

# REGIONAL PROSPERITY INITIATIVE APPLICATION

Submission Deadline:  
**November 1, 2013**



The Regional Prosperity Initiative Application Form was developed to facilitate the application process for regional collaboration within designated regions throughout Michigan, as illustrated on the attached map.

The following checklist outlines the sequence of steps to complete an application:

- Study the Regional Prosperity Guidance and boilerplate to understand the requirements and purpose behind the new approach to regional collaboration and whether you are eligible to apply on behalf of your partnership.
- Note any additional requirements beyond the prerequisites of the grant application form (e.g., letters of support, application deadlines, etc.).
- Fill out the application form completely.
- Applications must be accompanied by a cover letter (no more than one page) in which you state your request and proposed use of funds. This letter should be signed by your director and your board president.
- The application for which you are seeking approval is a collaboration with other agencies; include letters of support from the collaborating agencies. (A resolution of support from the lead applicant and a letter of support from each co-applicant are due at the time of submission.)
- Complete the narrative section on page six. Please, no more than four pages total (type no smaller than twelve point, margins no smaller the one inch).
- Enclose your organization’s incorporating documents and pertinent memorandums of understanding.
- Enclose a list of current board members (include member affiliations and any other pertinent information).
- Enclose a list of key organizational staff, including titles and main functions.
- Enclose the most recent audited financial statement (if available).
- Enclose your organization’s current year operating budget.
- Enclose a detailed budget of the project for which funds are being sought (if applicable).
- Application is due to DTMB by November 1, 2013. Submit by e-mail: [harkinsc1@michigan.gov](mailto:harkinsc1@michigan.gov).

Additional questions may be directed to:

Sara Wycoff  
 Strategic Advisor  
 Executive Office of Governor Rick Snyder  
[wycoffs@michigan.gov](mailto:wycoffs@michigan.gov)

Chris Harkins  
 Legislative Liaison and Policy Advisor  
 Dept. of Technology, Management and Budget  
[harkinsc1@michigan.gov](mailto:harkinsc1@michigan.gov)

#### GLOSSARY OF TERMS/ACRONYMS:

<b>CDC:</b> Collaborative Development Council	<b>MPO:</b> Metropolitan Planning Organization
<b>CEDS:</b> Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies	<b>MWA:</b> Michigan Works! Agency
<b>EDA:</b> Economic Development Administration	<b>RPA:</b> Regional Planning Agency
<b>FTE:</b> Full-time Equivalent	<b>SPDR:</b> State Planning and Development Regions
<b>MEDC:</b> Michigan Economic Development Corporation	



**Eastern U.P. Regional Planning & Development Commission  
REVISED Regional Prosperity Initiative Funding Proposal**

1. What is the total amount of your funding request? Please provide an itemized list of what you intend to do with that funding. Include a timeline, information about any funds you will plan to leverage in your effort and how you intend to measure success.

<b>Tier One Funding Request</b>	<b>RPI</b>	<b>Timeline*</b>	<b>Measurable</b>
<b>EUP Regional Prosperity Plan Development</b>	<b>\$125,000</b>	12-15 months	Completion of Regional Economic Strategy Plan
EUP staff time	\$16,000		
Administration	\$9,000		
Overhead costs	\$8,000		
Consultant	\$56,000		
Travel and meeting expenses	\$12,000		
Videoconferencing Infrastructure	\$24,000		
<b>Creation of the EUP Regional Council</b>		6-8 months	Alliance of RPC and EUP MI Works as a Regional Council
Legal Fees, office relocation/space costs, technology	<b>\$25,000</b>	0-6 months	Development of MOU between RPC and MW, associated space costs, technology transfer, equipment.
Community and Economic Development Assistance Strategy	<b>\$35,000</b>	12-15 months	Funding to support development of a strategy and staffing for a regional economic development specialist position.
Marketing/Branding	<b>\$7,500</b>	6-8 months	Sub-consultant selected to do marketing and branding of the new Regional Council organization.
<b>Regional Prosperity Website and Dashboard</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>	12-15 months	Develop a Performance dashboard that is integrated into the 5-year Plan and reported annually to the Regional Council and made available to the private and public sector.
<b>TOTAL REQUEST</b>	<b>\$197,500</b>		

\*Timeline is based upon proposed funding award date of March 1, 2014, and project end date of May 31, 2015 (15 months). *This project timeline aligns with the requirement of our EDA District Planning Grant to produce a Revised 5 Year CEDS Plan for Region 1c on or before April 30, 2015.*

Success and evaluation of outcomes will be measured through the development of a Regional dashboard that will contain metrics related to the aforementioned items proposed for funding through this application, numerous local examples of dashboards exist that will be utilized in the development of the Regional Prosperity Dashboard.

