Street and increase connectivity from its parking facilities to Pittsfield's Central Business District. A survey has been completed for Phase 3 and design is at 25%. In September 2013 the City will be applying for a State MassWorks Grant to provide additional funding. **2012**

**Update:** The project is currently at 40% completion. At this time concrete, painting, and electrical work have started throughout the structure. The contractor started with hydro-demolition work on the structure's roof. Upon completion of this first phase the contractor then moved to internal work necessary on lower levels. Weather permitting work will continue on the project through the winter months. The project is set to be at 100% completion on or before June, 30<sup>th</sup> 2013.

**Project Name: Adaptive Reuse of Mills**

**Project Summary:** The Adaptive Reuse of Mills initiative is a regional proposal to address the vacant and underutilized mills throughout the county. (For additional information, see p. 107 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS).

**Project Update(s):**

- **2013 Update:** A project has been proposed by the Lee CDC to revitalize closed mills by redeveloping them for future production. Project proponents and interested investors hope to return large scale manufacturing to Lee and the surrounding communities. A project of this magnitude would require update to the existing railroad system for implementation. A new developer is pursuing the redevelopment of the Eagle Mill in Lee.
- **2012 Update:** In Pittsfield, the adaptive reuse of the H.S. Rice Silk Mill has turned that property into 45 new units of rental workforce housing. This project was completed in the 2012 fiscal year. In the wake of renovation of this property at 55 Spring Street in Pittsfield the city received a \$306,191 dollar Community Development Action Grant (CDAG) from the State's Department of Housing & Community Development; this funding was used to install new utility hookups for water and sewer. The grant also enabled the city to construct new sidewalks and curbs on the four streets surrounding the property; Spring, Willow, Cherry, and Burbank Streets.

**Project Name: City of Pittsfield Municipal Airport Industrial Park Feasibility Study**

**Project Summary:** This project will commission a master planning process for the development of a 25-30 acre industrial area to the south of the Pittsfield Municipal Airport on Tamarack Road. The project will include site investigation, site plan development and the design of infrastructure comprised of an access road, sewer and water utilities. (For additional information, see p. 108 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS).

**2013 Update:** The Pittsfield Municipal Airport Industrial Park Project is identified in the Airport Master Plan Update. The AMPU projects are a requirement of the FAA. In 2015 construction is expected to begin on the 30 acre industrial plot south of the airport. Estimated cost for this project is \$75,000 dollars. The retention of 2 FTE jobs is expected. **2012 Update:** No significant progress to report.

**Project Name: Regionalization of the City of Pittsfield's Municipal Airport**

**Project Summary:** The City of Pittsfield would like to conduct a planning study to examine the possibility of regionalizing the City's municipal airport. The airport provides the only facility in the Berkshire County region that can accommodate general aviation and Class CII corporate jet aircraft. The project would help identify users of the facility, frequency and origin and destination information. This study will help determine the feasibility of pursuing regionalization of this facility. (For additional information, see p. 109 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS).

**2013 Update:** No significant progress to report. Estimated cost of planning study is \$50,000 dollars. In 2016 the project is expected to be implemented. **2012 Update:** No significant progress to report.



**Project Name: Berkshire Farm-to-School Feasibility Study**

**Project Summary:** The Berkshire Farm-to-School feasibility study has three primary objectives, which include:

1. Assess Berkshire County’s public schools’ food budgets, food facilities, purchasing process, and most popular foods to analyze potential demand for food producers in the county to provide products.
2. Evaluate Berkshire County’s farmers, farmland, and farm products to analyze the potential for Berkshire County farms to supply food to the region’s schools.
3. Review Berkshire County’s food processing industries and infrastructure to analyze the capacity to receive food “off the truck” from farms and process/package it to specifications of school food service.

(For additional information, see p. 110 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS).

**2013 Project Update:** No significant progress to report. The project has been moved to inactive status because the proponent has been unresponsive for two consecutive years. **2012 Update:** No significant progress to report.

**Project Name: Regional Economic Development District**

**Project Summary:** This project proposes to establish an Economic Development District, compliant with the Economic Development Administration’s requirements, covering all of Berkshire County. (For additional information, see p. 111 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS).

**2013 Update:** The CEDS Committee has reviewed information concerning the creation of an EDD. Formation of a governing board for the EDD is being explored at this time. **2012 Update:** No significant progress to report. The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission plans to assess the feasibility of creating an Economic Development District in Berkshire County beginning in December 2012.



### Project Name: Housatonic Railroad Station Planning Feasibility Study

**Project Summary:** This study would examine and identify potential locations for the development of a railroad station to accommodate the proposed Pittsfield to Connecticut passenger rail project. To evaluate each possible site the study would assess issues and impacts arising from access, parking, and future commercial services and development needs that would support passenger rail service. (For additional information, see p. 112 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS).

**2013 Update:** BRPC is currently exploring station locations in Southern and Central Berkshire County and holding public meetings for input. Funds have been allocated in the State budget for rail and safety improvements. The anticipated timeline for track improvements is approximately 3 years from start to finish. **2012 Update:** The Berkshire Regional Planning Commission applied for and was awarded a \$240,000 grant from the United States Department of Transportation to conduct a feasibility study to identify potential passenger rail station locations in Berkshire County along a rail line owned by the Housatonic Railroad.

### Project Name: Downtown Parking Strategy

**Project Summary:** This project looks to commission a Parking Strategy for downtown Great Barrington. Components of this study will include the development of conceptual plans, cost estimates, and strategies for increasing the parking supply to meet the needs of downtown businesses, while maximizing parking efficiency. The Town has already identified two key sites of interest adjacent to the Town Hall as possibilities to increase the parking supply. (For additional information, see p. 113 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS).

