

MEMORANDUM

To: Regional Economy Committee

From: CMAP Staff

Date: January 26, 2023

Subject: Job access and quality assessment data

Purpose: Regional economic development collaboration

Action Requested: Discussion

Building on previous discussions related to inclusive growth, housing, and mobility recovery, CMAP will showcase the recently completed Inclusive Growth Analysis and illustrate how the accompanying Job Access and Quality Assessment tool can be used to leverage and target investment, identify equitable access to jobs, and balance housing needs and job opportunities as they relate to local economic development decisions.

BACKGROUND

A [Greater Chicagoland Economic Partnership](#), was recently launched around a shared vision focused on three guiding principles: regional coordination; economic equity; and economic growth that leverages the region's strongest assets. This is a new collaboration among Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties, and the City of Chicago and World Business Chicago. And this launch was the outcome of a two-year effort of CMAP, the seven county board chairs, the City of Chicago and World Business Chicago, the county economic development organizations, and the private and civic sectors to promote regional economic development initiatives for a strong and equitable recovery.

One of the major initiatives of this work is the recently completed [Inclusive Growth Analysis](#), which will directly inform the goals and objectives of the regional partnership. The region's major market opportunities were assessed to create actionable strategies to drive broad-based growth.

As part of the project [a new innovative tool on job quality and access](#) was designed to help local communities and economic developers across the region leverage and target investment based on the local labor market, identify equitable access to jobs, and balance housing needs and job access and quality that will help improve northeastern Illinois' competitive position.