

Requirements

The demands are not excessive. We ask firstly that our members be annual financial contributors to our program. From time to time, associate members are invited to serve on a working committee exploring a subject area in which they have professional expertise or perhaps simply a strong personal interest. Finally we ask that the members be boosters of the EDC at its activities, encouraging new members to join and doing their part to stimulate a positive, optimistic attitude in the County.

Benefits

There are tangible benefits, of course, such as receipt of the EDC Annual Report that is presented to the Somerset County Commissioners. You will also receive a decorative transfer declaring your membership, and invitations to your EDC sponsored events. Additionally, your annual dues are a tax deductible contribution. However, the most important benefits are in the feelings of being involved in an effort that is taking positive steps to effect changes that will benefit the entire community. Membership is an opportunity to participate in, and give input to that effort.

Joining

Simply complete the attached form indicating the appropriate category of membership and mail it to the EDC office along with a check representing your annual dues. If you would like to serve on any of the EDC's working committees, please use the same form to indicate your particular area of interest. *Your dues will assist in the marketing efforts of the Somerset County Economic Development Commission.*

To learn more about our organization please contact any member of the EDC, or the Executive Director at 410-651-0500. We will be happy to discuss our program with you.

Associate Membership Dues

Category	Annual Dues
A. Organizations	\$ 75.00
B. Individuals	\$ 25.00
C. Businesses & Professionals	
1. 1-5 employees	\$ 50.00
2. 6-10 employees	\$100.00
3. 11-25 employees	\$150.00
4. 26-50 employees	\$300.00
5. 51+ employees	\$600.00
D. Governmental Agencies	\$150.00

Application for Membership

Circle One:

- A. Organization B. Individual
C. Businesses D. Governmental Agencies

Name _____

(If a corporation or organization, please identify contact)

Mailing Address _____

Telephone _____

Email Address: _____

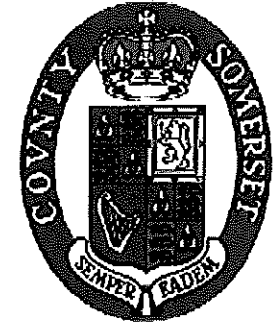
Website: _____

Amount Enclosed _____

Please make check payable to:
Somerset County Economic Development Commission

Return Address:
11916 Somerset Avenue, Suite 202
Princess Anne, Maryland 21853

Somerset County



Economic Development Commission

Invites you to become an

Associate Member

What Is Economic Development?

Stated simply, economic development is an effort to enhance the economic vitality of a community by creating new job opportunities for its residents. In practice it is a systematic and organized effort to do what is necessary to encourage and facilitate the expansion of the existing industry and the attraction of new employers. It is a broad umbrella that encompasses many activities ranging from working with local officials to ensure the community possesses a suitable industrial infrastructure, to marketing and promoting the community as an advantageous place to do business.

What Is The Economic Development Commission?

The Somerset County Economic Development Commission (EDC) was created in 1980 as a result of the recommendations made to the County Commissioners by an Economic Development Planning Committee. This Committee realized that Somerset County needed a program that supported the business community while working with the local elected officials and Chambers' of Commerce. The EDC was created to devise and implement a program that would accomplish a professional economic development approach.

What Are The Goals of The EDC?

The EDC has a singular yet ambitious goal; the creation of a broader economic base for Somerset County. To reach this goal, the EDC pursues a three component program of:

- Development of community awareness and involvement
- Retention and expansion of existing industry
- Attraction of industry from regional, national and international markets.

Why Is Such An Organization Necessary?

It is commonly estimated that throughout North America there are over 15,000 groups doing economic development work and competing for less than 1,500 industrial moves per year. A community can no longer sit and wait for industry to come calling. To compete effectively, it must aggressively promote itself and develop the means to respond to industry's needs.

Many of the factors affecting an industrial site location decision such as climate, access to markets, or proximity to raw materials are beyond control of the local community. In many cases there simply will not be a match between the area and the needs of industry.

There are, however, many factors that can be influenced locally to make an area with a possible match even more attractive. Some of these include available industry sites, access to financing, and employee training programs. Viewing the community from the industry's side of the desk and spearheading the coordinated effort to improve industrial infrastructure is but one vital role played by an Economic Development organization.

Developing an advantageous location for industry is only the beginning. Industry must be made aware of those advantages and persuaded to consider the area as a possible site. When the investigation begins, industry expects to receive prompt, factual responses to its inquiries about location factors such as utilities, taxes, transportation and labor.

Waging the market campaign and having the ability to respond quickly to industry's inquires is another important function of the EDC.

Who Are The Members Of The EDC?

The EDC consists of 15 volunteers interested in the economic future of Somerset County. They represent a cross section of the community and are appointed to staggered three year terms by the County Commissioners. Nominations for the membership are submitted by Princess Anne (1), Crisfield (1), and the EDC (3).

Who Are The EDC's Associate Members?

Associate members are the individuals and organizations throughout the community who share the goals of the EDC and support its activities. A successful program of economic development requires a joint partnership between the private and public sectors. Community and private sector involvement begins with associate membership to the EDC.

How Does The EDC Operate?

The EDC meets quarterly to discuss and review its projects and activities. It elects officers who, along with the Immediate Past Chairman, comprise the Executive Committee which meets quarterly, plus on an as needed basis, and serves as a steering committee for the full board.

Day to day tasks and implementation of the program are carried out by the Executive Director, an economic development professional who is employed full time by the EDC, and an Administrative Assistant.

In addition to the Board and staff, five working committees may be formed to meet on an "as needed" basis. These working committees are composed of members of the EDC and focuses on a particular topic that may affect the general economic development program or a particular project.

These working committees consist of, but are not limited to the following: Business Attraction, Business Expansion/Retention, Workforce Development & Quality of Life, City of Crisfield, and the Town of Princess Anne.

How Is The EDC Funded?

Unlike some of its counterparts in other communities, the Somerset EDC is a quasi-public agency that encourages and relies on the involvement and support of the local business and civic community. Public funds account for most of the budget required to sustain and effective operation. Each year, the EDC solicits contributions from the private/public sector-individuals, corporations, and community organizations to fund the remaining portion of its' budget.