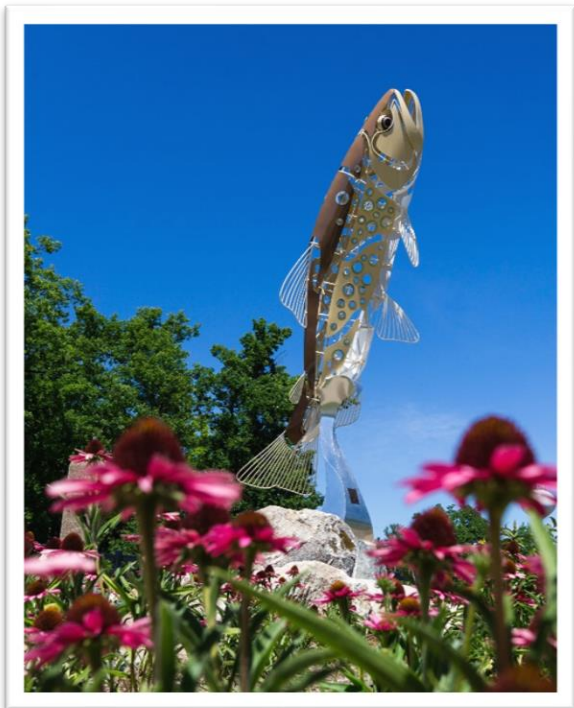
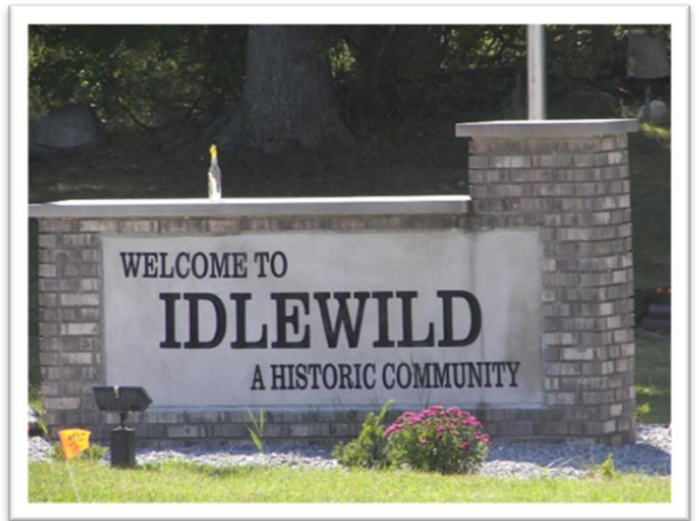


**LAKE COUNTY  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
ALLIANCE**

*Powered by The Right Place*

**2022 ANNUAL REPORT**



# LAKE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE

*Powered by The Right Place*

To Our Valued Investors and Community Partners,

Lake County Economic Development Alliance's strategic partnership with The Right Place to drive long-term job creation, investment, and overall economic prosperity in Lake County continues to bring resources and growth to our county. With the county's largest employer and taxpayer (Geo Group's North Lake Correctional Facility) ceasing operations in 2022, new critical economic needs arose for businesses and communities. **Lake County Economic Development Alliance worked with state agencies and representatives to ensure our needs were understood and continues to seek solutions through economic diversification.**

Projects included management of the county's **American Rescue Plan Act Funding of Community Projects**, oversight of **broadband expansion** planning, funding a **Discover Manufacturing** opportunity for Baldwin High School students, and continuing to offer **business expansion and creation services**, as well as co-hosting the fourth annual **Pitch North Competition** for entrepreneurs.

Ongoing business and community support also continued with **over 150 assists to businesses and communities**. If you or someone you know is in need of business expansion or start up services or if your community needs assistance with planning and grant support, **contact Jodi Nichols, Executive Director – LCEDA at 231-742-3328 or [nicholsj@rightplace.org](mailto:nicholsj@rightplace.org) to learn about resources available to businesses, entrepreneurs and municipalities.**

The Lake County Economic Development Alliance is a public-private partnership and receives financial support from both communities and businesses. In order to keep this partnership active and allow economic development resources to continue flowing into the county, we need your support. **If you believe in the positive effect of economic and community development projects like those mentioned above, we ask that you join our efforts to sustain this regional partnership through your financial and volunteer support.** Contact Jodi Nichols or one of the board members below to learn how you can best support the economic growth of Lake County.

