

We convene, build, and show Kosciusko County's talent, ideas, and capital.

CEO PERSPECTIVE



There is a quote from a movie that highlights how quickly life goes by and the importance of stopping to look around once in awhile. As we take a moment to look at our results from 2021, I can't help but be amazed by the reach of our efforts throughout Kosciusko County. Being away from the area for most of the year reinforced for me, the importance of using the limited time we have together to get things done. Our team at KEDCO is taking action, and we look forward to seeing what we can accomplish with you in 2022!

-Alan Tio, CEO

OUR FOCUS AREAS

Our economic development efforts focus on three pillars that build on the strengths of our community and propel the growth of our local economy: **entrepreneurship, housing** and **talent**. We support existing entrepreneurs, attract and cultivate new entrepreneurs; creating housing that meets the needs of our workforce; and recruit and retain talent to work here.



Entrepreneurship



Talent



Housing

BY THE NUMBERS

435+

New jobs in 2021

\$25.23

Avg. wage of new jobs pledged by supported projects

\$80M+

Invested by local companies

CONVENE

1,000+



Number of **people** KEDCO brought together at stakeholder meetings, meetups & roundtables.

350+



Referrals, introductions and **connections** made on behalf of KEDCO for stakeholders.

Story: KEDCO connected a Spanish-speaking business owner seeking a business loan, with a fellow entrepreneur who provided translation services to aid in a conversation between the owner and the local bank. From that valuable experience, KEDCO had two of its loan programs translated to Spanish.

DIGITAL SNAPSHOT

KEDCO launched a bi-weekly **digital newsletter** in 2021, and had **20,865** newsletter opens and interactions.

BUILD

TALENT SUPPORT

As part of its Talent Initiative, KEDCO launched **Career Bridge**, an online jobs portal solely for job openings in Kosciusko County. It's a free tool for all employers located in Kosciusko County. In 2021, nearly 50 different employers participated.



\$89.4k

KEDCO distributed in Small Business Relief and Revolving **Loan Funds** to small businesses.

In partnership with the City of Warsaw, KEDCO acquired the former Owen's grocery store, and a **mixed-use redevelopment** project is in planning.



SHOW

COMMUNITY TOURS

As part of KEDCO's Talent Initiative, in late 2021 KEDCO launched a **Community Tours** program, offering customized tours of Kosciusko County for new residents and individuals interested in moving to the area.



Guests featured on the **Clearly Kosciusko podcast series** in 2021:

- 20 guests from 19 local companies and 13 industries
- Seven guests being local business founders & owners
- 14 guests who weren't born here, and chose to plant roots in K-County

KEDCO released a **community lookbook** of scenic photos by local residents and businesses. Photos for the lookbook were compiled from a social media photo contest KEDCO held in late 2020. KEDCO also released a video with the same invitation to residents and visitors to "find their way" here.