



TANEY COUNTY PARTNERSHIP

City of Branson Quarterly Update, November 1, 2019

Mayor and members of the Board of Alderman: Below is a topical review of the Partnership's activities from my last update to you through July 2019. Please contact me with any questions or concerns and if you would like more information as a group, or individually.

Partners: No new Business Sector investors since Skoglund Hospitality joined earlier in 2019. The number of Public Partners is 10 and Business Sector is 30.

Projects: (10/10 Project Activity Report) Housing projects have been garnered a lot of attention over the last few months with several projects seeking funding from the Missouri Housing Development Commission and the Missouri Department of Economic Development. We are currently assisting and tracking 26 active, 7 inactive (no activity within last 90 days). Out of the 26 active projects, 15 are within the city limits of Branson. The cumulative industry breakdowns are as follows:

Manufacturing/Wholesale	5
Financial/Business Services	0
Medical Services/Healthcare	1
Supply Chain Management	1
IT/Innovation	1
Tourism/Retail/Lodging	17
Agriculture/Forestry	0
Housing	10

2018-2021 TCP Action Plan: The formal Business Retention & Expansion (BR&E) program was launched in the third quarter in collaboration with Branson/Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce staff. Branded "The Business Pulse," forty-one BR&E surveys have been completed with business owners or senior management. Goals of the program are to gather data from the business community on the issues they are dealing with in the market. So far, some consistent feedback has centered around access to labor and talent, which should not come as a surprise. We will be aggregating the data and reporting on the findings early in 2020.

CWRC: Updated National Career Readiness Certificates and maintenance goals can be seen below, and more information accessed at <http://www.workreadycommunities.org/MO/213>.

Maintaining Goals ¹

Workforce	Goals	Actual NCRC
Emerging	374	363
Current	74	155
Transitioning	359	343
	Goals	Actual
Improved Certificates	14	1

Employer Supporting Goals

Employers supporting	140
¹ New and reaffirming employers support goal	96
¹ New and reaffirming employers support actual	37

Site Selectors/Consultants: We have completed six site selection consultant missions so far in 2019 with the Missouri Partnership and met with agencies and consultants in Dallas, Los Angeles, Phoenix, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Chicago and Detroit to educate them on the unique assets of Taney County and expand their awareness of what our communities have to offer their clients. The Mountain Complex, Branson Airport and Meadows Business Park are marketable assets that could compete for the right projects. We've had 90 individual consultant contacts representing 58 agencies and organizations. We have hosted nine site visits to-date in 2019.

Workforce Development: Our team, along with Chamber and CVB staff, is planning the 4th Annual Summer Work Travel Community Support Group Summit (J1) which will be held in Branson on November 12-15. We did have a small increase in J-1 visa students in the Branson market in 2019 and we expect another sizable increase in 2020 based off early indications from employers and sponsors. Housing inventory remains a challenge in the

efforts to grow the J-1 and other programs. We completed two Puerto Rico talent attraction trips in 2019, in February and August, with over 130 job openings filled with seasonal labor for the hospitality industry and full-time positions for regional healthcare providers.

Housing: The 2018 Taney County Comprehensive Housing Study was presented to the community by RDg Planning and Design in March and is now available for view and download at TaneyCountyPartnership.com under the DATA tab. We have added 10 new housing projects to the pipeline since the release of the housing study with 5 of the 10 inside the city limits of Branson. These projects represent over 600 new single and multi-family units with the majority qualifying as “affordable workforce” housing.

Data and Information: The quarterly economic overviews are available through our subscription with Chmura Economics and their JobsEQ platform and are sent to the city administrator and planning and development director. We have access to local reports and analytics on economic development, education and workforce that we are happy to share with partners, prospects and community stakeholders. Those reports and some of the information can be found at OnPointMO.com and TaneyCountyPartnership.com.

Thank you for your continued support and participation with the TCP!

Jonas Arjes, CEcD, EDFP
Executive Director
Taney County Partnership
Executive Vice President/Chief Economic Development Officer
Branson/Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce & CVB