**2013 Update:** This project has been listed as inactive at the request of the project proponent. **2012 Update:** This project is currently in the study and design phase. The town has convened a task force of business and community members to study downtown parking, inventory spaces, and evaluate options. If a full parking strategy or feasibility/ engineering of a certain sites are identified, grant funding maybe sought.

### Project Name: Berkshire Creative Initiative

**Project Summary:** This Berkshire Creative Initiative proposal is a grouping of multiple initiatives that will enhance and grow the creative economy of Berkshire County. The proposals in this grouping included:

- **Berkshire Product Initiative:** The Berkshire Product Initiative looks to expand sales capacity of creative economy businesses, headquartered in the Berkshires, to design, manufacture and distribute original products. This will be achieved through the development of a unified Berkshire brand and outreach to a broader market.
- **Seed Fund Network:** The Seed Fund Network will provide start-up funds for new businesses or

## Project Name: Berkshire Creative Initiative

established businesses looking to expand into new markets. This program is proposed to have resources contributed from various sources to fund projects within \$20,000-\$150,000 dollar range. This funding will require a large education component. But it could potentially provide start-up funds for more than just creative businesses and be expanded to help fund any small business or start-up business around the county.

- **Creative Lives Here Initiative:** The Creative Lives Here Initiative will support the development of the “Creativity Lives Here” marketing package, which includes: (1) help other regions to identify, recognize and strengthen their creative economy; (2) promotion of the creative industry within Berkshire County; (3) the development of a brand unique to the Berkshires that highlights its creative and innovative economy; and (4) efforts to attract new creative businesses to the region.
- **Berkshire Creative Challenge:** The Berkshire Creative Challenge is a mechanism to connect Berkshire County manufacturers and businesses with local designers, engineers and creative workers to stimulate innovative research and development for existing and/or new product lines.
- **Berkshire Festival:** The Berkshire Festival is a two-week, open-access, county-wide celebration of cultural and lifestyle, uniting an anticipated 100 arts organizations, businesses and nonprofits through innovative partnerships and collaboration to highlight the wealth of Berkshire County attractions while infusing the region with a new wave of audiences and patrons.

(For additional information, see p. 113 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS).

### Project Update(s):

- **Berkshire Product Initiative: 2013 Update:** This project is under redevelopment. A number of methods to achieve Berkshire product accessibility are under review. **2012 Update:** No significant progress to report.
- **Seed Fund Network: 2013 Update:** Berkshire Creative is in the early stages of developing a new pitch-based fund access program in which individuals and companies will have the opportunity to publicly present a new or expanded product or service to a group of investors, venture capitalists, and lenders. The program will have an educational component -including but not limited to public speaking, business planning, and funding options- as well as a members-only benefit such as coaching services. **2012 Update:** No significant progress to report.
- **Creative lives Here Initiative: 2013 Update:** The Creative Lives Here Initiative has achieved success in branding the Berkshire creative economy within the County and provided information about and an awareness of the impact the creative industries have on the overall Berkshire economy. According to a January 2013 survey conducted by Berkshire Creative, about 75% of all respondents agreed that Berkshire Creative has enabled the creative economy to be valued as a vital part of business and economic development, and 70% agreed that more emphasis has been placed on the economic impact of the Berkshire creative economy. In October 2013, Berkshire Creative achieved designation as the Berkshire region’s Lead

### Project Name: Berkshire Creative Initiative

Organization in the Creative Economy Network of Massachusetts, which will allow Berkshire Creative to develop relationships with various economic development organizations and private companies state-wide who are building their own creative economy initiatives and networks. Berkshire Creative continues to support growth of the creative economy and promote the “Creativity Lives Here” brand through its programs, events, and communications.

**2012 Update:** No significant progress to report.

- **Berkshire Creative Challenge: 2013 Update:** Berkshire Creative completed its fifth Creative Challenge with host Rennie & Rose in December 2011. A total of 14 local Creatives submitted applications to be a part of the challenge and of these; eight applicants were invited to participate in the full program. All eight participants later submitted designs for review, and two were selected as the Creative Challenge winners. **2012 Update:** No significant progress to report.
- **Berkshire Festival: 2013 Update:** This project has been moved to the inactive list at the request of the proponent. **2012 Update:** Financial estimates have been received and a marketing plan has been developed

### Project Name: Berkshire Hills Internship Program

**Project Summary:** The Berkshire Hills Internship Program (B-HIP) is administered by the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA). This program is a unique and important hands-on training program for the youth of Berkshire County that could be expanded. The program is an intensive arts management internship program that combines hands-on work experience with classes taught by arts administration faculty, “TalkBacks” with the area's leading arts professionals, and the chance to fully participate in cultural events throughout Berkshire County. Through the B-HIP, students are able to experience educational and career advancement opportunities in one segment of the region’s economic clusters industries: Arts, Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation and Food Service. (For additional information, see p. 115 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS).

**Project Name: Berkshire Hills Internship Program**

**2013 Update:** The 12<sup>th</sup> edition of the program included another 14 recent graduates and matriculated students from the U.S. and around the world. Participants interned at The Clark, MASS MoCA, Shakespeare & Company, IS 183, Pittsfield Performing Arts Center, and Williams College Dance Department. To date a total of 119 students have participated in the program since its inception. Of which 15 alumni (13%) are currently employed in the Arts, and 23 alumni (19%) received job offers from the Internship Program. **2012 Update:** MCLA's Berkshire Cultural Resource Center successfully organized and completed the 11<sup>th</sup> edition of the summer arts management course called Berkshire Hills Internship Program (BHIP). The program involved 14 students and recent graduates from the U.S. and abroad.

