



## RAEDI 2026–2027 Strategic Work Plan Summary

RAEDI's 2026–2027 Strategic Work Plan builds on strong momentum from 2025, a year defined by expanded investment activity, strengthened entrepreneurial support, and deeper regional collaboration. The plan advances RAEDI's mission to retain, grow, and diversify the greater Rochester and southeastern Minnesota economy through strategic leadership, innovation, and sustainable funding.

### Strategic Focus

The plan is guided by four core pillars:

- **Core Economic Development:** Business retention and expansion, succession planning, and data-driven rapid response.
- **Entrepreneurship & Innovation:** Access to capital, technical assistance, and a connected startup ecosystem.
- **Collaboration & Regional Growth:** Alignment across communities, agencies, and partners to advance shared economic goals.
- **Funding & Sustainability:** Expansion of investment tools and diversified revenue to support long-term impact.

### Foundation for Growth

In 2025, RAEDI significantly expanded regional investment capacity through growth of the SE Minnesota Capital Fund, including larger deal capability and leadership in a \$22M MedTech Series A. Progress was made toward launching Economic Development Fund II (EDF II) and the Legacy Fund. The regional entrepreneurship ecosystem was strengthened through the Economic Development Center and expanded training and coaching. The Southeast Minnesota SBDC served nearly 500 clients, infused \$24M into the regional economy, supported over 1,000 jobs, and achieved statewide accreditation.

### 2026–2027 Priorities

Over the next two years, RAEDI will:

- Strengthen business retention and industry growth with emphasis on manufacturing and AgTech.
- Diversify the regional economy by advancing technology, MedTech/digital health, data centers, and the Minnesota National Security Ecosystem.
- Launch and deploy EDF II and the Legacy Fund, expand early-stage investment, and grow the regional investor network.
- Advance workforce and talent development through education alignment and employer upskilling.
- Strengthen community and regional collaboration.
- Enhance marketing, communications, and operational efficiency.

### Outcomes

RAEDI will focus on strengthening regional economic growth by increasing investment activity, supporting continued business expansions, expanding access to small business services, promoting job creation, encouraging GDP growth, and attracting new investors.

Together, these strategies position RAEDI and the Southeast Minnesota SBDC to drive inclusive economic growth, regional competitiveness, and long-term sustainability.