2. List all partners participating in this application. Please specifically denote those that are required partners as identified in the boilerplate language. Please outline any additional prospective partners you will be approaching to participate in this effort.

Workforce Development\*: Eastern UP Michigan Works Agency, Six County Employment Alliance (Job Force Board).

Higher Education\*: Lake Superior State University, Bay Mills Community College, EUP College Access Network, MSU Extension, Northern Michigan University Center for Rural & Community Economic Development.

Economic Development\*: Chippewa County EDC, Mackinac Economic Alliance, City of Sault Ste. Marie DDA, City of St. Ignace DDA, UPEDA, SSMart Inc. (Smartzone), UPWARD Initiative, M-Tech SmartZone.

CDC\*: Sault Ste. Marie EDC, Chippewa County EDC, Mackinac Economic Alliance, Luce County EDC, Northern Initiatives.

Local Government\*: City of Sault Ste. Marie, Chippewa County, Luce County, Mackinac County.

Transportation\*: Chippewa County Road Commission, Luce County Road Commission, Mackinac County Road Commission, MDOT Superior Region, EUP Transit Authority, International Bridge Administration.

Private Sector\*: Northern Wings Repair, Fish and Hunt Shop, DS Forestry Services, War Memorial Hospital, Mackinac Straits Health System, Helen Newberry Joy Hospital, UP Community Foundation, *Northern Wings Repair, Superior Fabrication LLC*

Other: Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Sault Area Public Schools, EUP Intermediate School District, EUP United Way, Sault Area Chamber of Commerce, Les Cheneaux Area Chamber of Commerce, *St. Ignace Chamber of Commerce, Consolidated Community School Service, Northern Transitions, Chippewa-Luce-Mackinac Community Action*

\*Required                      *Italicized: Organizations we intend to reach out to*

3. Are the proposed counties to be served in accordance with the regional prosperity map? If not, why not? How do you intend to begin to work in the region outlined in the aforementioned map going forward?

The proposed counties are identified on the prosperity map as Region 1c. We also understand that very often the entire Upper Peninsula is recognized as a Region, and due to population levels we must look at common opportunities across the U.P. to create synergies in order to pursue resources collectively.

There are numerous agencies and organizations, both public and private that are aligned with the same geographic boundaries of the Eastern UP of Michigan (Region 1c), (i.e., Bay Mills Community College, CLM Community Action Agency, MDOT, DNR, DEQ, DHS) that we intend to reach out to during the course of this Initiative. Most, if not, all of these organizations do collaborate in an unofficial and on an 'as needed' basis. Our efforts will be targeted towards more consistent, informal/formal communications, partnerships and activities, working towards the implementation of the Economic Strategy developed through this Regional Prosperity Initiative grant proposal.

Through a complete organizational alliance that would take place between March 1, 2014 and October 1, 2014, the Commission would collaborate with EUP Michigan Works to create the EUP Regional Council, through this alliance the Regional Prosperity Collaborative Stakeholder Group would be developed, integrating our partners in higher education, transportation, adult education, private sector, non-profits and community leaders. The Regional Planning Commission has secured letters of commitment from partner organizations that were not already a part of the REDAC, including Adult Education, Transportation, and Non-profits.



**We request that you limit the length of your answers for the following questions to no more than a total of four pages.**

**I. LEAD APPLICANT ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND:**

Include organizational mission statement and purpose, organizational qualifications, history of accomplishments, governance, area and population served, and role of volunteers. (As this is collaboration, describe the lead agency and its relation to others involved.)

The Eastern U.P. Regional Planning & Development Commission (RPC) is one of 14 Regional Agencies in the State of Michigan; established in 1968 as a multi-county organization to pool resources for the assistance of local governments in the Eastern Upper Peninsula. We assist EUP cities, townships and counties in the areas of grant writing, community surveys, land use planning, recreation planning, economic and community development, transportation, and GIS mapping. The EUPRP&DC is a regional, non-profit government agency operating under Michigan [Public Act 281 of 19, as amended](#).