**Project Name: Berkshire Creative Initiative**

**Project Summary:** This Berkshire Creative Initiative project proposal is a grouping of two initiatives that will enhance and grow the creative economy of Berkshire County. The project proposals in this grouping include:

- **Creative Industry Workforce Pathways:** The Creative Industry Workforce Pathways is a collaborative effort between Berkshire Creative, the Berkshire County Regional Employment Board and the partners of the Berkshire Compact to develop a profile of the jobs and occupations within the county's creative economy and strategize training and education programs to fill industries needs.
- **Creative Education Initiative:** The Creative Education Initiative will organize regional education partners, members of the Berkshire Compact and a leadership team from the creative economy to develop a study to analyze the creative offerings within the k-12 schools throughout the county. The group will then identify ways to improve and expand these offerings.

(For additional information, see p. 116 of the 2011 Berkshire CEDS).

**Project Update(s):**

- **Creative Industry Workforce Pathways: 2013 Update:** This project has not yet been implemented. **2012 Update:** No significant progress to report.
- **Creative Education Initiative: 2013 Update:** This project has not yet been implemented. **2012 Update:** Project is in the early planning stages.

## SECTION 5. PERFORMANCE MEASURES

The 2011 Berkshire CEDS includes performance measures to enable the CEDS Committee to track progress in the region and to assess the effectiveness of 2011 Berkshire CEDS. In this section, the performance measures are applied to track the progress made in the region over the last year.

### 1. How many jobs have been created and retained after implementation of projects from the Berkshire Project Priority List?

Year	Priority Project Name	# of Jobs Created/Retained (Source)	Category
2012	Gravel Bank Redevelopment (Super Wal-Mart)	180 (Walmart)	Retail Trade (180)
2012	McKay Street Pedestrian Improvements and Parking Garage Restoration	35 (City of Pittsfield)	Construction (35)
2012	Pittsfield Municipal Airport Safety Improvements	40 (City of Pittsfield)	Construction (40)
2012	Adaptive Reuse of Mills (Rice Silk Mill)	67 (City of Pittsfield)	Construction (65)/Real Estate, Rental and Leasing (2)
2012	William Stanley Business Park (MountainOne Financial Center)	25 (Pittsfield Economic Development Authority )	Finance and Insurance (25)
2013	Regional Telecommunications Network – Middle Mile: MBI Fiber Network	114 (MBI)	Construction
2013	Regional Highway Access Improvements – South Street (Route 7/20 Improvements)	Not Tracked (+)	Construction
2012/2013	<b>Total to Date :</b>	<b>461 +</b>	

### 2. How many of those jobs have been high quality in terms of wage levels, working conditions, etc.?

Job Category (# of jobs)	2012 Average Weekly Wage (Berkshire County)
23 - Construction (140)	\$ 922.00
44-45 - Retail Trade (180)	\$ 482.00
53 - Real Estate, Rental & Leasing (2)	\$ 617.00
52 – Finance and Insurance (25)	\$ 1,291.00
<b>Total, All Industries</b>	<b>\$771.00</b>

Source: Self Reported from Project Sponsors, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

The table above shows the categories of jobs that have been created or retained in the region after implementation of projects from the Berkshire Project Priority List along with the 2012 average weekly wages for each category in order to show how the wage levels for each category of jobs created/retained compare to the total wages for all industries in the region.

**3. What number and types of investments have been undertaken in the region since 2011?**

Year First Listed in Report	"Representative" Investments	Type & Amount of Investment		Status
		Public	Private	
2013	Courtyard by Marriot		\$6.0 million	On-going
2013	Littleville Power Company Hydroelectric Facility		\$3.0 million	On-going
2013	Crane Hydroelectric Facility		\$2.7 million	Completed
2013	Berkshire Community College – Capital Improvements	\$21.1 million		On-going
2013	Berkshire Health Systems – Cancer Treatment Center		\$30 million	On-going
2013	Hilton Inn – Route 7/20 Pittsfield		\$10 million	On-going
2013	Crane – Asheulot Park II Facility Upgrades		\$5.0 million	Completed
2012	Regional Telecommunications (WiredWest)	\$106,500	\$219,500	On-going
2012	Development of Greylock Glen Outdoor Recreation & Education Center	\$2 million		On-going
2012	New England Log Homes	\$3 million	\$2 million	On-going
2012	Rice Silk Mill	\$3.86 million	\$11.4 million	Completed
2012	Pittsfield Municipal Airport Safety Improvements	\$16 million		Completed
2012	339 North Street – Site Remediation	\$240,000		On-going
2012	Pittsfield Streetscape Project	\$2.6 million		Completed
2012	Harriman & West Airport Improvements (2011-2012)	\$4.4 million		Completed
2012	Frank Howard Project		\$4.7 million	On-going
2012	Onota Project		\$7 million	On-going
2012	Green Office Park, Lenox		\$5 million	On-going

