



Celebrating 40 years of helping small communities do BIG things!

*The Latest with CEDA
June 2026 Edition*

Registration is open for the 2026 CEDA Annual Meeting



[REGISTER HERE](#)



Jessica Pellinen, CEDA Regional Manager, Hillary Tweed, CEDA Executive Vice President, Tracy

Our Towns, Our Future: Celebrating 40 Years of Making Big Things Happen

On June 17, community leaders, elected officials, partners, and friends gathered in Floodwood for *Our Towns, Our Future: Four Decades Strong - Growing Our Rural Region*, a celebration of CEDA's 40 year journey helping small communities do big things.

Hensley and Lisa Sutherland-Randall, Community & Business Development Specialists, Ron Zeigler, CEDA CEO/President, Shaun Hainey and Amanda Lamppa, Community & Business Development Specialists, Luke Williams, CEDA Intern, and Ashley Craiglow, Community & Business Development Specialist

While the event marked an important milestone, the real celebration was the impact. Throughout the afternoon, attendees shared stories of projects, partnerships, and accomplishments that simply may not have happened without the support, guidance, and expertise of CEDA.

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The Harmony Stateline Trail is officially open! From left to right: Steve Donney, Vicky Tribon, Greg Davids and Rick Hansen cut the official ribbon.

Photo by Wanda Hanson

Harmony Stateline Trail Officially Open

By: Wanda Hanson - Appearing in the June 15, 2026 Fillmore County Journal

On June 6 at 10:20 a.m., six wagons full of 76 people started off from the splash pad in Harmony to Niagara Cave. The wagons took the new, recently completed Stateline Bike Trail from Harmony which also forks off to the Iowa border. Twenty workers helped with the ride as flaggers at road crossings, drivers, photographers and lunch servers.

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Tracking Success within CEDA Communities

At CEDA, our mission is rooted in the success of rural America. We provide on the ground expertise needed throughout Minnesota, Iowa, and Wisconsin that is needed to help small communities thrive and prosper.

Through our community and economic development initiatives, we work hand in hand with local leaders to bridge gaps, build capacity, and ignite lasting growth.

To ensure accountability and maximize our regional impact, CEDA closely tracks Key Performance Indicators, such as:

- Job Creation
- Business Engagement
- Housing Support
- Community Outreach
- Grant Securement



By combining regional expertise with an unwavering passion for rural economic health, we help to turn local community visions into measurable, sustainable real world success.



Be Your Own Boss Camp Held in Cresco

Be Your own Boss Camp is a fun, week-long summer program for students who are entering 5th or 6th grade. Held annually at the NICC Cresco Center, the camp introduces young entrepreneurs to the basics of business, marketing, and STEM through hands-on activities, field trips, and guest speakers.

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7 Rivers Small Business Development Grant

The 7 Rivers Alliance, staffed by CEDA, has received \$250,000 from the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation as part of the Wisconsin Small Business Development Grants (SBDG).

The 7 Rivers Small Business Revitalization Grant Program will provide micro-grants of up to \$10,000 directly to small businesses for eligible activities including equipment and technology upgrades, building projects, facade improvements, new signage, working capital to assist a start-up or start-up rent assistance for up to three months.

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Funding Ideas - Fueling Growth: Spotlighting CEDA's Loan Department

At CEDA, we believe that vibrant communities are built on the success of local entrepreneurs. Navigating business financing can be a challenge for

any business, especially newly established or small businesses looking to expand. This is where CEDA can step in to help.

Our Revolving Loan Funds (RLFs) can provide the capital needed to fill financial gaps that can help projects across the finish line. If a local business has a realistic growth plan but is facing roadblocks with traditional lenders, CEDA can help provide the gap financing needed.

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CEDA Communities Take Steps Toward Active Transportation Planning

Two Region 4 CEDA communities are laying the groundwork for safer, healthier, and more connected futures through participation in an Active Transportation Planning cohort. The grant funded program provides technical assistance, community engagement opportunities, and planning resources to help communities develop a vision for better walking, biking, and rolling.



This summer, residents in Benson and Parkers Prairie had the opportunity to help shape the vision firsthand through community bike and walk audits. Guided by planning consultants, participants explored their communities, identifying barriers, opportunities, and potential improvements that could make it easier and safer for people of all ages and abilities to get around.

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**Did you miss the 40 year celebration event in Northern Minnesota?
Not to worry, come celebrate with us at one of the upcoming events....**



Please join us as CEDA celebrates

FORTY YEARS OF HELPING SMALL COMMUNITIES DO BIG THINGS

Regional events are being held to showcase the work accomplished across each CEDA region.

All events are free of cost to attend.

For additional information please visit www.cedausa.com

South Central Minnesota

Thursday, July 23, 2026

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

No RSVP needed

The Steeple Event Center
110 Ash Ave N
New Richland, MN
networking & lunch provided

Central Minnesota

Wednesday, July 29, 2026

12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

No RSVP needed

The Benson Community Center
203 14th St S
Benson, MN
networking & lunch provided

Southeast Minnesota 1

Wednesday, August 19, 2026

4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

No RSVP needed

Riverside Park Pavilion
320 N Main St
Mantorville, MN
meal & beverages provided
music & art display to enjoy in the park

Southeast Minnesota 2

Wednesday, September 23, 2026

5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

No RSVP needed

Bluff Brothers Brewing
817 N Broadway Ave
Spring Valley, MN
appetizers and cash bar available

CEDA ANNUAL MEETING OCT. 2, 2026 - SUGAR LAKE LODGE - COHASSET, MN

PLEASE VISIT WWW.CEDAUSA.COM FOR INFORMATION TO REGISTER FOR OUR ANNUAL MEETING

WE LOOK FORWARD TO CELEBRATING WITH YOU!

Community and Economic Development Associates

1500 South Hwy 52, PO Box 483

Chatfield, MN 55923

(507) 867 3164

info@cedausa.com



Community and Economic Development Associates | 1500 South Hwy 52 PO Box 483 | Chatfield, MN 55923 US

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