

Gilmer County Economic Development Association

Local Economic Development Annual Action Plan: FY2025-2026

1. Tourism & Small Business Development-

- Implement the Glenville Riverfront Park Master Plan (see link to Master Plan).
The Glenville Whitewater Park Design supports GCEDA's efforts to make Glenville part of the outdoor economy, as illustrated by our funding of the Glenville Riverfront Park Master Plan, conducted by CEC in 2023 and updated in 2024 and 2025. The plan identified a unique opportunity to utilize the Little Kanawha River Trail access in Glenville to design and implement a Whitewater Attraction for families in the Pioneer Network. Supported by the Gilmer County Commission, City of Glenville, and the Little Kanawha River Trail (LKRT) Association. The eventual development of this amenity would serve residents of Gilmer County and the surrounding areas.
- Economic Impact & Feasibility Study. Studies will estimate tourism numbers, quantify direct and indirect economic impacts, identify the most feasible and profitable businesses to support increased tourist traffic, and estimate the required number of overnight accommodations. Emerging businesses and both public and private investors will be able to use the data and projects to validate investments and amplify opportunities within the region. Specific benefits of this project include economic growth, improved amenities, and stronger collaboration. Conducting the proposed studies positions the Pioneer Community Network region to become a thriving center for outdoor recreation and tourism, fulfilling GCEDA's goals for rural economic development
- Glenville Welcome Center – A former restaurant along the Little Kanawha River has been reimaged into a Welcome Center Hub, serving both the riverfront and becoming the central location for the Pioneer Trail System. This adaptive reuse project preserves the building's existing structure while transforming it into a multi-functional space that enhances tourism, recreation, and community engagement. The projected updated facility will feature a coffee shop café and an inviting outdoor patio that offers views of the LKR, creating a welcoming environment for both locals and visitors, and the students at Glenville State University. The site design provides direct pedestrian access to downtown Glenville and the river, strengthening the connection between the riverfront and the town's businesses and attractions. In support of Glenville's growing outdoor recreation economy, the Welcome Center offers rental opportunities for mountain biking, water-based activities such as fishing and kayaking, as well as information for lodging-based

adventures in the surrounding area. The interior also includes a 2-bedroom Airbnb rental, dedicated office space for the coordination of staff, and meeting rooms suitable for community events, workshops, or planning sessions. This project not only revitalizes an underused structure but also anchors the broader vision of Glenville as a destination for nature, recreation, and heritage tourism along the Little Kanawha River corridor.

- Upon bridge completion, develop the “Plaza Concept” as described in GRMP on our Powell St. property. The Passive Open-Air Shelter with stage and dance floor, which could be used during the WV State Folk Festival. Providing seating, dining, and river viewing. When no events are taking place.
- Promote the WV State Folk Festival with financial support to expand its tourist base.
- Job Creation/Retention- Visits with State Representatives. Training opportunities. Development of technical training programs with Calhoun/ Gilmer Career Center & Glenville State University for telecom technicians and tourism careers.
- 2 Rural Broadband expansion- Continue support of existing expansion.
- 3 Farmer’s Market- Continue seasonal operation with locally grown vegetables.
- 4 Industrial Park- Entry maintenance support.
- 5 Dilapidated Buildings- Assist in County/City efforts to raze dilapidated properties.
- 6 Maintenance of Website- Continued updating of economic information & opportunities.
- 7 Funding of GCEDA- Develop internal funding mechanisms. Maintain and grow grant revenue. Develop external private funding campaigns. Develop Municipal and County Government Funding.



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