2012	McKay Street Pedestrian Improvements and Parking Garage Restoration	\$7 million		On-going
2012	Lee Municipal Parking Area & Pedestrian Connector	\$1.2 million		Completed
2012	Baird & Benton Block Rehabilitation		\$3.7 million	Completed
2012	Williams College Library & Media Arts Center		\$80 million	On-going
2012	Clark Art Campus Expansion		\$145 million	On-going
2012	Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts Science Center	\$30 million		Completed
2012	Iredale Mineral Cosmetics Development		\$7.5 million	On-going
2012	Hoosac Wind Farm Project		\$90 million	Completed
2012	Consolati Building Redevelopment	\$557,000	\$3.05 million	Completed
2012	Williamstown Youth Center	\$3.9 million		Completed
<b>2012/2013</b>	<b>Total to Date</b>	<b>\$167.1 million</b>	<b>\$422.7 million</b>	

**4. What is the number of business and non-profit organization startups, mergers and closures since the implementation of the CEDS?**

*Note: This information is not regularly collected for Berkshire County. The information provided below has been taken from local news sources.*

- ✓ According to the Massachusetts Small Business Development Center Network's Berkshire Office it assisted with seventeen (17) business starts in 2012 and eleven (11) in 2011.
- ✓ Armored Solutions, an armored vehicle manufacturer operating out of Pittsfield closed in May 2013 resulting in the loss of 12 jobs.
- ✓ H. Greenburg & Son, a well known hardware store in North Adams closed abruptly in January 2013 resulting in the loss of 20 full and part time jobs.
- ✓ Steinerfilm Inc. in Williamstown closed its capacitor film manufacturing division resulting in the loss of 24 positions.
- ✓ Berkshire Hematology/Oncology merged with Berkshire Health Systems. The resulting merger will lead to the construction of a new \$30 million dollar cancer treatment center to provide a full range of cancer diagnosis and treatment services in the region.

- ✓ Crane acquired William Arthur, the stationery paper division of Hallmark. Crane intends to move William Arthur's operations from Northern Maine to its plant in North Adams, MA.
- ✓ The North Adams Chamber of Commerce has been reconstituted and is focused on revitalizing the North Adams economy.

**5. What economic sectors are those businesses in?**

The Closures occurred in the retail trade and manufacturing sectors

The startup occurred in the non-profit sector

The mergers/acquisitions occurred in the manufacturing and health care sectors

**6. What collaborative or partnership efforts have been undertaken in the region?**

**2013:** The partnerships formed in 2012 remain together.

**2012:** Formation of 1Berkshire (see pg. 14 of this Report); Keep Berkshire Farming (see pg. 30 of this Report); WiredWest (see pg. 31 of this Report); Berkshire Community College & MCLA articulation agreement.

**7. What changes to the characteristic data for the region have occurred? The characteristic data sets to be evaluated, but not limited to, include: demographic; economic; environmental/geographic; governmental; social; transportation/infrastructure.**

Please see Section 2 of this report.

**8. How has the gathering of data and project information improved?**

The process of gathering data updates has been improved by having the data points on Berkshire Benchmarks, which has a web based data clearinghouse of data related to the region. This allows BRPC to perform simple queries to access the data and see how things have changed.



