

The Springfield Transportation Empowerment Project

Economic Community Development
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The Economic Community Development Council (ECDC) is a 501(c)(3) whose mission is to create long-term social and economic change for low-income residents of the Springfield community. ECDC has operated for over 25 years in the Springfield area and has launched several community economic development ventures using nonprofit, private, and governmental funding sources.

For many years, Springfield has been one of the statistically poorest communities in the United States. According to the most recent US Census estimates, 23% of Springfield residents live below the Federal poverty level, the unemployment rate is 19%, and 42% of adults do not have a high school diploma.

Though Springfield has experienced significant population growth over the past decade, the city lacks the commercial infrastructure and skilled workforce to expand existing businesses or support new enterprise. Most individuals are only able to obtain unskilled labor positions that lack a living wage or long-term stability.

ECDC is requesting \$900,000 from OCS's CED grant to implement the Springfield Transportation Empowerment Project. This project will take place solely in New Hampshire, where there is not currently a CED or JOLI project. This initiative will create 75 new full-time positions (\$12,000 per job). These jobs will be created by ECDC Truck Driving Authority (TDA), a workforce subdivision of ECDC. TDA will create 65 new jobs, 45 will be full-time truck driver positions and 20 will be administrative/support positions. Additionally, ECDC will provide specialized training and technical assistance and loan dollars to existing Springfield trucking businesses to increase capacity and create an additional ten jobs. Of these 75 new jobs, at least 65 will go to TANF participants. In addition to job creation, ECDC will use OCS funding to develop an educational revolving loan fund to offer program participants CDL truck driving training courses. ECDC's partner, Strongforth CDL Training School, will run these courses. The purpose of the educational training will not only be to create more high-paying wage positions, but also give participants the capabilities to qualify for long-term skilled positions within Springfield's emerging transportation industry.

The \$900,000 request will cover all project start-up expenses, subsidize the trucking business's operations for the first five years, and develop a revolving educational loan fund. Beyond OCS funding, ECDC will leverage \$200,000 from community investments. By the conclusion of the grant period, the business will be self-sustainable. ECDC will also use existing funding from the Small Business Administration (SBA), the US Treasury Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund, the Springfield Department of Development, and the Jefferson County Economic Development and Planning Department to supplement the activities and increase the impact of the project.



Organization description



Demographic information of target population
Existing community barriers



How project will overcome community barriers



Feasibility of project