



TANEY COUNTY PARTNERSHIP

City of Branson Quarterly Update, September 11, 2018

Mayor and members of the Board of Alderman: Below is a topical review of the Partnership's activities from my last update to you through August 2018. Please contact me with any questions or concerns and if you would like more information as a group, or individually.

Partners: We have no new partners to-date in 2018. Public Partners are holding at 10 and the number of Business Sector Partners is 29.

Projects: We are currently assisting and tracking 23 active projects and 2 inactive projects (no activity within last 90 days). Out of the 23 active projects, 14 are within the city limits of Branson. The industry breakdowns are as follows:

Manufacturing/Wholesale	4
Financial/Business Services	1
Medical Services/Healthcare	2
Supply Chain Management	0
IT/Innovation	1
Tourism/Retail/Lodging	13
Agriculture/Forestry	0
Housing	4

Marketing Strategy and Development: The 2018 "Missouri: Making.Growing.Moving" special edition of Site Selection Magazine was released in June with an editorial piece on Taney County. The messaging centered around "quality of place" and "open for business" and complements the 2018 Imagine Branson publication which is now available in Spanish. Imagine Branson serves as a relocation guide and provides information for workforce and economic development. With our limited inventory of shovel-ready sites and industrial space, our ability to compete for more traditional economic development projects is challenging even before you factor in labor quality and supply issues. Other challenges include the lack of rail service, limited natural gas and the availability and locations of excess water and sewer capacity. Infrastructure improvements and expansions will assist in raising our competitive profile and help in attracting more diverse and year-round job opportunities. Due to changes in ownership of multiple parcels, Branson Commerce Park no longer qualifies for the Missouri Certified Site program and that designation has expired.

CWRC: We received our Governor’s Proclamation dated July 23, 2018. Taney County is officially an ACT Certified Work Ready Community. Updated National Career Readiness Certificates and maintenance goals can be seen below, and more information accessed at <http://www.workreadycommunities.org/MO/213>.

Maintaining Goals ⓘ

Workforce	Goals	Actual NCRC
Emerging	374	299
Current	74	130
Transitioning	359	309
	Goals	Actual
Improved Certificates	14	1

Employer Supporting Goals

Employers supporting	115
ⓘ New and reaffirming employers support goal	96
ⓘ New and reaffirming employers support actual	28

Website: The Hispanics Workforce Coalition will launch the Spanish version of the OnPointMO Community Resource website by the end of the year. The quarterly economic overviews are available through our subscription with Chmura Economics and their JobsEQ platform and are sent to the city administrator and planning and development director. We are able to run reports and analytics on economic development, education and workforce that we are happy to share with partners, prospects and community stakeholders. Those reports and some of the information can be found at OnPointMO.com and TaneyCountyPartnership.com.

Site Selectors/Consultants: We have completed three site selection consultant missions in 2018 with the Missouri Partnership and met with agencies and consultants in Columbus, Indianapolis, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C. and New York City to educate them on the unique assets of Taney County and expand their awareness of what our communities have to offer their clients. We've had 52 consultant contacts and hosted six site visits in 2018.

Workforce Development: At the time of this report, our team has just returned from Puerto Rico for the third of three planned recruitment trips in 2018. We had six regional employers participate on this last trip. Seasonal labor for the hospitality industry remains a focus, and employment needs in healthcare, specifically nursing, has also been added to the Puerto Rico recruitment efforts. Initial numbers from the J-1 program exceeded 2017 numbers earlier in the year, but we expect to match, or slightly surpass, the 750 J-1 students hosted in the market in 2017. The availability of housing has improved with the opening of Plato's Cave (former Days Inn property). The TCP has commissioned a comprehensive housing study for Taney County which will be completed by the first quarter of 2019.

Thank you for your continued support and participation with the TCP!

Jonas Arjes, CEcD, EDFP
Executive Director
Taney County Partnership