



Grand Rapids Economic Development Authority

2026 Work Plan

* Results of Issue Identification and Ranking			* Desired Outcomes/Work Approach/Schedule			
Issue/Task/Work Item	Role	Term (years) Short 1-2 Med. 3-5 Long 6+	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Industry Advancement/Support						
Ensure an adequate inventory of industrial sites and facilities exist to accommodate full industrial, warehousing & distribution business expansion and relocation potential.	Lead	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Complete as needed due diligence to ensure sites are "shovel-ready".Scope out development costs for future industrial park expansion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Continue efforts to secure land for expansion of the Airport South Industrial Park.		
Continue to work with HWY 35 on current and future development opportunities.	Lead	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Collaborate with HWY 35 on efforts focused on workforce attraction.Work with spinoff developments/businesses interested in a Grand Rapids location.Work with HWY 35 to develop a plan for development of the undeveloped portion of their site.Investigate opportunities for the development of a spec industrial building with support from IRRR.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Collaborate with GRPUC on the possible expansion of the adjacent Tioga electrical sub-station.		

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Industry Advancement/Support						
Pursue strategic property acquisitions in key commercial, industrial, and residential areas.	Lead	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In addition to the strategic acquisition of commercial and industrial sites, review the current inventory of land available for leasing and determine if there is a need for GREDA to secure a site or sites. 			
Take proactive steps to ensure that Grand Rapids can both position itself to attract new, emerging industries and sustain its current industries	Lead	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue work to re-establish 48C Tax Credit eligibility for the Grand Rapids industrial parks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate with and advocate for the GRPUC's development of competitive industrial utility rates and make that information readily available to prospective industries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet with existing large industrial employers to discuss potential impacts of the impending Boswell Energy decommissioning. Support efforts to revise sulfate standards. 	
Support business retention and attraction by leading and partnering in efforts focused on workforce recruitment, workforce development and childcare availability.	Lead & Partner	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in the Iron Range working group assembled to explore use of the recently expanded Federal Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit program, Section 45F. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interview major employers to document challenges experienced in recruiting workforce. Issue an RFP seeking professional assistance with specific expertise in developing a workforce recruitment plans/strategies for like positioned rural communities. Begin and implement of the plan. 		

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Industry Advancement/Support						
Lead and partner in initiatives addressing housing shortages.	Lead & Partner	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advance the redevelopment of the former ISD 318 Admin. building site in collaboration with the Itasca County HRA. Support local development interest in the development of a multi-family cooperative housing development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with housing developers, area employers, MN IRRR, MHFA, GMHF and Blandin Foundation to incentivize and remove financial barriers for projects. Support 2026 applications to MHFA Housing Tax Credit program for Grand Rapids projects. 	 	
Provide as needed support for wood product industries.	Lead	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue ongoing regular communications with Blandin Paper management regarding as needed assistance. 	 		
Transportation/Logistics						
Continue to advocate for highway transportation route improvements to improve linkages between Grand Rapids and the interstate and the Duluth Port.	Lead	L		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet with Yanmar, Blandin, L&M and other major employers that use this transportation corridor to understand their current and future needs. Continue to explore funding/opportunities for a transportation study to document need for improvements. 	 	

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Redevelopment & Downtown						
Continue implementation of the Downtown Plan	Lead	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide continued support to the newly established Downtown Alliance. Utilize the Blandin Foundation grant funds to help the Alliance achieve two significant goals in their three-year plan. Those being the planning and implementation of pedestrian wayfinding and the implementation of Downtown branding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist with the redevelopment of downtown sites, specifically the Pluemers Building, GREDA lots and Block 36 (Free Range Food Co-op) Continue to market the Downtown Mandated Building Improvement Loan and the Commercial Building Improvement Loan programs. 		
Continue implementation of the Hwy. 2 Land Use and Development Study	Lead	S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure funds and complete the demolition of the former Farm Service Cooperative building and market the site for development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to pursue the acquisition of other key redevelopment sites along the corridor. Support private redevelopment efforts. 		