

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

RCEDC serves as Racine County's central point of contact for economic development, connecting businesses and communities with the services and resources needed to advance investment and growth.

Since its founding, RCEDC has focused on facilitating business investment projects that expand the property tax base and create job opportunities throughout Racine County.

To advance this objective, RCEDC's Board of Directors adopts a countywide strategic plan with measurable goals. RCEDC staff also work closely with our contract communities to advance special projects that meet their individual needs.

This mid-year report highlights RCEDC's progress toward its 2026 strategic plan goals during the first six months of the year and outlines our priorities for the balance of the year.

2021-2026 YTD

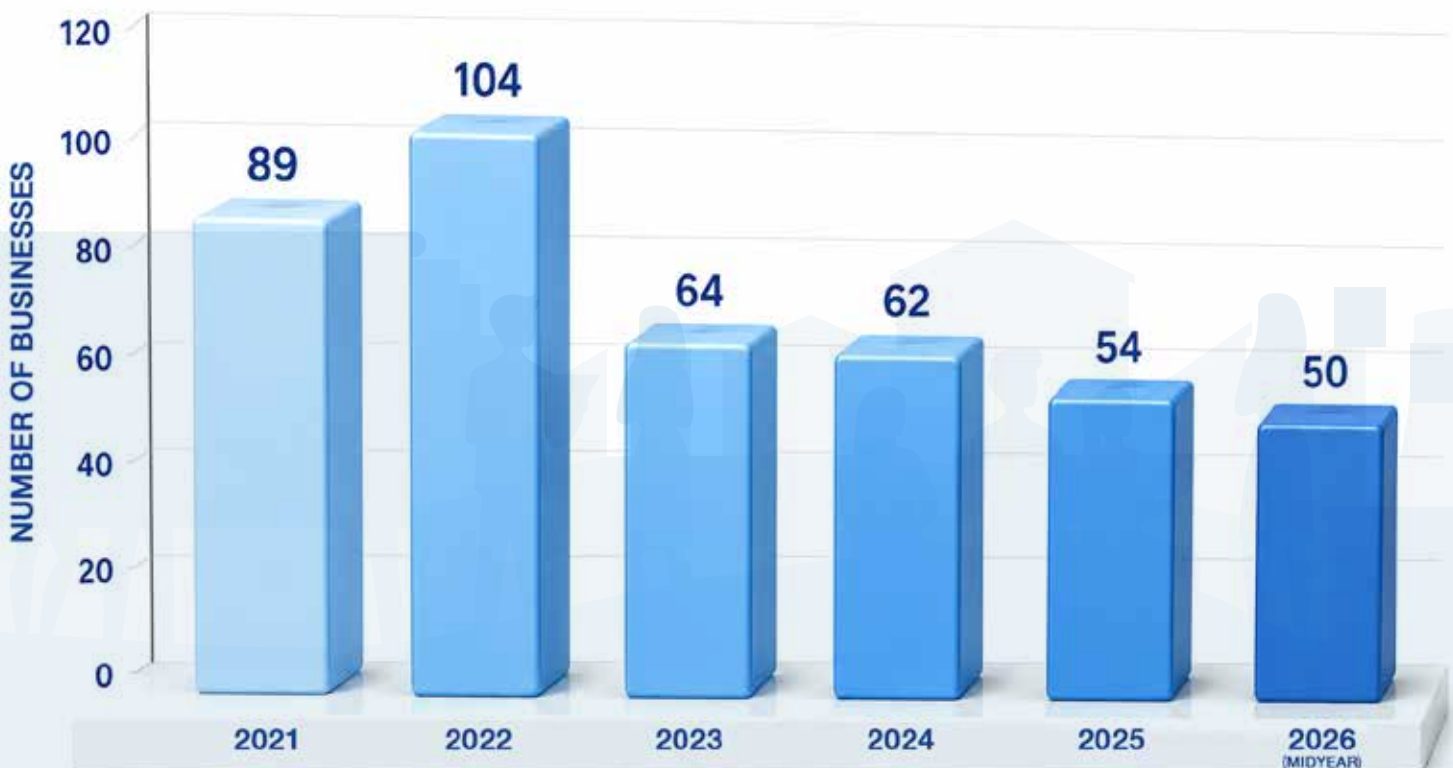
423 Businesses Assisted

\$2.1B Private Investment

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT (MID-YEAR)



