

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

Chippewa, Luce, and Mackinac Counties



2025-2029

Year One Update - 2026

What is contained within is the 2026 Annual Update to the Eastern Upper Peninsula's 2025-2029 CEDS 5 –Year Plan, which was made possible by funding from the Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA).

The content was prepared by the Eastern Upper Peninsula Regional Planning & Development Commission.

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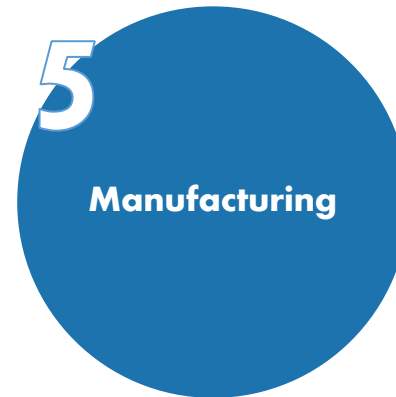
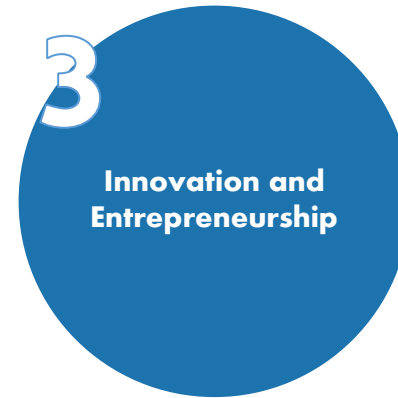
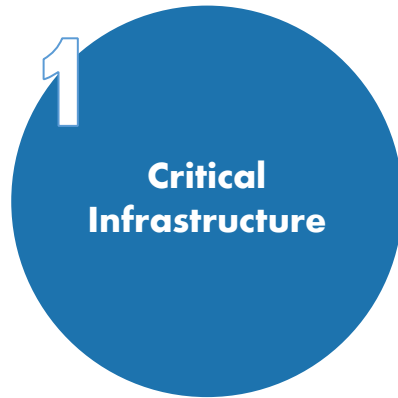


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EDA Investment Priorities



Vision Statement:

Michigan's Eastern Upper Peninsula (EUP) will be attractive to residents, business, tourists, and students alike. Here, people enjoy a natural setting, have a high quality of life, and can grow in their careers and businesses. Regional leaders will create opportunity through collaboration, proactive policy making, and implementation of best practices for economic prosperity and community development.



Education & Training

GOAL: Build on the strong network of relationships between educational institutions to expand and promote learning opportunities in the region. Attraction of new talent and families will strengthen our workforce and schools.

- Regional partners will develop plans and policies to attract and retain talent and families.

Business Development

GOAL: The region will foster entrepreneurship, support existing businesses, attract new investments, and provide tailored and adaptable resources businesses need at every stage.

- Leverage our proximity to the Soo Locks, St. Marys River, Great Lakes, international border, and natural and recreation resources to support creative business ventures and build a Blue Economy.

Vibrant Communities

GOAL: Vibrant downtowns and village centers will thrive throughout the region with a variety of safe and attainable housing options for students, seasonal and transient workers, and residents. A healthy populace will have access to healthcare, arts and culture, and local food and communities will support local farms.

- Create, and facilitate the creation of housing to accommodate students, seasonal and transient workers, and residents through the strong housing ecosystem.

Policy & Planning

GOAL: Local governments and government agencies will support long- and short-term strategic planning to facilitate investment, ensure fiscal responsibility and stewardship, and increase community prosperity and resiliency.

- Promote environmental, financial, and community health through forward-thinking services, policies, and planning.

Integrated Asset Management

GOAL: Through inventories, fiscal and maintenance planning, and need-identification, the region will support existing and expand upon robust road, utility, broadband, and service infrastructure.

- Implement and advocate for Integrated Asset Management best practices across the Region.

EDA Investments in the EUP

Lake Superior State University—Center for Freshwater Research and Education (CFRE)
\$950,000—EDA EAA Grant (CARES Act)

Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians—Crane Industrial Suites
\$3.7M—EDA Public Works Grant

Chippewa County EDC—Industrial Building Construction and Rail Spur
\$7.9M—EDA Public Works Grant

Marine Trades Institute—Building Expansion Project (**CANCELLED—Terminated for Convenience**)
\$2.7M—EDA Public Works Grant (CARES Act)

MERIT—Broadband Infrastructure Project
\$3.0M—EDA Public Works Grant (CARES Act)

Luce County EDC—Strategic Plan
\$44,000—EDA EAA Grant (ARPA)

Sault Ste. Marie Convention and Visitors Bureau—I-500 Enhancements
\$2.0M—EDA Travel, Tourism, and Outdoor Recreation (ARPA)



Introduction

The Eastern Upper Peninsula Regional Planning & Development Commission (EUP) has led the development of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for half a century. This strategy provides a blueprint for economic and community growth in our region. We work together with partners and stakeholders in the Eastern U.P. to inventory assets and strengths, document needs and risks, and develop a plan that will improve the lives of the citizens of our region through specific actions and measurable goals.

EUP was founded in 1968 under the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965, certified as one of fourteen Economic Development Administration (EDA) Economic Development Districts (EDDs) in the State of Michigan in 1970, and formally recognized through the State of Michigan Public Act 281 of 1945 in 1972. EUP is a non-profit government agency and is funded by the United States Department of Commerce's EDA, through Title IV of the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965, as amended, and the EDA Reform Act of 1998. EUP serves communities, partners, and stakeholders throughout Chippewa, Luce, and Mackinac Counties. Directed by a board comprised of public and private sector representatives from each county, EUP assists communities with land use planning, zoning, economic and community development, hazard mitigation planning, recreation planning, transportation, housing development, small business development, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping.

Update Overview

EUP has looked back over the past year—since the 2025-2029 CEDS was adopted—to identify and evaluate what has been accomplished in regards to economic development in the Eastern U.P. We will draw information from internal and external sources, and a variety of programs and initiatives. This information will make up the bulk of our Update.

Content included will encapsulate any adjustments in our strategy, a report on economic development activities, an evaluation of the progress on the action plan and goals, and the schedule of goals for next year.

Our Update will also contain updates or pertinent regional data, and a priority projects list. This list is also in our 2025-2029 CEDS, but it has been updated with current information about projects in the development process in the Eastern U.P.



Economic Development Activities

EUPRPDC worked diligently throughout the year to support and drive economic activities in the Eastern Upper Peninsula region. Staff worked on initiatives ranging from EDA construction grants to small business support grants. See the bulleted list below for more information about current and future projects.

- Chippewa County EDC EDA Public Works Grant Administration (continuation to 3/1/26)
- GLBBS EDA CARES Act Grant Administration (ongoing)
- SSM I-500 EDA ARPA Grant Administration (continuation to 5/31/26)
- EDA Partnership Planning Grant activities (awarded September 2025)
- MEDC Small Business Support Hubs Grant (ongoing)
- CCEDC MARAD Port Drummond PIDP Grant Administration (ongoing)
- MSHDA Regional Housing Partnership (continuation to 5/31/26)
- MEDC Collaborative Development Council (ongoing)
- Bi-National Economic Development District (ongoing)
- Headwaters North SmartZone (ongoing)
- UPEDA Board (ongoing)
- NADO Board (continuation to 4/30/26)
- Stone Mountain Harbor Project (ongoing)
- CCEDC Strategic Site Readiness Grant Program (ongoing in 2026)
- ANRA Air Operations Mobility Grant, CCEDC (to fall 2026)

EUPRPDC's SmartZone partner, Headwaters North, is collaborating with the Center for Freshwater Research and Education (CFRE) to build the foundation of a blue economy in the Eastern Upper Peninsula. Headwaters North is creating a fellowship position that will be shared between Headwaters and CFRE. This fellow will work to commercialize CFRE's existing water quality monitoring network. If successful, this initiative can be used as proof that the blue economy can be built using existing institutions.

EUPRPDC staff continue to learn more about economic development best practices through opportunities like NADO's Peer Exchange meetings. At these meetings, staff network with other similar regions throughout the Midwest. Conversations are had regarding CEDS development and how to best capture the potential of your region. Staff are continuing to attend the Peer Exchange meetings throughout the upcoming year. Lessons learned will be integrated into the CEDS and its implementation efforts.

Strategy Adjustments

Throughout the year, EUP Regional Planning & Development worked independently and alongside partners to complete important economic activities that aligned with our overall goals. These goals can be found on the previous page. They fall under the categories of Education & Training, Business Development, Vibrant Communities, Policy & Planning, and Integrated Asset Management.

During our busy year, EUPRPDC staff, particularly those who are directly involved in the creation and maintenance of our CEDS, stayed the same. We saw no changes in that regard. EUPRPDC staff have stayed the same since the release of the CEDS 2025-2029 Update.

Some members of the REDAC have left due to unforeseen changes in employment and other life changes. The vast majority of EUP's REDAC remains the same as it was in our 2025-2029 Update. Any change that did occur did not impede on EUP's ability to enhance economic development throughout our region and did not affect our ability to deliver a One-Year Update to EDA.

EUPRPDC staff are looking to integrate a wealth creation mindset, industry cluster identification, and economic development through outdoor recreation into our overall economic development strategy in the coming years. More information about these items can be found in the Action Plan & Evaluation Section.



Progress on Goals and Action Plans

EUPRPDC and its partners work towards achieving overall goals and specific activities. These actionable items are identified and approached strategically. See the information below to learn more about EUPRPDC's status in accomplishing said goals.

GOAL: Build on the strong network of relationships between educational institutions to expand and promote learning opportunities in the region. Attraction of new talent and families will strengthen our workforce and schools.

- This goal is ongoing and EUPRPDC and its partners will continuously work to achieve it. EUPRPDC staff now serve on the Sault Area Career Center's CTE Advisory Committee to help discern what classes best suit our current students and future workforce.

GOAL: The region will foster entrepreneurship, support existing businesses, attract new investments, and provide tailored and adaptable resources businesses need at every stage.

- EUPRPDC continuously works with economic development, small business startup, and high tech startup entities to make the business climate in the Eastern U.P. accommodating to current businesses and inviting to potential businesses.

GOAL: Vibrant downtowns and village centers will thrive throughout the region with a variety of safe and attainable housing options for students, seasonal and transient workers, and residents. A healthy populace will have access to healthcare, arts and culture, and local food and communities will support local farms.

- EUPRPDC continues to serve as the lead agency in Region C, which encompasses the Eastern Upper Peninsula in Michigan's Statewide Housing Plan. EUPRPDC is currently exploring and finding ways to build the housing ecosystem in the EUP. This includes creating a defined educational path for emerging developers.

GOAL: Local governments and government agencies will support long- and short-term strategic planning to facilitate investment, ensure fiscal responsibility and stewardship, and increase community prosperity and resiliency.

- EUPRPDC continues to support planning processes for our region through the undertaking of recreation plan projects, the CEDS process, master plan projects, and more. We leverage our state and federal resources, and our existing inventory of long-term planning skills, to set forth a path for our region—and individual communities—to take.

GOAL: Through inventories, fiscal and maintenance planning, and need-identification, the region will support existing and expand upon robust road, utility, broadband, and service infrastructure.

- EUPRPDC continues to attend EUP Connect meetings, RTF meetings, and other happenings that relate to broadband, roads, utilities, and more. We stay involved, and informed of the needs of our communities by participating in relevant meetings. GIS staff continue to identify transportation, coastline management, and infrastructure needs.

More information about our activities, past and present, can be found in the Action Plan & Evaluation section. There, you will learn about each initiative we identified, and what has been happening in relation to it.

Action Plan & Evaluation

Focus Area: Education & Training

The Goal: Build on the strong network of relationships between educational institutions to expand and promote the many learning opportunities available in the region. Attraction of new talent and families will strengthen our workforce and schools.

