

NORTHEAST MICHIGAN

COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2026 - 2030



DISCOVER
Northeast Michigan
EAST OF EXPECTED

Northeast Michigan Council of Governments



TABLE OF CONTENTS

SUMMARY BACKGROUND	2
REGIONAL BACKGROUND	6
STAKEHOLDER INPUT	24
STRATEGIC DIRECTION AND PERFORMANCE	28
ECONOMIC RESILIENCE	38
SUPPORTING MATERIAL	42



SUMMARY BACKGROUND



**NORTHEAST MICHIGAN'S
MISSION IS TO CREATE
SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT THROUGH
PUBLIC-PRIVATE
COLLABORATIONS THAT
INCREASE EMPLOYMENT
OPPORTUNITIES, INCOME, AND
OVERALL QUALITY OF LIFE.**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Northeast Michigan Council of Governments (NEMCOG) serves the Northeastern Lower Peninsula of Michigan, covering Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Crawford, Montmorency, Oscoda, Otsego, and Presque Isle counties. Established in 1968 under Public Act 281 of 1945, NEMCOG has built strong partnerships with local communities, organizations, and agencies over the past 57 years.

As the designated Economic Development District (EDD) by the U.S. Economic Development Administration, NEMCOG is responsible for developing a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). This strategy is aligned with municipality and partner community goals and objectives, and, shaped through local planning and outreach, sets the course for economic growth in Northeast Michigan. The CEDS is the foundation that represents a collaborative effort among citizens, local officials, the CEDS strategic committee, and regional partners, addressing both the region's challenges and opportunities.

The CEDS process gathers input and resources from entities in Northeast Michigan, forming the foundation for regional planning and economic initiatives over the next five years. The regional priorities identified in the CEDS come from individuals and organizations with deep knowledge and experience in the area. The goal is to engage the public, private, and non-profit sectors in meaningful discussions about the region's economic future, ensuring broad participation and collaboration.

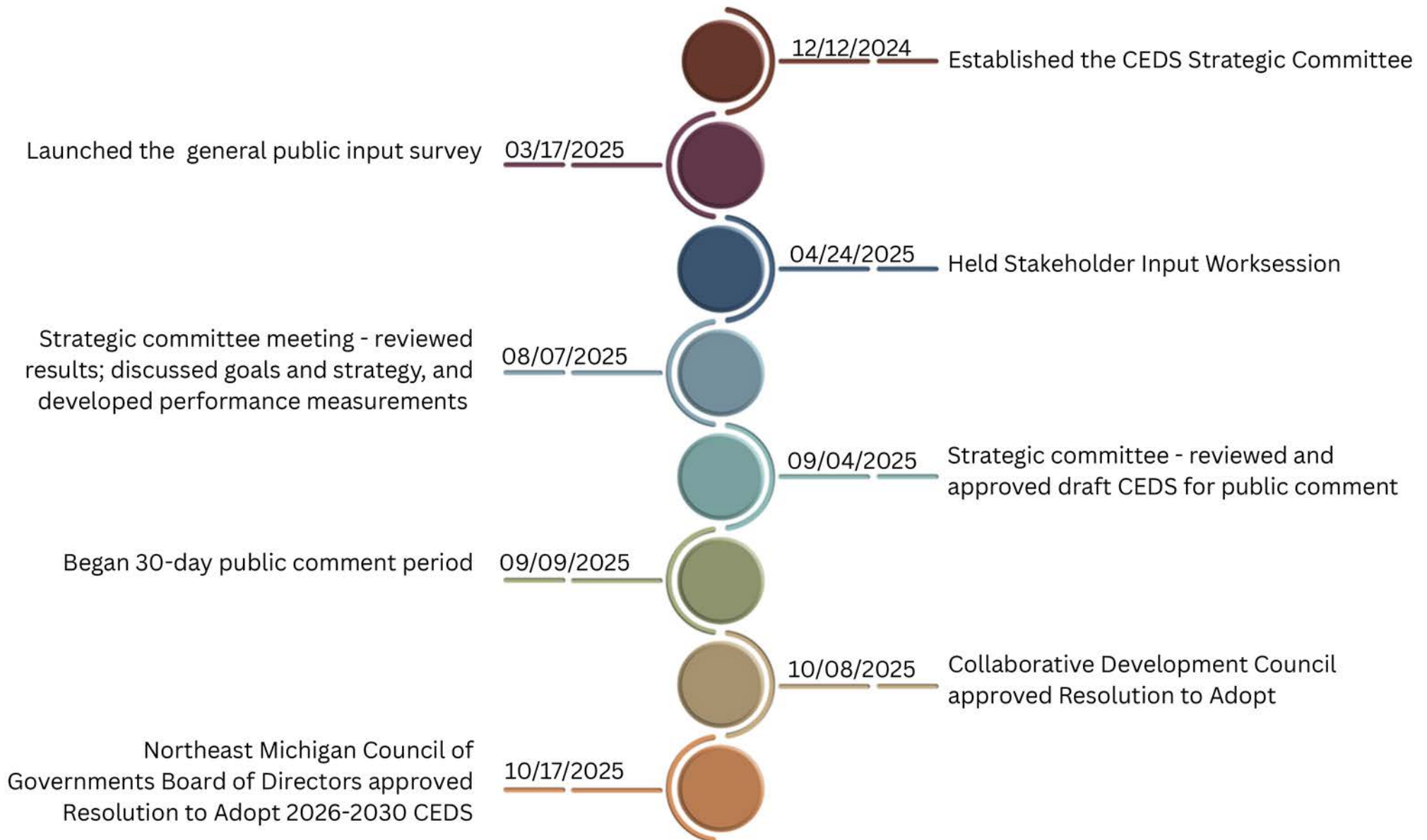
STRATEGIC COMMITTEE

A CEDS Strategic Committee, comprised of members of the Northeast Michigan Collaborative Development Council (CDC), assisted in the development of the CEDS and will review and update its goals and objectives as needed to adapt to changing regional conditions. The CDC includes major economic partners of the region, including private and public sector representatives, public officials, community leaders and representatives of workforce development and education agencies.



V. Adams, MSHDA
L. Avery, Target Alpena
E. Causley, Grayling Regional Chamber of Commerce
D. Cheek, Alcona County
D. Baum, NEMCOG
L. Damer, NEMCOG
P. Gunderson, Gaylord Chamber of Commerce
P. Heins, Northern Lakes Economic Alliance
D. Hubbard, Montmorency County
D. LaCourt, MDARD
S. Lange, Cheboygan County
J. Lawson, Cheboygan County
M. Mahler, Target Alpena and Presque Isle County
S. McManus, NE Michigan APEX Accelerator
A. Merchant, Crawford County
L. McComb, Otsego County
L. Miller, LEO Office of Rural Prosperity
L. Miller-Clark, MEDC
J. Mitchell, MEDC
K. Olds, Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center
L. Percival, MISTEM
S. Phillips, Village of Lincoln
E. Podjaske, City of Grayling
C. Southwell, Oscoda County
K. Stockwell, City of Onaway
J. Topp, MiWorks!
N. Welsh, MiWorks!

CEDS TIMELINE





REGIONAL OVERVIEW

Northeast Michigan covers 4,995 square miles and is a region of vast forests, open spaces, and tight-knit communities. Its culture embraces both solitude and shared identity, and residents take pride in their towns and natural surroundings.

Here, prosperity means a high quality of life, defined by a slower pace, outdoor recreation, small-town charm, and a strong sense of community. Preserving these qualities requires hard work and careful planning, while economic growth remains essential to ensure the region continues to thrive.

The challenges are real. Low population density makes infrastructure costly, placing a burden on residents and businesses. Larger urban areas offer more diverse job opportunities, cultural experiences, and amenities, making competition tough.

Yet, the region's strength lies in its people. Passionate and determined, they leverage Northeast Michigan's assets to build thriving, connected communities. Across the region, efforts continue underway to enhance quality of life and promote it as an ideal place to live, work, and explore.