The Regional Commission has successfully managed hundreds of Federal, State and local Grants and projects over the course of its history, dating back to 1968, including the recently renewed Economic Development District Partnership Planning program which was awarded by EDA in September, 2013. We have also maintained a growing working relationship with MDOT and have been coordinating Regional Transportation Planning, Asset Management, Rural Task Force, Small Urban, Scenic Byway, Public Involvement and Non-Motorized planning efforts for decades.

Other notable recent accomplishments:

- Little Rapids Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Habitat Restoration grant funding;
- FHWA National Scenic Byways Discretionary funding for the Tahquamenon Scenic Heritage Route;
- Sault Ste. Marie/LSSU Smartzone Breeder Building EDA Public Works project;
- FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plan updates;
- DEQ Coastal Zone Management Grant for Lake Michigan Water Trail;
- Numerous local planning and zoning efforts with the Cities, Townships and Villages across the Eastern UP of Michigan.

A Board of Directors provides the governance oversight of the Commission's activities, composed of elected officials, public sector and private sector representatives. The Board is comprised of 18 appointees, including local government, private sector, EDO's, higher education, Tribal Government, and workforce development. In addition to the Board there is an Executive Committee composed of five members of the aforementioned board, which provides additional oversight and conducts meetings quarterly throughout the program year.

The Eastern UP encompasses the counties of Chippewa, Luce and Mackinac in the far eastern end of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The population of the Eastern UP was 57,510 according to the 2010 Census.

The RPC has maintained a consistent relationship of collaboration with many, if not, all, of our partners in this Tier One category. The Commission's Director sits on the EUP Workforce Development Board, and through various program offerings and projects we have interacted in

a professional capacity with our partners dating as far back as the inception of the Region in 1968. The RPC is a founding member of the Upper Peninsula Economic Development Alliance, which is a public-private alliance of economic development organizations and private sector stakeholders, formed in 1997 to address economic development, workforce development and education issues across the U.P. Through participating in this alliance we have collaborated on numerous projects and initiatives with our partner regions in the Central UP (CUPPAD), and Western UP (WUPPDR), including: UPWARD Initiative, UP Link Study, Non-motorized Transportation Investment Strategies, FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plans, UP Wide Communication Asset Survey and Mapping (CASM), Regional Skills Alliances (i.e., UP Healthcare Roundtable), the Bi-National Conference, utilization of the SBTDC services and participation on the CDC. Collaboration amongst the three regions will be accomplished through meetings facilitated by the Upper Peninsula Economic Development Alliance (UPEDA). UPEDA, along with Michigan Works! is a major implementer of UPWARD Initiative, an Economic Opportunity Study for the Upper Peninsula and Wisconsin Border Region.

## **II. IDENTIFICATION OF REGIONAL ASSETS:**

Identify the defining assets of your region (geography, economy, education, talent, transportation, etc.) and explain why your organization, with your co-applicants, is uniquely qualified to bring all of the appropriate partners together to leverage the region's assets to create, strengthen and support regional economic prosperity.

Blessed with an embarrassment of riches. That's what we are in the EUP, where both our natural and man-made assets are many. The most obvious of our assets are those that present themselves around every bend in the river, down every country road, and every scenic overlook – our natural assets:

- Forest: 80% of the EUP's land surface is forested
- Water: 3 Great Lakes and numerous inland lakes and rivers
- Space: Less than 1% of the EUP is urbanized and wide-open sky is abundant
- Scenic Beauty: From the famous Tahquamenon Falls to the little-known Mission Point overlook, fabulous vistas are plentiful.
- Wildlife & Fisheries: Plentiful wildlife, birds, and fish are the reality for hunters, anglers, and photographers alike.
- Public Access Land: 47% of land in the EUP is publicly-owned

Sound planning and infrastructure picks up where Mother Nature leaves off, providing additional assets to the EUP:

- Rail Connection to Wisconsin and Canada
- Excellent highways, both North/South and East/West, via I-75, M-28, and US-2
- Regional airport with service to Detroit, plus municipal airports able to handle jets and small planes
- Industrial parks located in each county
- Deep-water ports that accommodate both shipping vessels and passenger ships
- Cities with sewer and water services
- Institutions of higher education, like Lake Superior State University & Bay Mills Community College
- Eastern U.P. Regional Planning & Development Commission

- Comprehensive healthcare facilities, including three full-scale hospitals, numerous assisted living / nursing care facilities, private practice physicians, and specialty services.

