

ABSTRACT

RESEARCH PAPER: An Organizational Framework for a Multi-Jurisdictional Economic Development Organization: A Case Study of Inner-Ring Suburbs in Illinois

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Franklin Park, IL, Schiller Park, IL and Northlake, IL have all witnessed a decline in industrial based businesses and jobs in the past 30 years. All three towns pursue economic development activities in a conventional fashion that has resulted in mixed reviews. This study pursues the concept of all three towns to break down the barriers of competition and work together as a multi-jurisdictional economic development organization when pursuing economic development opportunities. If all three municipalities form a 501(c)3 organization, then additional revenues can be raised to increase all the economic development activities in a collective action versus an individualistic fashion. This study utilizes best practice examples to help create a framework for these three communities to form such an organization. Additionally, this study identifies specific activities that must take place for all three communities to adopt a mutualistic mind frame in order to sustain this organization for a long period of time.