Initiative	Description	Recent Updates
Regional partners will develop plans and policies to attract and retain talent and families.		
Develop a Talent Recruitment Marketing Strategy	Place-based marketing that shows our communities are attractive places to relocate. Strategies to encourage higher pay and attractive benefit packages. Provide quality housing options and cultural opportunities in our communities.	EUP continues to work with REDAC, EDOs, employers, Michigan Works!, and other partners to increase housing opportunities and quality of life in the region.
Develop and Retain Education Professionals	The region will attract and retain high-quality teachers through the promotion of available positions, competitive pay and benefits, and impactful training and resources.	Schools throughout the EUPISD region make strides to attract and retain talent. Sault Area Schools is planning a “Community Campus” project near the existing high school.
Provide the best education in the region to students and show an increase in the number of graduates in post-secondary and CTE programs by ensuring every student has knowledge of and access to every program available in our region.		
Support the Early College Program	Increase program participation and expand early college program courses for high school students in the EUPISD.	Schools throughout the EUPISD region continue to offer Early College Program opportunities to students.
Support Dual and Concurrent Enrollment	Offer and expand dual and concurrent enrollment opportunities for high school students in the EUPISD.	Ongoing.
Strengthen CTE Programs	Continue to advocate for the expansion of CTE programs and support existing programs.	EUP staff has joined the CTE Advisory Committee for Sault Schools.
Enhance Region-wide Broadband Accessibility and Availability to Facilitate Remote and Distance Learning	<p>The COVID-19 pandemic placed an extreme amount of pressure on the inadequate broadband infrastructure and created additional learning challenges.</p> <p>Short-term fixes have been applied to maximize remote learning opportunities, where possible. Long term solutions through RDOF, Merit, BEAD, and other project opportunities were supported and pursued, where applicable.</p>	<p>The EUPConnect Collaborative formed in mid-2021 to create a 21st century broadband infrastructure program throughout the EUP. The Collaborative is transitioning to a digital literacy focus to help members of the public utilize new connectivity.</p> <p>Construction on broadband infrastructure continues throughout the EUP.</p>

Initiative	Description	Recent Updates
Support the Les Cheneaux Culinary School Efforts to Increase Enrollment	Support those efforts around increasing enrollment at the Culinary school to a sustainable class size. Promote internships with regional restaurants.	EUP and partners support LCCS and assist when requested.
Expand Marine Trades Institute Facilities	MTI seeks to increase their facility footprint to allow for expanded enrollment and offerings. MTI is also looking to increase housing options for potential enrollment expansion.	EDA Public Works Grant awarded in March 2022. Construction was slated for 2024/2025. As of writing (12/17/25), this project has been postponed and will be engineered to close. A version of this project may be revived in the future.
Revitalize and Supplement LSSU's Academic Offerings That Respond to Student Needs and Promote Transformational Growth in Classroom Education	Adding new academic programs and delivery methods for certificates, associates, and baccalaureate degrees that meet student and market needs for traditional and nontraditional students in the LSSU broader service region.	The second cohort of LSSU's MBA program is moving forward. EUP is working with LSSU to create a Real Estate Development college certificate program.
Leverage post-secondary educational institutions to drive community and economic development.		
Support CFRE, Post-Secondary Research and Development, and the Blue Economy	Leverage the research, professionals, expertise, students, and facilities at CFRE to produce new products, services, and technologies related to the blue economy, which highlights and leverages our position on the St. Marys and in the Great Lakes. These advancements will drive progress in the regional economy, enhancing community development and adding a tool in our efforts to recruit and retain professionals and students.	The construction of CFRE's "Boat Shop" which is used for storage and research tools has been completed. GLCOE-funded wave pool has been completed and is housed in Boat Shop. Headwaters North, the nonprofit managing Sault Ste. Marie's Smartzone, aims to grow the blue economy in our region with the groundwork that has been laid by CFRE. There are opportunities for students and graduates in the blue economy.
Support BMCC as a Workforce Development Partner and Educator of our Native American Communities	Support the continuation and improvement of coursework and hands-on education provided at Bay Mills Community College to upskill our region and raise up our communities and Native American partners.	BMCC has developed CNA/LPN programs that will help the region fill healthcare gaps. BMCC is working on a 36,000-square-foot Allied Health Facility on campus that will help to fill healthcare training gaps.

Action Plan & Evaluation

Focus Area: Business Development

The Goal: The region will foster entrepreneurship, support existing endeavors, and attract established, prosperity-building businesses by providing tailored and adaptable resources that they need at every stage in their life cycle.

Initiative	Description	Recent Updates
Leverage our international border, natural resources, low cost of living, and recreational opportunities to support and attract creative business ventures.		
<p>Focus Attraction Efforts on Firms that Align with Existing Industry Clusters In Our Region</p>	<p>Outdoor recreation, entertainment and tourism, retail, government administration, natural resources, marine repair and manufacturing, international trade, and Great Lakes and freshwater science and technology have either a supply or market advantage in our region.</p> <p>Economic development leaders will focus attraction resources and efforts on those industry clusters and yet-to-be-identified opportunities.</p>	<p>The Great Lakes Boat Building School rebranded to the Marine Trades Institute (MTI) did not complete their EDA-funded project and have engineered it to a close.</p> <p>CCEDC utilized an EDA construction grant to build additional commercial space in Kinross, Michigan. It is suitable for up to 3 tenants, including Maple Transport, Inc., which has committed to creating 10 new jobs in addition to 5 retained jobs for its expanding operations. The building is complete and operational at this time.</p> <p>Headwaters North has hired Nikki Storey as its first Executive Director. She continues to ramp up her efforts.</p> <p>MEDC Small Business Support Hub (HUBS) grant awarded to CCEDC in late 2023, and the second round of direct grant funds were awarded to over 40 EUP businesses.</p>
<p>Gather and Disseminate Data and Market Studies on Potential Growth Areas</p>	<p>Studies and data reports on potential growth sectors should be cultivated and leveraged to guide local businesses and attract outside investment. These efforts should also help find value-added opportunities and logistics solutions.</p>	<p>Projects, such as this CEDS Annual Update, provide regional stakeholders and partners with pertinent data on the EUP economy.</p>
<p>Support Marketing Efforts Around the Sault Ste. Marie Foreign Trade Zone and Increase the Number of Businesses Benefitting From the Designation</p>	<p>Create marketing materials for the Foreign Trade Zone and pair them with suitable priority properties. Identify local and outside companies that would benefit from doing business in a FTZ. Contact companies and furnish with marketing materials.</p>	<p>The Sault EDC does not currently have any tenants in its Foreign Trade Zone, but a NMU Fellow has been secured to assist in marketing and promotion of the FTZ over the next year.</p>
<p>The Twin Sault's Will Pursue the Creation of a Federally Recognized Bi-National Investment Zone That Extends Into Both Canada and the U.S.</p>	<p>Create a board or governing structure. Plan and undertake incentive development. Create marketing materials and a list of businesses and industries to target.</p>	<p>Meetings with our Canadian counterparts took place in 2025 and are continuing in 2026. These quarterly meetings kick off in January.</p>

Initiative	Description	Recent Updates
Create a Regional Prospectus to Highlight our Opportunity Zones (OZ)	The Prospectus will: Introduce Opportunity Zones, provide a data-driven description of the region and individual community profiles, identify key partners, establish roles and responsibilities; identify market strengths, establish an online and marketing presence for OZs in our region, outline institutional capacity with measurements and expected outcomes, and detail other incentives available in each OZ.	EUP Opportunity Zones map completed in 2021. EUP and its partners are doing more to learn about Opportunity Zones and what they can be used for in our region. Other activities ongoing.
Through private-public partnerships, ensure that businesses' workforce needs are met.		
Focus Attraction Efforts on Companies That Already Have Training Programs in Place	Attraction efforts should be further refined by research into what training and development programs potential companies have in place.	There is ongoing collaboration between the EDO's, UP Michigan Works!, and Regional Planning.
Offer Local, Specialized Training Based on Employer Needs	Local organizations will hold programming aimed at providing skill-development opportunities. They may be one session or several courses over a period of time.	UP Michigan Works! Incumbent Worker Training Program continues and has capacity to take on additional applicants. On-the-Job Training through UP MI Works!, and the State Apprenticeship Expansion Program continue to add value.
Support UP Michigan Works! in the Establishment and Implementation of Business Support Programs.	Provide support and assistance to UP Michigan Works! that would assist companies in creating training programs to attract and retain employees. Coordinate the collaboration with employers and schools to meet training needs.	Companies in the EUP were awarded Going PRO funding in FY 2026. Awards totaled \$115,000.
Attract Businesses With Established Training Programs	Attract businesses to the region that are willing to collaborate with local institutions to train employees rather than require skills upon hiring.	There are ongoing efforts through UP MI Works!, local CTE programs, adult education providers, and undergraduate institutions.
Regional Manufacturing Alliance	The Manufacturers Alliance, comprised of local manufacturing entities, partners with local universities and community colleges for joint training opportunities, leadership training, networking, and the sharing of resources.	No progress to report.
Assist businesses in determining their needs and then help them fill those needs.		
Help EDO's, Chambers of Commerce, and Michigan Works! Identify and Fill Businesses' Needs	Provide insight, data, and analysis regarding funding, strategy, supply chain logistics, workforce, and markets.	The MEDC Small Business HUBS grant was awarded to CCEDC in late 2023. The \$1.4 million grant was used to identify and assist small business needs across the region. The 2nd round of direct grants to businesses was completed in 2025 and over 40 small, local businesses received funding to upgrade operations.

Initiative	Description	Recent Updates
Help Local Businesses Find Value-Added Ways to Grow	Existing businesses, particularly farms and land-based producers, may often find revenue streams or cost savings in endeavors that are closely related to their current operations.	Ongoing. EUPRPDC lacks the capacity to take on this project on their own. A partnership is most likely needed.
Create Wealth by Connecting Locally Grown-or-Made Products With Markets	Connect entrepreneurs to services, resources, and external business listings that market products and services to consumers and large-scale buyers.	Progress is ongoing.
Highlight Business Successes	Celebrating local successes as they occur will encourage the broader community, create support for local investment, and inspire outside investment	<p>The Sault EDC celebrated the purchase and future redevelopment of the Zim’s Building, formerly the Del Mar, in Sault Ste. Marie’s historic downtown. This mixed-use building will house a restaurant/lounge and housing units once it is completed this winter.</p> <p>A Culver’s franchise opened on the I-75 Business Spur in Sault Ste. Marie in February 2026.</p> <p>The Sault Ste. Marie I-500 Track project, funded by EDA, is nearing completion. The track will be ready for the race to occur in February 2026.</p> <p>Progress is ongoing.</p>
Leverage Wealth Creation Strategies by Creating Locally Owned-and-Operated Supply Chains	Encouraging local entrepreneurs to view our economy with a wealth creation mindset, which means developing businesses and opportunities for more wealth to be grown and captured in our region instead of losing said wealth to outside investors, firms, and businesses.	This is a new addition to our Business Development strategy. Updates will be included as our mastery of wealth creation activities grows.

Action Plan & Evaluation

Focus Area: Vibrant Communities

The Goal: Vibrant downtowns and village centers will thrive throughout the Region, with a variety of safe housing options for guests, seasonal workers, and residents. A healthy populace will have access to healthcare, cultural assets, and local food, and communities will support local farms.

