

Four Corners Future Forum Proposed Regional Economic Development Initiatives

Strategic themes compiled from Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies (CEDS) documents for the Economic Development Districts of the 4 Corners

1. **Local food systems:** Develop, finance, and support Farm-to-Table initiatives throughout the region including food hubs, CSAs, Farmer's Markets, Local Food-Local Places, Equipment/Resource Co-ops, and value-added food processing.
2. **Four Corners brand:** Create and grow a Four Corners Brand to identify and promote the unique offerings of the area and to attract tourism, relocation and business investment.
3. **Downtown revitalization:** Invest in, support and market the revitalization and development of downtown districts throughout the region.
4. **Authentic Indigenous Art:** Uplift, strengthen, support and promote the Native American artisan market with an emphasis on ensuring authentic products are sold locally and abroad.
5. **Art Hub:** Promote the Four Corners as an Art hub by promoting local art in local places, and supporting the local art industry.
6. **Four Corners marketing:** Capitalize on the Four Corners region as a year-round all-opportunity tourism and recreation destination, including promoting the region at-large through new and existing means and growing the outdoor recreation industry.
7. **Tourism enterprise:** Invest in and support the development of businesses and industries linked to tourism, recreation and Native American cultural experiences.
8. **Regional and local connectivity:** Invest in initiatives to grow telecom and broadband access throughout the region.
9. **Technology Infrastructure:** Plan for, invest in and support the maintenance and development of infrastructure to encourage the development/relocation of data centers and technological innovation.
10. **Quality Healthcare:** Support the development of quality-of-life medical facilities to meet the needs of our citizens and visitors of all ages and needs.

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11. **Extractive Industry Transition:** Invest in the research and development of new ways to best use the existing resources of the extractive industries.
12. **Renewable Energy:** Explore and invest in opportunities for Renewable Energy development including Biomass fuels, Geothermal, Solar, and wind energy.
13. **Small Business Support:** Support the development of small “maker” businesses and solopreneurs through education, small business development, access to funding, and the development of maker spaces.
14. **Import Substitution/Local Supply Chains:** Expand in-region sourcing of goods and services, starting with creation of a regional asset map to identify what items are being produced/grown within region, capable of being produced or grown, what gaps exist, and what supply chain opportunities might exist.
15. **Regional Transportation Infrastructure:** Plan for, invest in and support the development and maintenance of infrastructure that facilitates the movement and exportation of goods both internally and externally to the region.
16. **Qualified Workforce:** Accelerate and strengthen the development of a qualified workforce that meets the needs of the region and supports the diversification of our economy.
17. **Education to Support Regional Approach:** Arrange for education and workforce development that enables the building of trust, application for grants, and local business development.
18. **Career Development:** Support public-private partnerships that empower students to explore careers and gain marketable knowledge and skill in occupations needed in the region’s economy.
19. **Regional Data Collaboration:** Encourage data-driven planning and decision-making through inter-state and inter-agency collaboration in the development of data dashboards and information centers.
20. **Poverty Reduction:** Tap regional assets and international best practices to design, invest in and implement new initiatives that ensure our poorest citizens have basic needs met including affordable housing.