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SPECIAL PROJECTS

Working in close partnership with each contract community, we provide hands-on economic development support tailored to local needs and priorities. This includes direct assistance with the following projects and initiatives designed to strengthen business growth, investment, and community development.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT (MID-YEAR)

Community	Description	Status
Burlington	Create and market micro grant program for Pine/Chestnut businesses affected by road construction	Completed
Burlington	Market Remaining parcels in TID 6	Ongoing
Burlington	Identify opportunity for future businesses park development	Ongoing
Caledonia	Support business recruitment for Hwy K and Caledonia Business Park	Ongoing
City of Racine	Engage with multi-family housing development prospects, providing site selection and supporting analysis for requested incentives	Ongoing
City of Racine	Assist City staff in the creation, assembly, distribution, and marketing for Request for Qualifications to attract development to priority sites	Completed
City of Racine	Provide technical assistance in support of priority redevelopment projects	Ongoing
Mount Pleasant	Support implementation of TID 5 Development	Ongoing
Mount Pleasant	Engage with housing development prospects, providing site selection assistance and supporting analysis review for requested incentives and creative financing programs	Ongoing
Sturtevant	Market Village-owned land	Ongoing
Union Grove	Work with CDA on downtown investment. Maintaining master list of vacant properties.	Ongoing
Waterford	Assist in the creation and implementation of development recruitment for key sites (mixed-use and business park)	Ongoing
Yorkville	Technical assistance to existing businesses with the goal of retention	Ongoing



BUSINESS ATTRACTION

To successfully attract businesses to Racine County, we remain in contact with the real estate and site selector community (representing multiple businesses seeking new locations) as well as design and implement outreach campaigns to businesses in northern Illinois.

BUSINESS ATTRACTION CAMPAIGNS

⇒ Northern Illinois

A campaign highlighting Racine County advantages and sites. Additional mailings planned.

⇒ Industrial Site Selectors and Real Estate Professionals

A campaign to focus on investment advantages and opportunities in Racine County

⇒ Housing Developers

A campaign to single-family and multi-family developers

TRENDS

- ⇒ **Prospect Activity.** Several projects slowed or stalled due to economic uncertainty related to tariffs and global conflicts. In comparison to last year, the 2026 business attraction activity is 20% less than in 2025.
- ⇒ **New construction investment** in 2026 is less than projected. With the amount of existing space available, businesses are choosing existing options vs constructing new facilities.
- ⇒ **Housing** continues to be a focus. Racine County leadership has asked for RCEDC's assistance in research, facilitating critical discussions, and preparing presentations to emphasize the need for more residential development, especially single-family for sale housing.

MAJOR PROJECT UPDATES

- ☐ **Microsoft's** first data center is now operational. Phase II vertical construction is underway. Site prep is taking place on additional Microsoft-owned land in Mount Pleasant.
- ☐ **Amazon** has secured a lease in Sturtevant to open a same-day distribution center which will include pharmacy and groceries.
- ☐ Through the purchase of an existing facility in Mount Pleasant, **Kedali America** will make a \$72 million capital investment and generate 246 new full time jobs.





BUSINESS EXPANSION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Racine County's existing businesses and entrepreneurs are the focus of this strategy. Through an extensive outreach effort, RCEDC staff identify opportunities to facilitate business expansion projects.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT (MID-YEAR)

⇒ Business Outreach

Through the RCEDC staff outreach activities to area business parks and downtown corridors, the following trends were heard

- Mixed business performance.
 - Growth in some manufacturers and logistics sectors.
 - Small business revenue growth is slowing or contracting.
- Rising costs affecting all businesses.
- Economic uncertainty slowing decisions on business investments.
- AI status. Businesses are assessing and experimenting before adopting a strategy.

⇒ Technical assistance

Inquiries for guidance on resources and information continue to be active. More than 20% of activity is related to entrepreneurs and small businesses.

⇒ Financing

- Businesses continue to seek financial assistance to reduce costs and preserve cash for operations.
- Local community loans remain in high demand, but dollars are limited.
- Businesses are using financing for business acquisition, real estate, and equipment purchases.
Limited use for new construction.
- Developed new programs to encourage new businesses in Racine (reduce vacancies) and Burlington (reduce construction impact).

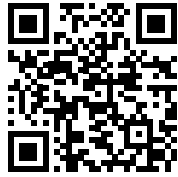
⇒ BizStarts Racine

Over 30 participants completed series.
Completed cohort #3 in May 2026.
Next cohort starts September 3.