Initiative	Description	Recent Updates
Events, internal and external investments, building development, and placemaking efforts increase downtown activity and prosperity.		
Use strategic placemaking in a manner that is unique, exciting, sustainable, and conducive to commercial activity.	Collective effort to energize public spaces leads to a stronger connection between residents and their communities. Using design and justness principles, placemaking in turn enhances community identity.	Soo Theatre renovation efforts are ongoing. The Zim's Building is being redeveloped into housing, a restaurant, and lounge in Sault Ste. Marie. It will open this winter.
Encourage volunteerism and organizational openness to connect individuals to their communities.	Civic groups, DDAs and Chambers organize events and beautification efforts. DDAs, Chambers, and EDOs highlight volunteer activities; recognize those groups.	Recognition efforts are ongoing across the region.
Create a variety of safe housing options to accommodate guests, seasonal workers and residents.		
Employ Land Bank, Brownfield, and other TIF and tax credit programs to show outside investors that you are development friendly, and to assist local developers grow their capacity.	Support local units of government in their pursuit of funding programs and other incentives to promote the development of missing middle housing options in the Region.	Through a MSHDA grant, EUP is looking to expanding Chippewa County's Brownfield Authority and create either a county- or region-wide Land Bank in the future. The Sault EDC continues to utilize its Brownfield Authority to incentivize development. Most recently, a hotel in the downtown district is utilizing this tool.
Ensure clear communication and processes with developers.	Through implementation of Best Practices in the Redevelopment Ready Communities 2.0 Program, communities can provide clear processes, and more simple permitting makes a community more development-friendly while increasing transparency with the public.	EUP Regional Planning & Development Commission has created the Housing Readiness Checklist for communities. EUPRPDC continues to cultivate relationships directly with developers and third parties.
Review zoning ordinances to allow for more density, innovative forms, and lower parking minimums where appropriate.	Greater density reduces building costs, environmental impact, and the cost of infrastructure build-out.	The City of Sault Ste. Marie is updating their zoning using the Housing Readiness Grant Incentive program through MSHDA.

Initiative	Description	Recent Updates
Ensure that a healthy populace will have access to local food, and that communities will support local farms.		
Support farmer education and support local food production, warehousing, distribution, and sales	<p>MSUE hosts beginning farmer webinars.</p> <p>BMCC offers agriculture educational opportunities through Waishkey Bay Farms.</p> <p>Les Cheneaux Culinary School trains chefs and exposes the community to farm-to-table dining.</p> <p>Taste the Local Difference matches producers with markets and hosts annual local food summits.</p> <p>Educate schools about the 10 Cents A Meal Program, which provides schools with \$0.10 for every meal when the meals are prepared with local ingredients.</p>	<p>EUP staff have engaged with staff from Grow Benzie to learn about the process of creating an incubator kitchen.</p> <p>In the future, EUPRPDC would like to see an incubator kitchen established in the EUP so that upstart restauraners and food manufacturers have a place to locate at the outset of their operations.</p>
Support local food education efforts	<p>Several local schools have gardens and other agricultural curricula, and local libraries support Cookbook Clubs and seed exchanges.</p> <p>There are opportunities for partnership with community organizations regarding composting and organic gardening.</p>	Ongoing. EUPRPDC lacks the capacity to do this on their own.
Support for Farmers Markets in the region	<p>Connect all of the farmers market managers to the Michigan Farmers Market Association.</p> <p>Provide support and technical assistance to EUP farmers markets in order to help them afford marketing and operations costs.</p> <p>Support the infrastructure for food education at markets.</p>	Ongoing. EUPRPDC lacks the capacity to do this on their own.
Identify and implement strategies from the Region C Housing Partnership's Action Plan.		
Implement goals and strategies from Region C's Housing Action Plan	<p>Increase the availability and quality of housing stock throughout the Eastern Upper Peninsula through the development of the housing ecosystem, preparing communities for development, educating the public about funding sources, identifying areas for development, conducting studies and surveys, and convening and connecting stakeholders with outside investors and capacity -builders.</p>	<p>Ongoing meetings to educate and motivate stakeholders.</p> <p>EUPRPDC is creating a college certificate program through Lake Superior State University.</p> <p>EUPRPDC is also fostering the creation of the UP Shelter Network, a regular, virtual convening of shelter operators throughout the entire UP.</p>

Action Plan & Evaluation

Focus Area: Policy and Planning

The Goal: Local governments and government agencies will support long- and short-term planning to facilitate investments, ensure fiscal responsibility and stewardship, and increase community prosperity.

Initiative	Description	Recent Updates
Increase educational opportunities on relevant topics to residents including land use, zoning, building codes, and other topics as they arise.		
Local and regional governments will establish clear channels of communication to residents, local organizations, and businesses—and to one another—to foster collaboration and share ideas across the region.	<p>Deepen planning understanding within the region through charrettes and in-person public engagement.</p> <p>Assist communities to better understanding virtual community engagement opportunities.</p>	<p>The Michigan Association of Planning and others provide annual training modules that are promoted across the region.</p> <p>EUPRPDC staff completed training through the National Charrette Institute at Michigan State University. This training will help staff conduct more impactful community engagement.</p>
Reduce and prevent blight.		
Rural and urban blight contribute to lower property values, environmental contamination, and loss of revenue to a community due to it becoming unattractive to visitors and new residents. Many programs and policies assist blight reduction.	<p>Revise and develop blight ordinances.</p> <p>Dedicate resources so that policies may be enforced; develop a strategy for cost-sharing of enforcement staff.</p> <p>Support the development of a county-wide land bank for the management of acquired and tax-reverted properties.</p> <p>Develop and support façade grant programs.</p> <p>Support expanded Brownfield Redevelopment Authorities.</p> <p>Initiate placemaking, support streetscape enhancement, and create special overlay district standards in downtown areas.</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p> <p>EUP continues to provide assistance to local units of government who are interested in pursuing funding to address blight through the State Land Bank for the Blight Elimination program.</p> <p>EUPRPDC is working with InvestUP to create a continuous, UP-wide educational program. This program will teach local units of government about different incentives.</p>
Local processes will ensure clear communication with business and support investment into communities.		
Ensure local growers, manufacturers, and service providers can produce and supply their products and services locally and regionally through common language regulations and land use policies.	<p>Promote blue economy endeavors, maple syrup, and other agricultural product production, warehousing, manufacturing, and distribution.</p> <p>Work with large public land owners to increase our citizens' understanding of permitting on their land.</p> <p>Develop guides in common language to help various types of entrepreneurs understand the impacts of their investments.</p>	<p>No progress or update on policy language. EUPRPDC needs to develop deeper relationships to enact regulations and policies, if that is the proper direction to take.</p>

Initiative	Description	Recent Updates
Promote environmental and community health through forward-thinking services, policies, and planning.		
Develop recycling services and improve materials management services overall	EUPRPDC is working on Materials Management Planning after updates to Part 115.	<p>Reina Recycling now accepts E-Waste recyclable materials.</p> <p>The waste-to-energy anaerobic digester in Kincheloe has been shut down permanently.</p> <p>After forming a Materials Management Committee, EUP works with stakeholders and representatives from around the region to attempt to meet the State’s goals for materials management, specifically looking at changes to diverting food waste, recycling, hauling, processing, and more.</p>
Development Partnership with NextCycle Michigan	<p>Create partnerships promoting recycling services and the impacts on the community.</p> <p>Educate about the State of MI’s recycling goals within our communities.</p>	Ongoing. EUPRPDC will need to reach out to NextCycle in the future to develop a partnership.

Action Plan & Evaluation

Focus Area: Integrated Asset Mgmt

The Goal: Through inventories, fiscal and maintenance planning, and need-identification, the region will support existing and expand road, utility, broadband, and service infrastructure.

Initiative	Description	Recent Updates
The Region will continue to maximize the resources available to maintain and enhance roads, utilizing asset management best practices.		
Local Road Agencies Will Continue to Participate in the PASER Rating and Evaluation Process Annually.	EUP annually conducts the Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating Program on paved roads, with Act 51 Road Agencies in the region.	Under a contract with MDOT, EUP staff complete the surface evaluations annually, this effort is ongoing.
Completion of Asset Management Plans	Required local transportation agencies will develop and submit to the TAMC an Asset Management Plan.	Under a contract with MDOT, EUP staff complete the surface evaluations annually, this effort is ongoing.
Completion of Local Road Asset Inventory	PASER data collection for all roads that do not fall within the Fed -aid guidelines of TAMC.	Under a contract with MDOT, EUP staff complete the surface evaluations annually, this effort is ongoing.
Implement New Tools to Improve Asset Inventorying	Adoption of a schedule requiring update or replacement of Field Collection equipment every two years.	New field rugged tablet for upcoming asset inventory.
Collection of All Types of Assets (Signs, Roads, Culverts, etc.)	Implementation of an internship program with the County Road Commissions to collect and inventory other asset data.	Under a contract with MDOT, EUP staff complete the surface evaluations annually, this effort is ongoing.
Implement and advocate for Integrated Asset Management Best Practices across the Region.		
Completion of Asset Management Readiness Scale	Asset owners of road, water, sewer, fiber, electric, and natural gas infrastructure will have conducted and submitted an asset management readiness report to the MIC.	Ongoing.
Communities Will Adopt a Holistic Approach to Asset Management	Local Units of Government (LUG) and asset owners will strive to create Asset Management Policies that guide future investments and maintenance.	Ongoing.
Implement Capital Improvement Planning for Core communities	Enhanced educational offerings so elected officials and citizens can better understand the challenges today and in the future.	Ongoing.
Invest in public transit services to ensure mobility and accessibility and to stimulate economic growth, productivity, and competitiveness in the EUP.		
Improve Public Transit Offerings Across the Region.	Improved public transportation services through better mapped routes.	Ongoing.
Identification of the Need for Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT)	Development of a strategy that identifies the areas of greatest need across the Region for NEMT and specific actions to address this need.	NEMT plan completed, Jan 2022.

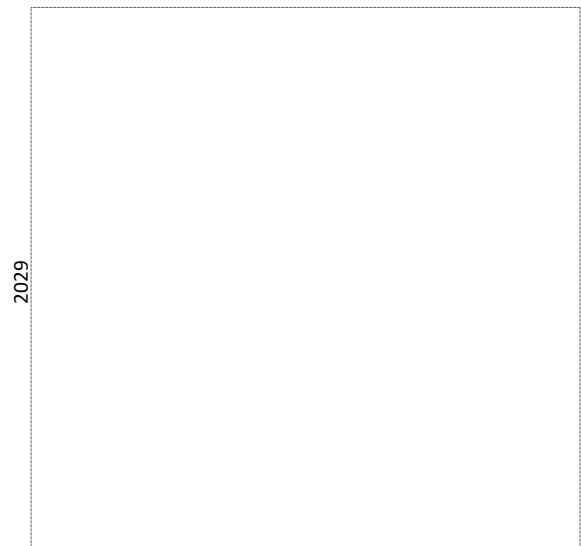
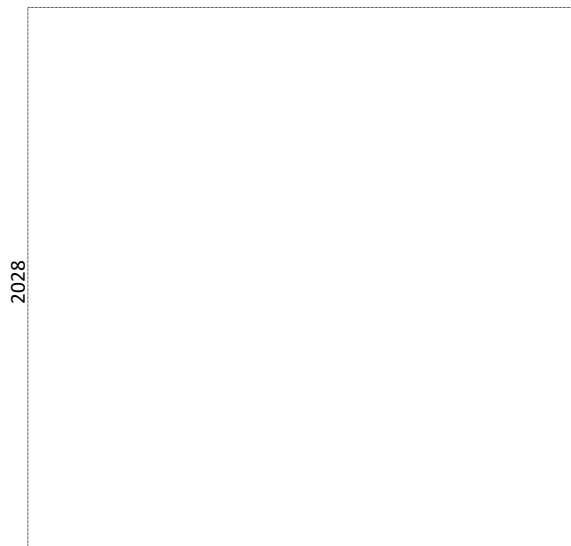
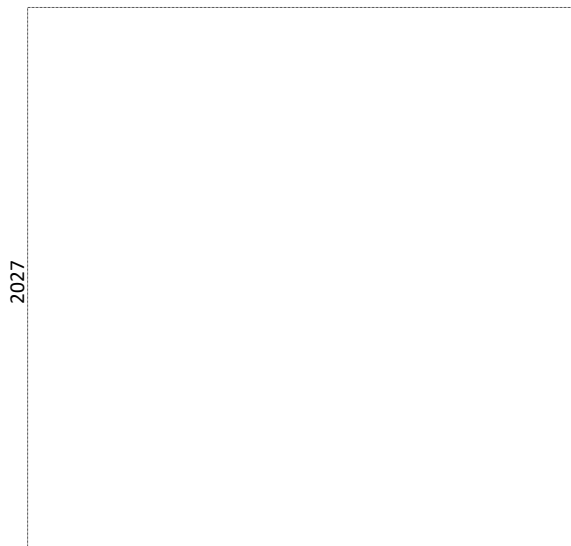
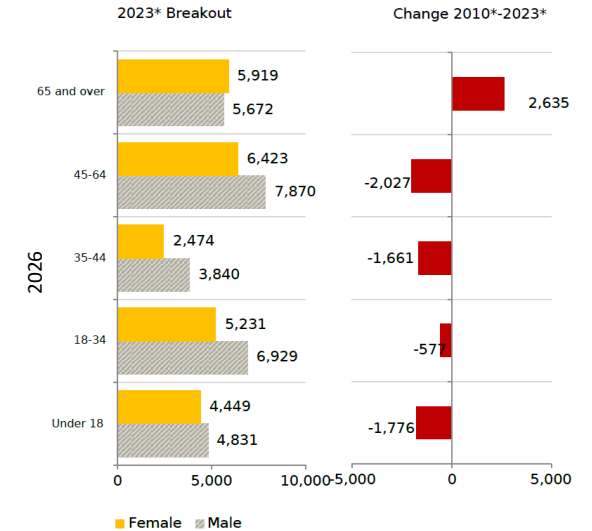
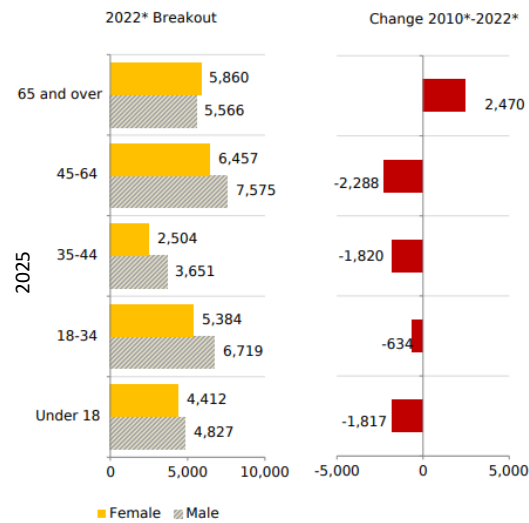
Schedule of Goals for the Next Year

