



ALLEN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GROUP  
**ALLEN COUNTY**<sup>®</sup>  
 REAL AMERICAN STRENGTH™

# The INSIDE

*Allen Economic Development Group*

## President's Pitch

The Good, the Challenging, and the Facts.

Welcome to The Inside AEDG "edge", the quarterly newsletter presented by the staff of AEDG.



Lima/Allen County has a story to tell and we look forward to communicating that message to our partners, stakeholders and community through this newsletter, social media, monthly radio and television appearances, and newspaper columns. We anticipate sharing economic development projects, community development initiatives and the successes of our local businesses.

### The Good

We were busy serving our businesses in 2019. The AEDG staff completed 90 Business Retention and Expansion (BR&E) meetings and learned about and/or assisted with 56 business development projects, 46 economic development projects, and the pursuit of 23 different attraction opportunities. It was an active year, to say the least.

Lima/Allen County's success was recognized by Site Selection Magazine, the nation's premier magazine for site selection

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## Companies aid hospitals bracing for patient influx

COVID-19 has caused shortages of personal protection equipment and supplies at medical institutions across the nation and our region is not immune.

Late last week, a call for supplies was sent by Lima Memorial Health System and Mercy Health-St. Rita's and our local companies immediately responded. SumiRiko of Bluffton, and Buckeye Rubber Products, U.S. Plastics, Lima Armature, Sign Solutions, Cintas, Nutrien, and Procter and Gamble of Lima began delivering face shields,

hand sanitizer and other products to help ensure workers and volunteers at our health facilities have the items needed to care for the ill in our region.

The aforementioned list is by no means complete. Education institutions and other companies are contributing items to meet demands. AEDG, the Lima Chamber of Commerce and city officials are working together to communicate needs and find solutions. Our community is uniting to beat this health crisis.

See information on available assistance programs for businesses on page 3.

## Lima among top

Site Selection magazine recently named Lima sixth among Top 10 Metropolitans in the nation for 2019. We are in the Tier 3 category, which includes cities with a population less than 200,000.

It is the first time the Lima/Allen County region has made the list in the nation's premier magazine for site selection and economic development.

Projects meeting one of three metrics qualified a city for the ranking: at least \$1 million in investment, the expansion of an existing facility of at least 20,000 square feet, or the creation of at least 20 new jobs. Lima registered 10 such projects.

2019 Rank	2018 Rank	State	Project Count
1	3	Ohio	448
2	2	Kentucky	361
3	1	Indiana	70
4	4	Illinois	423
5	5	Iowa	58
6	14	Alabama	102
7	10	Texas	859
8	8	Arizona	384
9	6	Georgia	276
10	17	Louisiana	110



Gary Thompson, executive vice president and COO of Regional Growth Partnership (left) discusses recent Lima/Allen County successes with Dave Stratton during a JobsOhio meeting at Owens Community College in March. RGP is AEDG's regional partner in economic development.

## JobsOhio offers \$250M for spec building program

JobsOhio will offer grants and loans for speculative projects throughout the state, according to a new state program introduced in early March. The Ohio Site Inventory Program (OSIP) will offer \$50 million a year through 2025 for projects that include site and building development.

## Stratton

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and economic development. Lima was among the Top 10 Metropolitans in the nation for 2019. To be exact, we were ranked sixth in the Tier 3 category, which includes cities with a population of less than 200,000. It is the first time the Lima/Allen County region made the prestigious list.

### The Challenging

We started 2020 with great optimism: expansions, land buys, job creation and nearly \$400 million in capital investment were in the works. However, the arrival of COVID-19 has altered the economic development climate. Factor in an election year and companies are facing great uncertainty.

### The Facts

AEDG will continue to pass along details about federal and state programs designed to assist businesses of all sizes. We will do this through emails, our LinkedIn page and communication pieces such as The Inside AEDG. We believe it is essential to work with the Lima/Allen County Chamber of Commerce, Greater Lima Region, and governmental entities to bring the greatest level of support to the private business community and the public sector.

In the end, we are Lima/Allen County. A people with resolve. When we unite, we can be successful in the years ahead. We are determined to be a valuable asset to our community and we look forward to a vibrant future. We will press on together.



### EDCO Property

Workers from Mannik and Smith Group have begun Phase II environmental testing on the former EDCO property on Kibby Street in Lima. The Port Authority of Allen County has an option on the 11-acre parcel of land. AEDG is considering development options for the site, which is rail served and .5 miles from Interstate 75. The testing is being done through a grant from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. The City of Lima assisted with the demolition of blighted buildings on the property a few years ago. Through collaboration this site will again be productive.

### AEDG Board Members

- Carol Russell
- Cory Noonan
- David Berger
- Don Klausing
- Eric Pohjala
- Howard Violet
- John Recker
- Keith Horner
- Mike Swick
- Perry Wiltsie
- Tim Turnwald
- Tim Windau
- Todd Sutton



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# ***COVID-19 Resources & Information***

Allen Economic Development Group and the Lima/Allen County Chamber of Commerce are committed to assisting the business community, employers and their employees with the most accurate information possible.

## **COVID-19 Governmental Websites**

**Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC).** — <https://www.cdc.gov/>

**Ohio Department of Health's COVID-19 site** ([coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov))  
<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/>

**Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program** — <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance>

**State's application assistance and information on SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program**  
<https://covid19relief.sba.gov/#/>

**SharedWork** is a voluntary layoff aversion program. It allows workers to remain employed and employers to retain trained staff during times of reduced business activity. — <http://jfs.ohio.gov/ouio/SharedWorkOhio/>

**Unemployment Compensation** – The Governor issued an executive order on March 16 which will grant the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) the authority to accept, grant requests and expedite unemployment compensation. — <https://jfs.ohio.gov/>

## ***The CARES Act Resources for Business***

The CARES Act (HR 748, Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security Act) that includes Small Business Loans with some eligibility for grant opportunities. Speak with one of our local financial institutions as soon as possible to learn the details about the programs. **(A local listing is attached.)** Starting April 3, small businesses and sole proprietorships can apply for loans. Starting April 10, independent contractors and self-employed individuals can apply for loans. **There is a funding cap, so the Treasury Department recommends applying as soon as possible.**

There are 3 programs available through the CARES Act:

### **(1) Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL)**

The CARES Act expanded the Small Business Administration's long-standing Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program (EIDL), which includes \$10,000 grants for eligible applicants. The EIDL program was created to assist businesses, renters, and homeowners located in regions affected by declared disasters.

### **(2) Employee Retention Tax Credit**

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act created a new employee retention tax credit for employers who are closed, partially closed, or experiencing significant revenue losses as a result of COVID-19.

### **(3) Small Business Emergency Loan – Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)**

The Coronavirus Small Business Emergency Loan Guide, outlines the steps small businesses need to take to access much-needed Payroll Protection Program (PPP) funds. The guide now includes important information including key dates as the government moves toward implementation.

**(Attachments include information provided by Lima/Allen County Chamber of Commerce)**