Thank you for your support of our efforts to-date. **We look forward to continuing to work together to ensure that Lake County is a thriving place for all who live, work and play here!**

## 2022 - 2023 BOARD MEMBERS

**Matt Bearup, President**  
Best Bear Lodge

**Tony Gagliardo, Vice President**  
Building Official

**Tobi Lake, Treasurer**  
County Administrator

**Christine Balulis, Secretary**  
County Commission

**Jodi Nichols, Executive Director**  
The Right Place

**Kellie Allen, Member**  
County Treasurer

**Blair Evans, Member**  
Historic Morton's Motel

**Jim Faiella, Member**  
Peacock Ltd

**Shelly Keene, Member**  
MI Works West Central

**Jamie Russell, Member**  
The Fabric Peddler

**Deb Smith Olson, Member**  
Lake Osceola State Bank

**Patrick Tiedt, Ex-Officio**  
Consumers Energy

# 2022 HIGHLIGHTS

## ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION

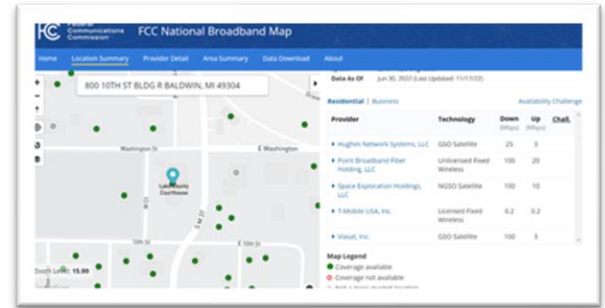
With the closing of Geo Group prison, economic diversification is more critical than ever. LCEDA led several projects in 2022 in support of building a stronger, more resilient economy, including **application to the federal EDA for \$200,000** to commission a study for new business potential and reuse of vacant assets such as the facilities owned by GEO and Lake County.

Infrastructure improvements will be key to economic growth, with broadband needs continuing to be of top concern. With support from Lake County Community Foundation, LCEDA is working to ensure **Lake County's internet needs** are known and met as providers such as Charter, Point, and TrueStream prepare to expand services in our area.

Efforts include community education and pursuit of funding for greater and more timely expansion of better service options.

New efforts also are underway to enhance **tourism promotion** through the utilization of statewide resources such as Pure Michigan. A tourism industry stakeholder meeting was held in June with MSU Extension's Tourism Department to perform a SWOT analysis of current tourism assets and challenges and determine greatest needs of local businesses. Findings will be used to secure resources for the establishment of collaborative marketing resources and development of assets.

The historic community of Idlewild is also strengthening economic opportunities through a **historic planning grant for Idlewild and Woodland Park** from Fremont Area Community Foundation and LCEDA is leading the Idlewild portion of that project.



## SPECIAL PROJECTS

2022 brought opportunities for learning and growth to Lake County residents through two programs.

**Discover Manufacturing** allowed 37 Baldwin High School students to explore career opportunities in fields like robotics, maintenance technology and clean manufacturing with a visit to Reed City Group. Students, like those pictured at left, also received a swag bag of DM items and safety gear. Funding for the program was provided by LCEDA through a grant from MI Economic Development Corp.

The fourth annual regional **Pitch North** competition gave Lake County entrepreneurs the opportunity to pitch for cash to use to start or grow a local business. Locally, Susan Matous won \$500 toward her clothing boutique start up in Idlewild.

## ARPA GRANT FUNDED PROJECTS MANAGEMENT

LCEDA was an integral part of **Lake County's American Rescue Plan Act community grant funding process**, leading the committee through the creation of application, scoring, selection and reporting processes and providing oversight to the eight projects that were granted funds for county wide impact projects. We look forward to 2023 completion of the projects approved for funding: Baldwin DDA-Downtown Visioning, Baldwin Rotary-Student Backpack Food Program, Chase Library-Playground, Ellsworth/Newkirk Fire-Jaws of Life, Five CAP-Housing Needs Analysis, Habitat for Humanity-Home Repairs, Luther Lions-Community Center Rehab, Village of Luther – Park and Recreation Upgrades.

## 2022 METRICS

**\$700,000**

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

**15**

ONGOING PROJECTS

**\$246,200**

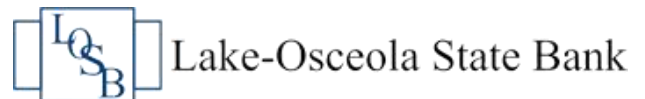
GRANTS/RESOURCES

**156**

RESOURCE ASSISTS

## 2022 INVESTORS

The economic outcomes highlighted in this report would not have been possible without the generous financial support of our 2022 Investors.



**Lake County Economic Alliance**

800 Tenth Street, Suite 100, Baldwin MI 49304 | 231.742.3328 | [nicholsj@rightplace.org](mailto:nicholsj@rightplace.org)

[www.rightplace.org/lake](http://www.rightplace.org/lake)