

## **Regional Cooperation Protocol Policy**

### **Greater Phoenix Economic Council and Economic Development Directors Team**

The foundation of this policy is built on trust and the spirit of regional cooperation among the entities involved. GPEC and the Economic Development Directors of its member communities agree and acknowledge that it is important that they work together as partners on projects involving the communities which GPEC represents, regardless of the source of the lead, as follows:

1. Demonstrate a commitment to the positive promotion of the Greater Phoenix, specifically, GPEC member communities, as a globally competitive region.
2. Maintain the highest standards of economic development prospect handling, including confidentiality, without jeopardizing a prospect's trust to secure the probability of a regional locate. Partners agree to respect the prospect's request for confidentiality but also agree to notify each other as to the existence of a project with a confidentiality requirement when able and shall make a good-faith effort to involve the appropriate state, regional or local partners at the earliest possible time.
3. Unless otherwise restricted, agree to coordinate through GPEC for any prospect considering a project in Maricopa County or in any of the communities that GPEC represents, understanding that GPEC is in a unique position to represent and speak on regional economic development issues and on characteristics of the region's economy. Likewise, GPEC acknowledges that communities are in the best position to speak about local incentives and efforts surrounding the local economy.
4. For projects that originate with a GPEC member community, GPEC will be available for confidential research access, topical expertise or as a service provider, to add value to the community in securing the project. Additionally, GPEC will not e-track the project unless the community lead makes such a request to do so.
5. Provide accurate and timely information in response to specific requests by all prospects. When a client has narrowed sites to specific GPEC member communities, GPEC will make a good faith effort to inform those affected EDDT members first. EDDT members agree to provide information solely on their own community when the information requested is site-specific (i.e., cost of land, taxes, development fees, utility availability and cost, zoning process timing, permit timing and local incentives). When site-specific information related to other GPEC communities is requested, EDDT members agree to (i) direct GPEC prospects back to GPEC or (ii) direct non-GPEC generated prospects to contact the affected communities directly, and as a courtesy, contact the affected communities.
6. Agree that regardless of the lead source, public locate announcements shall be coordinated among the company, GPEC member community, and GPEC to reflect inclusiveness and cooperation of all partners (subject to any confidentiality requirements).
7. GPEC and EDDTs will advocate for a robust operating budget for the state economic development agency, and champion sound statewide economic development programs and policies.
8. Discourage the proactive offering of local, municipal financial incentives for existing jobs to companies with current operations in another GPEC community.
9. Inform GPEC member community when a company visits or physical site visit within that community will occur. Economic Development Directors will be the primary point of contact for the company when community information is needed.
10. Agree that the consideration of a future community to GPEC's membership will be brought before

EDDT for discussion in advance of any board consideration. EDDT will make a recommendation on the addition of a new community to GPEC's President and CEO.

11. Formalize a process to convene GPEC and Economic Development Directors of GPEC member communities biannually, and cooperate in the exchange of information and ideas reflecting practices, procedures and policies relating to prospect handling and regional economic development.
12. Work collectively to maintain a high level of trust and integrity by and between GPEC and the Economic Development Directors of GPEC member communities, utilizing differing views as an opportunity to learn.
13. When conducting market intelligence initiative objective, GPEC staff will coordinate with EDDT to ensure coordination and communication.
14. When a Prospect Information Form (PIF) is issued by the state economic development agency GPEC will coordinate the region's response. All PIF submissions will be directed to GPEC's attention and GPEC will assemble the response and return to the state economic development agency.
15. It is understood GPEC will or may host annual executour(s) and/or other marketing familiarization tour(s) to promote the regional communities. GPEC will make every attempt to provide as much interaction time between the executour guests and EDDTs. It is understood EDDTS will inform GPEC of any upcoming executour(s) and/or other marketing familiarization tours scheduled by their office.
16. Partners agree to enter into a mediation process if there is evidence that this Protocol has not been observed in a material respect or a professional conflict arises that cannot be settled. This mediation process will be convened by the EDDT Chair, who may, at his/her discretion, consult or involve GPEC's President and CEO in addition to others with topical expertise central to the conflict.