

OPPORTUNITY INDUSTRIES: STRATEGIC GOALS AND TACTICS

PRECISION MANUFACTURING IN INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGIES

1. Regional organizing

- 1.1. Create a consolidated and enhanced regionwide manufacturing alliance, replacing existing small, fragmented groups.

2. Talent pipelines

- 2.1. Undertake a comprehensive regional manufacturing talent study.
- 2.2. Close equipment gaps and facility constraints for workforce training providers.
- 2.3. Improve instructor availability via new dedicated funding sources, institutional reforms to pay scales and formal certifications, and mechanisms to jointly recruit instructors on loan from industry.
- 2.4. Focus mainstream workforce development resources to support the sector, including more incumbent worker training.
- 2.5. Launch dedicated “industry navigator” functions to reach more employers.
- 2.6. Initiate new technical assistance programs to enhance internal human resources capacity to engage in talent demand planning and access.
- 2.7. Undertake a regional youth engagement campaign to elevate awareness and interest in manufacturing careers.

3. Supports for small and medium-sized manufacturer (SMM) capacity-building

- 3.1. Launch a succession planning technical assistance program for SMMs, including employee ownership options for greater local retention.
- 3.2. Scale and enhance technical assistance offerings to help firms navigate product and process improvements that facilitate ongoing competitiveness amid growing market penetration of emerging technologies.
- 3.3. Establish a testing and demonstration platform to vet and raise visibility of new technologies to improve SMM productivity, especially AI applications.
- 3.4. Create a physical center of gravity for regional SMMs to access acceleration, capital, and technical assistance, and enable shared facilities.
- 3.5. Convene private equity actors to identify solutions for retaining local SMM firms.
- 3.6. Facilitate greater intra-regional supply chain matchmaking to bolster market opportunities and sector cohesion.

4. Site selection and land use

- 4.1. Assess local land use policies—especially those that constrain the growth of existing manufacturing firms—to inform engagement with subregional jurisdictions.
- 4.2. Develop a comprehensive regional site inventory and readiness assessment to improve response to firms on business attraction and expansion inquiries and identify opportunities to bring sites closer to delivery.

Note: Activities prioritized for immediate (i.e., within 18 months) implementation are highlighted.