THE LANDSCAPE

Northeast Michigan is home to 104,277 full-time residents, with 77.55% living in rural communities. The region experiences all four seasons, attracting many tourists and outdoor enthusiasts.

Rich in natural resources, it features the Huron National Forest, numerous state forests, lakes, rivers, and a significant stretch of Lake Huron's shoreline.

The I-75 corridor runs along the region's western edge, providing easy transportation access across the state and to neighboring states.



THE NORTHEAST MICHIGAN CDC COLLABORATES WITH THE THREE BORDERING SOUTHERN COUNTIES, IOSCO, OGEMAW, AND ROSCOMMON, ON KEY INITIATIVES SUCH AS PLACEMAKING, TALENT ATTRACTION AND RETENTION, AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.

WITHIN THE EIGHT-COUNTY REGION
THERE ARE 97 INCORPORATED
POLITICAL JURISDICTIONS
COMPRISED OF VILLAGES, CITIES,
AND TOWNSHIPS

7%

VILLAGE

7%

CITY

86%

TOWNSHIP



THE ECONOMY

The Northeast Region's economy relies on local industry clusters to enhance appeal. Retail trade is the largest employer, followed by government, manufacturing, accommodation and food services, and healthcare and social assistance. The region's key traded clusters are hospitality and forestry, with renewable energy emerging as a growth sector.

To sustain economic success, the region must remain an attractive place to live and work. This means maintaining a high quality of life and ensuring businesses have the necessary infrastructure to thrive.

As the economy expands, demand increases for skilled professionals in communications, healthcare and human services, technology, and advanced manufacturing. While not all critical, high-paying jobs require advanced degrees, many demand specialized training, certifications, or apprenticeships.

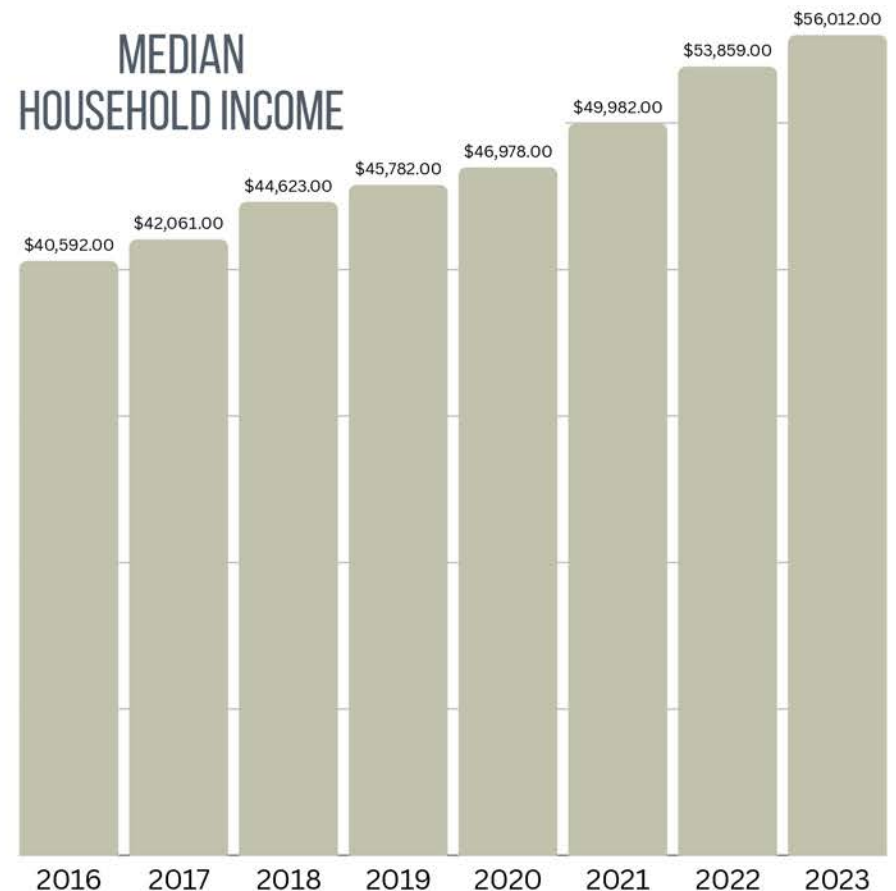
A resilient economy depends on developing diverse industry sectors that offer living-wage jobs. Building a skilled, adaptable workforce across all industries will strengthen the region's ability to attract and support businesses of all sizes.



**MEDIAN
PROPERTY TAXES**
\$1,470



**MEDIAN
PROPERTY VALUE**
\$152,513



The top 5 industries provide 30,711 jobs in the region,
employing 46.3% of the labor force.