**Appendix “A”**

24 Month Local Area Unemployment Statistics

DRAFT

## Local Area Unemployment Statistics for Twenty-Four Months Prior to Submission of the 2013 Performance Report

Series ID																					24 Month				
	May-11	Jun-11	Jul-11	Aug-11	Sep-11	Oct-11	Nov-11	Dec-11	Jan-12	Feb-12	Mar-12	Apr-12	May-12	Jun-12	Jul-12	Aug-12	Sep-12	Oct-12	Nov-12	Dec-12	Jan-13	Feb-13	Mar-13	Apr-13	Average
Adams	8.7	9.2	8.8	8.7	8.4	8.0	7.8	8.8	10.6	10.1	9.6	8.7	8.7	9.1	8.4	8.7	7.7	7.4	8.3	9.0	10.4	9.2	9.3	8.0	8.8
Alford	3.9	4.4	4.9	3.0	3.1	2.8	3.1	3.4	4.9	4.2	4.3	2.5	2.5	2.4	4.3	2.7	2.2	2.5	1.8	3.5	5.6	4.6	4.3	2.9	3.5
Becket	8.7	7.8	8.2	7.3	6.9	7.1	5.8	6.1	7.7	7.7	7.6	5.7	6.0	7.2	7.7	7.6	8.3	7.8	7.7	8.2	9.6	7.8	7.4	6.3	7.4
Cheshire	8.0	6.9	7.2	6.6	6.7	6.4	6.9	8.2	9.7	9.5	8.7	7.1	7.0	7.1	6.7	6.9	7.2	6.6	6.4	7.4	7.9	7.6	7.9	7.3	7.4
Clarksburg	7.5	7.5	7.9	8.0	6.4	6.0	6.4	6.2	7.7	8.0	6.8	5.7	6.0	6.2	5.9	6.5	8.0	6.7	5.6	6.8	8.3	7.1	5.9	5.7	6.8
Dalton	6.1	5.6	6.1	5.9	5.9	6.1	6.4	6.6	7.5	7.9	7.3	5.9	5.6	5.6	6.6	6.1	6.1	5.6	5.7	6.5	7.1	6.3	7.0	6.5	6.3
Egremont	3.9	4.7	4.2	4.1	3.2	2.9	3.2	3.1	4.0	3.9	4.1	3.1	2.8	4.1	4.0	3.6	3.2	3.3	3.6	4.2	4.8	4.6	4.4	3.5	3.8
Florida	7.9	7.7	8.8	6.0	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.7	6.7	7.2	7.6	5.6	8.5	6.8	6.5	6.3	6.8	7.1	7.8	8.5	8.6	7.4	8.0	7.5	7.0
Great Barrington	5.7	6.5	5.6	5.2	5.5	5.4	5.0	5.7	7.1	6.8	6.4	5.3	5.0	5.9	5.7	5.5	6.0	5.4	5.2	5.7	7.4	6.2	6.4	5.9	5.9
Hancock	4.3	4.6	4.5	4.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	4.7	4.7	4.5	4.5	8.3	8.2	8.1	6.3	5.3	4.5	3.6	2.1	3.6	3.1	3.6	3.9	4.4	4.7
Hinsdale	8.0	7.5	7.9	8.1	7.7	8.1	9.3	10.1	11.3	10.6	9.9	8.2	8.2	6.6	7.7	7.8	7.2	7.1	8	8.3	9.9	8.5	8.6	7.5	8.4
Lanesborough	6.9	6.4	5.8	5.4	5.7	5.6	5.9	7.2	7.9	8.3	6.5	6.3	6.6	5.5	6.5	5.8	6.7	5.8	5.5	6.1	6.9	6.7	6.6	6.0	6.4
Lee	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.2	4.9	4.7	4.8	5.6	6.6	7.1	6.3	5.3	5.2	4.7	4.4	3.8	4.9	4.9	4.9	5.5	6.6	6.4	6.6	5.6	5.3
Lenox	5.2	5.8	5.5	5.3	4.8	5.0	4.8	5.5	6.4	5.9	5.6	5.2	4.6	5.0	4.8	4.5	5.3	5.2	4.8	6.1	6.4	5.6	5.5	5.9	5.4
Monterey	3.4	3.1	3.7	3.2	4.5	3.9	3.2	3.6	5.2	4.7	4.0	4.0	2.2	2.3	2.9	2.8	3.6	3.6	3.9	4.7	5.1	4.9	4.2	3.7	3.8
Mount Washington	3.4	3.2	3.1	3.9	4.1	7.3	3.3	2.5	1.7	2.5	2.6	1.7	0.9	3.2	3.2	1.6	3.4	3.4	3.4	1.7	1.7	0.9	0.9	1.8	2.7
New Ashford	6.3	4.1	5.4	6.0	5.0	4.9	5.6	6.8	5.6	6.3	5.7	5.7	4.3	2.1	3.4	4.8	5.0	3.6	2.9	5.7	5.7	6.4	6.5	5.8	5.2
New Marlborough	3.6	4.2	4.5	4.2	4.5	4.4	4.9	4.8	6.9	7.6	6.9	4.8	4.3	3.8	4.4	4.2	4.3	4.9	6.4	7.0	7.4	7.1	7.2	5.4	5.3
North Adams	9.5	9.5	9.4	9.3	9.6	8.2	8.7	8.6	10.0	9.4	8.7	7.6	7.5	8.0	8.0	7.5	8.1	7.3	7.5	8.4	10.1	8.8	9.0	8.9	8.7
Otis	5.2	4.6	5.1	4.7	5.4	4.6	5.1	5.9	7.0	6.9	6.1	4.9	4.9	5.2	5.7	5.7	5.3	5.2	5.3	5.4	7.4	6.7	7.0	6.4	5.7
Peru	2.6	3.9	4.2	3.4	5.2	4.0	3.8	3.7	5.8	4.8	4.4	3.6	2.8	3.1	3.3	2.3	2.8	3.4	2.8	4.5	6.7	6.1	6.0	5.6	4.1
Pittsfield	7.9	8.1	7.6	7.2	8.0	7.2	7.1	7.1	8.1	7.9	7.8	7.3	7.4	7.6	7.4	7.0	7.5	7.2	7.2	7.6	8.2	7.6	7.7	7.2	7.5
Richmond	4.2	4.3	5.1	4.8	5.4	4.4	3.8	3.6	4.7	4.3	3.6	2.8	2.8	3.4	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.7	3.5	4.1	4.6	3.8	3.6	3.8	
Sandisfield	6.3	7.4	5.9	5.7	4.5	5.9	4.6	4.8	7.1	7.0	7.5	5.9	5.2	5.5	5.1	3.2	4.4	4.9	4.7	5.6	7.2	7.1	6.8	5.2	5.7
Savoy	7.0	7.7	7.6	6.4	7.0	5.2	5.2	6.6	10.4	12.2	10.5	8.2	8.6	9.2	9.6	9.9	9.3	8.2	9.1	11.5	12.8	13.1	11.0	11.0	9.1
Sheffield	5.2	5.7	4.6	4.2	4.5	4.3	5.0	5.1	7.4	7.1	7.5	5.4	4.6	4.5	4.0	4.0	4.2	4.9	4.0	5.1	6.6	6.5	7.0	4.8	5.3
Stockbridge	6.0	5.2	5.6	4.6	3.9	3.7	3.7	4.5	4.4	4.3	3.9	4.1	3.8	4.5	4.5	4.0	4.5	3.6	4.7	4.4	5.4	4.8	4.5	4.4	4.5
Tyringham	2.1	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.9	2.5	1.3	2.1	3.7	2.9	3.0	3.4	2.1	2.0	2.8	1.2	1.7	1.7	1.3	2.1	2.1	1.7	1.8	3.5	2.3
Washington	6.4	4.7	6.7	6.1	6.4	6.1	6.0	6.6	7.0	6.1	6.4	4.9	3.9	3.8	6.1	5.3	4.6	4.6	5.5	4.6	8.3	6.8	8.1	7.5	5.9
West Stockbridge	6.0	6.5	6.0	6.0	7.2	6.2	5.1	4.8	6.6	6.4	5.4	4.8	5.2	4.1	4.5	4.6	3.9	4.4	3.6	4.8	5.9	5.5	5.6	5.2	5.3
Williamstown	5.5	6.6	6.4	5.1	5.4	4.8	4.6	5.0	5.9	5.1	4.2	4.9	5.0	5.9	5.9	4.9	5.4	5.2	4.9	5.6	6.4	5.2	4.9	5.5	5.3
Windsor	6.0	5.8	6.2	6.0	5.1	6.5	7.7	6.3	8.3	8.3	8.5	8.0	7.2	5.3	6.4	6.8	6.2	6.0	6.9	5.5	7.0	5.8	5.2	4.9	6.5
Berkshire County	7.0	7.2	6.9	6.5	6.9	6.4	6.3	6.7	7.9	7.6	7.2	6.5	6.4	6.6	6.5	6.2	6.5	6.2	6.2	6.9	7.9	7.1	7.2	6.7	6.8
US	9.0	9.1	9.0	9.0	9.0	8.9	8.6	8.5	8.3	8.3	8.2	8.1	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.1	7.8	7.9	7.8	7.8	7.9	7.7	7.6	7.5	8.3

