

## North Central PA CEDS

Welcome to this survey!

The North Central Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission has partnered with Atlas Community Studios, a firm specializing in strategic planning and place-based economic development, and Broad Ripple Strategies to create a new Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) and Resiliency Plan. According to the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA), a CEDS is a strategy-driven plan for regional economic development, and is the result of a regionally-owned planning process designed to build capacity and guide the economic prosperity and resiliency of an area or region.

This survey is an opportunity for residents of Elk, Cameron, Clearfield, McKean, Potter, and Jefferson Counties to share personal perspectives about the current conditions affecting life in the region.

As a member of the community, you play a critical role in guiding the development of an interactive CEDS with your feedback and input. When responding to this survey, we ask that you answer the questions honestly and thoughtfully to lay the framework for the strategic plan that is ultimately developed. Your participation and input is a valuable resource for city leadership and your fellow residents.

## North Central PA CEDS

### General

1. What county do you call home?

- Elk
- Cameron
- Clearfield
- McKean
- Potter
- Jefferson

2. What positive activities are already happening in your community (town or county) that you would like to see more of?

3. In your opinion, what strengths does North Central PA have that separate it from other PA regions?

4. Prior to COVID, the overall quality of life in my county could be characterized as (consider job availability, safety and security, environment, housing, etc.):

Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
★	★	★	★

I have more to share on this...

5. Since COVID, the overall quality of life of the people living in this community has (consider job availability, safety and security, environment, housing, etc.):

- Improved
- Worsened
- Remained the same

6. In 20-30 years, what do you hope will be different about North Central PA?

7. What do you hope will be the same?

8. What is THE MOST IMPORTANT thing that could move the community towards this vision?

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Government Cooperation and Coordination

9. Are you familiar with how communities in your county and region work together on planning and project?

- Yes
- No

10. Do you feel like the towns and communities within your county work together?

- Yes
- No
- I have no idea
- Let me tell you more about this...

11. As a resident of North Central PA, do you feel like the counties work together? (Elk, Potter, Clearfield, McKean, Cameron, Jefferson)

- Yes
- No
- I have no idea
- Let me tell you more about this....

12. Do you feel like information about planning and projects is openly shared or do you have to really go searching for it?

- Yes
- No
- I have no idea
- Let me tell you more about this....

## Economic Development

13. When it comes to growth and development, what is your area's greatest challenge? Choose up to three.

- Providing living wage (or better) job opportunities
- Supporting a year-round economy
- Supporting small businesses
- Providing a suitable range of housing options
- Protecting scenery and natural resources
- Providing adequate utilities and services
- Providing adequate amenities (parks, education, medical services, et)
- I'm really not sure
- Other (please specify)

14. Which of the following could North Central PA focus on that would support your vision for a stronger region? Choose up to three

- Transportation
- Housing
- Business Development
- Tourism and Recreation
- Education and Culture
- Utilities / Infrastructure
- Other:

15. Which capital improvements should be prioritized in your county? Choose up to three.

- Water
- Stormwater / Drainage
- Raw water (irrigation)
- Sanitary sewer
- Electric
- High-speed internet
- Cable / phone / cell towers
- Natural gas
- I have no idea
- Other (please specify)

16. I would recommend my community as a place to locate and manage a business.

I'm not sure	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
★	★	★	★	★

I have more to share on this topic!

17. What should be the economic priorities for North Central PA? Choose up to three.

- Year-round tourism and recreation
- High-tech and emerging industries
- Remote / teleworking opportunities
- Manufacturing
- Construction / development
- Oil and gas development
- Renewable energy (solar, wind, etc)
- Promotion and retention of existing businesses
- Small business development / attraction
- Other (please specify)

18. If you could spend a million dollars to improve your community, how would you spend it?

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### Transportation and Logistics

19. If you don't have a car, how easy is it to get where you need to go? (If you do have a car, imagine that you don't for this one...)

- Very easy
- Easy
- Somewhat easy
- Somewhat difficult
- Difficult
- Very difficult

20. What improvements would you make to make things easier for folks without access to a car?

- Sidewalk network
- Bicycle lanes
- Rideshare program (Lyft, Uber, taxis, etc)
- City / County buses
- I have other thoughts about this...

