

Buffalo County Community and Economic Development Preparedness Index Results

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1. 1. ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

#	Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Total Responses	Mean
1	Our county board has a pro-business attitude and the board actively supports economic development activities through funding, policies and programs.	✓0	✓4	✓2	✓3	✓2	11	3.27
2	Key local business leaders are sufficiently involved in the governmental process.	✓0	✓3	✓6	✓2	✓0	11	2.91
3	Key local business leaders are sufficiently involved in Economic development efforts.	✓0	✓4	✓5	✓2	✓0	11	2.82
4	Our county has an effective local economic development corporation, commission or committee responsible for economic development activities.	✓0	✓0	✓2	✓8	✓1	11	3.91
5	The organization that is most responsible for economic development in our county has adequate representation from both public and private sector members.	✓0	✓0	✓4	✓6	✓1	11	3.73
6	Our county is a member of a regional organization actively engaged in economic development efforts.	✓0	✓0	✓4	✓5	✓2	11	3.82
7	Our county has (or has access to) a knowledgeable economic development professional.	✓2	✓4	✓2	✓2	✓1	11	2.64
8	Our county's leaders work together with other economic development related professionals or organizations (such as regional planning commissions, UW-Extension, state agencies, utilities, WI technical colleges).	✓0	✓4	✓3	✓2	✓2	11	3.18
9	Residents in our county have access to a community-based leadership training program.	✓0	✓1	✓5	✓3	✓2	11	3.55

2. 2. STRATEGIES FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

#	Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Total Responses	Mean
1	The county has an operating comprehensive land use plan.	✓0	✓5	✓3	✓0	✓3	11	3.09
2	Our county has a zoning ordinance that designates an adequate supply of residential, commercial and industrially- zoned land for future development.	✓0	✓0	✓5	✓2	✓4	11	3.91
3	Our county has a current written economic development plan that was prepared by an economic development committee, formally adopted and reviewed on a regular basis.	✓0	✓0	✓6	✓3	✓2	11	3.64
4	Subcommittees work on projects outlined in the economic development plan on a regular basis.	✓0	✓1	✓5	✓2	✓3	11	3.64
5	Our economic development plan is sufficiently part of a larger area economic development plan (multi-county or regional).	✓0	✓0	✓6	✓3	✓2	11	3.64
6	The county has identified the types of businesses that fit the needs and are desired by our communities.	✓0	✓2	✓4	✓4	✓1	11	3.36
7	The county has an active program to encourage and support existing businesses.	✓0	✓1	✓4	✓4	✓2	11	3.64
8	We have a marketing plan that targets businesses that are most likely to locate in our county.	✓0	✓1	✓4	✓4	✓2	11	3.64

3. 3. EXISTING BUSINESS RETENTION

#	Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Total Responses	Mean
1	An up to date formal business retention and expansion study exists.	0	0	5	3	3	11	3.82
2	The chamber of commerce or the economic development organization makes regular visits to businesses.	0	0	7	4	0	11	3.36
3	An adequate number of business recognition events are held in the county.	0	1	5	5	0	11	3.36
4	Our communities have an active downtown program to support downtown development and revitalization.	0	1	3	6	1	11	3.64
5	County government is usually responsive to the problems of existing businesses.	0	1	3	3	4	11	3.91

4. 4. NEW BUSINESS FORMATION

#	Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Total Responses	Mean
1	Our county has an active business development program to assist new businesses with their start-up issues (e.g. business plan preparation, financing, recruitment of people, management, accounting, production and marketing).	0	1	5	4	1	11	3.45
2	Our county has a systematic program to check on the progress of new businesses to see if they need help before they get into serious trouble.	0	0	5	4	2	11	3.73
3	Adequate financing can be found for new business start-ups and small business expansions.	0	2	3	2	4	11	3.73

5. 5. ATTRACTING NEW BUSINESSES

#	Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Total Responses	Mean
1	We have a marketing program targeted toward industries that have been researched to determine the likelihood of locating in our county.	0	0	4	4	3	11	3.91
2	Our county actively recruits targeted industries.	0	0	2	6	3	11	4.09
3	We have an organized, trained business attraction team comprised of people from both the private and public sectors.	0	1	2	7	1	11	3.73
4	The existing businesses in our county are helpful in recruiting new firms to the area.	0	2	6	2	1	11	3.18

