

# ANNUAL REPORT

---



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

*Powered by The Right Place*

# 2025

**Prepared by**  
Julie Burrell

Three green squares of varying shades (light, medium, and dark green) are arranged in a 2x2 grid pattern in the bottom right corner of the page.

# Thank You

Since 2015, leaders in Newaygo County have collaborated with The Right Place to drive long-term job creation and overall economic prosperity. These efforts have resulted in several business retention, expansion and attraction projects, totaling over **\$215.8M in capital investment, and 775 new jobs.**

In 2023, we built upon this historical momentum and created the first Economic Development Strategic Plan for Newaygo County, which we wrapped up at the end of 2025, exceeding our targets. We are excited for Newaygo County's continued economic growth and invite you to join us in 2026.

**The Newaygo County Economic Development Partnership will drive sustainable economic growth in Newaygo County and surrounding areas.**

Partnering with The Right Place, the NCEDP supports businesses in Newaygo County, providing services including but not limited to:

Confidential Site Location Searches | Local Supply Chain & Partner Opportunities | State & Local Incentives | Manufacturing Innovation & Operational Improvement | Talent Strategy Assistance | Technical Assistance

Aligning with The Right Place strategies, NCEDP primarily focuses on the Advanced Manufacturing, Food Processing & Agribusiness, Information Technology, and Health Sciences industries.



# NCEDP Board



**John Buckley**  
Chair

Gerber Federal  
Credit Union



**Jon Schneider**  
Vice-Chair

City of Newaygo



**Shelly Kasprzycki**

Fremont Area  
Community Foundation



**Mike Kruithoff**

Newaygo County  
Commissioner



**Dr. Blake Prewitt**

Newaygo County  
Regional Education  
Service Agency



**Rod Taylor**

HarbisonWalker  
International

# NCEDP Investors

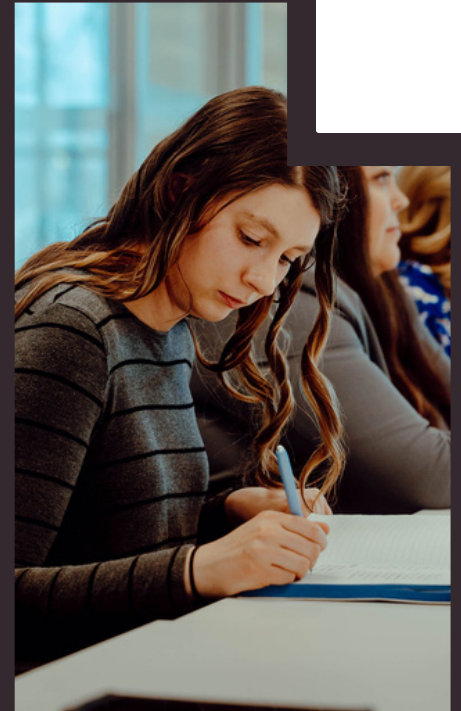
AES Energy | ChoiceOne Bank | City of Fremont | City of Grant | City of White Cloud | Consumers Energy | Compass Credit Union | **County of Newaygo** | **Fremont Area Community Foundation** | Fremont Area Chamber of Commerce | Gerber Federal Credit Union | Gerber Life Insurance | Michigan Economic Development Corporation | River Country Chamber of Commerce | The Right Place | The Stream | Village of Hesperia | White & Associates

# People

In 2025, NCEDP continued its commitment to building a strong, future-ready workforce by expanding opportunities for career exposure and leadership development across Newaygo County.

## Developing Talent, Growing Leaders.

A flagship highlight of the year was the successful launch and wrap up of NCLEAP Cohort #2, bringing together 12 emerging leaders from across 6 industries to strengthen their professional networks and grow their leadership skills in areas like communication, conflict resolution, civility & positive intelligence. This cohort represented the next generation of Newaygo County changemakers –collaborative, community-minded, and ready to contribute to the county’s long-term prosperity.



Our People-focused efforts in 2025 reinforced a simple fact: investing in local talent is the most powerful strategy for building a vibrant economy and an engaged, resilient community.

"It was a great professional development experience. I took things I learned from the sessions and implemented them into my work. It was also nice to connect with other professionals - across sectors - working in Newaygo County."

-NCLEAP 2025 Participant

# Place

In 2025, our work focused on equipping local leaders with high-quality data, supporting transformational development projects, and celebrating the unique cultural and natural assets that define our region.

This year marked the successful wrap-up of our Placer.ai data initiative, providing community partners with valuable insights into visitor trends, workforce movement, and market potential.

A major milestone was the approval of the first Housing TIF project in Newaygo County, creating a new pathway to support housing growth. This achievement lays essential groundwork for addressing long-term housing needs across the county.



NCEDP also celebrated the installation of the Woodland Park Historic Signage Project, a collaborative effort honoring the rich history and cultural significance of this historic African American community, nestled in Newaygo County's northern region. Alongside this work, we continued championing outdoor recreation and nature-based tourism by supporting finalization of the Newaygo County Birding Trail, enhancing visibility to a treasured recreational opportunity.

## METRICS:

**CAPITAL INVESTMENT**  
**\$16.5M**

**HOUSING UNITS**  
**102**

# Prosperity

In 2025, NCEDP continued its strong focus on business retention and expansion, with 28 in-depth meetings with local companies to better understand their opportunities, challenges, and future plans. The most common pinch point for these companies revolved around government-related issues, like uncertainty around tariff implementation, navigating paid sick time or other regulatory related items.

Insights gathered through these conversations—highlighted in the below visuals—helped inform countywide and regional strategies, ensuring our efforts remain aligned with the real needs of Newaygo County employers.

Additionally, outreach efforts generated 350+ individual assists, ranging from workforce and training support to site selection, permitting guidance, and state-level resource connections.

Over 100 individual organizations were supported in 2025.

**SALES INCREASING**  
**67%**

**PLANNING TO EXPAND**  
**46%**



## TYPES OF ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTED

### INDIRECT MONETIZED ASSIST

**\$203,708**

Including over \$180,000 in grant dollars to the City of Newaygo, via The Right Place's regional Revitalization and Placemaking application.

