



TANEY COUNTY PARTNERSHIP

City of Branson Quarterly Update, August 1, 2019 (as of 7/16)

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: Skoglund Hospitality is the sole new investor in 2019. The number of Public Partners is 10 and Business Sector is 30.

Projects: (7/11 Project Activity Report) Interest in the market continues to be strong measured by the volume of calls and requests for data and information. We are currently assisting and tracking 27 active, 5 inactive (no activity within last 90 days). Out of the 27 active projects, 15 are within the city limits of Branson. The cumulative industry breakdowns are as follows:

Manufacturing/Wholesale	3
Financial/Business Services	0
Medical Services/Healthcare	1
Supply Chain Management	1
IT/Innovation	1
Tourism/Retail/Lodging	16
Agriculture/Forestry	0
Housing	11

2018-2021 TCP Action Plan: The TCP board approved the 2019-2021 Action Plan in November. The new strategic/action plan will narrow the measured areas of focus to Business/Industry Attraction & Marketing, Business Retention & Expansion and Workforce Development. We will continue to work on and support efforts in Small Business & Entrepreneurial Development and provide Project Management services when requested. All plan activities will be tied to the overall foundation of "asset-based development" while leveraging the strengths of the market and unique assets within Taney County. Success indicators and reporting metrics will include jobs created and retained as well as capital investment.

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	153
Transitioning	359	333
	Goals	Actual
Improved Certificates	14	1

Employer Supporting Goals

Employers supporting	121
¹ New and reaffirming employers support goal	96
¹ New and reaffirming employers support actual	46

Business Retention & Expansion: As part of the 2019-2021 Action Plan, we launched a formalized BR&E program in the second quarter. Branded as The Business Pulse, we will be working with chamber staff to hold meetings with businesses to gather information on business climate, challenges and successes. The information will be used to help drive programming, legislative efforts and any other issues identified. Initial meetings are occurring with the goal of having 80 meetings per year once up and fully running in 2020.

Site Selectors/Consultants: We have completed five 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 and Chicago to educate them on the unique assets of Taney County and expand their awareness of what our communities have to offer their clients. We've had 71 individual consultant contacts representing 45 agencies and organizations. We have hosted 5 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 in November. We did have a small increase in J-1 visa students in the market for 2018 and we expect another sizable increase in 2019 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 our first of two Puerto Rico talent attraction trips planned for 2019 in February with over 100 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, commissioned by the Taney County Partnership, 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 7 new housing projects to the pipeline since the release of the housing study with 4 of the 7 inside the city limits of Branson. These projects represent 553 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!

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