RETAIL TRADE
8,402 JOBS



GOVERNMENT
7,677 JOBS



ACCOMMODATION &
FOOD SERVICE
4,810 JOBS



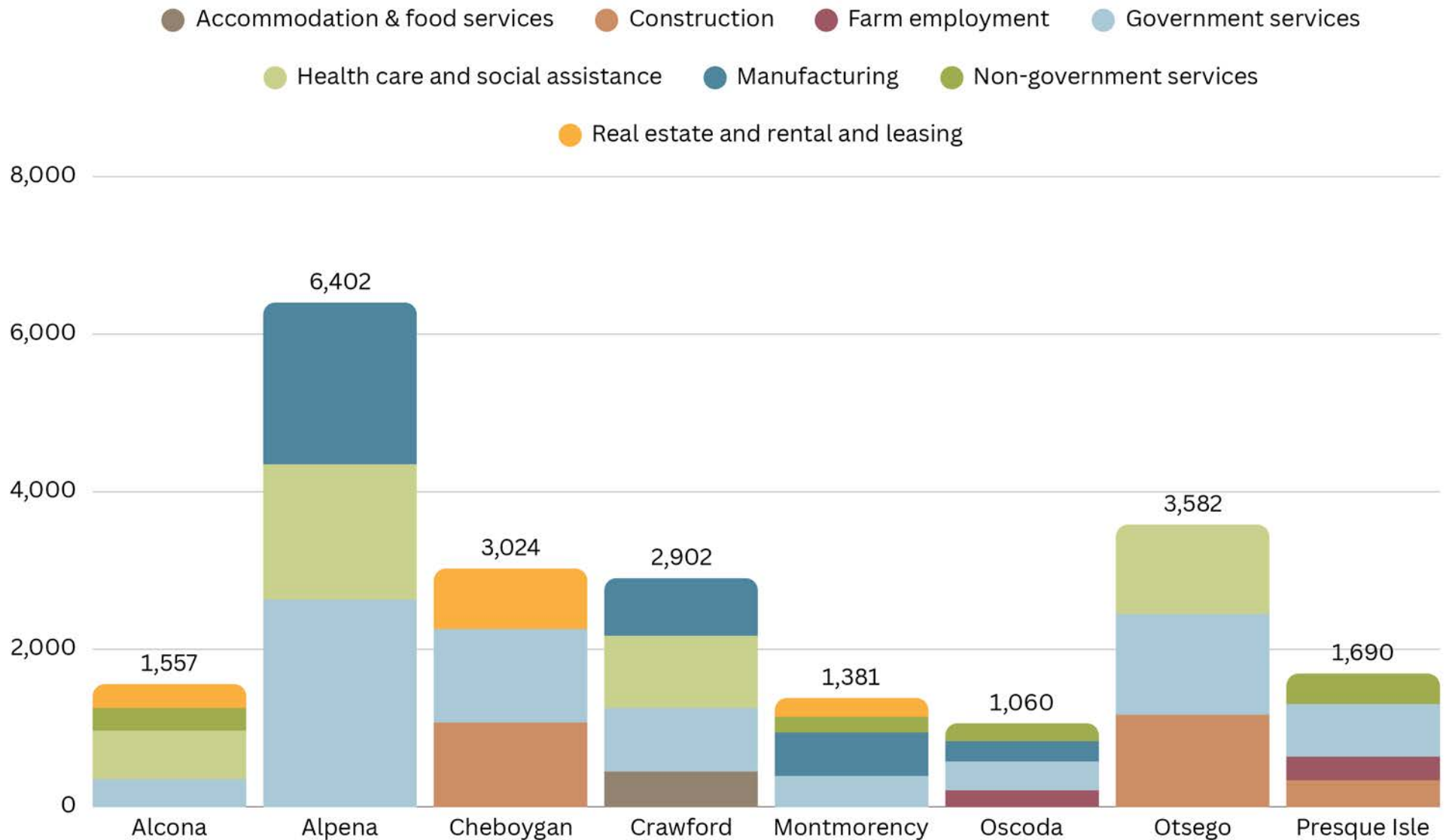
MANUFACTURING
5,434 JOBS



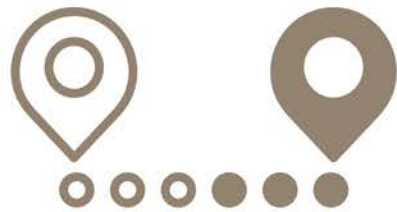
HEALTHCARE
4,388 JOBS



LARGEST INDUSTRIES BY COUNTY



DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE



4,995 SQUARE MILES



POPULATION - 134,471
GROWN BY 1,337 SINCE 2017



MEDIAN AGE - 53 YEARS
37% OVER AGE 60



MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME \$56,012



LABOR FORCE - 48.96%



POVERTY RATE - 14.3%



Since 2017, median household income has grown by \$13,951, but the region's 14.3% poverty rate still exceeds state (13.1%) and national (12.4%) levels. Poverty has declined slightly—down 1.15%—and labor force participation has inched up from 47.31% to 48.96%. Yet unemployment remains high, reaching 9.68% in April 2024—up 2.4 points from 2017 and the highest rate since the pandemic peak in April 2020.



ALCONA

Population - 10,624
Households - 5,116
Labor Force - 3,507

Growth since 2020 - 4.5%
High School Diploma - 92.9%
Bachelor's Degree - 20.6%

Unemployment Rate - 8.8%
Median Household Income - \$53,033
Poverty Rate - 15.8%



ALPENA

Population - 28,903
Households - 12,734
Labor Force - 14,126

Growth since 2020 - 0.0%
High School Diploma - 93.1%
Bachelor's Degree - 17.7%

Unemployment Rate - 5.3%
Median Household Income - \$53,480
Poverty Rate - 15.9%



CHEBOYGAN

Population - 25,964
Households - 10,757
Labor Force - 11,565

Growth since 2020 - 1.5%
High School Diploma - 89.7%
Bachelor's Degree - 22.9%

Unemployment Rate - 8.2%
Median Household Income - \$61,488
Poverty Rate - 14.0%



CRAWFORD

Population - 13,599
Households - 6,009
Labor Force - 6,018

Growth since 2020 - 4.7%
High School Diploma - 91.4%
Bachelor's Degree - 20.2%

Unemployment Rate - 6.5%
Median Household Income - \$59,220
Poverty Rate - 14.0%



MONTMORENCY

Population - 9,828
Households - 4,769
Labor Force - 3,843

Growth since 2020 - 7.4%
High School Diploma - 89.4%
Bachelor's Degree - 16.0%

Unemployment Rate - 7.5%
Median Household Income - \$47,374
Poverty Rate - 17.7%



OSCODA

Population - 8,596
Households - 3,648
Labor Force - 2,510

Growth since 2020 - 4.6%
High School Diploma - 86.1%
Bachelor's Degree - 14.8%

Unemployment Rate - 10.6%
Median Household Income - \$49,622
Poverty Rate - 18.7%



OTSEGO

Population - 26,083
Households - 10,996
Labor Force - 12,691

Growth since 2020 - 4.0%
High School Diploma - 93.9%
Bachelor's Degree - 25.8%

Unemployment Rate - 5.3%
Median Household Income - \$69,029
Poverty Rate - 10.4%



PRESQUE ISLE

Population - 13,230
Households - 6,316
Labor Force - 4,954

Growth since 2020 - 1.9%
High School Diploma - 91.8%
Bachelor's Degree - 20.2%

Unemployment Rate - 9.3%
Median Household Income - \$54,675
Poverty Rate - 13.1%

LOCATION QUOTIENT

Location quotient (LQ) analysis shows how concentrated an industry is locally compared to a broader area. It helps the municipality identify unique industries, key and emerging exports, and sectors that may threaten economic stability.

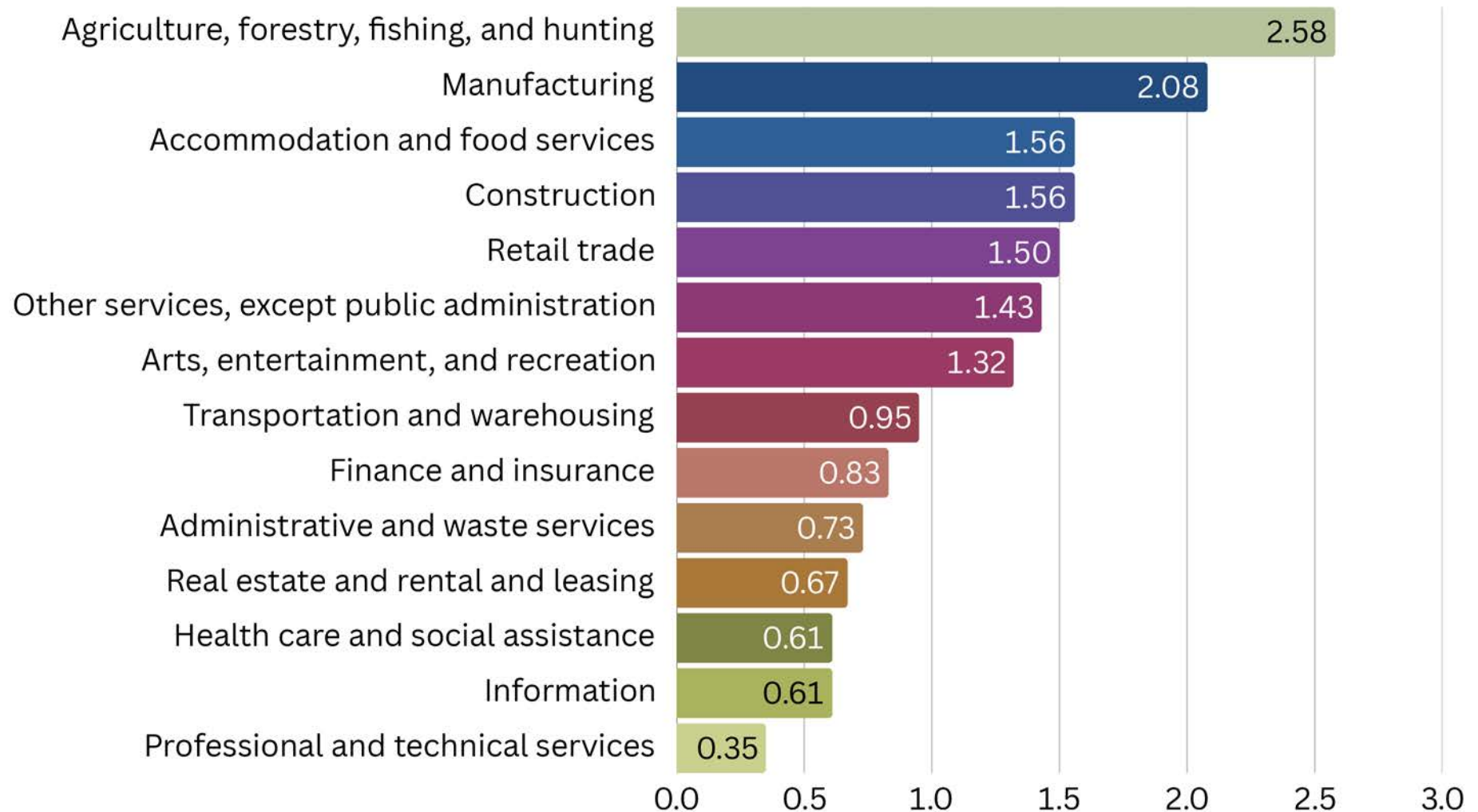
The following table shows the top industries for Northeast Michigan by their associated LQ value and the annual average rate of change for the past five years for the top industries. A rate of change that is between -2.5% and 2.5% are considered stable. Industries with a negative rate of change that exceeds -2.5% are classified as declining, and industries with a positive rate of change that exceeds 2.5% are classified as growing.