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Note: No municipality meets the economic distress criteria based upon an unemployment rate that is at least one (1) percentage point greater than the national average using BLS data.

## **Appendix “B”**

**Most Recently Available Data on Per Capita Income and  
Stats America Unemployment Data from the ACS (2006-2010)**

DRAFT

**Economic Distress Criteria—Primary Elements**

	Region	U.S.	Threshold Calculations
2011 Unemployment Rate (5 Year ACS)	8.4	8.7	-0.3
2011 Per Capita Money Income (5 Year ACS)	\$29,387	\$27,915	105.27%

**Economic Distress Criteria—Geographic Components**

	Unemp. Rate 2011 ACS	Threshold Calculation	PCMI 2011 ACS	Threshold Calculation	
Census Tract 9001, Berkshire County, Massachuset	11.4	2.7	\$16,464	59.0%	Pittsfield
Census Tract 9002, Berkshire County, Massachuset	10.4	1.7	\$16,201	58.0%	Pittsfield
Census Tract 9003, Berkshire County, Massachuset	6.5	-2.2	\$24,598	88.1%	Pittsfield
Census Tract 9004, Berkshire County, Massachuset	14.9	6.2	\$22,407	80.3%	Pittsfield
Census Tract 9005, Berkshire County, Massachuset	7.8	-0.9	\$41,661	149.2%	Pittsfield
Census Tract 9006, Berkshire County, Massachuset	10.1	1.4	\$16,765	60.1%	Pittsfield
Census Tract 9007, Berkshire County, Massachuset	6.8	-1.9	\$27,145	97.2%	Pittsfield
Census Tract 9008, Berkshire County, Massachuset	5.6	-3.1	\$37,392	133.9%	Pittsfield
Census Tract 9009, Berkshire County, Massachuset	8.1	-0.6	\$31,802	113.9%	Pittsfield
Census Tract 9011, Berkshire County, Massachuset	4.5	-4.2	\$27,373	98.1%	Pittsfield
Census Tract 9111, Berkshire County, Massachuset	6.3	-2.4	\$33,058	118.4%	Lanesborough
Census Tract 9121, Berkshire County, Massachuset	8.2	-0.5	\$26,854	96.2%	Dalton
Census Tract 9131, Berkshire County, Massachuset	12.3	3.6	\$33,405	119.7%	Lenox
Census Tract 9141, Berkshire County, Massachuset	10.6	1.9	\$28,270	101.3%	Lee
Census Tract 9201.01, Berkshire County, Massachu	8.4	-0.3	\$33,152	118.8%	Williamstown
Census Tract 9201.02, Berkshire County, Massachu	9.4	0.7	\$49,074	175.8%	Williamstown
Census Tract 9213, Berkshire County, Massachuset	11.2	2.5	\$17,897	64.1%	North Adams
Census Tract 9214, Berkshire County, Massachuset	18.6	9.9	\$21,490	77.0%	North Adams
Census Tract 9215, Berkshire County, Massachuset	12.1	3.4	\$24,063	86.2%	North Adams
Census Tract 9221, Berkshire County, Massachuset	7.4	-1.3	\$23,837	85.4%	Adams
Census Tract 9222, Berkshire County, Massachuset	12.8	4.1	\$21,224	76.0%	Adams
Census Tract 9223, Berkshire County, Massachuset	13.3	4.6	\$30,308	108.6%	Adams
Census Tract 9231, Berkshire County, Massachuset	6.7	-2	\$34,413	123.3%	Cheshire
Census Tract 9241, Berkshire County, Massachuset	7.4	-1.3	\$31,821	114.0%	Stockbridge
Census Tract 9251, Berkshire County, Massachuset	5	-3.7	\$34,585	123.9%	Great Barrington
Census Tract 9261, Berkshire County, Massachuset	1.4	-7.3	\$36,640	131.3%	Sheffield
Census Tract 9311, Berkshire County, Massachuset	2.2	-6.5	\$25,013	89.6%	Clarksburg
Census Tract 9313, Berkshire County, Massachuset	6.7	-2	\$26,686	95.6%	Florida / Savoy
Census Tract 9314, Berkshire County, Massachuset	5.1	-3.6	\$30,714	110.0%	Peru / Windsor
Census Tract 9322, Berkshire County, Massachuset	10.2	1.5	\$36,063	129.2%	Becket / Washington
Census Tract 9323, Berkshire County, Massachuset	5.7	-3	\$30,753	110.2%	Hinsdale
Census Tract 9332, Berkshire County, Massachuset	5.2	-3.5	\$39,692	142.2%	Monterey / Tyringham
Census Tract 9333, Berkshire County, Massachuset	1.2	-7.5	\$32,451	116.2%	New Marlborough
Census Tract 9334, Berkshire County, Massachuset	7.6	-1.1	\$38,643	138.4%	Otis / Sandisfield
Census Tract 9342, Berkshire County, Massachuset	5.2	-3.5	\$35,092	125.7%	West Stockbridge
Census Tract 9343, Berkshire County, Massachuset	3.5	-5.2	\$42,278	151.5%	Alford / Egremont / Mount Washington
Census Tract 9351, Berkshire County, Massachuset	4.4	-4.3	\$44,416	159.1%	Hancock / New Ashford / Richmond
Census Tract 9352, Berkshire County, Massachuset	11	2.3	\$30,250	108.4%	Pittsfield
Census Tract 9353, Berkshire County, Massachuset	8.1	-0.6	\$20,444	73.2%	North Adams


