



DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION



CHOOSE GREATER >
PEORIA

THE BIG TABLE : COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDS)

GREATER PEORIA REGIONAL PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS

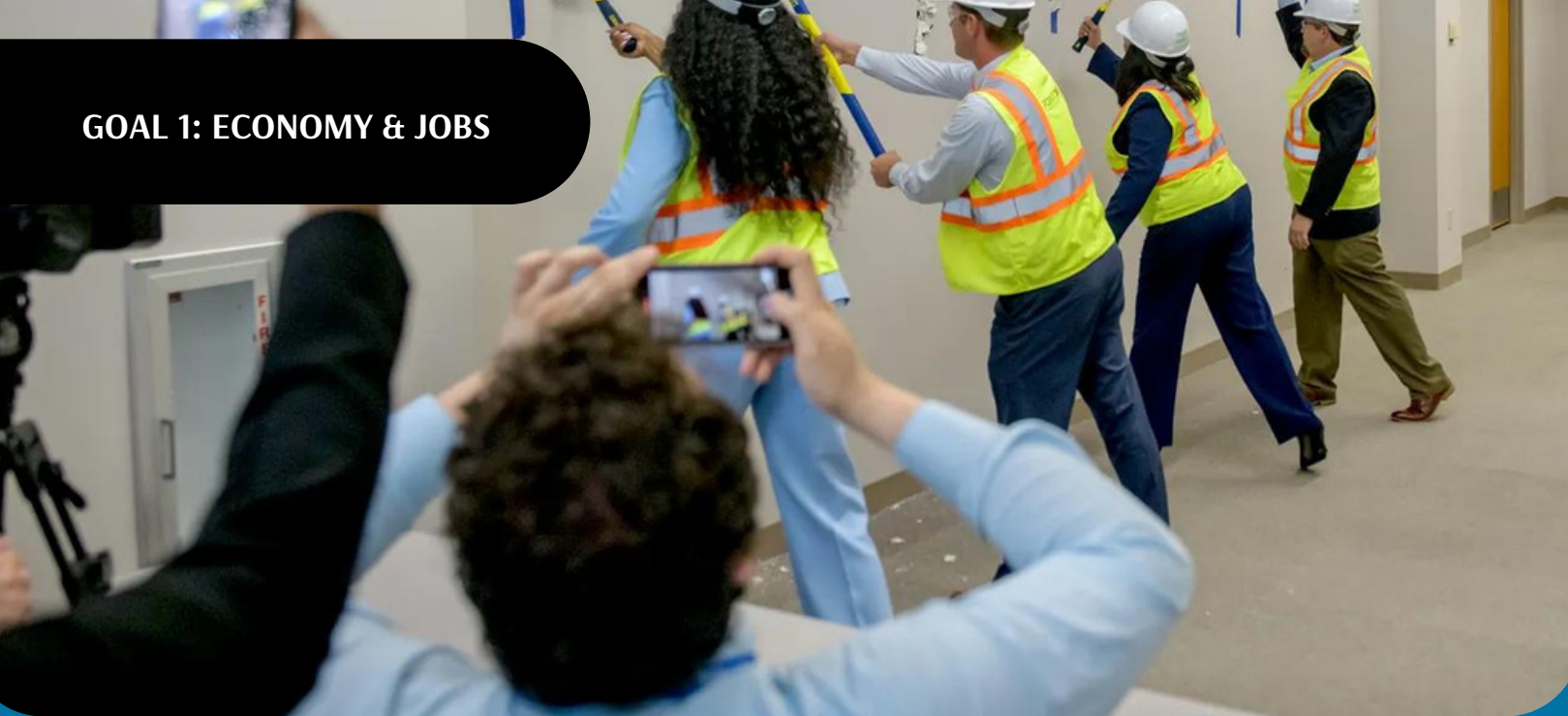
2023 Edition



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- The Racial Justice and Equity Commission published a report that presented a critical analysis of racial disparities within Peoria County.
- The City of Peoria initiated a strategic planning process that accentuated the importance of diversity and inclusion.
- The Minority Business Development Center expanded its offerings and provided comprehensive programs for business startups within the minority population.
- Peoria County allocated funds to support under-represented business founders through the Start A Business GP micro-grant initiative.

GOAL 1: ECONOMY & JOBS



- Construction of Distillery Labs began and a new Executive Director was hired.
- Bradley University partnered with TMobile to create a Digitally Connected Campus.
- Peoria County and Tazewell communities launched online dashboards to help guide startups; Peoria County created a micro-grant program.
- HOI Port District Authority operationalizes and starts the Port Master Plan project.
- Local network of partners helped businesses receive \$4.7M in COVID relief grants.
- Illinois Defense Manufacturing Communities Consortium focussed on improving local manufacturing.
- Hosted a site selector familiarization tour to advance opportunities in biomedical manufacturing.
- Launched Soft Landing GP to help attract and support the relocation of foreign startups.

GOAL 2: WORKFORCE

- Developed the IT Workforce Accelerator with the EDA Good Jobs Challenge grant funding.
- Launched Choose Greater Peoria talent attraction campaign with significant private financial support.
- ICC's Workforce Sustainability Center opened on its East Peoria campus.
- CareerSpark provided over 4,000 eighth-grade students with hands-on career exploration, and You're Hired connected over 5,000 high school students with career information.
- Initiated Talent Pipeline Management process to improve workforce in manufacturing.



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GOAL 3: QUALITY OF PLACE



- Greater Peoria Tailgater celebrated Peoria's riverfront and showcased Greater Peoria assets.
- Peoria County initiated construction on a new \$15M health & community services campus.
- Renovations began at Carle's Trillium Place for a new behavioral health facility for youth.
- OSF neared completion of its Cancer Therapy Center and announced a new in-patient behavioral health facility.
- Continued progress on bringing passenger rail from Chicago to the region.
- Just Transitions Fund provides grants to help expand broadband planning and readiness.
- RISE Summit showcased the region and provided leadership development for young professionals.

GOAL 4: NATURAL RESOURCES

- First annual meeting of the Illinois Waterways Ports Commission held in Peoria.
- Volunteers developed www.peoriaoutdooradventures.org to catalog natural recreation opportunities.
- Peoria AgLab continued research into commercial applications for local crops such as corn and soybeans.
- Lincoln Public Schools implemented a farm-to-school initiative to integrate locally sourced produce.
- Laid the groundwork for applying for a regional brownfield assessment grant.
- The HOI Regional Port District continued investigating financial pathways to bolster river conservation initiatives.

