Economic Development Organizations Serving NWCT

Northwest Hills Council of Governments (public)

Northwest Connecticut Economic Development Corporation (public-private)

Chamber of Commerce of Northwest Connecticut (private)

2013 CEDS

2016 US EDA Economic Development District Designation
Quick facts- NWCT Region

• # of residents in workforce: approx. **60,000**
• # of jobs in NWCT: **37,800**
• Decrease in # of jobs from 2000-2014: **2%**
• % of the region’s residents that work outside the NHCOG region: **51%**
• Regional average unemployment rate: **5.1%**
• Self employment rate: **15.7%**
Top 5 Largest Industry Shares (2015)
Connecticut and NWCT Region

Source: CT DOL
Economic Clusters (2015)
Employment By Connecticut and Region

Source: EMSI
CEDS Strategies

1. Grow jobs in **agriculture**: NWCT Food HUB
2. Market and redevelop vacant industrial sites, **former mills**, brownfields
3. Regional **arts/culture/tourism** marketing
4. Career oriented education and **workforce training**
5. Regional **infrastructure** plan: NWCONNnect
6. Expand **advanced manufacturing**
7. **Small business** support: 8-town shared ED services
8. Complete Streets
9. Fit Together
NWCT Job growth highlights

- Manufacturers Coalition
  - Oliver Wolcott Technical High School
  - Northwest Community College
- FuelCell Energy
  - employs 538 people in State,
  - plans to add up to 325 additional jobs
- Becton Dickenson (syringes)
  - employs more than 350 people, consistently hiring
- RBC – (ball bearings)
  - have almost doubled their workforce over last 10 yrs (110 to 217)
  - 30% of employees are over 60 yrs old (hard to find replacements when they retire)
- Dymax (advanced light curable adhesives)
  - added 122 jobs over last 3 years
NWCT needs for job growth

• Capacity for ED organizations to implement CEDS strategies
  • Funding to build capacity

• High speed fiber optic broadband + cell service
  • NWCONNnect and RPI grant

• Establish a date to sunset the onerous hospital provider tax and provide for adequate funding through the state’s Medicaid program to ensure financial viability of our hospitals, which are major employers and important economic drivers.