6. 6. TOURISM

#	Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Total Responses	Mean
1	The county has completed an up to date tourism assets and marketing analysis and reported the results to local businesses.	0	1	4	1	5	11	3.91
2	The county has an active tourism promotion program.	0	1	3	2	5	11	4.00
3	The county has an active chamber of commerce or visitor and convention bureau that focuses on tourism development.	0	0	5	2	4	11	3.91
4	We have a regular calendar of promotion activities (e.g. monthly trade days, main street programs, arts and crafts, festivals).	0	0	5	2	4	11	3.91

7. 7. DOWNTOWN MERCHANTS

#	Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Total Responses	Mean
1	The county has an active organization working with downtown merchants.	0	1	6	2	2	11	3.45
2	The county has conducted a retail market analysis within the past three years.	0	0	4	2	5	11	4.09
3	The downtown organization completed a physical renovation plan within an adequate timeframe (i.e. the past 10 years).	0	0	3	2	5	10	4.20
4	Retail merchants have coordinated and/or store hours which match consumer preferences.	0	1	4	3	3	11	3.73
5	Parking is adequate in our downtowns.	0	4	6	1	0	11	2.73

8. 8. INFORMATION FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

#	Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Total Responses	Mean
1	Our county has completed a "Community Profile" (fact sheet) that includes basic information about the county (e.g. major employers, education, health care, population, services).	0	4	1	1	5	11	3.64
2	We have a "promotional" brochure to use with tourism, relocation packets and recruitment of new businesses that has been updated on a regular basis.	0	0	4	3	4	11	4.00
3	All information contained in the community profiles and in promotional materials is available on the Internet.	0	2	1	1	7	11	4.18
4	The county maintains a current database of available commercial and industrial buildings and sites.	0	1	2	2	6	11	4.18

9. 9. LABOR FORCE

#	Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Total Responses	Mean
1	Our county has access to current (less than 3 years old) labor force information on wages and benefits.	0	3	1	0	7	11	4.00
2	Our county has access to current (less than 3 years old) labor force information on labor supply by occupational categories.	0	3	1	0	7	11	4.00
3	Our county has access to current (less than 3 years old) labor force information on productivity of the workforce.	0	2	2	0	7	11	4.09
4	Our county has access to current (less than 3 years old) labor force information on training opportunities.	0	1	0	1	9	11	4.64
5	Our county has access to current (less than 3 years old) labor force information on employment data (employment, unemployment, underemployment and turnover rates).	1	3	0	0	7	11	3.82
6	A positive relationship exists between labor and management in our local businesses/organizations.	0	3	0	1	7	11	4.09
7	The wages in our county are at a high enough level to help retain our existing work force and attract new labor to the area.	0	2	4	3	2	11	3.45
8	Training opportunities exist within the county to meet existing and prospective employer training needs.	0	1	6	2	2	11	3.45
9	Our county has resources to help businesses hire and train a diverse work force.	0	1	5	3	2	11	3.55
10	New or expanding employers would be able to find adequate numbers of qualified employees in our labor area.	0	2	3	2	4	11	3.73

10. 10. INFRASTRUCTURE CAPACITY

#	Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Total Responses	Mean
1	Our county has an infrastructure capital improvements plan for the next five years.	0	0	3	1	6	10	4.30
2	Enough (i.e. 40 acres) of industrially zoned land is owned or optioned by the county for an industrial park, or is being developed by a private developer.	0	0	4	1	5	10	4.10
3	A copy of site restrictions and covenants is readily available.	0	2	1	1	6	10	4.10
4	There is adequate water (10" or more) and sewer lines (12" or more) to the property line.	0	1	1	0	8	10	4.50
5	An environmental assessment has been completed for the industrial park property.	0	1	1	0	8	10	4.50
6	Soil test borings have been made on the industrial site.	0	1	1	0	8	10	4.50
7	We have sufficient numbers of vacant industrial buildings to attract the interest of potential new businesses.	0	3	5	0	2	10	3.10
8	There is a business incubator in the county.	0	0	2	3	5	10	4.30
9	The highways serving our county are adequate for most manufacturing and distribution operations.	1	3	5	1	0	10	2.60
10	We have adequate common carrier trucking services for most manufacturing and distribution operations.	1	4	4	0	1	10	2.60
11	Active rail lines effectively serve at least a portion of our industrial sites.	0	2	5	2	1	10	3.20
12	Our county is within a reasonable (i.e. one hour) drive of an airport with scheduled commercial air service by at least one of the major airlines.	0	7	1	2	0	10	2.50
13	We have enough excess water capacity (gpd and bod) to serve the requirements of most new manufacturing operations.	0	4	0	1	5	10	3.70
14	We have enough sewage treatment capacity to serve the requirements of most new manufacturing operations.	0	1	1	2	6	10	4.30
15	The county has satisfactory access to or control of an environmentally sound waste disposal site for at least 5 years.	0	0	0	2	8	10	4.80
16	Our electric and natural gas rates are competitive.	1	3	3	0	3	10	3.10