Source: American Community Survey 2007-2011


**Note: Using the most recent ACS (2011) data for per capita median income, a number of census tracts in Berkshire County meet EDA's economic distress criteria based upon per capita income. The qualifying census tracts are highlighted in yellow.**

**Note: Using the most recent ACS (2011) date for unemployment, a number of census tracts in Berkshire County meet EDA's economic distress criteria based upon unemployment. The qualifying census tracts are highlighted in grey.**

DRAFT

# Economic Distress Criteria

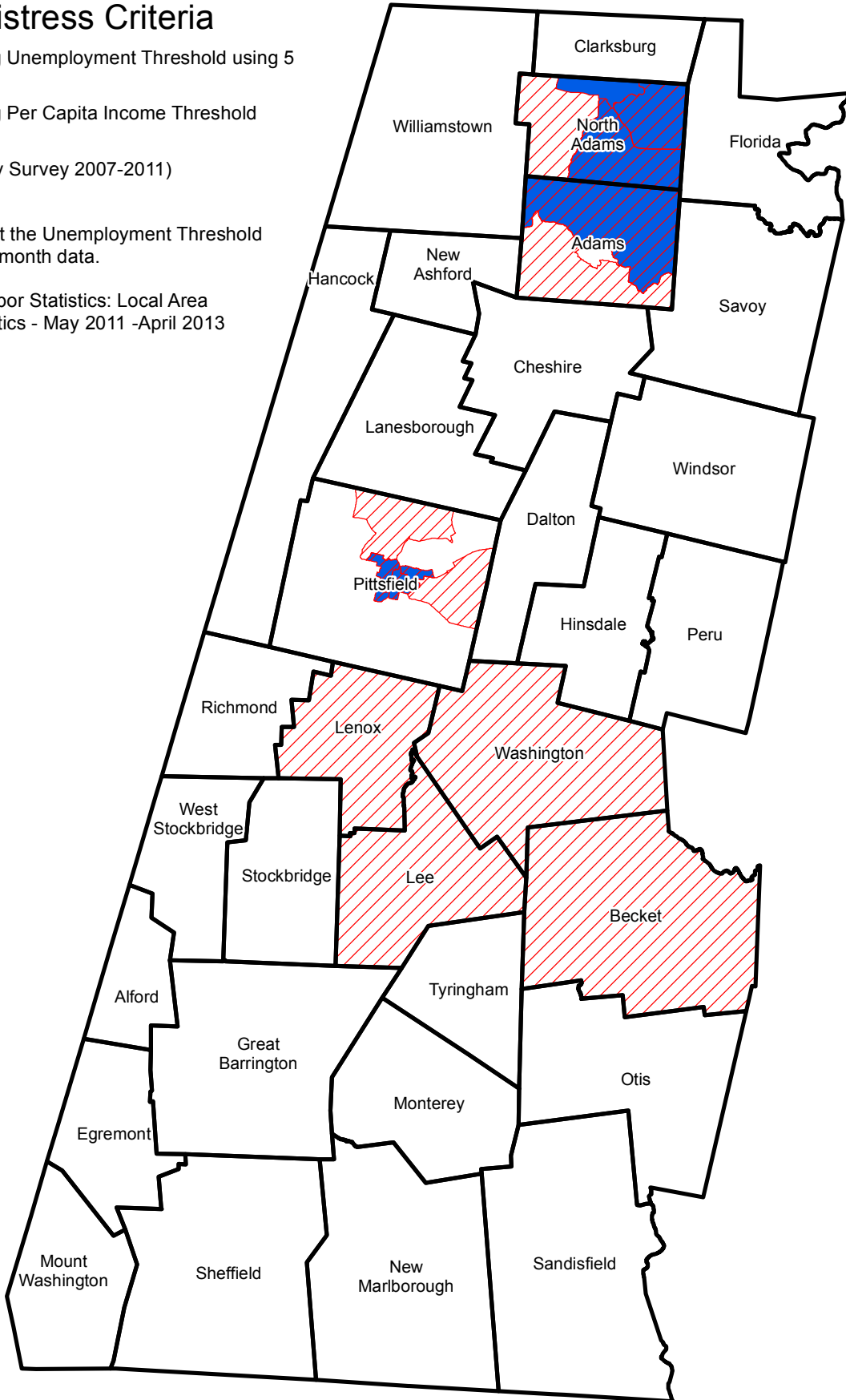
 Tracts Meeting Unemployment Threshold using 5 year ACS data

 Tracts Meeting Per Capita Income Threshold

Source: StatsAmerica  
(American Community Survey 2007-2011)

