

In the years that led up to 2015 – 2020. Northern Arizona Council of Governments (NACOG) Economic Development District identified additional opportunities and challenges in the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs).

The facts below are found in the Strategy that includes a 2018 Revision, created the YAVAPAI COUNTY LOCAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PLAN. It's mission is "Serving, Solving, Sustaining" The Yavapai County Workforce Development Area acknowledged the following for their contributions and efforts in the development of this Plan: Yavapai County Board of Supervisors, Yavapai County Workforce Development Board, among others. Here is the link to the entire document <https://nacog.org/filelibrary/UPDATED%20Yav%20Co%20LWDA%20Plan%20103118%20FINAL%20DRAFT.pdf>

The **challenges** in the Yavapia County Plan discovered in this reporting were as follows:

- Water availability depletion and quality
- Qualified Workers
- Disparity of the quality career and technical education Countywide
- Health care access
- Physician care
- Out-migration of labor
- Providing adequate services to meet the needs of a growing senior population
- Lack of public transportation; very limited
- Retired people left their capital elsewhere
- Lack of north-south redundant route to I-17 in case of road closures
- Cordes Junction industrialization; displacement of rental properties
- Expansion of group homes
- No bonds for 18 months
- Lack of broadband capability

From the Yavapai report: "Other barriers identified for Yavapai County residents is annual wages do not match or support the cost of living. Yavapai County residents historically earn at least 10% less than the state median wage. Public transit is not widely available throughout the County. Low income housing opportunities are sparse. " They go on to say, that the planning staff performed a comprehensive analysis of the County's Economic Conditions. "The analysis revealed slight changes to our unemployment rate; our current rate is 4.6%.<sup>1</sup> According to Emsi and the Arizona Commerce Authority, Yavapai County overall population has grown to 228,236, a 7.5% increase since 2012. Prescott, our County seat, takes 1st place for the highest number of jobs in the County, while Prescott Valley takes the top spot for workforce residency. Emsi demonstrates job growth at 14.% or 9,570 new jobs over the last 5 years and 7,877 predicted net new jobs over the next 5 years – a 45% increase. <sup>2</sup> Keeping pace with Yavapai County job growth, the Local Workforce Development Area (LWDA) has demonstrated a 97% increase in total clients served for placement and training in 2017-2018. The median wage increased to \$46,638 – 9% over the median wage for 2015-16. <sup>3</sup> We continue to struggle with a healthy balance between average wage and high cost of living." in conclusion.

Here are the **OPPORTUNITIES** they list in Yavapai County: \*\*\*the RRRCA Community Plan is quoted below. A link to the Community Plan can be found on the [Elrojograndesedona.com](http://Elrojograndesedona.com) website

- · Agriculture water wells are available in Chino Valley to support agriculture\
- · Historic redevelopment
- · Perennial free-flowing Verde River and wetlands
  - · Arts and culture
- · JTED. (*JTED is a Joint Technical Education District in Yavapai County and has a policy of nondiscrimination in relation to race, color, religion, gender, age, national origin, language of origin, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or marital status. Rojo Grande has all of the elements of discrimination. Google*)
- · Post-secondary educational institutions providing specialized training to support employers
- · Agriculture and a multi-million dollar meat-processing plant in Chino Valley
- · Exceptional hospitals and medical care
- · Affluent retirees and in-migration of young families
- · Entrepreneurialism
- · Abundance of privately held land (*NOT SO IN SEDONA In the Red Rock area 75% of the land is managed by Coconino National Forest. Only 20% is privately owned. The remaining acreage is designated as state land. The Dry Creek Conservation area contains 38 square miles of which only 4% is privately owned and the remainder is U. S. Forest Service Land. 89A Corridor is bisected by the state highway. The city of Sedona now uses some of the 58 acreage from the Forest Service for its sewage treatment plant. Recently developed ponds from the reclaimed water have attracted bird life. Private lands in that area are made up of manufactured homes and an adjacent ranch. RRRCA ) This ranch is El Rojo Grande Ranch and it sits on top of Dry Creek a tributary to the Arizona protected water way of Oak Creek, all part of Arizona's few Riparian Corridor.*)
- · Strong supply chain
- · Manufacturing in the area
- · Regional economic development collaborations
- · BNSF Railway and public switching facilities
- · Strong Workforce Development system
- · Tourism and recreation (*Each of the three neighborhoods that make up the community, which the county designates as the Red Rock/89A Corridor/Dry Creek Conservation area, has unique features. But the overall concerns of all the neighborhood are the same as they were 22 years ago. We give the highest priority to the riparian areas of Oak Creek and Dry Creek. They are our most vulnerable resource and their protection is paramount. They are essential to wildlife and plants. And of equal importance the scenic vistas, and the undisturbed beauty of the area must be preserved for once encroached upon they will have vanished. These two values should guide responsible development. RRRCA*)
- · Advanced aviation; airport expansion
- · State Route 260 development