Initiative	Description	Schedule
<p>Employ Land Bank, Brownfield, and other TIF and tax credit programs to show outside investors that you are development friendly, and to assist local developers grow their capacity.</p>	<p>Support local units of government in their pursuit of funding programs and other incentives to promote the development of a variety of housing, including missing middle housing options, in the Region.</p>	<p>Expanding the Chippewa County BRA will take place throughout 2026 and will be nearing completion in the fall.</p> <p>The Sault EDC 's hotel project on Portage Avenue will begin construction in the spring. It is using Brownfield funds.</p>
<p>Implement goals and strategies from Region C's Housing Action Plan</p>	<p>Increase the availability and quality of housing stock throughout the Eastern Upper Peninsula through the development of the housing ecosystem, preparing communities for development, educating the public about funding sources, identifying areas for development, conducting studies and surveys, and convening and connecting stakeholders with outside investors and capacity-builders.</p>	<p>Ongoing meetings to educate and motivate stakeholders.</p> <p>EUPRPDC is creating a college certificate program through Lake Superior State University. This will be completed before September 2026.</p> <p>EUPRPDC is also fostering the creation of the UP Shelter Network, a regular, virtual convening of shelter operators throughout the entire UP. The first meeting is January 14, 2026.</p>
<p>Develop recycling services and improve materials management services overall</p>	<p>EUPRPDC is working on Materials Management Planning after updates to Part 115.</p>	<p>EUPRPDC and the MMPC will have a draft of the Materials Management Plan completed by the end of 2026.</p> <p>Ongoing meetings to educate and motivate stakeholders.</p>
<p>Gather and Disseminate Data and Market Studies on Potential Growth Areas</p>	<p>Studies and data reports on potential growth sectors should be cultivated and leveraged to guide local businesses and attract outside investment. These efforts should also help find value-added opportunities and logistics solutions.</p>	<p>Projects, such as this CEDS 1-Year Update, provide regional stakeholders and partners with pertinent data on the EUP economy. This is completed yearly until the 2030-2034 plan is created.</p>
<p>EDA Partnership Planning Grant Activities</p>	<p>EUPRPDC continuously works with partners and stakeholders on economic development projects that will benefit the region.</p>	<p>This process is ongoing.</p>
<p>MEDC Small Business Support Hubs Grant</p>	<p>EUPRPDC is contracted with the Chippewa County EDC to help them administer MEDC's Small Business Support Hubs grant. This grant provides training and direct grants to small businesses in the region.</p>	<p>This process continues until September 30, 2026.</p>

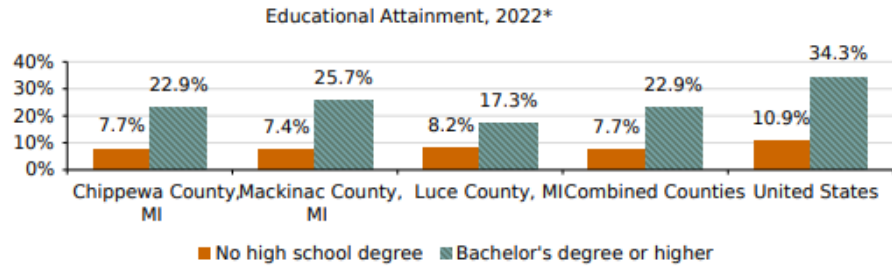
Regional Data Updates

EUP is a data-focused organization, and, therefore, are including an annual update to key metrics in our Year One Update. On this page and the pages that follow, we will include baseline data from our 2025-2029 CEDS, and the following data for years one, two, three, and four. This will allow community partners, stakeholders, and other interested parties to measure the changes in our region from an objective perspective. Continue reading to learn more about the Eastern U.P. and key data set changes over time.

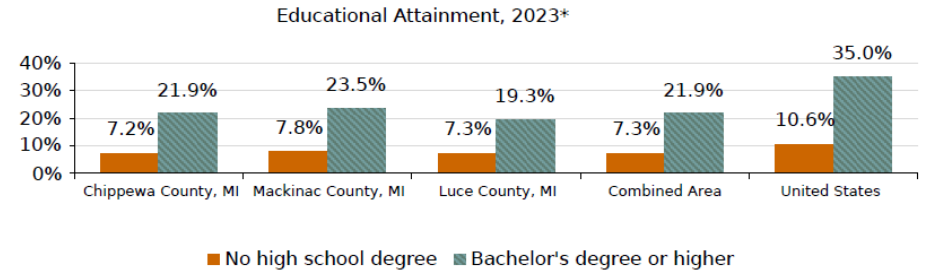
Population Breakout by Age



Educational Attainment



2025



2026



2027

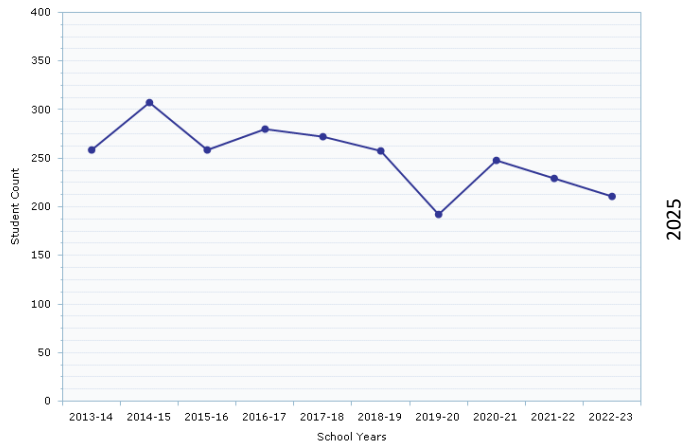


2028

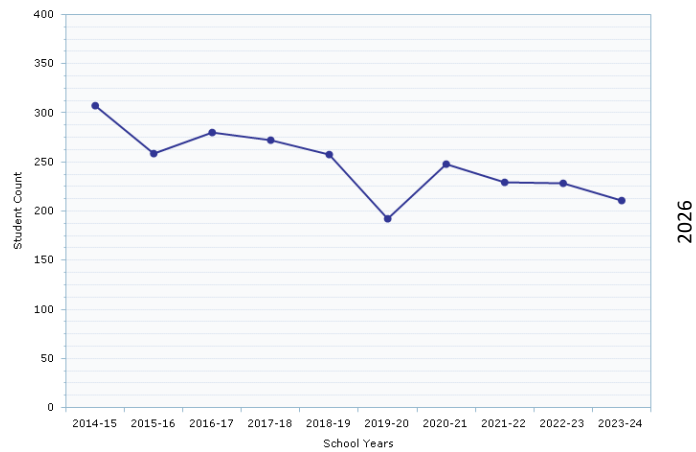


2029

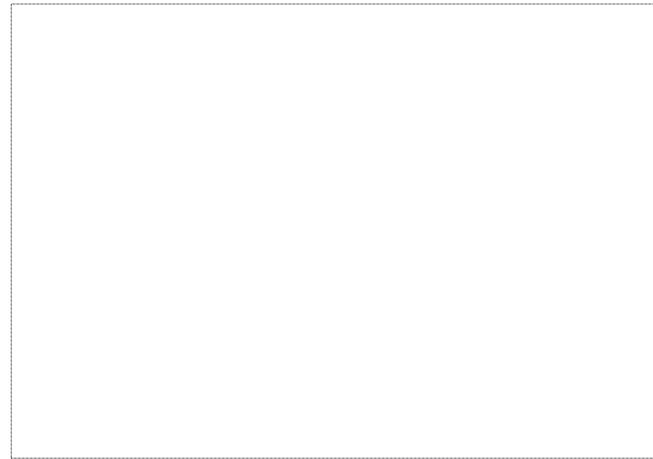
Students Enrolled Into College Within Six Months of Graduation



