

# FOSTORIA

Fostoria  
Economic  
Development  
Corporation

Ohio

## Mission Statement

*The Fostoria Economic Development Corporation is dedicated to facilitating the growth and development of local businesses and companies; the FEDC also works to attract new business and industry to the community in an effort to diversify the local economy and provide quality jobs. The Fostoria Economic Development Corporation will continuously strive to maintain a competitive position in the global marketplace by providing innovative and comprehensive services that address our clients' needs.*

## Fostoria Economic Development Corporation 2009 – 2010 Program of Work

- **Education**

- Develop and strengthen ties with regional four year universities and colleges (Bowling Green State University, University of Findlay, University of Toledo, Tiffin University and Heidelberg College).
- Improve and expand collaboration with Terra Community College, Owens Community College and Vanguard-Sentinel Career Centers.
- Initiate co-op program for local manufacturers.
- Explore potential for development of a manufacturing internship program for high school students in conjunction with Fostoria Community Schools, St. Wendelin Catholic Schools and local manufacturers.
- Explore potential for a technical center in Fostoria to provide vocational training to high school students.
- Grow FEDC mentoring program.

- **Business Retention and Expansion**

- Provide annual consultations with all manufacturing companies.
- Maintain and update current state incentive programs and disseminate information to all interested parties.
- Offer assistance to all area businesses that are considering business expansion and/or job creation.
- Maintain, in consultation with City of Fostoria officials, a list of potentially at-risk business and attempt to meet with management representatives on an ongoing basis.
- Annually survey existing manufacturing and service business in the Fostoria community.

- **Business Attraction**

- Continue to develop marketing programs targeting specific industrial sectors.
- Respond appropriately to all leads forwarded by the Ohio Department of Development.
- Work with Regional Growth Partnership to develop leads for the Northwest Ohio region.
- Maintain regular correspondence with leads provided through 2006-2007 call center marketing program.
- Develop new industrial park to provide sufficient supply of developable land for prospective client companies.
- **Entrepreneurship**
  - Increase resources for individuals interested in starting a business in Fostoria.
  - Partner with the Hancock Regional Planning Commission to provide business counseling and access to new City of Fostoria Revolving Loan Fund.
  - Expand partnerships with area universities and community colleges to include assets that can be made available to prospective small business owners.
  - Develop plans and financing for a Fostoria business incubator / accelerator.
- **Marketing**
  - Continue to pursue opportunities to market Fostoria through a variety of media channels.
  - Partner with the Fostoria Chamber of Commerce to develop a Fostoria brand that can be used consistently across all marketing materials.
  - Develop marketing program to promote small business entrepreneurial services.
  - Utilize partnerships at the regional and state level that will allow Fostoria to take advantage of larger marketing programs.
- **Community / Infrastructure Development**
  - Continue to partner with the Fostoria Chamber of Commerce and the City of Fostoria to promote the downtown revitalization.
  - Support efforts of Framework for Progress: Vision 2020.
  - In partnership with the City of Fostoria develop plans for the remediation of vacant properties with primary focus on the downtown area, the main thoroughfares and industrial sites.
  - Work through the Joint Legislative Committee to promote the Seneca County Transportation Plan.
  - Work with the City of Fostoria to fund and build a section of the Fostoria Loop Road.
  - Work with Seneca County and Connect Ohio to provide improved broadband access to Fostoria businesses and citizens.
- **FEDC Partnerships**
  - Strengthen/solidify relationships with existing public sector investors.
  - Strengthen/solidify relationships with existing private sector investors.
  - Promote and encourage FEDC membership and participation throughout the business community.