### APPLICATION FORM

Stronger Economies Together Program

Deadline for Applications: May 26, 2011; 11:59 p.m. Central Time Please Complete All Sections of the Application Form

### Part A: Information about Your Regional Team

We would like to gather some information about your region team and the key contact person.

a.	Name of your Regional Team (if none has been decided yet, just provide a name that best describes the geographic area of your regional group).				
	<b>NOTE</b> : For purposes of this application, a region is defined as an area that encompasses three or more counties/parishes that are located contiguous to one another. It is possible for such counties/parishes to cross state boundaries.				
b.	What counties/parishes are included in your region?				
c.	Main contact person for your regional team:				
d.	Email address for your main contact person:				
e.	Telephone number(s) for your regional team or contact person:				
f.	Team or contact person's mailing address (City/State/Zip):				
g.	Please place an "X" by the <u>ONE</u> statement that best describes your regional team:				
	A brand new regional group that has been organized for the purpose of applying for the SET program				
	A regional organization that is one year old or less and that is still trying to get off the ground in developing a sound economic development plan for the region				
	A regional organization that is one year old or less with a solid economic development plan taking shape (or in place) for the region				
	A regional group that has been organized for more than one year, but is inactive and/or in need of help to get back on track				

An established regional group that has been in place for one year or more and has developed and

is pursuing an effective regional economic development plan.

#### Part B: Brief Description of Your Region (400 word limit)

Present an overview of your region in terms of some of its key characteristics. Provide a concise picture of your region drawing on quantitative and qualitative information. Here are the types of information you might include in your description:

- *Economic region:* Is this region an economic region? That is, do you have evidence from a university-based economic analysis unit or other independent reputable entity that the counties/parishes in your region, taken together, constitute an economic region (or an emerging economic region)? Please explain.
- Key sectors that make-up your economy and the current health of these sectors: Are they stable, expanding, declining, etc.? In general, tell us about how the economy of your region is doing and why. Is the region experiencing economic distress or high rates of poverty?
- Important population/demographic characteristics of the region. Is its population growing or declining and why? Is the composition of the population changing (such as getting older or younger, shifting racial or ethnic composition, and the migration flow of population into or out of the region)?
- *Current attributes of the workforce*. Are workers involved in lower/higher quality jobs? Is the educational status of your workforce an issue?

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## Part C: Benefits/Challenges of Pursuing a Regional Economic Development Plan (400 word limit)

1. What do you believe are the major benefits of building an economic development plan that encompasses

	the counties/parishes that have been selected to be part of your region?				
2.	What do you anticipate will be some of the key challenges that your team will face as it seeks to develop and launch a regional economic development plan?				

# Part D: Involvement in the SET Initiative (400 word limit)

believe your team is serious about using the SET process as a springboard for thinking strategically in building a stronger regional economy.				
h	are there specific topics associated with the SET program that your team is likely to find most elpful/valuable? If so, which topics and explain why these are likely to be important to your team? See the list of topics at: <a href="http://srdc.msstate.edu/set/files/set_overview.pdf">http://srdc.msstate.edu/set/files/set_overview.pdf</a> ).			

1. Explain why your regional team would like to be part of the SET program. That is, indicate why you

#### Part E: Current Members of Your Regional Team and Commitment Letters

Please provide the names of the individuals that have agreed to be part of your regional team. Please indicate the primary organizational/agency affiliation of these individuals, if relevant. For example, please note if the person is the county economic development coordinator, the superintendent of schools, CEO of a local firm, board member of a nonprofit health clinic, head of a housing organization, etc. It has been shown that the more effective regional teams are those that include representation from many sectors. Applications with good representation will score higher. ALSO, a signed commitment letter from each person on your team that states that he/she has agreed to be an active participant in the 35 hours of SET training must be included with this application.

Name of Regional Team Member	Primary Organization/Agency the	Have Commitment Letter
1144440 01 1108101441 1114440 01	Person Represents	from this Individual?*
		□ Yes
		□ No
		□ Yes
		□ No
		□ Yes
		□ No
		☐ Yes
		□ No
		☐ Yes
		□ No
		□ Yes
		□ No
		☐ Yes
		□ No
		☐ Yes
		□ No
		☐ Yes
		□ No
		□ Yes
		□ No
		□ Yes
		□ No
		□ Yes
		□ No
		□ Yes
		□ No
		□ Yes
		□ No

<sup>\*</sup> **IMPORTANT**: A "Yes" answer means that if your team is selected to be part of the SET program, the team members acknowledge and agree that they will attend and be actively involved in the 35 hours of SET training.

**NOTE**: If you need more space to list the regional team's membership, please attach a separate sheet with the names of these individuals, their organizational/agency affiliation, and the status of their commitment letter to be part of the SET program.