With an LQ of 2.58, the forestry and wood products industries are highly competitive and growing since Northeast Michigan has an abundance of natural resources due to its small population and lack of significant urbanization. The region's predominant land cover is upland forests, and timber harvesting is concentrated in aspen, pine, oak, red pine, and northern hardwood stands.

Manufacturing, accommodation and food services, construction, retail trade, arts, entertainment and recreation, transportation and warehousing, finance and insurance, administrative and waste products, real estate/rental/leasing, health care and social assistance, information, professional and technical services, and other services except public administration are all stable industries with LQs ranging from 0.35 to 2.08.

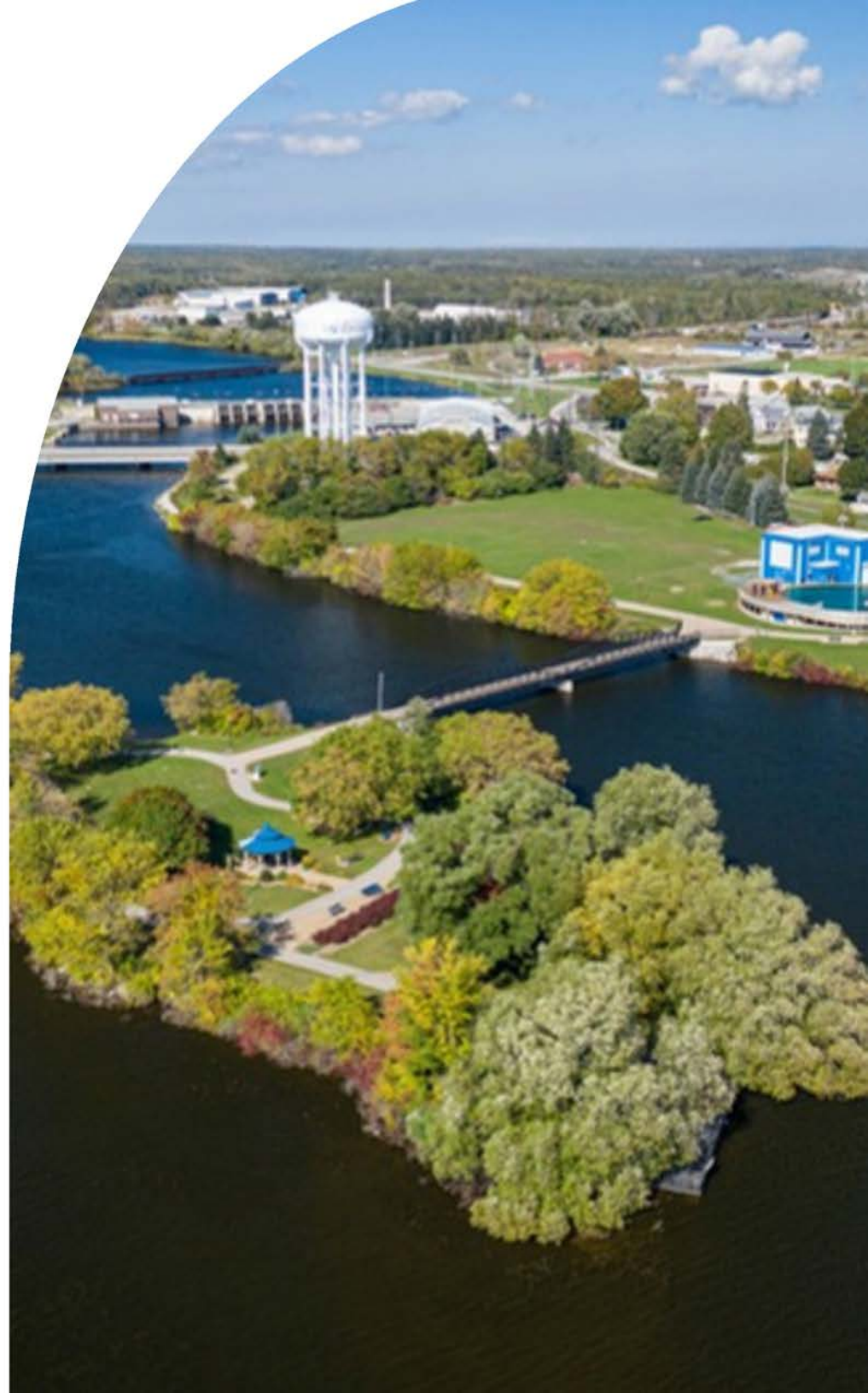


LOCATION QUOTIENT BY INDUSTRY



INFRASTRUCTURE

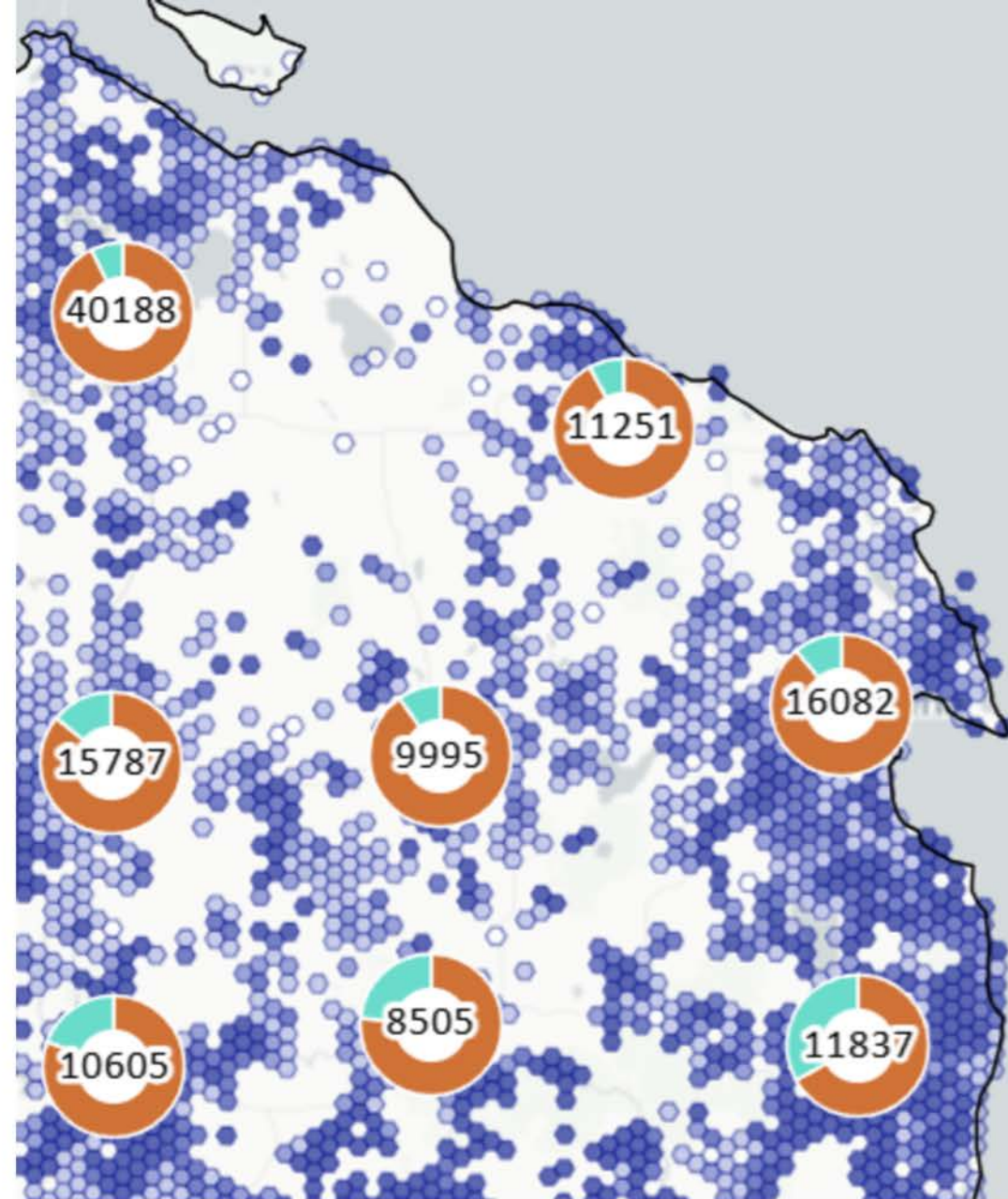
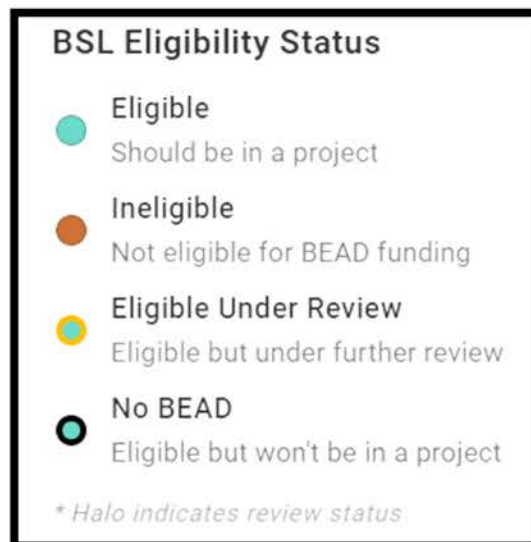
NORTHEAST MICHIGAN'S ABILITY TO ACCOMMODATE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT DEPENDS ON ITS INFRASTRUCTURE WHICH INCLUDES TELECOMMUNICATIONS/BROADBAND, UTILITIES, TRANSPORTATION, AND EDUCATION.