Beyond nature and infrastructure are several other assets unique to the EUP:

- The importance of proximity to Canada and Wisconsin cannot be overstated
- Populated areas with a unique sense of place: Sault Ste. Marie, St. Ignace, Newberry, & Mackinac Island (specific focus on Tactical and Strategic Placemaking)
- Several of the state’s top tourist destinations are found here: Mackinac Island, Tahquamenon Falls, and the Soo Locks
- Native American tribes and reservations add unique culture, while casinos add entertainment
- Numerous security forces call the EUP home, including U.S. Border Patrol, U.S. Coast Guard, and U.S. Customs & Immigration

Despite our deep pool of assets, as described in the paragraphs above, the Region still needs to focus on prosperity moving forward. Many of the assets described previously are not being utilized to their full extent, and could be further capitalized on through placemaking activities in our city centers and other densely populated places.

The Eastern U.P. Regional Planning & Development Commission is uniquely positioned to bring the various partners needed for this Regional Prosperity Initiative together. Collaborating and partnering with numerous organizations is not a new concept to the Eastern UP, as evidenced by the supporting letters and resolutions included in this application, as well as the continued Federal designation of the Eastern UP as an Economic Development District, since 1970. This collaboration has resulted in numerous investments in the Region by the Economic Development Administration (most recently the Sault Ste. Marie/LSSU SmartZone Technology Breeder Building and the Luce County EDC Industrial Park Expansion), MEDC, USDA, DNR, NOAA, DEQ and numerous other agencies. Because of the large geographic area encompassed by the region, and the scarcity of financial resources, the entities committed to supporting and participating in this initiative have been collaborating, in some cases, for decades.

### III. NEEDS STATEMENT:

Explain the need for a collaborative economic strategy in your region. Identify the needs you will address. Acknowledge similar existing projects or agencies, if any, and explain how your proposal differs, and what effort will be made to work cooperatively.

#### A. Regional Economic Strategy Development

**Funding Request: \$197,500 for Phase One: Five-Year Regional Prosperity Plan.**

**\$101,000:** This funding will be used to provide the lead agency (RPC) of the 3-county region with the administrative and technical staff support for the overall project, Consultant(s) to complete tasks and the development of the Plan, travel, meeting expenses, and other direct costs that may be associated with the Phase One: EUP 5 Year Regional Prosperity Plan.

**\$67,500:** This funding will be used to create the new EUP Regional Council, a collaboration between the Eastern U.P. Regional Planning & Development Commission and EUP Michigan Works. The Council will share Executive level staff, administrative staff and overhead costs.

**\$24,000:** This funding will be utilized to support the development of videoconferencing sites at locations specified in the UP Link plan, to support enhanced participation in both regional and up-wide initiatives (UPEDA, Regional Skills Alliance, CDC, etc.)

**\$5,000:** This funding will be utilized to create and maintain the EUP Regional Prosperity Website and Dashboard.

The Phase One: Eastern UP Regional Economic Prosperity 5-Year Plan will build upon the Regional CEDS integrating and aligning Workforce Development, Higher Education, Adult Education and Transportation with community and economic development strategies. The following tasks will be completed.

**1. Regional Structure Formation: EUP Prosperity Collaborative Stakeholder Group**  
RPC will organize and convene monthly meetings of the EUP Prosperity Collaborative Stakeholder Group.

**Tasks:**

- 1a. Identify and recruit additional key stakeholders critical to lead the Prosperity Collaborative forward; i.e., business owners, community leaders, etc.
- 1b. Prepare and disseminate monthly agendas, minutes, strategy plan information.
- 1c. Due to the vast geographical area that Region 1c encompasses, meetings will be available via videoconferencing (Michigan Works! Offices, Lake Superior State University, SSM SmartZone, Intermediate School District, local hospitals in each of the EUP Counties. Infrastructure upgrades will be required at several locations in order to facilitate this method of virtual conferencing (*locations identified in recently completed UP Link study by WUPPDR*).
- 1d. Formalize Collaborative operating procedures to include transparency, and timeliness of posting of materials for public review.
- 1e. Enhance RPC's website to provide a site to upload monthly, all meeting information and materials.
- 1f. Provide monthly updates (e-news, social media, print newsletters) of Region1c Prosperity Collaborative activities.
- 1g. Appoint subcommittee to identify staffing, approve RFP's, select and approve consultants.