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### Infrastructure, Technology, and Broadband

21. During a heavy rainfall, do the streets in your community flood?

- Yes
- No
- Let me tell you about flooding where I live...

22. Do you (or someone you know) struggle with internet access at your home?

- Yes
- No
- Internet is available but it's not reliable

23. In the last three years, roads leading to your community have:

- Improved
- Worsened
- Remained the same

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Entrepreneurship / Small Business

24. Are you a current business owner?

- Yes
- No

25. What would help your business grow?

26. What challenges, if any, do you face in your current operation? (i.e. finding workers, filling too many roles, lack of support, etc.)

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Future Small Business Owner

27. Have you ever dreamed of being a business owner? If so, what's prevented you from pursuing this dream?

Check all that apply.

- I don't know where to start
- Lack of capital
- Lack of business training
- Location
- Not sure there's a market for my idea
- Workforce
- I think it sounds cool but it's not something I actually want to do
- Other (please specify)

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Workforce Development and Education

28. How do you feel about the K-12 school system in your county?

Excellent

Adequate

Inadequate

Poor



I have more to share about this...

29. Do you have access to colleges, universities, or community colleges in your area?

- Yes
- No
- They're around but I can't afford them
- They're around but I'm not interested in attending

30. Do you have access to workforce training programs (welding, electrical, coding, etc) in your area?

- Yes
- No
- They're around but I can't afford them
- They're around but I'm not interested in attending
- If they're around, I don't know about them

31. Do you, or someone you know, work remotely?

- Yes
- No

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### Housing

32. Have you, or someone you know, struggled to find appropriate housing in your county?

- Yes
- No

33. What type of housing is most needed in this area? Select top three.

- Single family homes
- Multi-family units (apartments)
- Townhomes
- Duplexes
- Right-priced housing (affordable - a little spending money after the mortgage)
- Subsidized housing
- Housing units for sale
- Housing units for rent
- I have more to say about housing in the area...

## Tourism and Recreation

34. If a friend was visiting from out of town, what's the ONE thing you'd take them to see or experience in your area?

35. Is there something about your area that you feel could be a draw for tourists but isn't currently celebrated or highlighted?

36. Are recreational things in your area affordable for residents?

- Yes, they seem reasonably priced
- No, they seem priced for tourists
- I'm not sure

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### Resilience

37. If the largest employer in your town left, would the town survive?

- Yes
- No
- I'm not sure
- Let me tell you more about this...

38. Imagine your main street at midday. Does the picture show more people than cars?

- Yes
- No
- I'm not sure

39. We learned a lot about strengths and weaknesses in our communities during the pandemic. What did you learn about where you live?

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### About You

40. How old are you?

- Under 18
- 18-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65+

41. Which race/ethnicity best describes you? (Please choose only one.)

- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- Asian / Pacific Islander
- Black or African American
- Hispanic
- White / Caucasian
- Multiple ethnicity / Other (please specify)

42. What is your average annual income?

- Less than \$15,000
- Between \$15,000 and \$29,999
- Between \$30,000 and \$49,999
- Between \$50,000 and \$74,999
- Between \$75,000 and \$99,999
- Between \$100,000 and \$149,999
- \$150,000 or more
- I choose not to answer

43. What is your 5-digit zipcode?

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### Results

44. What could happen in your county or region that would suggest you're on the right track for stability and growth?

45. What indicators could local leadership share on a regular basis to help you keep track of progress toward your future vision of the region? Choose top three.

- Job growth
- Housing market
- Population
- Wages
- Incomes
- Public Health Outcomes
- Infrastructure
- Entrepreneurship
- What did we miss?

**Once you have completed the survey, please send us your responses by email OR mail.**

**BY EMAIL**

[CEDS@atlastudios.com](mailto:CEDS@atlastudios.com)

**BY MAIL**

Atlas Community Studios  
c/o Lindsey Darland  
520 42nd Street  
Suite 200  
Des Moines, IA 50312