BROADBAND

Historically, the region's internet service infrastructure has been lacking in access, reliability, and affordability. Several initiatives have been set in motion to expand broadband high speed internet service in most communities that includes fiber, DSL, cable, and wireless.

Significant progress has been made, and of the 124,250 total broadband serviceable locations in Northeast Michigan, an average of 93.48% are now served. The level of service required to be considered broadband is at least 100/200 Mbps service, meaning a plan that provides 100 Megabits per second (Mbps) download speed and 200 Mbps upload speed.



State Total Serviceable Locations
Michigan 4,076,672

Locations Eligible for Funding

None <20% 20% - 40% 40% - 60% 60% - 80% >80%

Source: Michigan Broadband Map

TRANSPORTATION

The transportation network enhances the region's economy and quality of life by facilitating the shipment of goods like timber and limestone through deep-sea ports, rail service, and highways. It also connects residents and tourists to commercial areas, including resorts. As the economy evolves, considerations for market access, environmental impacts, and cost reductions should be prioritized.



The deep-water ports in Alpena, Cheboygan, and Presque Isle Counties support commercial shipping, with Alpena, Stoneport, and Rogers City primarily transporting limestone. Additionally, the Rogers City port ships large products from Moran Iron Works in Onaway.

Lake State Railroad Company offers freight rail services for heavy industrial users, with transloading available in Alpena and Gaylord. A major line improvement project will start in the spring of 2026 along the Huron subdivision from the City of Pinconning in Bay County to the City of Alpena in Alpena County.

The Cheboygan County Airport is a general aviation airport owned by the Cheboygan Airport Authority and is the northernmost airport in the Lower Peninsula of Michigan. The Alpena County Regional Airport provides commercial passenger service and supports military aircraft with advanced communication and radar systems. It also hosts the Michigan National Guard's Combat Readiness Training Center. Other regional airports, including those in Grayling, Rogers City, and Gaylord, have seen expansions. Mio features a paved runway, and several industrial parks are located at these airports.

Public transportation is limited, funded by federal, state, and local sources. The Thunder Bay Transportation Authority offers scheduled services in Alpena, Alcona, and Montmorency Counties. Alpena Dial-A-Ride Transportation provides on-demand services, while Indian Trails and Straits Regional Ride offer interstate and regional bus services for both Cheboygan and Presque Counties. The Presque Isle County Council on Aging serves seniors and disabled individuals, charging a fee for riders under 60. Both the Otsego County Bus System and the Crawford County Transportation Authority operate a dial-a-ride service.

- Marine Ports
- Public Transportation
- Paved Airports
- Communities
- Railroad
- Major Highways
- County Boundary



0 5 10 20
Miles

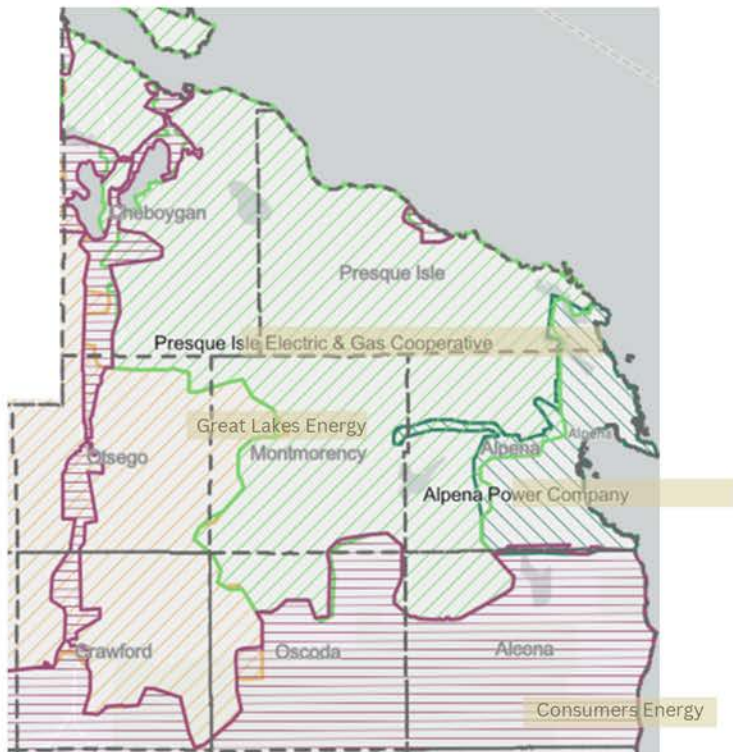
DISCOVER
Northwest Michigan
EAST OF EXPECTED
Northern Michigan Council of Governments
Date: 8/2025

UTILITIES

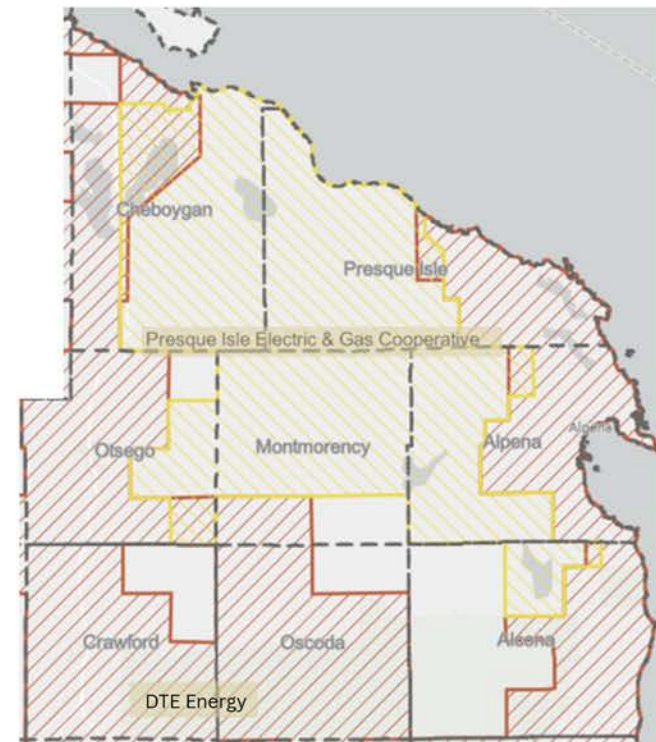
Northeast Michigan's utilities include private providers of electricity, natural gas, phone service, and solid waste disposal. Larger towns use municipal water and sewer systems, while smaller communities rely on private wells and septic systems.