ACTIVITY SUMMARY

YTD

Businesses Assisted	50
Business Visits	132
Technical Assistance	124
Loans in Portfolio with Racine County Businesses	216



TALENT ATTRACTION

Our work focuses on promoting Racine County as a great place to live and work through GreaterRacineCounty.com website.

- ⇒ Focused on **employer engagement** to continue awareness of Greater Racine County to support talent attraction efforts.
- ⇒ UW-Parkside **Presentation** to incoming students. ~120 participants
- ⇒ Intern Mixer for **Young Talent** with KABA. 32 Participants
- ⇒ Two businesses in Sturtevant issued **WARN notices**—CREE Lighting and UNFI. Supported Southeast Wisconsin Workforce Development Board Rapid Response effort to support those displaced.



LOOKING AHEAD

Our work continues to attract businesses and development, support business expansion and entrepreneurship, and promote Racine County to attract talent with a focus on the following priorities.

- ❑ Developing a new RCEDC strategic plan
- ❑ Continue the three campaigns to Northern Illinois, Site Selectors, and Housing Developers
- ❑ Continue outreach to existing businesses
- ❑ Support housing initiatives
- ❑ Launched BizStarts Cohort #4 on September 3.
- ❑ Promote and support 262 Founders Pitch, a regional business pitch competition.



2026 DASHBOARD

Goal All specialty areas will review existing programs, activities, communications, etc. to determine if programs and activities align with RCEDC priorities.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REPORT (MID-YEAR)

Mission Ensuring the economic vitality of Racine County by working with our partners to support innovation and creativity that leads to business investment.

	Measure	2026 Goal (Total)	2026 % of Target
	Total Businesses Assisted	59	85%
	Total Private Investment	\$160,000,000	93%
	Total Construction Investment	\$66,000,000	12%
	Total Jobs Created/Retained	365	153%
	Number of DBE Businesses Supported	40	80%

	Priority 1: Business Attraction	2026 Goal (Total)	2026 % of Target
a.	Number of Recruitment Campaigns Designed and Distributed (Industrial and Residential) (New in '26)	3	
b.	Recruitment Campaign Engagement % (New in '26)	30%	
c.	Number of Outreach Meetings and Events Completed	85	58%
d.	Number of Municipalities Providing Information on Available Land and Building Sites (New in '26)	8	38%
e.	Number of RFIs Received and Submitted	15	53%
f.	Number of Prospects	82	41%
g.	Number of Industrial and Residential Developments Approved	5	40%
h.	Total Private Investment of Approved Projects	\$106,000,000	101%
i.	Total Construction Value of Approved Projects	\$50,000,000	14%
j.	Total Jobs Created/Retained	200	173%

Priority 2: Business Expansion and Entrepreneurship		2026 Goal (Total)	2026 % of Target
a.	Number of Outreach Meetings and Events	326	40%
b.	Number of Technical Assistance Actions	217	57%
c.	Number of Prospects	130	68%
d.	Number of Loans, Grants, and Incentives approved	44	109%
e.	Total Value of Loans, Grants, and Incentives approved	\$17,591,200	67%
f.	Total Private Investment of Approved Projects	\$54,000,000	78%
g.	Total Construction Value of Approved Projects	\$16,000,000	5%
h.	Total Jobs Created/Retained	165	128%
i.	Number of Loans and Grants Closed/\$ Value	50/ \$20,000,000	86%/32%
j.	Number of BizStarts Graduates	10	Q3 '26

Priority 3: Talent Attraction		2026 Goal (Total)	2026 % of Target
a.	Funding opportunities pursued to promote Racine County (NEW in '26)	1	0%
b.	Number of talent focused events, includes co-hosted events and events with colleges, high schools, and employers (Updated for '26)	7	86%
c.	Lead Employer Participation in 3 or more GRC Activities	50%	146%

Priority 4: Grow our Relationships and Explore New Opportunities		2026 Goal (Total)	2026 % of Target
a.	Explore opportunities to increase engagement of RCEDC's Leadership Council	75% attendance at 4 Council Meetings	96%
b.	Seek and secure diverse volunteers for RCEDC's committees, boards and councils	25%	352%
c.	Maintain active engagement with area chambers of commerce and nonprofit partners	12 presentations/ 74 referrals	66% / 43%



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