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The Two Tomorrows

Being average is a choice. So is being extraordinary.

Average

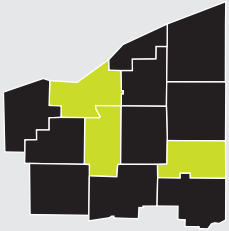
A legacy products mix, lower-than-average education attainment rates, the outmigration of people and jobs, persistent concentrations of poverty, and racial disparities continue to undermine Northeast Ohio's economic competitiveness.

Extraordinary

How does Northeast Ohio get to an extraordinary tomorrow? The key is Growth & Opportunity, the mutual reinforcement of economic growth with equitable access to opportunity. It requires a three-fold emphasis on Job Creation, Job Preparation and Job Access, and the following 10 priorities:

Slow Growth

Cleveland, Akron and Youngstown MSAs all significantly underperformed expected job growth from 2005 to 2015, based on national job growth rates that account for industrial structure.



Job Creation

- 1 Deliver world-class business development services
- 2 Own the future of the production economy
- 3 Go big(ger) in the bioscience industry
- 4 Commit to the next new industry cluster(s)
- 5 Encourage and fuel entrepreneurship of all types

Low Wages

Nearly 50 percent of jobs created in recent years by the 25 fastest growing industries in Northeast Ohio are in industries that, on average, pay below a living wage.



Job Preparation

- 6 Build skills for well-paying, in-demand jobs of today and tomorrow
- 7 Improve job quality
- 8 Reduce barriers to employment

Stranded Residents

Between 2000 and 2012, the number of jobs within the typical commute distance of Northeast Ohio residents declined by 22 percent.



Job Access

- 9 Bring jobs to people
- 10 Better connect people to jobs

Racial Exclusion

White workers earned \$1,700 more per month on average than black workers in 2016, a gap that has increased since 2013.



What gets measured, gets done.

To achieve an extraordinary tomorrow, Northeast Ohio must redefine how it measures progress to prioritize a **continuously regenerating economy creating good jobs and rising incomes for everyone.**