17	Our county has access to adequate future supplies of electric and natural gas to satisfy expansion and attraction activities for the next 5 years.	2	3	1	0	4	10	3.10
18	Our county has, or shortly plans to implement, a broadband high speed fiber optic cable system.	0	1	2	2	5	10	4.10
19	Our county has, or shortly plans to implement, digital switching capability.	0	1	2	1	6	10	4.20

11. 11. FINANCIAL RESOURCES

#	Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Total Responses	Mean
1	Adequate financing can be found in our county for new business start-ups and business expansions.	0	3	4	0	3	10	3.30
2	Our county has an accessible group of local investors who could assist in financing a speculative or build-to-suit building.	0	2	4	0	4	10	3.60
3	Our economic development organization helps businesses acquire financing.	0	1	2	2	4	9	4.00
4	Local government is aware of, and has usefully implemented, municipal financing vehicles to assist economic development efforts such as Tax Incremental Financing (TIF), Business Improvement Districts (BID) and Industrial Revenue Bonds (IRBs). Our county has successfully submitted proposals for state and/or federal funding for development programs, for housing and/or for infrastructure development.	0	1	2	0	7	10	4.30
5	County government has created a Revolving Loan Fund (RLF).	0	1	1	0	8	10	4.50
6	Local banks effectively support community economic development.	1	1	1	1	6	10	4.00
7	Local lenders make small business administration and/or other guaranteed loans on a regular basis.	3	2	0	1	4	10	3.10
8		1	3	2	0	4	10	3.30

12. 12. QUALITY OF LIFE

#	Question	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Total Responses	Mean
1	The people in the county are generally proud of the quality of life here.	6	4	0	0	0	10	1.40
2	Property in our county is generally well maintained.	4	4	2	0	0	10	1.80
3	Our central business districts and shopping areas are attractive, clean landscaped, free of trash, painted and well cared for.	1	6	2	1	0	10	2.30
4	Our county is served by a shared ride-taxi service.	0	1	2	3	4	10	4.00
5	We have a public transportation system.	0	0	4	5	1	10	3.70
6	Our county has a good variety of available housing –different prices, styles and locations.	0	7	2	1	0	10	2.40
7	We have a good supply of moderately priced housing in our county which is affordable to entry level workers.	0	7	2	0	0	9	2.22
8	We have an adequate supply of housing suitable for seniors and/or special needs populations.	0	4	4	1	1	10	2.90
9	The county's banks support housing initiatives through home financing and/or first buyer programs.	0	4	1	0	5	10	3.60
10	Our K-12 schools compare favorably with top-quality schools elsewhere in the state.	1	5	1	1	2	10	2.80
11	Our schools are of sufficiently high quality to be acceptable to highly educated executives and managers who may move to the area.	1	4	2	1	2	10	2.90
12	Our county has a technical college within a 30 minutes drive.	0	8	1	0	0	9	2.11
13	Our vocational programs are keyed to the needs of local employers.	0	3	4	0	3	10	3.30
14	Our county has an accessible two or four-year college or university within a 30 minute drive.	0	8	2	0	0	10	2.20
15	We have a research university within an hour's drive.	0	4	2	1	3	10	3.30
16	Our local educational institutions are graduating students with the skills and knowledge that meet the needs of existing employers.	0	3	2	1	4	10	3.60
17	Our local educational institutions are graduating students with the skills and knowledge required by employers using high technology applications.	0	4	1	1	4	10	3.50

18	We have a hospital in our county or affiliated clinic that provides quality specialized care including the latest diagnostic and treatment equipment available.	0	1	6	2	1	10	3.30
19	Our hospitals or affiliated clinics offer adequate hours of emergency service.	0	2	4	3	1	10	3.30
20	Our county has a sufficient number of child care facilities available for parents who work.	0	3	2	1	4	10	3.60
21	Most of our childcare programs are well managed and highly rated by parents who use them.	0	4	0	0	6	10	3.80
22	Our county has adequate public parks for citizen and tourist recreational needs.	3	5	1	1	0	10	2.00
23	Our county's recreational facilities and programs compare favorably with state and national standards.	3	1	3	0	3	10	2.90
24	Our county offers a variety of cultural programs and activities for different ages and tastes.	0	2	6	1	1	10	3.10
25	We have a variety of active service organizations in our county.	0	8	0	0	2	10	2.60
26	Crime rates are low in our county.	3	6	0	0	1	10	2.00