**2. Creation of the EUP Regional Council**

Through funding from this Initiative we are also proposing to implement a full alliance of the Eastern U.P. Regional Planning & Development Commission (RPC) with the EUP Michigan Works Workforce (MW) organization. The concept surrounding this alliance was approved by the Eastern U.P. Regional Planning & Development Commission Governing Board at its regular meeting on January 22, 2014. Both regional entities service the same three (3) county Region as is identified in Region 1c for this initiative. With the impending retirement of the current Workforce Development Agency director, this presents a unique opportunity to form a Regional Council Board that encompasses both organizations, with a singular CEO level staff person. The RPC will bring on additional staff in the role of Economic Development (ED) Specialist, leveraging local funding from the Chippewa County Economic Development Corporation, in combination with funding from this Initiative and funding from the RPC. The ED Specialist will be primarily responsible for coordinating activities of the Regional Prosperity Collaborative stakeholder group and overseeing the development of the Regional Economic Strategy

Plan in addition to providing direct assistance to the local economic development organizations across the Region.

**The following Tasks will be completed:**

- 2a. The RPC and MW Governing Boards, under the advisement of legal counsel, will draft and agree to a Memorandum of Understanding, between the two organizations, to formalize their commitment to share in the costs of CEO staff, administrative support and overhead costs.
- 2b. Relocation of the RPC offices to the current MI Works! Office blending the physical locations of the two organizations.
- 2c. Technology costs would include any/all costs associated with the RPC physical location to the current MW office building, transfer of computer equipment, wiring, networking, servers, etc.
- 2d. Current RPC Executive Director will be elevated to a CEO position for the overarching Regional Council,
- 2e. Staffing: Hiring of a Regional Economic Development Specialist, planning staff.
- 2f. Establishment of Governing Boards meeting schedule to include at minimum one joint meeting of the Boards annually.

**3. Define EUP Regional Council Vision (Brand)**

Regional Issue: With the creation of the new EUP Regional Council, we need to effectively communicate a shared vision that can distinguish itself in the global economy. Although smaller scale sub-regional efforts are underway: Tahquamenon Scenic Heritage Route, The Great Waters, Twin Saults marketing efforts and local CVB affiliation with the Pure Michigan campaign. If the region is going to communicate as one and effectively market for tourism and attraction for new business development as a destination to live, work & play, we need to establish a defined vision and branding effort from which communities can all unite around.

**The following Tasks will be completed:**

- 3a. Review/analyze existing vision statements and branding efforts within the Region.
- 3b. Provide a conceptual Vision Statement of Region.
- 3c. Attain consensus of Vision Statement for Region.
- 3d. Develop regional brand/logo.
- 3e. Select brand/logo through preferential surveys and consensus of EUP Prosperity Region's partners.
- 3f. Promote reason/benefits for a regional identity and grow support for adoption of brand.
- 3g. Media engagement social media, and public outreach campaign to build awareness of the Regional Council.
- 3h. Develop and print regional materials.

**4. Regional Economic Strategy Plan Development**

Utilizing a consultant, selected through a quality based RFP process, EUP will oversee the development of the 5 Year Economic Strategy Plan, building off previously completed efforts by the Commission (Regional Growth Strategy, CEDS, UPWARD Initiative, various other relevant strategies and plans). The plan will be vetted through the Regional Collaborative Stakeholder Group and a process that allows for public

involvement. Because the timeline for this process is in close alignment with the Region's requirement, per the Economic Development Administration (EDA) to develop a revised CEDS 5 Year plan on or before April 30, 2015, we envision the development of a Regional Economic Strategy Plan that will incorporate those components required by the EDA for the Revised CEDS 5 Year plan into the ONE singular economic strategy for the Region that is supported by the collaborative stakeholders group, regional council and economic development organizations in Region 1c.

**The following Tasks will be completed:**

- 4a. Selection of consultant through quality based selection process for the development of the 5 Year Strategy Plan.
- 4b. Development of the Plan
- 4c. Presentation of draft plan to Regional Stakeholders Collaborative group.
- 4d. Adoption of the Plan by Regional Council.
- 4e. Endorsement of the Plan by the Regional Stakeholders Collaborative.
- 4f. Publication and dissemination of the plan.

Measures of success related to the Regional Economic Strategy:

- o Development of a strategy plan with broad based input from stakeholders
- o Number of endorsements by regional partners of the Plan
- o Completion of the grant requirements
- o Ability to identify key strategies for implementation in future funding rounds

- 5. Regional Community & Economic Development Assistance Strategy** Regional Issue: Professional Economic Development assistance is not available throughout region. This is due primarily to funding capacity and a lack of collaborative programming. There are three counties in the Eastern UP region with 4 fulltime professional staff, one volunteer staff. EUP through its Economic Development Designation (EDD) and Economic Development Administration (EDA) assistance provides local assistance with community and economic development activities in the region; however the funding level is insufficient to address the entire region's needs.