No Communities meet the Unemployment Threshold using most recent 24 month data.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics: Local Area  
Unemployment Statistics - May 2011 -April 2013



DRAFT

## 2013 ACTIVE PRIORITY PROJECTS - Economic Significance & Stage of Development/Implementation

<b>Economic Significance</b>	<b>Meets Greatest Regional Need</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Small Business Revolving Loan Fund <b>NEW</b></li> <li>*Regional Highway Access Improvements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* <b>Regional Economic Development District NEW</b></li> <li>* Alternative Energy &amp; Infrastructure Improvements</li> <li>*Passenger Rail Improvements</li> <li>* Regional Highway Access Improvements,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Keep Berkshires Farming <b>NEW</b></li> <li>* <b>Workforce Training Fund NEW</b></li> <li>* <b>Labor Market Blueprint NEW</b></li> <li>* <b>Connecting Activities H.S. Internship NEW</b></li> <li>* <b>Industry Sector Initiatives NEW</b></li> <li>* <b>BRPC Brownfields Program NEW</b></li> <li>* Regional Telecommunications Network</li> <li>* Regional Highway Access Improvements</li> <li>* Berkshire Compact for Education &amp; Berkshire County STEM Pipeline <b>NEW</b></li> </ul>
	<b>Enhances the Region</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Former Nessacus School Redevelopment <b>NEW</b></li> <li>* McCain Business Park <b>NEW</b></li> <li>* Former Commonwealth Sprague Site</li> <li>* Crane Stationary Mill Redevelopment</li> <li>* Hubbard Avenue Development Area</li> <li>* Berkshire Mall Civic Center &amp; Hotel</li> <li>* River School Redevelopment Project</li> <li>* Redevelopment of the Historic Great Barrington Fairgrounds</li> <li>* Monument Mills Reuse Planning</li> <li>* Adaptive Reuse of Mills</li> <li>* Redevelopment of Historic Great Barrington Firehouse</li> <li>* Route 8 Corridor Redevelopment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Memorial School Redevelopment <b>NEW</b></li> <li>* Saint James Place <b>NEW</b></li> <li>* Life Science Center at William Stanley Business Park</li> <li>* New England Log Homes Site (NELH)</li> <li>* West Street Water Line Upgrade</li> <li>* City of Pittsfield Municipal Airport Industrial Park Feasibility Study</li> <li>* Regionalization of the City of Pittsfield's Municipal Airport</li> <li>* Berkshire Museum 21st Century Energy Project <b>NEW</b></li> <li>* Northern Berkshire Scenic Railway <b>NEW</b></li> <li>* Berkshire Creative Initiatives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* <b>Berkshire Hills Internship Program</b></li> <li>* <b>First Street Common Park Rehabilitation NEW</b></li> <li>* <b>Hancock Shaker Village Renovations NEW</b></li> <li>* William Stanley Business Park</li> <li>* Downstreet Art Project</li> <li>* McKay Street Pedestrian Improvements &amp; Parking Garage Restoration</li> <li>* Mohawk Theater Resotration <b>NEW</b></li> <li>* Development of the Greylock Glen Outdoor Recreation &amp; Environmental Center</li> </ul>
		<b>Concept</b>	<b>Pre-Development/ Pre-Implementation</b>	<b>Development/ Implementation</b>
		<b>Stage of Development/ Implementation</b>		

<b>KEY</b>	<b>BLUE TEXT = PHYSICAL PROJECT</b>
	<b>RED TEXT = PROGRAM, STUDIES, EDUCATION, OTHER</b>



DRAFT

## Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee

Last Updated - 09.23.13

Name	Title / Representing	EDA Criteria Fulfilled	Public or Required Representation	Private Sector
Roger Bolton	Executive Committee Member Berkshire Regional Planning Commission	Regional Planning Agency	X	
Brenda Burdick	General Dynamics Advanced Information Systems	Business & Industry*		X
Heather Boulger	Executive Director Berkshire County Regional Employment Board	Workforce Development*	X	
Timothy Geller	Executive Director Community Development Corporation of South Berkshire	Economic Interest*		X
Keith Girouard	Senior Business Advisor Massachusetts Small Business Development Center	Economic Interest*		X
Gwendolyn Hampton-VanSant	Executive Director Multicultural Bridge	Community Leader* Minority Group*	X	
J. Michael Hoffman	Vice President, Commercial Loan TD Bank	Business & Industry* Economic Interest*		X
Michael Nuvalie	Community Development Director City of North Adams	Local Government*	X	
Chris Rembold	Town Planner Town of Great Barrington	Local Government*	X	
Doug Clark	Community Development Director (Acting) City of Pittsfield	Local Government*	X	
Michael Supranowicz	President and Chief Executive Office Berkshire Chamber of Commerce	Business & Industry* Economic Interest		X
Robert Wilson	Assistant Business Agent International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 7	Labor Group*	X	
Tom Bernard	Assistant to the President Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts	Higher Education*	X	
Lauri Klefos	Lauri Klefos, President & CEO Berkshire Visitors Bureau	Business & Industry* Economic Interest		X
Ian Rasch	Director of Development Allegrone Companies	Business & Industry*		X
Michele Butler (Shelton)	Private Individual	Private Individual*	X	
Ruth Blodgett	Berkshire Health Systems	Business & Industry*		X
Rob Hoogs	Foresight Land Services	Business & Industry*		X
Julia Dixon	Berkshire Creative	Business & Industry*		X
Bill Mulholland	Pittsfield Economic Recovery Corporation	Business & Industry		X
		subtotal	9	10