

STRENGTHENING STARK

The Strengthening Stark report was developed by Stark Community Foundation on behalf of the Stark Civic Group, an informal group of leaders representing all sectors of Stark County. Upon completion of the report, which examined the demographic and economic trends and projections of our county, the Stark Economic Development Board (SEDB) was asked to lead the creation of a county-wide plan.

The Strengthening Stark Economic Competitiveness Plan, made up of 7 focus areas and 37 initiatives, is aimed at transforming Stark County from a smaller, older and poorer community into a larger, younger and more prosperous community.

Economic development entities and community partners from across the county have assumed responsibility for much of the plan's development, and SEDB will oversee measuring the progress of the plan and communicating that progress to the community.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Middle School Students

Work with us to determine how you can learn about career options that may be well suited for you.

High School / College Students

Learn about your career options and select the best path for you: 2-year college, 4-year university, trades, union apprenticeship, etc. Start to engage with local businesses by signing up for an internship.

Parents

Learn about the career options that are best for your children and help them make positive choices.

Employers and Business Owners

Work with the Strengthening Stark team to develop an exclusive pipeline into our schools by hiring interns and speaking to students about your business and industry. Contact us if you need help evolving your business through innovation and entrepreneurial thinking.

Elected Officials

Gain clarity on how your respective municipality can tie into the overall Strengthening Stark effort.

Community Enthusiasts

Join our leadership group and help us maximize our impact. Special call out to minority and female leaders.

Nonprofit and Community Leaders

Join our efforts and see how we can collectively drive even greater impact.

330-453-5900

info@strengthstark.com

A NEED FOR

CHANGE.

A NEED FOR

STRENGTH.

Strengthening STARK

A CALL FOR ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

STRENGTHENING STARK ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS PLAN

1	Program Governance	Deliver a high degree of programmatic impact and ensure long-term program sustainability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance protocols • Management toolset • Program funding pathways • Economic data portal
2	Workforce and Talent	Better prepare the workforce and employers to help raise the average household income of Stark County residents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accurate job listings • Compensation benchmarking • Navigator911 • Career coach program • Career maps • Ongoing educational pathways • Career exposure and introduction • Internships • Mentoring • Minority priorities • Career counselor coordination • Leadership development
3	Business Growth	Help sustain and grow local companies so that they can add meaningful, living-wage jobs in the community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business retention and expansion • Business911 • Business educational series • Chamber consortium (speaker series)
4	Targeted Industry Development	Expand the core industry clusters in Stark County such that higher-wage jobs are added to the economy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic business attraction • Hall of Fame Village programming • Food manufacturing and processing • Metal manufacturing • Petrochemicals • Hospitality and tourism
5	Entrepreneurship and Innovation	Increase the deal flow of innovation-based, high-growth, high-wage startups across the county.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impactful entrepreneurship resource catalog • Innovation District • Targeted cluster-based innovation • Creative industry development (ArtsinStark) • Culture promotion: Shark Tank, Corporate Innovation contest
6	Infrastructure Development	Attract private, federal and state investments so that the county has the infrastructure to support high-wage businesses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broadband • Transportation • CIC Integration • Site development and marketing (Land Bank, etc.)
7	Engagement and Advocacy	Engage with citizens and leaders to help them understand what steps they can take to pursue their enlightened self interest.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community engagement • Business engagement • Advocacy (benefits cliff, education requirements)