

## STRENGTHENING STARK'S mission today

Strengthening Stark is a collective movement to create alignment and coordination to the economic development efforts of more than two dozen entities that work to advance economic growth and opportunity in Stark County. Strengthening Stark is guided by a Governance Committee, which consists of volunteers, many of whom represent the entities that support or perform economic development activities. A Governance Committee supports the development of strategies, initiatives and projects to improve results in four areas: business growth, talent development, quality palaces and community commitment.

## STRENGTHENING STARK'S goals

To help the citizens of Stark County build personal capital (financial, social, intellectual and health) by establishing a more inclusive, innovative and sustainable local economy. Through greater personal capital, citizens can access incremental economic opportunities to continually improve their quality of life.

## connect:

### tools & resources:

**Stark Jobs Database** is for job seekers, employers, students, and educators. The database lists all job openings in Stark County to assist residents find jobs, help students identify career paths, and provide educators information to guide students to in-demand careers and the training, certifications and degrees needed to improve their earning potential in Stark County.

[www.starkjobsdashboard.com](http://www.starkjobsdashboard.com)

**Stark Business911** was developed to support the more than 15,000 businesses operating in Stark County. If you have an opportunity to grow, need assistance in solving a challenge, desire help in attracting or training workforce or have an idea to start a business, we are here to help.

[www.starkbusiness911.com](http://www.starkbusiness911.com)

### Contact Us


Strengthening Stark Program  
Management Office


**330.453.5628**


[info@strengtheningstark.com](mailto:info@strengtheningstark.com)


[www.strengtheningstark.com](http://www.strengtheningstark.com)

### Follow us on Social Media

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 Strengthening Stark

A NEED for  
**change.**

A NEED for  
**strength.**

You are  
the Strength  
in Stark.



## about the STRENGTHENING STARK report

Commissioned and issued by Stark Community Foundation in August 2017 at the request of the Stark Civic Group, the Strengthening Stark Report is an assessment of the current economic and social health of Stark County. The data-driven report examined key community issues and recommended specific actions to help reverse downward trends. The report spurred a county-wide community conversation which led Stark Economic Development Board to create and implement the first-ever, county-wide economic development plan.

## about the STRENGTHENING STARK economic competitiveness plan

The Strengthening Stark Competitiveness Plan, made up of three focus areas and 16 initiatives, is aimed at transforming Stark County from a smaller, older, poorer community into a larger, younger and more prosperous community. Economic development entities and community partners from across the county have assumed responsibility for much of the plan's development.

## Focus Areas

### Business Growth

- Increase outreach to assist Stark County Businesses\*
- Provide instant support for Stark County Businesses with a Stark Business 911 website\*
- Target business growth in four key industry sectors in Stark County\*
- Foster startup companies by developing an ecosystem that provides programming and support for entrepreneurs \*
- Utilize existing methods and new creative approaches to access Stark County's middle, high school, and college students' innovation and entrepreneurial talents

### Talent Development

- Create a community job data platform that job seekers, employers, students and educators can use as a tool to identify and connect jobs and career paths available in Stark County\*
- Identify current and future core job clusters in Stark County to build an immediate and future workforce pipeline
- Identify career pathways for Stark County students in middle and high schools. Introduce local colleges and trade programs to connect them to job opportunities in Stark County
- Increase the chance of success for students with early childhood learning through the Great Starts for Great Futures preschool initiative

### Quality Places

- Identify and market key sites and buildings in Stark County that would be attractive for new companies or developer investment. Connect investors with opportunity zone projects
- Develop a strategy to market corridors in key growth sectors for petrochemicals, plastics, and food processing that can be an opportunity for growth in Stark County
- Identify and upgrade key gateways in Stark County to improve their appearance

### Oversight

Assure the Strengthening Stark Competitive Plan makes progress with the governance committee providing direction, accountability, and guidance on funding

*\*Priority Initiatives identified by Governance Committee*



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