PROPOSED PROJECTS FOR RPI 2019

+Denotes Multi-Region Project. † Denotes project can be done “in-house”. *Denotes pass-through Project.

1. Regional Health Professional Recruitment † *

This initiative would provide funding to support efforts to attract and retain health professionals in our region. EUPRPDC would coordinate efforts with Helen Newberry Joy, War Memorial Hospital, and Mackinac Straits Health Systems to leverage existing resources and efforts.

2. 911 Address Update †

Emergency maps used in our regional haven’t been updated in, on average, 20 years. This initiative proposes to develop accurate maps of every residential and commercial building where emergency services may be called. These maps would then be made available to all our local EMS and Fire Houses.

3. Up North Trails + † *

Following the launch of the UP trails on UpNorthTrails.org, the 2019 RPI application would request funds to support maintenance and funds to contribute to a promotional campaign. The three Upper Peninsula Regional Planning organizations coordinated with each other, the founders of upnorthtrails.org, and local partners to inventory our trails and add the Upper Peninsula’s extensive trail systems to this excellent online resource. The campaign would focus on promoting the website and expanding social media reach.

4. UP Brew Trail + †

In 2018, WUPPDR completed a feasibility study for an Upper Peninsula Brew Trail. Brew Trails support local businesses, hospitality sector growth, tourism and ancillary businesses, and contributes to community identity. In our region, the connections between breweries are augmented by their connections to physical recreational trails of all kinds. This initiative would build off of the study to bring together partners to develop and promote an UP-Wide Brew Trail.

5. UP Art Alliance + †

Staff from the three Upper Peninsula Regional Planning organizations would work with the UP Arts & Culture Alliance (UPACA) on an economic impact study. Staff participation in the alliance would bring representation from every corner to the table. Limited financial support would also contribute to social media outreach.
6. EUPISD Fiber Connect

This project would provide technical assistance to support the EUP Intermediate School District (ISD) project to implement fiber in the Eastern UP. This would include outreach to local community-based organizations, and businesses to foster collaborative efforts and obtain initial support for the Community Fiber concept.

7. Transportation Logistics Strategy Implementation: Business Attraction Initiative

The Transportation Logistics Strategy identified several areas ripe for growth in our region, this funding would support further study into several of these areas to assist our EDOs in attracting businesses with a high chance for success.

8. Community Development Mini-Grants

Considering the success of previous year’s Community Development Mini-Grants, EUPRPDC would like to continue the program. Our communities have vision and dedicated volunteers, but often lack the cash to complete projects to enhance their towns. Cities, townships, villages, county governments and nonprofits within the Eastern U.P. (Prosperity Region 1c) will be able to apply for support for projects that exhibit place-making principles. Within 90 days of calling for applications, a representative committee will use last year’s scoring criteria to analyze applications and make grant awards for projects to be completed within the next year. The benefits of place-making projects are well documented, and have proven effective in retaining talent, encouraging growth and improving quality of life.

9. Regional Pure Michigan Campaign

The proposal would continue support for the "Purest of Pure Michigan" campaign, which targets the south-west Great Lakes region. All three U.P. regions, along with private partners and others, support this initiative to highlight attractions across the peninsula.

10. Regional Economic Development Organization Assistance

EUPRPDC will continue to provide direct technical assistance to local economic development associations and also offer funding to EDOs for training, professional development, purchasing, equipment, software or to direct fund internships. Funding will also be provided in the form of staff time for technical assistance requests. This menu of available options will be presented to the EDO’s in the Region, based upon those responses we will develop a more comprehensive work plan in order to allocate the funding accordingly.