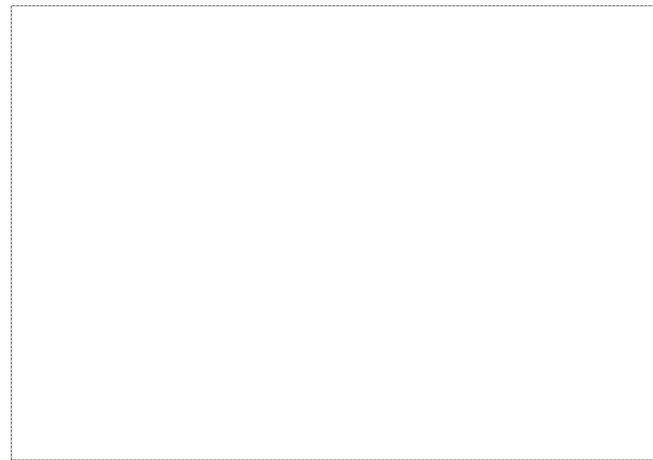
2025



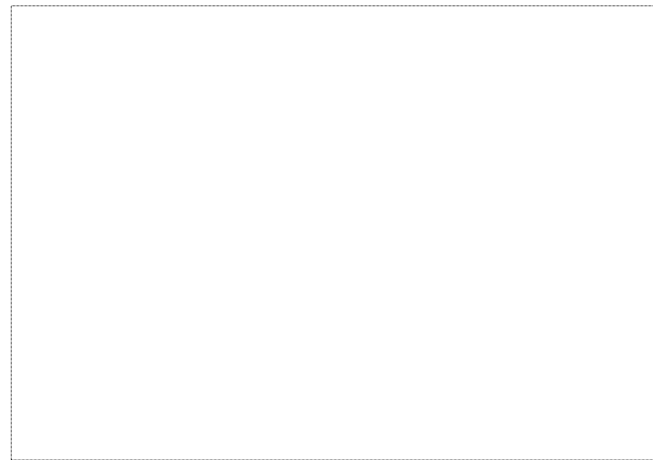
2026



2027

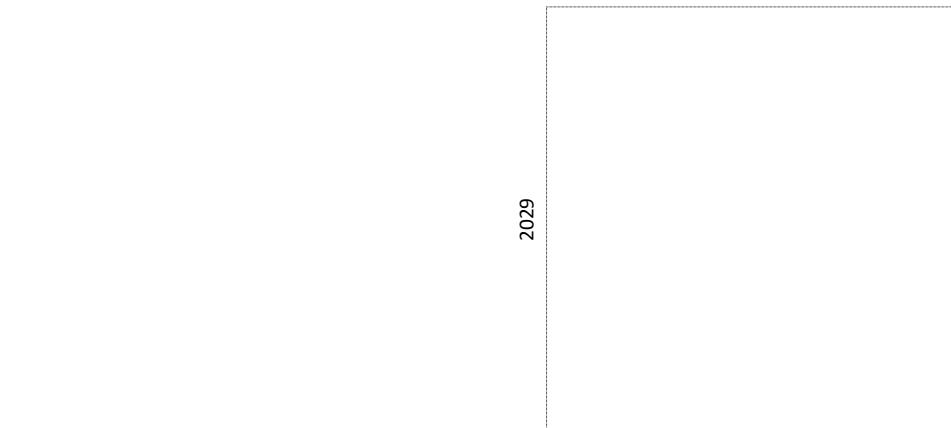
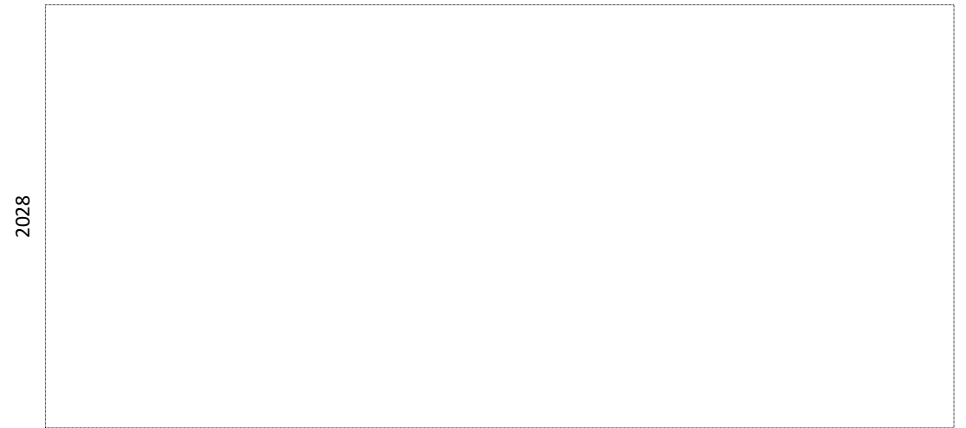
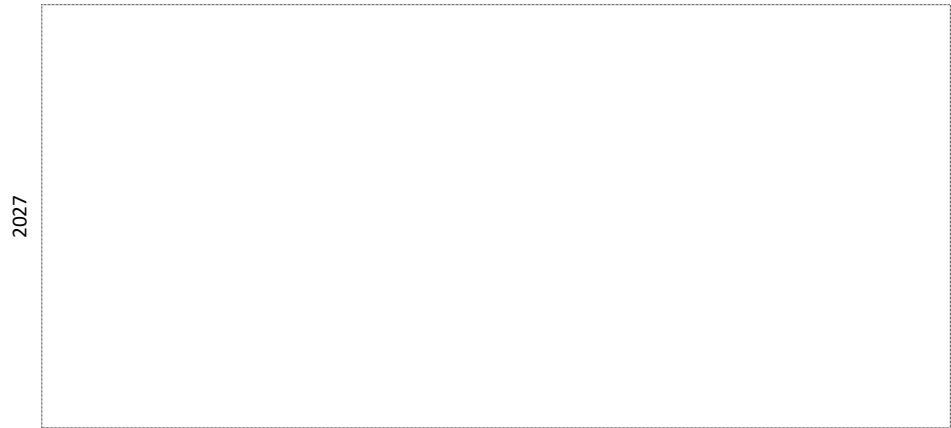
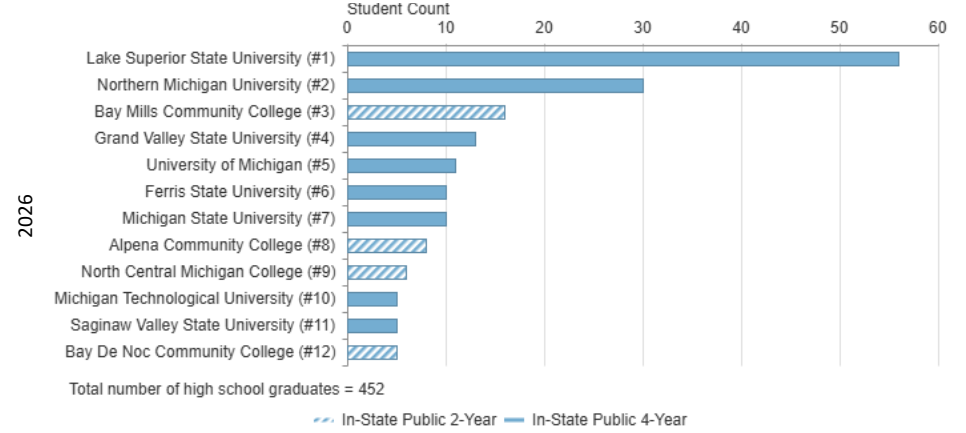
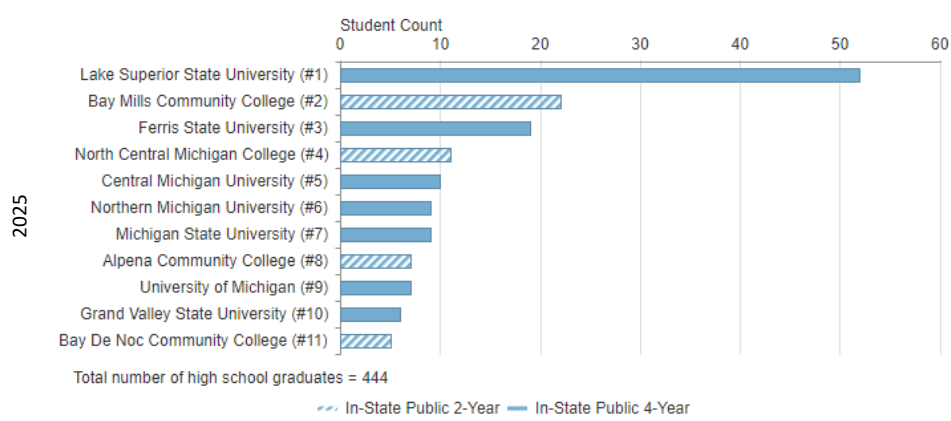