Electricity and gas are supplied by DTE Energy, Alpena Power, Consumers Energy, Presque Isle Electric & Gas Cooperative, and Great Lakes Energy. Some homes use fuel oil, propane, or wood for heat. Three-phase power is needed in parts of the region to support businesses using heavy equipment.

Electric Service Area



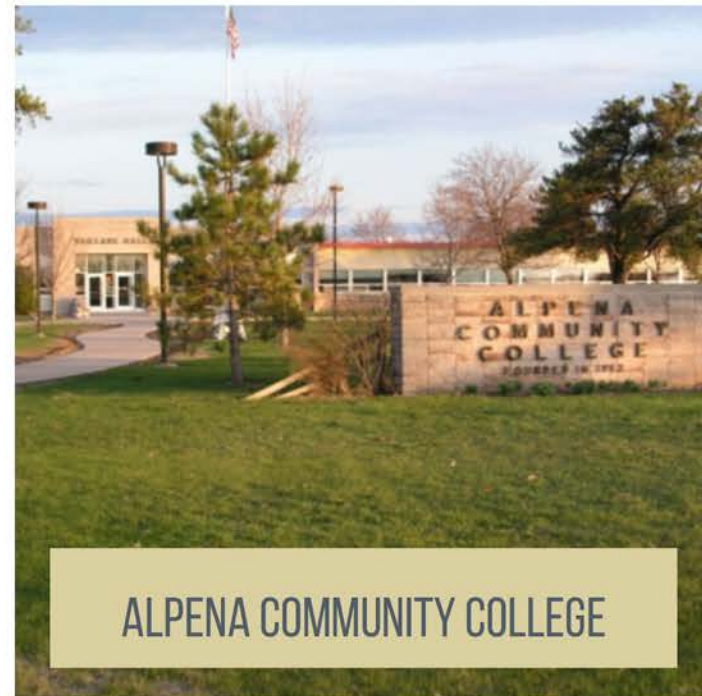
Natural Gas Service Area



EDUCATION

The education level in the region is improving, with 16.2% of the population holding a Bachelor's Degree or higher and 29.4% having some college or an Associate's Degree, up from 13.4% and 28.7% in 2017.

Those without a high school diploma account for 7.6%, which is slightly lower than the 7.8% reported in 2017 but above Michigan's state average of 6.6%.







STAKEHOLDER INPUT

INPUT COLLECTION PROCESS

Northeast Michigan developed the CEDS with a regionally led, locally focused approach, building on lessons from the 2021–2025 plan. Priorities included regional ownership, partner engagement based on implementation capacity, and using the CEDS as a flexible, evolving roadmap to support ongoing collaboration.

A core goal of the input collection process was to position the region for positive change. Input was gathered in two phases.



Phase one involved a public survey distributed across all counties in Northeast Michigan to capture broad community perspectives. The survey received 351 responses.



Phase two was a stakeholder work session held on April 24, 2025, bringing together economic development professionals, state agency representatives, business leaders, elected officials, education administrators, and other key stakeholders. This group began identifying the region's strengths, weaknesses, and future priorities.

Strengths and weaknesses are internal factors that represent an organization's competitive advantages and disadvantages, while opportunities and threats are external factors that reflect potential positive developments or improvements, as well as possible negative impacts or decline.

STRENGTHS

- Cultural, historic, and downtown attractions
- Environment and natural resources
- Natural beauty
- Outdoor recreation
- Regional stakeholder and leadership cooperation
- Safe environment with low crime rates
- Sense of community
- Tourism

WEAKNESSES

- Aging population
- Availability of health care providers
- Blighted/vacant properties
- Cost of living
- Employment opportunities
- Infrastructure
- Limited recreation programs for all age groups
- Limited public transportation
- Remoteness

OPPORTUNITIES

- Diversify housing
- Downtown revitalization
- Economic diversification
- Expand medical specialty services
- Expand recreational programming
- Regional Economic Development Recovery Plan
- Renewable energy
- Support for small business (financing/investment)
- Workforce development
- Workforce housing

THREATS

- Insufficient housing
- Downtown revitalization
- Economic diversification
- Expand medical specialty services
- Expand recreational programming
- Regional Economic Development Recovery Plan
- Renewable energy
- Support for small business (financing/investment)
- Workforce development
- Workforce housing





STRATEGIC DIRECTION & PERFORMANCE



REGIONAL PRIORITIES

THE NORTHEAST MICHIGAN COLLABORATIVE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (CDC)
SUPPORTS ECONOMIC GROWTH AND QUALITY OF LIFE THROUGH STRONG
LEADERSHIP, EFFICIENT SERVICES, AND SMART USE OF RESOURCES.

The Council sees the CEDS strategies as key steps toward a long-term vision of sustainable development, increased jobs and income, and stronger public-private partnerships across the region.

The strategic direction and action plan lay out a shared vision supported by clear goals and objectives. These aim to guide policy, inform local governments, connect businesses with support resources, and strengthen key areas such as housing, infrastructure, education, workforce, business and economic development, healthcare, childcare, and technology.



ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT



WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT



BUSINESS AND
INDUSTRY



RESILIENT
COMMUNITIES



HOUSING



INFRASTRUCTURE

PRIORITY 1

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PROMOTE ECONOMIC GROWTH BY STRENGTHENING REGIONAL INDUSTRY CLUSTERS AND LEVERAGING LOCAL ASSETS FOR DEVELOPMENT.

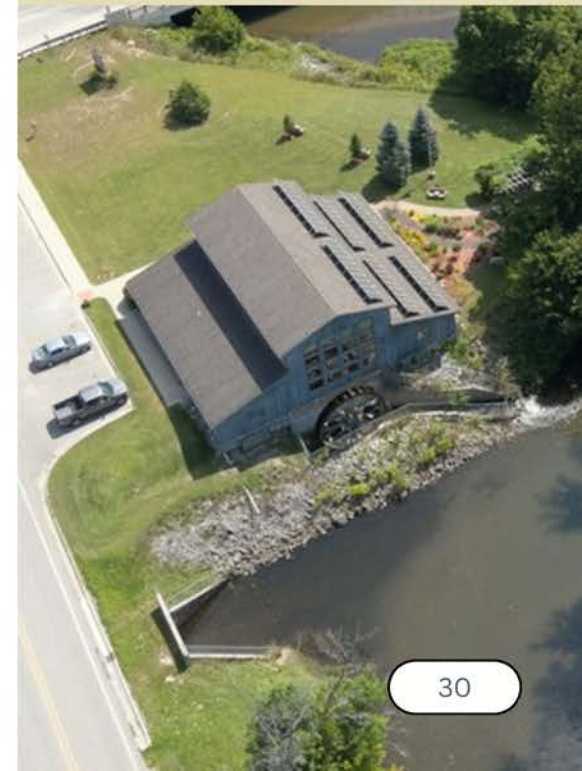
- Attract companies that complement and strengthen the region's existing industry clusters and diversify the economic base.
- Support and fund business retention and expansion programs in each county to maintain and grow current industries.
- Align business incentives with local and regional economic development priorities to maximize their impact.
- Promote asset-based economic development across the region, supported by grant-writing and technical assistance.