In order to improve the EUP region's economic prosperity it is critical that the existing economic development delivery system be analyzed to determine a cost- effective means for professional staffing and financing in the 3-county region. The analysis will include a review of all current economic development organization's structures, functions, staffing, staffing duties and coverage area. A Recommended Strategy will be developed that also takes into account economic and community development needs of local communities.

**The following Tasks will be completed:**

- 5a. Inventory economic and community development organization's services, funding mechanism and delivery area.
- 5b. Identify gaps, strengths, opportunities.
- 5c. Develop regional retention strategy.
- 5d. Develop regional attraction strategy.
- 5e. Develop a collaborative work plan that is inclusive of all economic development service providers.

- 5f. Determine a collaborative means of financing the regional/subregional approach.
- 5g. Convene a summit of EDC's/EDO's and Region 1c Prosperity Collaborative Stakeholder Group to review findings and recommended strategy and steps to implementation.
- 5h. Revise strategy based on summit feedback.
- 5i. Adoption of final strategy by the EUP Regional Council (subregional/regional).

Measures of Success:

- 1. Agreed upon regional delivery.
- 2. Work plan that aligns services provided through the Regional Council to EDO's.
- 3. MOA with EDO's to implement the work plan identified above.

**6. Workforce Development /Higher Education /Adult Education**

Regional Issue: A coordinated approach is necessary to break down the silos of workforce preparedness including adult, education higher education and workforce training to ensure Talent at all levels is being equipped for the occupational opportunities within the region's target industries including entrepreneurship as a career option.

**The following tasks will be accomplished:**

- 6a. Convene the EUP's adult education, higher education and workforce training organizations and institutions for development of a Five-Year Talent Strategy.
- 6b. Informed by the UPWARD Initiative Plan and based on the target industry sector needs in the workplace, inventory the following:
  - o higher educational and career readiness offerings in the region;
  - o adult education and workforce readiness offerings in region;
  - o certificates and degrees;
  - o marketing and recruitment efforts in region;
  - o funding sources;
- 6c. Determine strengths, weaknesses (gaps) and opportunities of the educational and training delivery system in the region.
- 6d. Provide recommendations to UPWARD Initiative Talent group for input and strategy development for alignment and collaborations to enhance education/training.
- 6e. Coordinate the development of a talent retention plan that is consistent with the UPWARD Initiative.
- 6f. Develop a formalized collaborative 5-year strategy among all education and training entities

**7. Regional Prosperity Website and Dashboard**

Develop a Performance dashboard that is integrated into the 5-year Plan and reported annually to the Eastern UP Prosperity Region's Collaborative/Council and made available to the private and public sector.

Leveraged Funds: EUP will provide leveraged funds for the plan development and supporting activities. EDA funds will support the Economic Development Specialist position and development of the community and economic organization assistance strategy.

Chippewa County Economic Development Corporation will provide funding of, at minimum \$17,000 to assist with the Community and Regional Economic Development Assistance strategy, this funding will be utilized to bring on additional staff in the form of an Economic Development Specialist. Leveraged funds are estimated to be \$30,000 for FY 2014.

#### **IV. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Please address anything else about your organization or project you think is relevant to the proposal.

Strategies that were identified in the 2010 Eastern UP Regional Growth Strategy, developed through the 2010 LPI Initiative, and also included in our Revised CEDS 5 Year Plan (2010) include the following:

Regional Strategy: Develop economic gardening and entrepreneurial support programs

Regional Strategy: Create a regional Capital Investment Group to foster entrepreneurial activities

Regional Strategy: Foster regional collaboration among economic development organizations and local governments

Regional Strategy: Strengthen economic ties throughout the Midwest and Northern Ontario

Regional Strategy: Further develop the recreation/tourism cluster

Regional Strategy: Define a positive identity for the region and market that identity

Regional Strategy: Invest in improvements to the St. Marys River area with a focus on enhancing sense of place for people with an interest in nature, culture and history

Regional Strategy: Develop a 21<sup>st</sup> century vision for area infrastructure

Regional Strategy: Advance the Higher Education Cluster in ways that benefit entrepreneurial activity and raise the educational attainment of the workforce.