2028

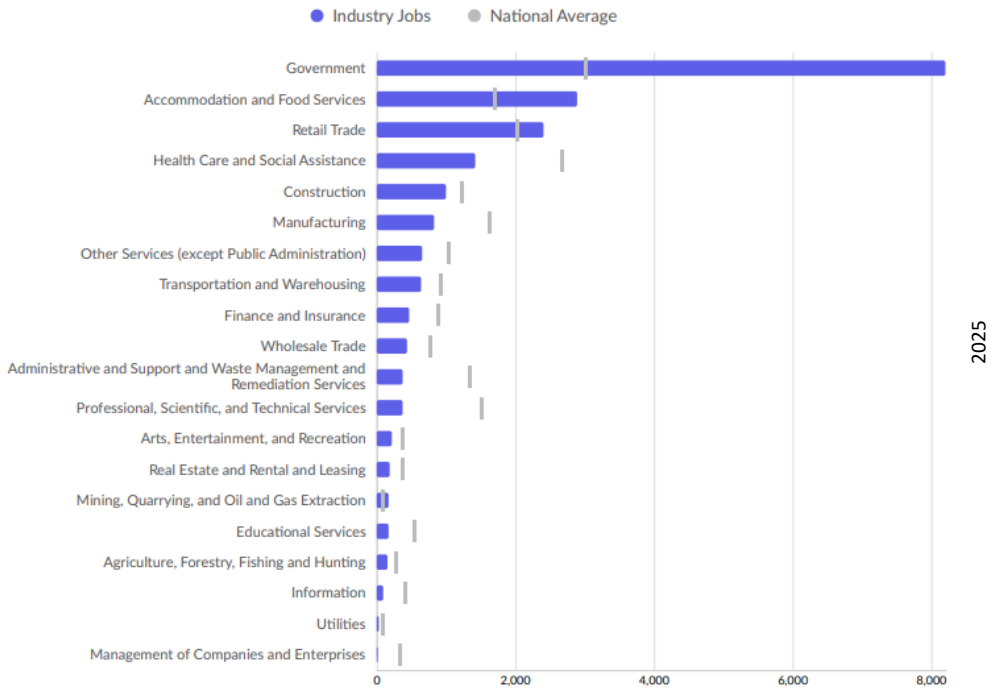


2029

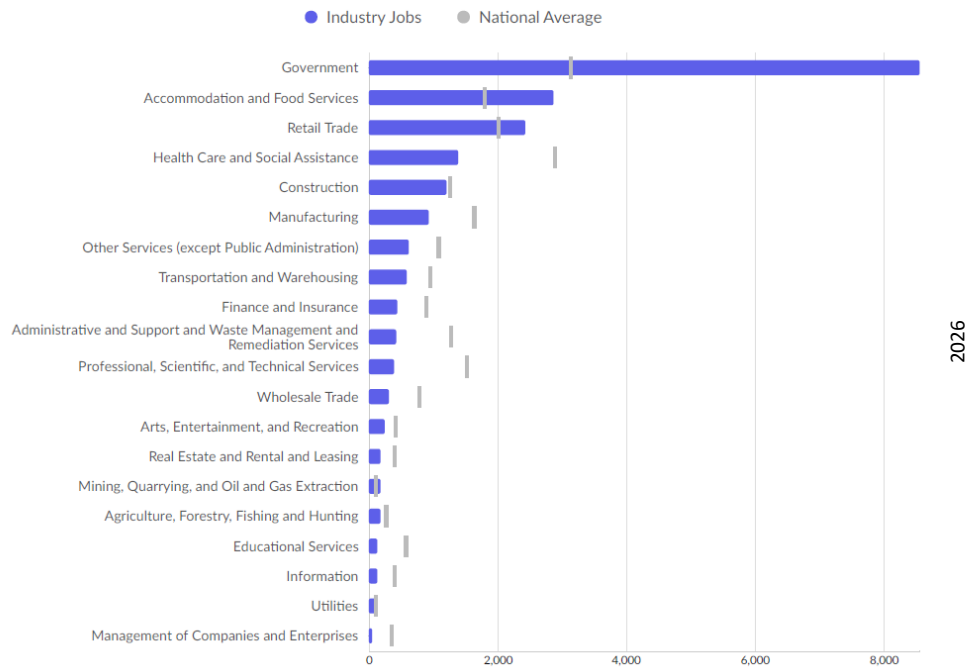
College Enrollment Destination by Year



Largest Industries by Jobs



2025



2026

2027

2028

2029

Figure 5

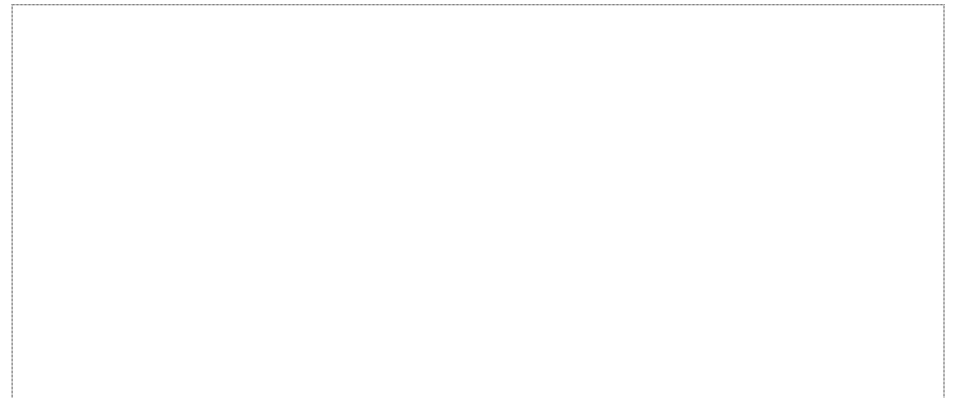
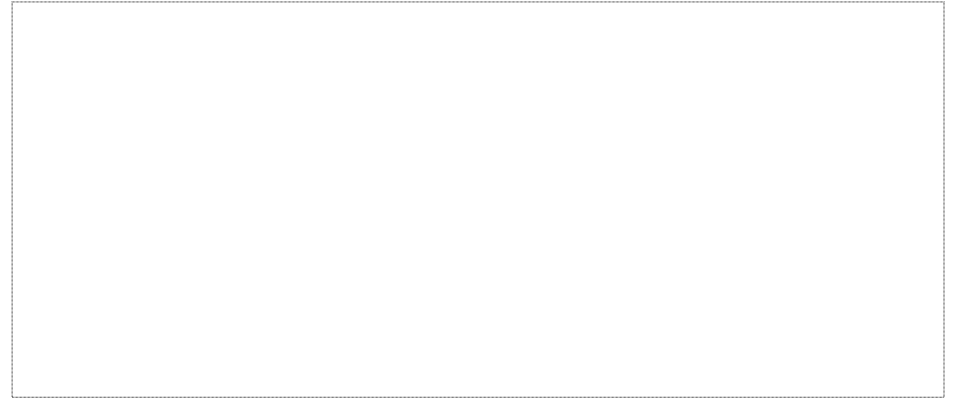
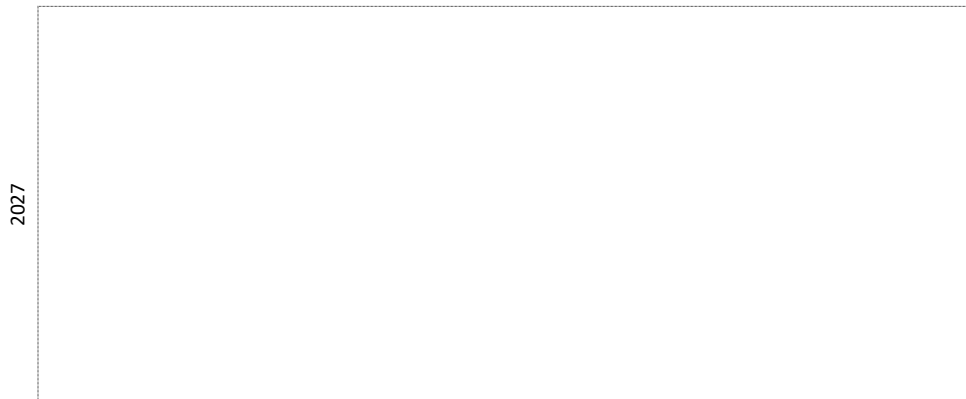
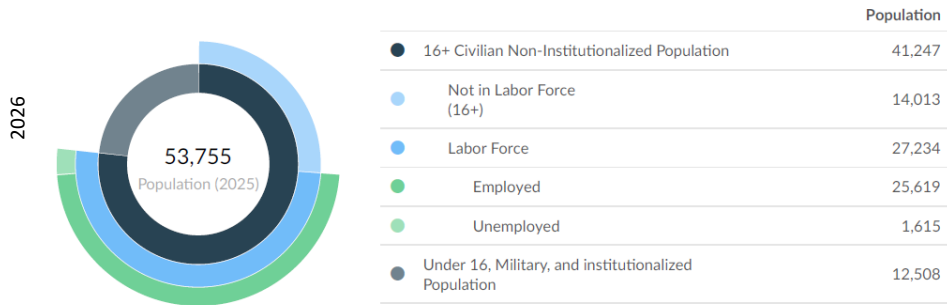
Source : Lightcast Data Sets

Labor Force Breakdown by Category

May 2023 Labor Force Breakdown



Aug 2025 Labor Force Breakdown



Unemployment Rate by County

Region	Area	Year	Period	Adjustment	Preliminary	Employed	Labor Force	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
MI	Chippewa County, MI	2023	Annual	Not Adj	No	15,393	16,360	967	5.9%
MI	Luce County, MI	2023	Annual	Not Adj	No	2,123	2,256	133	5.9%
MI	Mackinac County, MI	2023	Annual	Not Adj	No	4,910	5,392	482	8.9%

2025

Region	Area	Year	Period	Adjustment	Preliminary	Employed	Labor Force	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
MI	Chippewa County, MI	2024	Annual	Not Adj	No	16,611	17,745	1,134	6.4%
MI	Luce County, MI	2024	Annual	Not Adj	No	1,983	2,152	169	7.9%
MI	Mackinac County, MI	2024	Annual	Not Adj	No	4,910	5,439	529	9.7%

2026

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2027

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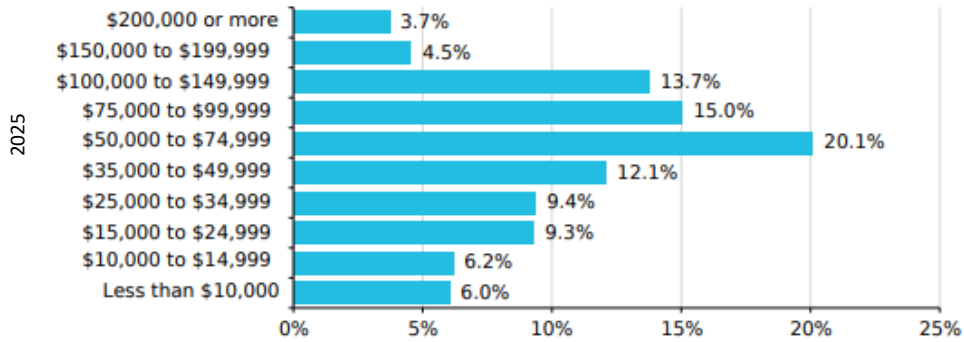
2028