BOOST ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BY EXPANDING AND UPGRADING DEVELOPABLE SITES AND BUILDINGS TO SUPPORT A DIVERSIFIED RANGE OF BUSINESS.

- Promote available sites to developers across all geographical entities.
- Offer grant-writing support and technical assistance for related initiatives to expedite market entry.
- Expand opportunities for development (i.e., brownfield, landbank, etc.).
- Support the extension of infrastructure to support shovel-ready industrial and commercial development areas.

INDICATORS

- Job growth by industry sector
- Labor market data
- Amount of new infrastructure investment
- Amount of grant funding awarded
- Number of new businesses
- Regional Land Bank data
- Number of sites and buildings marketed



PRIORITY 2

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

BUILD A HIGHLY SKILLED WORKFORCE THROUGH TARGETED EDUCATION, TRAINING PROGRAMS, AND TALENT AND RECRUITMENT EFFORTS.

- Foster collaboration among workforce development agencies, higher education institutions, and private industry.
- Promote US DOL registered apprenticeships and certificate programs to upskill current workers and boost economic mobility.
- Facilitate ongoing cooperation among local businesses, industries, and educational institutions to align curricula with current and future workforce demands.
- Support innovative strategies to attract, develop, and retain talent for key industry clusters and high-growth sectors.
- Collaborate with regional partners to enhance the career exploration and workforce readiness of high school graduates.
- Encourage active engagement between industry leaders and K-12 schools, students, parents, and educators.
- Promote and enhance talent attraction marketing campaigns.
- Help employers reach nontraditional workers and diversify their workforce.

INDICATORS

- Labor market data
- Educational attainment
- Post-secondary enrollment
- Implemented solutions for barrier removal
- Number of apprenticeship and certificate programs
- Per-capita median household income
- Poverty rates
- Workforce housing



PRIORITY 3

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

FOSTER A COMMUNITY THAT SUPPORTS SMALL BUSINESS GROWTH AND WELCOMES EMERGING INDUSTRIES AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES.

- Support the creation and growth of programs that help entrepreneurs with business development, mentoring, incubators, and building resilient supply chains.
- Help local officials understand why entrepreneur-friendly communities matter and how small businesses make an impact.
- Find and grow programs that improve access to capital.
- Involve local businesses in entrepreneurial programs to give regional entrepreneurs new ways to tackle industry challenges.
- Connect entrepreneurial support programs across the region and strengthen ties with the broader entrepreneurial community.
- Back business incubators, and coworking spaces throughout the area.
- Provide resources to assist retiring business owners with exit planning strategy development.



INDICATORS

- Number of new businesses
- Small Business Support Hub data
- Number of mentorships
- Amount of new capital investment
- Entrepreneurial success stories
- Number of incubators, landing pads, coworking spaces

PRIORITY 4

RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

CULTIVATE HEALTHY, DYNAMIC, AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES THAT ELEVATE THE REGION'S OVERALL QUALITY OF LIFE.

- Promote regional land use planning that integrates economic, social, and environmental priorities.
- Encourage the alignment of planning efforts by fostering collaboration among planners, emergency management and disaster recovery professionals, and stakeholders.
- Work with healthcare providers and agencies to co-locate or coordinate services, such as health screenings, social services, and workforce training, making them more accessible to residents.
- Expand the number of licensed, high-quality child care providers, especially in underserved areas, and support existing providers with technical assistance and professional development.
- Provide education and tools to help residents make informed healthcare decisions and engage more actively in their care.
- Coordinate efforts to build and maintain a regional emergency preparedness and disaster recovery system that protects lives, sustains critical services, and accelerates recovery.



INDICATORS

- Number of planning initiatives
- Population growth
- Per capita median income
- Poverty rates
- Regional land bank data
- Regional health care data
- Number of childcare facilities
- Emergency preparedness and hazard mitigation plans

PRIORITY 5

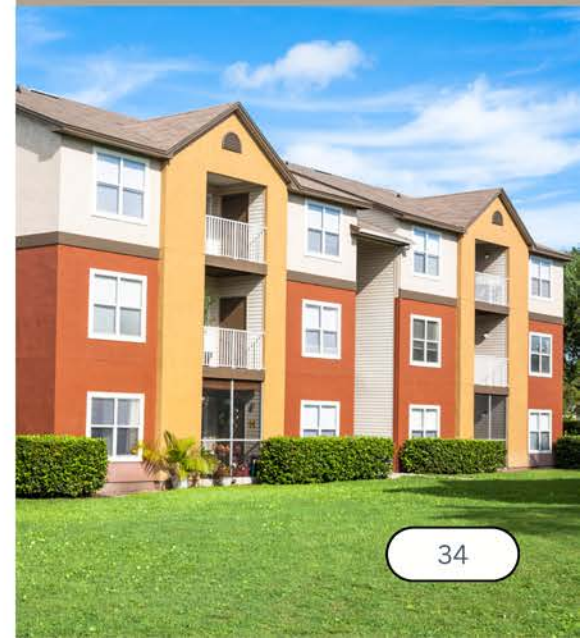
HOUSING

FACILITATE A STRATEGY TO MAINTAIN CURRENT HOUSING STOCK WHILE INCREASING THE NUMBER OF HOUSING UNITS TO ENSURE REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY.

- Promote the development of mixed-income, affordable housing solutions to meet the needs of current and future residents at every income level.
- Assess housing availability and affordability and determine its alignment with future growth plans.
- Identify and help address infrastructure gaps that could impede new housing development.
- Recruit and vet developers and contractors to expand housing capacity and meet identified needs in targeted counties and communities.
- Work with communities to review and update zoning ordinances, introducing flexible regulations that support creative development approaches and address unique local needs.

INDICATORS

- Number of residential building permits
- Population growth
- Number of residential units
- Blight elimination data
- Regional land bank data
- Regional health care data
- Number of zoning plans and future land use data



PRIORITY 6

INFRASTRUCTURE

BUILD, MAINTAIN, AND ENHANCE PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE TO SUPPORT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SUCCESS.

- Ensure critical infrastructure is adequate for existing and future industrial, commercial, and residential development.
- Improve hazard mitigation resiliency.
- Identify gaps in broadband and digital infrastructure and support initiatives to extend and improve coverage.
- Provide support to local governments in securing funding to create, expand and enhance aging infrastructure.
- Identify opportunities for cross-jurisdictional coordination among service providers.

INDICATORS

- Amount of new public infrastructure investment
- Amount of grant funding for infrastructure projects
- Public transportation data
- Hazard mitigation plans



MAINTAINING MOMENTUM

NEMCOG is committed to coordinating regional stakeholders and partners in support of CEDS implementation and sustainment and leading certain action items where appropriate. Specific action items and activities to be undertaken by NEMCOG will be outlined in the annual work plan and presented to the NEMCOG Board of Directors. Relevant items will also be included in the overall work plan and budget for NEMCOG. As the EDA-designated lead entity for the CEDS, NEMCOG's role is to steward implementation by monitoring and evaluating progress, including lifting up success stories and identifying when adjustments to the strategy are needed.

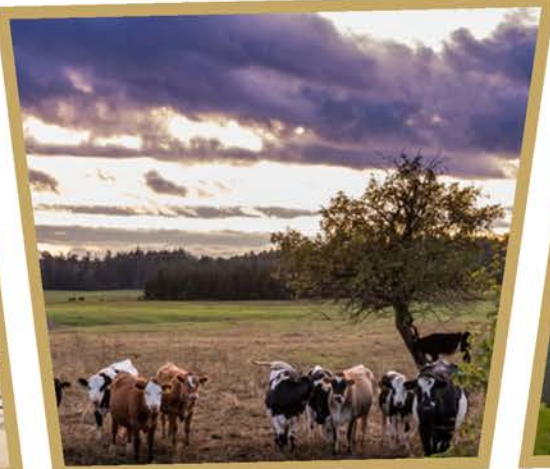
	MONITORING	EVALUATION
FRAMEWORK	Monitoring actions based on their status: Complete, In Progress, or Not Started.	Monitoring the impact of goals by tracking both quantitative and qualitative indicators.
METHOD	NEMCOG will work with lead agencies and partners to gather updates on the progress of action items.	NEMCOG will monitor impact indicators and work with agency partners to gather success stories.
REPORTING	EDA, NEMCOG Board of Directors, and Collaborative Development Council	EDA, NEMCOG Board of Directors, and Collaborative Development Council
FREQUENCY	Bi-Annual	Annual



ECONOMIC RESILIENCE



RECOVERY CAPACITY



Economic resilience, according to the U.S. Economic Development Administration, is a region's capacity to avoid, endure, and bounce back quickly from serious disruptions to its economy. These disruptions can stem from broad economic downturns, hits to key local industries, natural disasters, climate change, the loss of a major employer, or public health crises.

