

ATTRACT.
EXPAND.
GROW.

The REDI collaboration works to attract, expand and grow businesses that provide quality, sustainable jobs in Columbia and Boone County, Missouri. REDI brings together the City of Columbia, Boone County, the University of Missouri and other educational institutions, regional and state economic development agencies, and the private sector to attract new businesses, retain and expand existing businesses, and foster a strong entrepreneurial ecosystem for business start-ups and emerging technologies. REDI's goal is to promote positive economic growth in Boone County while maintaining our exceptional quality of life.



Regional Economic Development Inc.

IEDC ACCREDITED

REDI Highlights

Swift Prepared Foods

Swift Prepared Foods is a consumer packaged goods company focusing on protein-centric prepared foods in both private label and branded offerings. The consumer packaged goods company announced the project to build an Italian meats and charcuterie production facility in August 2020. The company scouted multiple locations for the new \$200 million facility, and executives chose Columbia because of the city's strategic location, business-friendly environment, and the ability to access raw material and leverage synergies with existing strategic assets. This facility will employ more than 250 people and offer full-time positions with benefits. REDI facilitated the project from proposal through site visits and selection, as well as the Chapter 100 Revenue Bonds incentive process.

Aurora Organic Dairy

Aurora Organic Dairy began production in 2019 at its newly constructed \$106 million fluid milk processing facility in Columbia. Aurora purchased the Missouri Certified Sutter Industrial Site in Columbia for a plant that initially created 100 jobs. A planned expansion will bring an additional \$50 million investment and create 50 additional jobs. REDI facilitated the project from proposal through site visits and selection, as well as the Chapter 100 Revenue Bonds incentive process.

American Outdoor Brands

American Outdoor Brands (AOB) completed construction on its \$70 million national distribution center in Boone County in 2018. As of December 2019 the facility housed 340 workers, with 72 jobs newly created by AOB. REDI facilitated the site selection and Chapter 100 Revenue Bonds incentive process.

Kraft Heinz Modernization

Kraft Heinz is in the sixth year of its Chapter 100 Revenue Bonds program to finance a \$100 million expansion and modernization of its Columbia Foods plant, retaining 350 local employees. REDI worked with Kraft Heinz to secure the bonds and to retain the plant, the sole plant manufacturing Oscar Mayer hot dogs in the U.S., and its jobs for the Columbia community.

EquipmentShare

EquipmentShare, an equipment and digital solutions provider serving the construction industry, announced the launch of its nationwide employee wellness initiatives and the opening of a state-of-the-art employee gym facility located at its headquarters in Columbia. The company, which was recently featured on Forbes' list of 2021 Best American Startup Employers employs more than 2,300 team members, with over 500 employees located in Missouri.

Beyond Meat

Beyond Meat, a plant-based food company developed from research at the University of Missouri, recently tripled its production footprint in Columbia. Beyond Meat launched a successful initial public offering in May 2019, and in June 2020 announced its expansion into European markets. In January 2021, Pepsico announced it is forming a partnership with Beyond Meat to develop, produce and market snacks and beverages made from plant-based protein. Beyond Meat was a successful REDI attraction project in 2012.

ABC Laboratories Chapter 100 Completion Summary

ABC Labs was the first company to make use of Boone County's Chapter 100 Revenue Bond program, as an incentive to build a new facility in Boone County rather than relocating to another community. At the end of its abatement period in 2018, ABC Labs had paid a total of \$3,674,670.87 in payments in lieu of taxes and non-abated real and personal property taxes to our local taxing districts; and had 370 employees, exceeding its job retention and creation requirement of 274 jobs. These jobs, funds collected and all future taxes collected from ABC Labs (now owned by Eurofins BioPharma Product Testing) would have been received by another community without the Boone County Chapter 100 Revenue Bond program as an incentive.

On Site Resources

REDI collaborates with the City of Columbia Supplier Diversity Program, the Missouri Women's Business Center, the Missouri Procurement Technical Assistance Center and the U.S. Small Business Administration to house offices and offer services at REDI.

Coaches' Cohort

A group of more than fifteen local coaches with a strong history in entrepreneurship have coalesced around REDI's Hub, the Missouri Women's Business Center, and entrepreneurial services on the Mizzou campus. The goal of the Coaches' Cohort is to provide one-to-one coaching for startup businesses in Mid-Missouri. The coaches can turn to each other for help and can pool resources among the many organizations they serve and represent.

Entrepreneurial Ecosystem

In support of the region's burgeoning entrepreneurial ecosystem, REDI staff coordinates entrepreneurial activities and events, such as Game Jam weekends and hackathons. Additionally, REDI staff collaborates with the region's other entrepreneurial resources, providing leadership and coordination of several initiatives, including hosting the Entrepreneurial Master Calendar.

CoMo Cooks Shared Commercial Kitchen

REDI has partnered with The Business Loop Community Improvement District to offer a shared commercial kitchen. The kitchen encourages the growth of local food entrepreneurs by reducing barriers and creating opportunities for those without easy access to a commercial kitchen; supports local farmers by providing cost-effective space to produce value-added products; creates quality jobs that support upward economic mobility; and provides a space that can be used for business incubation, workforce development, food safety classes, and other training opportunities.

REDI Supports Small Scale Manufacturing

REDI is working alongside The Business Loop Community Improvement District to identify and support local small-scale manufacturing along The Business Loop Corridor. Small-scale manufacturers produce tangible goods, usually have between one and thirty employees, and focus on both retail sales and wholesale distribution. The goal is to revitalize this working-class neighborhood with new, locally-owned small-scale manufacturers.

REDI Hub

The REDI Hub is a co-working space that offers business coaching, training sessions, classes and programs to local entrepreneurs. The Hub is currently home to more than 45 entrepreneurs advancing their startups and business concepts. Wednesday's at 9am 1 Million Cups, a free program designed to educate, engage and inspire entrepreneurs meets here.

Certified Industrial Site Status

In April 2019, Hinshaw East was designated as a Missouri Certified Site, the fourth certified site in Boone County and the 32nd certified site in the state. Certification of a site includes comprehensive review of items including the availability of utilities, site access, environmental concerns, land use conformance, and potential site development costs. In 2021, the entire Hinshaw East Site was acquired by Swift Prepared Foods. The Ewing Certified Site was recertified in 2019, and available lots remain for development.

REDI Accredited Economic Development Organization

The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) has reaccredited REDI for 2020-2023. IEDC first recognized REDI as an Accredited Economic Development Organization (AEDO) in 2017. AEDO certification demonstrates that an organization is a leading authority on economic-related issues. REDI is one of only 64 organizations to earn AEDO status worldwide.

ColumbiaREDI.com

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