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2029

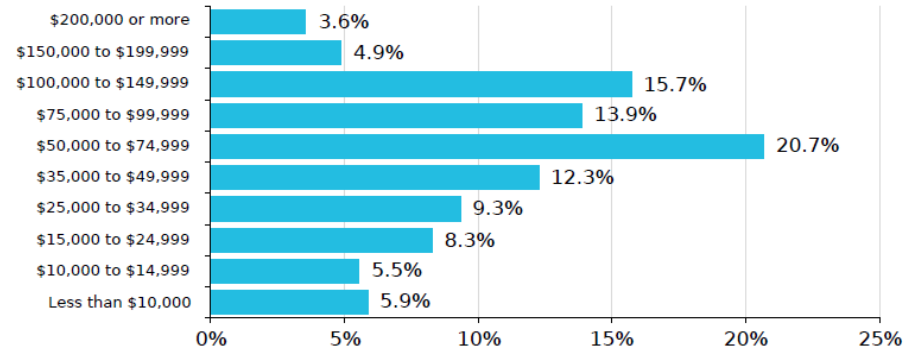
Household Income Distribution

Household Income Distribution, Combined Counties, 2022*



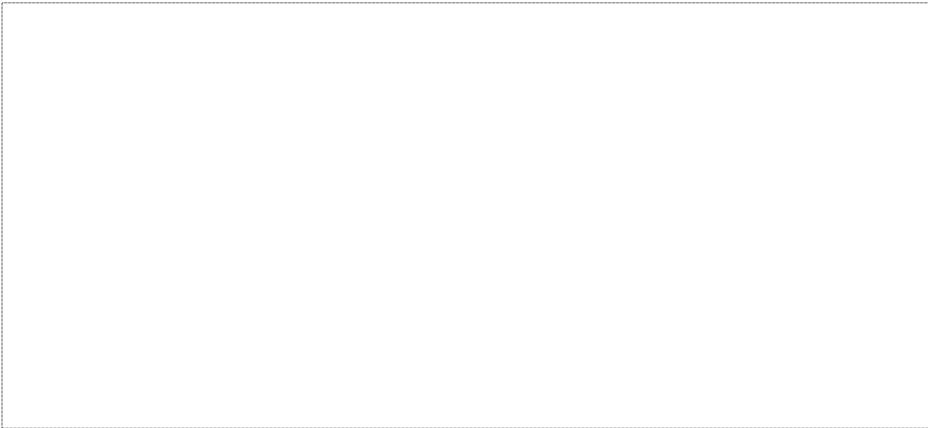
2025

Household Income Distribution, Combined Area, 2023*

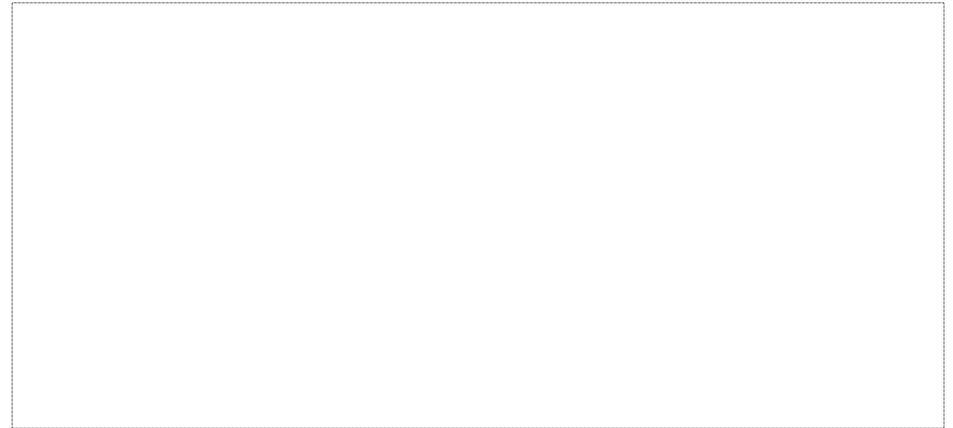


2026

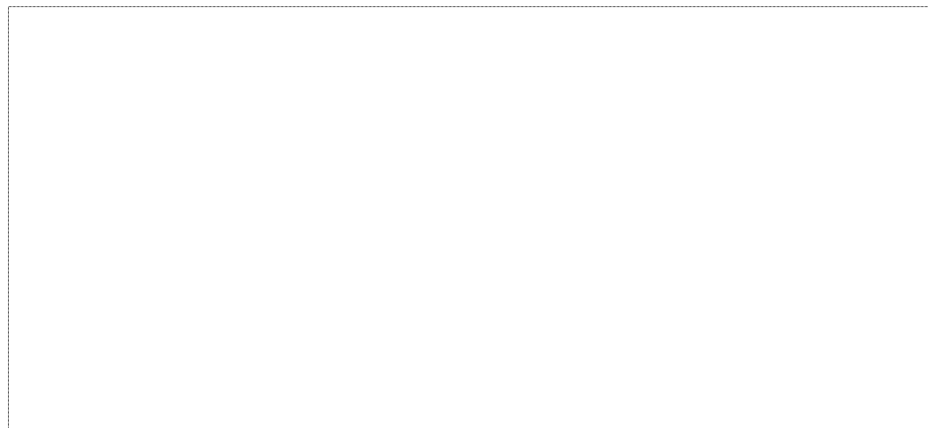
2027



2028

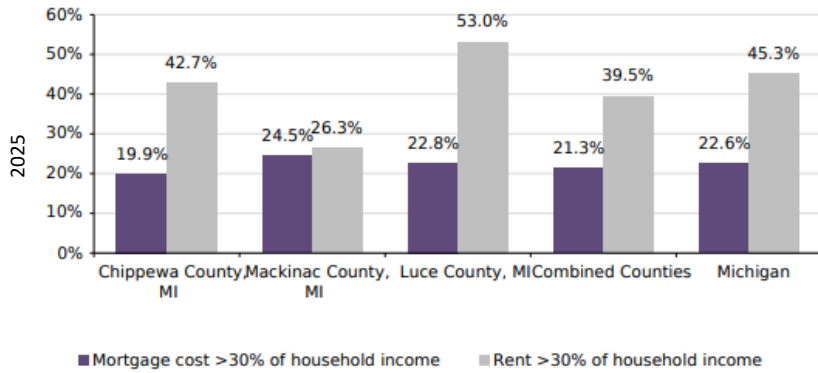


2029

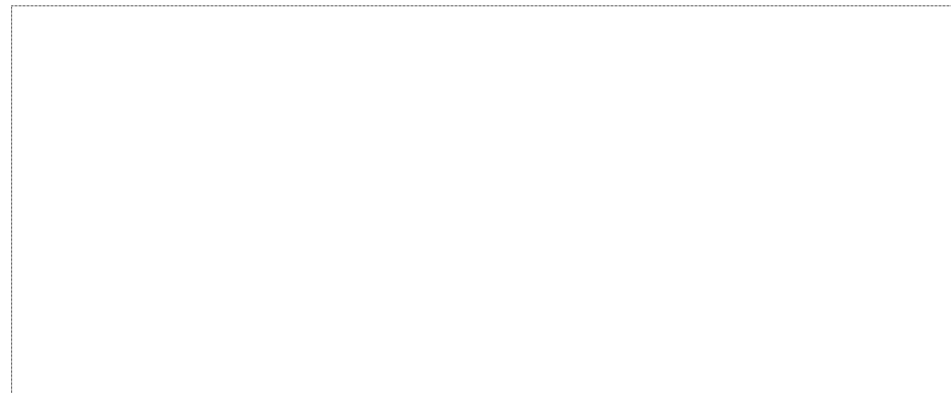
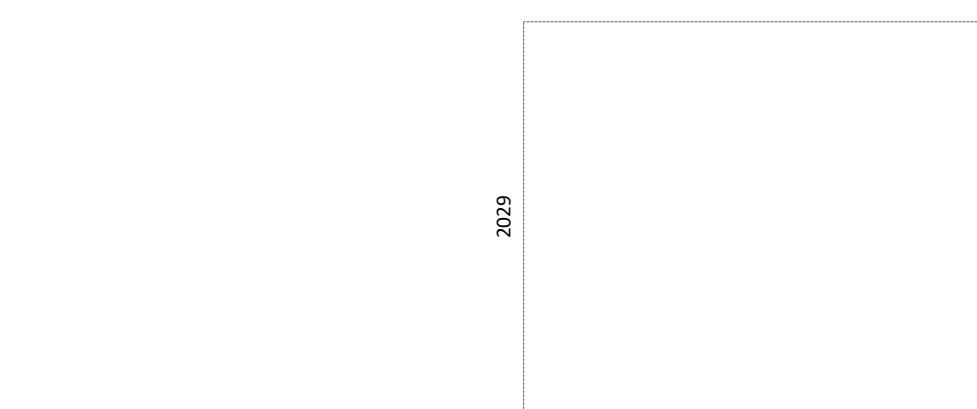
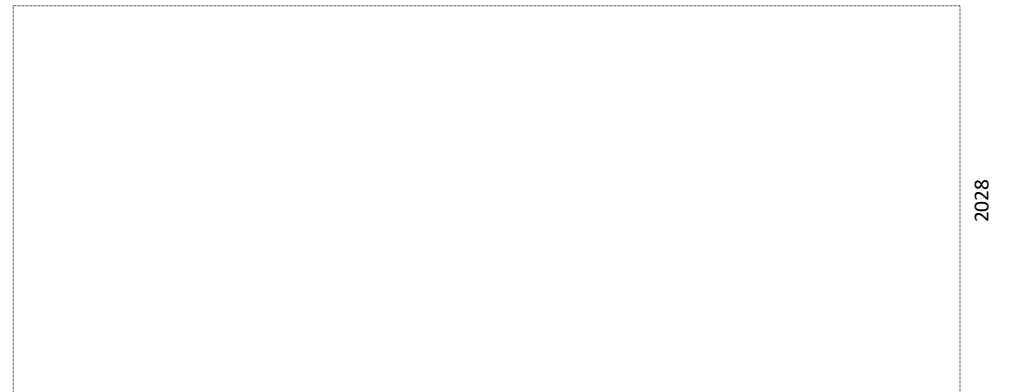
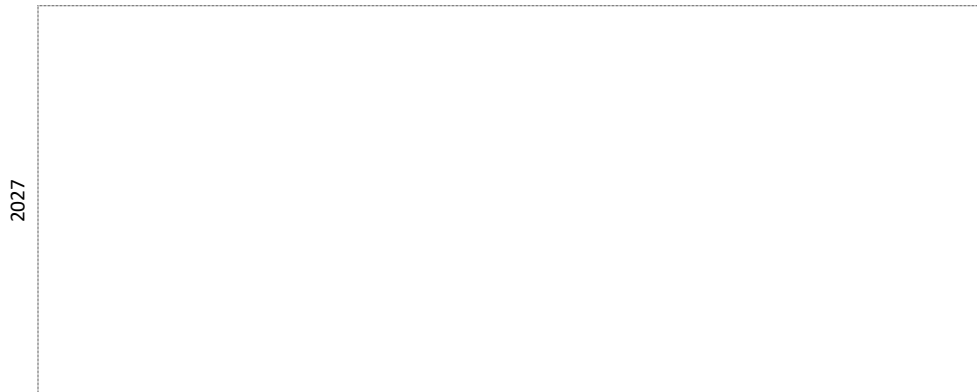
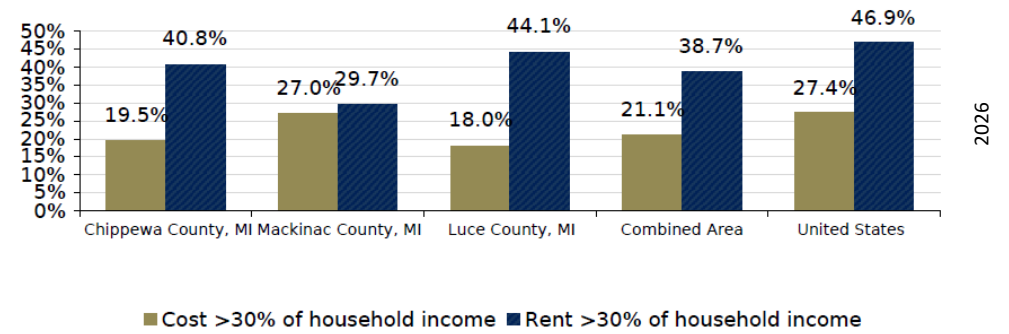


Household Costs as a Percent of Household Income

Housing Costs as a Percent of Household Income, 2022*



Housing Costs as a Percent of Household Income, 2023*



Priority Projects

During late 2025, the Commission conducted its annual “Call for Priority Projects.” This request is issued via direct email to Eastern Upper Peninsula economic development organizations, including tribal business development organizations. We received a variety of projects for priority consideration in the 2026 Year One Update. These projects were added to other priority projects from past years which have not yet been implemented.

The projects are scored based on the criteria in the table on the right. Projects are rated according to the information provided by the organizations.

The table on the following pages contains information that was submitted for 2026. Projects submitted in prior years are also listed in this table for up to three years unless the submitting organization re-ups their commitment to the project or requests that we remove it.



Job Creation	Job Retention
1-10 = 2 pts	1-10 = 2 pts
11-25 = 4 pts	11-25 = 4 pts
26-50 = 6 pts	26-50 = 6 pts
50+ = 10 pts	50+ = 10 pts
Readiness	Private Investment
Shovel Ready = 5 pts	Yes = 5 pts
In Progress = 3 pts	No = 1 pt
Planning Phase = 1 pt	
	In CEDS Plan
Matching Funds	Yes = 5 pts
Yes = 5 pts	No = 1 pt
No = 1 pt	
	CEDS Goals
EDA Investment Priority	1 pt per Goal Included
1 pt per Priority Included (Projects submitted and scored using prior Priorities)	

EDA Priority Projects List

Year Listed	Project Title	Project Description	Organization	Estimated Cost	Funding Sources	Total Score
2026	Bi-National Investment District	Composed of the EUP region of Michigan and the Sault Ste Marie, ON region, the bi-national investment district would be a specialized strategic rural NAFTA investment hub which would promote bi-national border investment in a market that has been historically economically isolated and underdeveloped. The two regions would work collaboratively together to plan and leverage the region's resources as an integrated mega region. Numerous initiatives will be needed to capture these opportunities such as the integration of supply chains in the region; the development and implantation of an integrated bi-national workforce development strategy; and the creation of an infrastructure/utility plan that is dictated by the mega region's economic development strategy.	EUP Regional Planning and Development Commission	\$150,000	Regional EDO funding support, EDA, USDA, MEDC, other	39
2026	Stone Mountain Harbor Project Development	A 2,000 acre site in Goetzville along the St. Marys River will be mined for its estimated 2 billion tons in aggregate reserves. Funding would be needed to develop a port on said site to transport materials. It would be the only US-owned aggregate ship loading facility on the upper Great Lakes.	DeTour Area EDC/ Sergeant Docks	\$29,000,000	Port Infrastructure Development Program Grant/private investment	33

Year Listed	Project Title	Project Description	Organization	Estimated Cost	Funding Sources	Total Score
2026	Bay Mills Indian Community - Kings Club Redevelopment	A mixed-use development on property located at the former Kings Club Casino that will include a convenience store, deli with indoor and outdoor seating, a business incubator space, and lakefront townhomes.	Bay Mills Indian Community	\$7,202,145	Tribal Funds and Grant Funding	29
2026	Wastewater Treatment Facility	Construction of wastewater treatment facility to service the Plantation Hill residences and other BMIC properties.	Bay Mills Indian Community	\$7,702,145	Federal Funding, Grant Funding, Tribal Funding	29
2026	Marina Expansion	Expand, upgrade and improve marina.	Bay Mills Indian Community	\$6,864,900	Tribal and Grant Funding	29
2026	Biomass Rating	This is a three-phase project to develop a 37.7-acre lot. Phase One will complete the property survey, including recording the deed and performing title work. Phase Two will complete site leveling, tree and debris removal, and add a second driveway. This step puts the site into a shovel-ready state which will help future development. Phase Three will be obtaining a Bio-Mass rating and marketing to Bio-Mass producers while working with Ecostrat. The end goal is to have a biomass operation in Newberry.	Luce County EDC	\$215,000	Regional Site Readiness Grant approved for Phase One in the amount of \$14,375. Applied for a MI Ready Sites grant for Phase Two; no awards given at this time. Ecostrat will be applying for a \$85,000 grant for the Bio-Mass rating and promotion.	27
2026	New Building Construction	Construction of a new 11,000SF Flight Line Shipping and Warehouse Terminal Building.	Chippewa County EDC	\$4,400,000	EDA, MEDC, Local, Private	26
2026	All-Suite Lodging Facility in Kincheloe	Construction of an all-suite lodging facility located on M80, within walking distance of Chippewa County International Airport.	Chippewa County EDC	\$5,000,000	MEDC, Private	25

Year Listed	Project Title	Project Description	Organization	Estimated Cost	Funding Sources	Total Score
2026	Bay Mills Indian Community Spirt Stone Trail	The Bay Mills Indian Community seeks to continue the work on the Spirit Stone Trail. About a mile left of the project has yet to be completed. In addition to completing the main section of the trail, BMIC would like to add other access points to and from the trail. The trail is essential for the community, tourists, and general population as it provides the opportunity to increase outdoor exercise; thereby, assisting in decreasing multiple health risk factors.	Bay Mills Indian Community	\$60,000	None at this time.	24
2026	Chippewa Landing Redevelopment	Development on the Back Bay that will include a small marina with Outdoor Outfitters with small restaurant, and cabin rentals.	Bay Mills Indian Community	\$9,000,000	Tribal and Grant Funding	23

