



WHO WE ARE DATA-DRIVEN LOCAL RESEARCH

History of CRA

In late 2016, EDC's Board of Directors focused on a growing trend in the economic development industry: the need and expectation for strong data and analysis as fundamental to driving its own programming as well as guiding effective, sustainable growth in Lancaster County. Recognizing a void in the Central PA marketplace, EDC advanced an ambitious initiative to develop its own applied economic research center, securing \$1 million in seed grants from both The Steinman Foundation and the BB&T Economic Growth Fund at the Lancaster County Community Foundation.

Recognizing the importance of independence in research, EDC's sister organization, the Foundation of the Economic Development Company of Lancaster County (FEDC), provides oversight of the initiative. However, the Center is integrated with the Economic Development Company of Lancaster County (EDC), sharing essential operating services.

The Center is a nonpartisan, nonprofit 501(c)3. It does not engage in lobbying or other political processes (e.g., activities influencing legislation or political campaigns).

Mission Statement

The Center for Regional Analysis is a nonpartisan research center dedicated to enhancing the wellbeing and vitality of local and regional economies through independent economic insight and data-driven analysis. Our mission is to strengthen the knowledge base that is being used to chart a course for economic development.

Core Values

The Center's core values emphasize how it engages in issues and research. They define the Center's concept of integrity and play a role in how the Center evaluates the appropriateness of research projects.

CRA's core values are:

Provide independent and impartial analysis, while recognizing that the Center is invested in economic development and business.

Maintain a high level of curiosity driving analysis and engagement.

Conduct rigorous, objective research and analysis, through avoidance of conflict of interest and bias.

Be forward looking in our research agenda and adoption of analytic techniques that are beholden to data-driven analysis and findings.