STAT 381

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City of St. Cloud Economic Development Authority (EDA)

* Background

The City of St. Cloud Economic Development Authority assists small and large business in St. Cloud as well as city development/permit process. They make business report and strategic plans for the city. They also provide data for the city including demographics, cost of living, and education.

* Research Opportunity

Based on their website, there are many economic components that can use data analytics. To be able to make economic reports and decisions on economic development, part of the process could contain some data analytics. Also, their website presents many data visualizations and summary statistics, which can be improved using data science knowledge.

Many of their work focuses on obtaining city-specific insights for local business, and this is supported by some basic numbers and statistics. For example, the website lists 5 advantages for choosing St. Cloud for business, and one of them is sectors of strength with the list of proportions of employment in health care, manufacturing, and so on. This kind of information is obtained through large dataset, so there is a possibly that they have rich dataset that we will be able to work on.

Additionally, one of the EDA members is Dr. King Banaian, who is the Dean of School of Public Affairs at SCSU. He is an economist as well as data scientist. Working with him may allow us to experience dealing with economic data in public settings and learn how to apply our knowledge in the real world.

Lastly, by initiating working with EDA, we may be able to build a possible community partnership with this class and the local government. This may allow us to have constant connections and plentiful of resources for our data analysis.

* Website

<https://ci.stcloud.mn.us/74/Economic-Development>

<https://www.ci.stcloud.mn.us/1260/IEDC-Standard-Data-Set>