

# Addressing Tiers & Distress

The Department of Commerce's Recommendations

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# Eliminate Current Tier System

- ▶ Statutory Adjustments Distort Measurement
- ▶ Metrics Do Not All Reflect Causes of Distress
- ▶ System Does Not Allow Administrative Flexibility
- ▶ Scoring System Does Distorts Differences Between County Performance



## Maintain Common System for Assessing County Distress

- ▶ Advantages of One System for Ranking Counties by Distress
  - ▶ Consistent Scoring & Rank Across Multitude of Programs
  - ▶ No Disagreement Between Programs' Definitions
  - ▶ Easy for Constituents to Understand
- ▶ Program Flexibility Allows Unique Administration
  - ▶ Index Can Be Divided to Suit Program Needs & Resources



# Replacing Tiers Could Be Done Without Delay

- ▶ First Confirm Commerce's Economic Index
  - ▶ New Metrics
    - ▶ Unemployment Rate
    - ▶ Average Annual Wage
    - ▶ Median Household Income
    - ▶ % w/ Less Than High School Degree
  - ▶ New Calculation Method
    - ▶ Average Ratio of County to State Performance
  - ▶ Existing County-Level System
    - ▶ Best Designed to Meets Needs of Current Programs Using Tiers
  
- ▶ Structure of Ranking Counties Allows for Swift Implementation



# Assign Staff to Assemble Options / Best Practices

- ▶ Maximizes Effectiveness
  - ▶ Researchers & program staff have expertise to address details
  - ▶ Staff can dedicate efforts to this critical topic
  - ▶ Outside experts can be consulted as needed/required
- ▶ Maximizes Efficiency
  - ▶ Progress to be reported to Legislative members periodically
  - ▶ Members provide timely feedback and direction prior to a final report
  - ▶ Minimizes costs in time, travel, and resource expense
  - ▶ Ensure report is useful and actionable





Questions?