Year Listed	Project Title	Project Description	Organization	Estimated Cost	Funding Sources	Total Score
2026	Dial-A-Ride Facilities	<p>Chippewa-Luce-Mackinac Community Action Agency is seeking to construct a modern Dial-A-Ride Transit Facility that will serve as the hub for public transportation operations in Michigan’s EUP. As the designated provider of Dial-A-Ride services for Sault Ste. Marie, CLMCAA plays a vital role in connecting residents—especially seniors, individuals with disabilities, and low-income households—to essential services, employment, education, and healthcare. The demand for local and regional transportation services has significantly increased, placing pressure on our limited space and outdated garage. To continue meeting community mobility needs, CLMCAA must develop a transit facility capable of supporting current operations and long-term system sustainability. The facility will provide a consolidated, efficient environment where transit functions can take place. The project includes heated indoor storage, a critical necessity in the harsh winter climate of the U.P. Adequate indoor storage reduces vehicle wear, minimizes cold-weather failures, and extends the life of vehicles—ultimately reducing costs. The facility will include dedicated maintenance bays that meet safety and environmental standards, ensuring that vehicles can be serviced onsite. Administrative offices, dispatch space, secure parts storage, and designated areas for driver training and meetings will strengthen operations and improve capacity.</p>	CLMCAA	\$7,700,000	MDOT, FTA, Local Match	22

Year Listed	Project Title	Project Description	Organization	Estimated Cost	Funding Sources	Total Score
2026	Materials Management Facility	The new Materials Management Facility will allow BMIC to improve waste disposal and recycling efforts for the community.	Bay Mills Indian Community	2,000,000	EPA grant funding, BMIC funding	22
2025	Supportive Housing—Seniors and Emergency Homes	Chippewa-Luce-Mackinac Community Action Agency is looking to build senior housing in Newberry and emergency housing in the EUP.	CLM Community Action Agency	Unknown	MSHDA	22
2025	W 14th Avenue Extension	W 14th Avenue will be extended through the Sault Air Industrial Park to prepare lots 21 and 22, that are currently land locked, for development.	Sault Ste. Marie EDC	\$2,000,000	Federal Grants, MEDC	22
2026	Data and Drone Operations Center	Description: Constructing an advanced data command and control center to provide centralized monitoring, control, and coordination of various operations.	Chippewa County EDC	\$5,000,000	Federal Funding	22
2026	Building Renovations	Renovations to industrial building #435 to include Heating/Roofing/Insulation/Lighting improvements and more. Converting space to be a command-and-control center for the Michigan Launch Initiative.	Chippewa County EDC	\$10,000,000	EDA, MEDC, MDOT, MEO, Private, Other	22
2026	Bay Mills Indian Community - Continued EV Charging	The Bay Mills Indian Community would like to work towards the continuance of developing EV Chargers and Charging Stations and being able to offer these to the community and those traveling providers an opportunity for new patronage to our enterprises. Increasing these opportunities shows that BMIC is dedicated to providing alternatives to gas and diesel.	Bay Mills Indian Community	\$1,000,000	Tribal Funded and Grant Funded	22
2026	Bay Mills Indian Community - Brimley Land Redevelopment	The Bay Mills Indian Community has recently acquired land in uptown Brimley, Michigan. This land will be redeveloped as BMIC increases offerings to the community. The area has been in the progress of being cleaned up.	Bay Mills Indian Community	\$900,000	Tribal Funds	22

Year Listed	Project Title	Project Description	Organization	Estimated Cost	Funding Sources	Total Score
2026	Kincheloe Rail Infrastructure Upgrades	Replacing over 6,000 linear feet of aging 80 lb rail to facilitate industrial growth in the Chippewa County Industrial Park. In 2023, \$550,000 was received from MDOT rail that allowed for half of the project to be completed.	Chippewa County EDC	\$538,100	Federal Funding, MDOT	21
2026	Resurfacing Industrial Park Roadways	Multiple roadway construction is needed to streets within the County Industrial Park. Repairs have been needed for several years.	Chippewa County EDC	\$1,500,000	EDA, MEDC, MDOT	21
2026	5th Generation Hangar	Constructing a state-of-the-art hangar for fifth-generation fighter jets (like the F-35) to address the needs of military and local development opportunities.	Chippewa County EDC	\$29,000,000	FAA, MDOT, FHWA, Other	20
2026	Brimley Mixed Use Facility	A mixed-use development on property located on Michigan State Highway 221 (Main Street) that will include retails space for a franchise business, laundromat, apartments, and space for future retail development.	Bay Mills Indian Community	\$13,000,000	Tribal and Grant funding	20
2026	Broadband Development	Develop, expand and implement broadband availability and speed through fiber and wireless services by working with partners and increasing in-house capabilities.	Bay Mills Indian Community	\$8,000,000	Tribal and Grant Funding	20
2026	Housing Development	Continue to address the region's housing shortage through development of various housing options including apartments, elder housing, and single-family homes.	Bay Mills Indian Community	\$9,709,861	Tribal and Grant Funding	19

Year Listed	Project Title	Project Description	Organization	Estimated Cost	Funding Sources	Total Score
2026	Long-Term Care Facility	Construct a long-term care facility to address the needs of BMIC's aging population and improve outcomes.	Bay Mills Indian Community	\$17,000,000	Tribal and Grant Funding	18
2026	Bay Mills Indian Community - Renewable Deployment	Development and Implementation of large-scale solar energy plant.	Bay Mills Indian Community	\$26,000,000	Federal funding	17
2026	Plantation Hill Roads	Improvements and paving to roads in BMIC's residential community.	Bay Mills Indian Community	\$1,000,000	Tribal Funding through BIA	16
2026	Hangar 428 Renovations	The EDC is seeking funds to renovate Hangar #428 a 28,000 SF airport hangar to increase available space at the airport. Renovations to include heating, lighting, and insulation.	Chippewa County EDC	\$3,000,000	EDA, MEDC, Private, Other	12
2026	Acquisition and Renovation of Building #440	Renovations to include a new roof, heating, lighting, and insulation.	Chippewa County EDC	\$8,000,000	EDA, MEDC, Private, Other	11

REDAC Membership

The Regional Economic Development Advisory Collaborative, or REDAC, is comprised of a collection of experts from throughout the region whose combined knowledge and experience was used to address and identify viable solutions for various community and economic issues facing the Eastern Upper Peninsula—and the counties and municipalities within.

Regional Economic Development Advisory Collaborative (REDAC) - 2026	
Name	Agency/Organization
Amy Bergland	Invest UP
Amy Kraatz	Michigan LEO-Construction, Industry & Business
Angie McArthur	EUPISD
Aubrey Moore	Senator Peter's Office
Bill Henry	Consolidated Community School Services
Brad Neumann	MSU Extension
Robin Troyer	City of Sault Ste. Marie/City Manager
Brianna Gunka	BMIC
Chris Olson	Chippewa County EDC
Dan Doyle	Sault Tribe EDC
David Goudreau	Northern Wings Repair
TBD	MEA
Nikki Storey	Headwaters North
Don Gerrie	USDA
Donna LaCourt	MDARD
Dotty LaJoye	CUPPAD
Erica Newland	LSSU Office of Sponsored Programs

Regional Economic Development Advisory Collaborative (REDAC) - 2026

Name	Agency/Organization
George Kinsella	EcoMarine
Jeremy Hosking	Gov. Whitmer's UP Representative
Jerry Wuorenmaa	WUPPDR
Joe Turpin	Sault Ontario EDC
Kathy Thomas	Chippewa County EDC
Chelsea Rider	State of Michigan--Vet. Employment Rep.
Kristi Dahlstrom	MDNR
Linda Hoath	SSM CVB
Ray Govus	MEDC - Community Development
Mariah Goos	SBDC
Mark Clymer	Clark Township
Marty Fittante	Invest UP
Matt McCauley	MEDC
Michelle Walk	Mackinac State Historic Parks
Mike Heise	Cloverland Electric
Nikki Radke	SSM EDC
TBD	Marine Trades Institute
Patricia Jones	EUPISD
TBD	Sault Tribe Thrive
Paula Badour	Clark Township
Peter Petainen	International Bridge Authority
Richard Timmer	Private
Ryan Soucy	CUPPAD

Regional Economic Development Advisory Collaborative (REDAC) - 2026

Name	Agency/Organization
Scott Marshall	City of St. Ignace
Stacy Welling Haughey	MDNR
Stephanie Hopkin	Destination Northern Ontario
Susan Sliger	My Michigan Health
Tammy Henry	Luce County EDC
Terri Hill	UP Michigan Works
Tony Haller	Sault Area Chamber of Commerce
Vicki Schwab	MEDC
Vince Bevins	MDOT

Public Comment Period

We uploaded our 2026 Year One Update to our website (www.eup-planning.org) on 2/26/26 in hopes of receiving public comment on our document. It will remain posted and open for comment for thirty days.

A screenshot of the public notice on our website can be found below.

UPDATE: On March 30, 2026 we closed the public comment period for our Year One Update. Comments were received and integrated into the plan.



EASTERN UPPER PENINSULA
REGIONAL PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

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2025-2029 CEDS Year One Update – Public Notice of Draft

February 26, 2026 | [Uncategorized](#)

The 2025-2029 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Year One Update is available for review in draft format. You can review it [here](#).

Please send any comments on this document to staff@eup-planning.org.

Recent Posts

- [2025-2029 CEDS Year One Update – Public Notice of Draft](#)
- [EUP Materials Management Planning Committee meeting – October 29, 2025](#)
- [Regional Planning Commission Board to meet on October 29](#)



**RESOLUTION #2026 – CEDS APR
ADOPTION OF THE 2026 EUP COMPREHENSIVE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDS)
ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT**

- Whereas,** the Eastern U.P. Regional Planning and Development Commission Governing Board has the function of developing and preparing the 2026 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Annual Performance Report for Chippewa, Luce and Mackinac Counties and;
- Whereas,** EUPRPDC has revised the 2025 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) 5-Year Plan to reflect accomplishments over the past year, updated socio-economic data, reviewed the structure of development and recommend ways to improve the development process and list and review projects that will attract and retain jobs in the Economic Development District consisting of Chippewa, Luce and Mackinac Counties, and;
- Whereas,** the 2026 CEDS Annual Performance Report has been developed, pursuant to CFR 303.6(b)3, and
- Whereas,** approval of the 2026 CEDS Annual Performance Report is necessary for continued designation of the Eastern Upper Peninsula as an Economic Development District by the Economic Development Administration, and in fulfillment of our EDD Partnership Planning grant scope of work and special terms and conditions;
- Whereas,** the Regional Economic Development Advisory Collaborative met on April 8, 2026, and reviewed and commented on the 2026 CEDS Annual Performance Report, and;
- Whereas,** concurrence with the 2026 CEDS Annual Performance Report by the Regional Economic Development Advisory Collaborative (REDAC) of the District is needed to enable continued participation by eligible units of Government for EDA grant programs;
- Therefore Be It Resolved:** That the Eastern U.P. Regional Planning and Development Commission Governing Board does hereby approve the EUP Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Annual Performance Report for 2026 at its meeting on April 29, 2026, as recommended by the EUP REDAC.

Moved by K. Freeman, seconded by T. Henry to adopt the above resolution, at a meeting of the EUPRPDC Governing Board on April 29, 2026.

Ayes: A. Watkins; A. Rubinstein; C. Olson; J. Traynor; K. Freeman; M. Eitrem; M. Dost; M. Walk; T. Henry

Nays: ---

Date: April 29, 2026

Certified by:


Jeff Hagan, CEO