Resilience and economic growth are essential for local economies, especially in uncertain times. A resilient economy bounces back faster, while one without resilience may never fully recover. Post recession regions that rebounded most effectively had key strengths: a well-educated, adaptable workforce; diverse industries; affordable housing; ongoing public investment; and less reliance on a single sector. Resilient communities also tackle long-term challenges like poverty, low education levels, unemployment, and health gaps. As the COVID-19 pandemic and the 2025 ice storm that impacted all of Northeast Michigan have made clear, disasters hit the most vulnerable the hardest. Recovery requires addressing those inequities before any real progress can be made.

PLANNING FOR RESILIENCE

TO BUILD REGIONAL ECONOMIC RESILIENCE, COMMUNITIES SHOULD ANTICIPATE RISKS, EVALUATE THEIR EFFECTS ON KEY ASSETS, AND ENHANCE RESPONSE CAPABILITIES TO IMPROVE READINESS AND RECOVERY FROM DISRUPTIONS.



DEVELOP DISASTER
PREPAREDNESS PLANS



ASSESS LOCAL RISKS AND
VULNERABILITIES



ORGANIZE RECOVERY RESOURCES



PLAN OPERATIONAL CONTINUITY



SUPPORT VULNERABLE
POPULATIONS



IDENTIFY SHELTERS AND
EVACUATION ROUTES



DEFINE RECOVERY PHASES AND
PARTNERS



ESTABLISH CLEAR
COMMUNICATION CHANNELS



SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS



PUBLIC NOTICE OF REVIEW



PUBLIC NOTICE

2026-2030 Northeast Michigan Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

Northeast Michigan Council of Governments (NEMCOG) and the Northeast Michigan (Region 3) Collaborative Development Council (CDC) have published a draft of the 2026-2030 comprehensive economic development strategy report for the eight counties in Northeast Michigan: Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Crawford, Montmorency, Oscoda, Otsego, and Presque Isle counties. In accordance with the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) requirements (13 C.F.R. §303.6), before adopting and submitting this report to the EDA, the region must announce the release of the draft Northeast Michigan Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for a thirty (30) day public comment period.

Public Comment Period:

Begins: Tuesday, September 9, 2025
Ends: Wednesday, October 8, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

How to View the Draft:

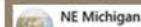
Online: www.nemcog.org or [click here to view the draft CEDS](#)
Hard copy: Available by request at NEMCOG, 80 Livingston Blvd, Suite U-108 | P.O. Box 457, Gaylord, MI 49734

How to Submit Comments

Online: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NEMICEDS>
Email: ldamer@nemcog.org with subject "CEDS Public Comment"
In writing: Send written comments to:
Linda Damer, Regional Economic & Communication Specialist
80 Livingston Blvd, Suite U-108 | P.O. Box 457
Gaylord, MI 49734
Note: written comments sent by mail must be postmarked on or before October 8, 2025.

Please share this notice with local jurisdictions, community groups, businesses, community members, and non-profit stakeholders. For more information, contact Linda Damer at ldamer@nemcog.org.

You may also scan
the QR code to
provide comments



Published by Linda Fachini Damer · September 9 at 8:57 AM ·

PUBLIC NOTICE

2026-2030 Northeast Michigan Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

Northeast Michigan Council of Governments (NEMCOG) and the Northeast Michigan (Region 3) Collaborative Development Council (CDC) have published a draft of the 2026-2030 comprehensive economic development strategy report for the eight counties in Northeast Michigan: Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Crawford, Montmorency, Oscoda, Otsego, and Presque Isle counties. In accordance with the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) requirements (13 C.F.R. §303.6), before adopting and submitting this report to the EDA, the region must announce the release of the draft Northeast Michigan Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for a thirty (30) day public comment period.

The public comment period begins today and ends on Wednesday, October 8, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.

View the draft CEDS: <https://www.canva.com/.../Tl2vPr2Wsg8Het4gbGxEBQ/view...>

A hard copy is available by request at NEMCOG, 80 Livingston Blvd, Suite U-108 | P.O. Box 457, Gaylord, MI 49734.

How to Submit Comments

Online: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NEMICEDS>

Email: ldamer@nemcog.org with subject "CEDS Public Comment"

Send written comments to Linda Damer, Regional Economic & Communication Specialist, NEMCOG, 80 Livingston Blvd, Suite U-108 | P.O. Box 457, Gaylord, MI 49734

Note: written comments sent by mail must be postmarked on or before October 8, 2025.

For more information, contact Linda Damer at ldamer@nemcog.org.

Northeast Michigan Council of Governments

Home / NEMCOG

Cities, townships and counties in rural areas often cannot afford the staff to do grant writing, comprehensive land use, zoning, transportation planning, digital mapping, economic & community development, integrated environmental planning, & the coordination of other services. The Northeast Michigan Council of Governments (NEMCOG) was established in 1968 as a multi-county organization to pool resources for the assistance of local governments in the region. NEMCOG is governed by a policy board that includes elected officials, business leaders and citizen representatives from throughout the eight-county region. Services are supported by local government appropriations, special services contracts and state and federal grants.

NEMCOG is a catalyst for strategic planning and, in this role, has assisted local governments obtain millions of dollars in federal and state grants for vital local projects and services. In addition to planning, NEMCOG also sponsors many other programs, including Community Connection and Watershed Projects.

News

[NEMCOG CEDS - PUBLIC NOTICE FOR 30-DAY COMMENT PERIOD](#)
Sep 9, 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE 2026-2030
Northeast Michigan
Comprehensive Economic
Development Strategy (CEDS)
Northeast Michigan Council of
Governments (NEMCOG) and
the Northeast Michigan (Region
3) Collaborative Development
Council (CDC) have published a
draft of the 2026-2030 [more...](#)

RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION

RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION

NE MI COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDS): 2026-2030

WHEREAS, Northeast Michigan continues to experience high and persistent unemployment; and

WHEREAS, the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments (NEMCOG) desires to alleviate this situation and to stabilize and improve the Region's economy, and

WHEREAS, NEMCOG's Regional Collaborative Development Council (CDC) has provided input and review of the 2026-2030 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) to reflect accomplishments over the past years and the development of strategies to attract and retain jobs in the Economic Development District consisting of Alcona, Alpena Cheboygan, Crawford, Montmorency, Oscoda, Otsego and Presque Isle Counties, and

WHEREAS, the CDC has approved the 2026-2030 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), and

WHEREAS, the 2026-2030 CEDS provides strategies that once implemented will lead to improved prosperity for the 8-county region,

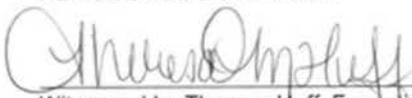
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments Board of Directors does hereby adopt the 2026-2030 Northeast Michigan Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

Moved by Kelli Stockwell, seconded by Jackie Bondar to
adopt the above Resolution, at a meeting of the NEMCOG Board on October 17, 2025.

Ayes 15 Nays 0


Rob Pallarito, President
NEMCOG Board of Directors

October 17, 2025
Date


Witnessed by Theresa Huff, Executive Assistant
NEMCOG

October 17, 2025
Date