

# Q2 PARTNER UPDATE

## ALLIANCE PLEASED BY FY25 BUDGET ALLOCATIONS

After a year of diligent advocacy, the Alliance is proud to see many of the budget priorities for rural northern Michigan receive significant funding in this year's budget. This budget brings transformative opportunities for businesses across the state with substantial investments in infrastructure, education, and workforce development.

- \$5M for Educator Housing in Grand Traverse County to support a mixed-income development of at least 144 units for school personnel
- \$500 million for the Strategic Outreach and Reserve (SOAR) Fund to continue attracting transformational investments in clean energy, semiconductors, mobility, and other industries.
- \$100 million for affordable housing projects.
- \$2.5 million for the Office of Rural Prosperity.
- \$60 million for the Innovation Fund, designed to invest in scalable startups and help launch hundreds of new Michigan-based companies.
- \$50 million continued funding for the Revitalization and Placemaking Program.
- \$15 million additional funding for the Pure Michigan Campaign with up to \$10 million in potential additional local and private revenue.
- \$45 million for the Going PRO Talent Fund.
- \$45.5 million for Talent and Growth to address workforce needs and population growth including economic assistance for businesses locating or expanding in Michigan.
- \$30 million additional investment for the ongoing costs of the Michigan Achievement Scholarship to provide a pathway to community college with tuition guaranteed.
- \$52 million continued support for Michigan Reconnect.
- \$20M Increase for the Tuition Incentive Program.



**Governor Gretchen Whitmer signed the FY25 budget on July 24 in Detroit.**

## REPRESENTATION AT THE MACKINAC POLICY CONFERENCE

The NMCA once again joined business and government leaders from across the state at the Detroit Regional Chamber's Annual Mackinac Policy Conference. Partners had opportunities to engage with business and policy leaders on key items including the state budget, new legislation designed to improve economic development, and state housing initiatives. Alliance Partner, Warren Call, joined Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director of MSHDA, Amy Hovey, alongside other MSHDA partners for the Governor's announcement of her new housing goals.

While attending the conference, Partners engaged in productive discussions with U.S. Rep. and Senate Candidate Elissa Slotkin, U.S. Senator Gary Peters, Dr. Timothy Boring with Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Michigan State University President Kevin Guskiewicz, and Northern Michigan University President Tessman.



**Warren Call (Traverse Connect) joined Governor Whitmer at the announcement of new housing and energy initiatives.**

## MICHIGAN CHAMBER DAY & NORTHERN CAUCUS RECEPTION

Alliance Partners, along with several of their member businesses and community partners, traveled to Lansing for the 2024 Michigan Chamber Day at the Capitol. It was a day packed with meaningful discussions on critical issues, insights from top-notch experts shaping our economic and political landscapes, and invaluable networking opportunities.



Christopher Germain, Warren Call, Caitlyn Stark, Nikki Devitt, and Senator Mark Huizenga (District 30)

The Partners engaged in fruitful meetings with Speaker of the Michigan House of Representatives, Joe Tate; House Minority Leader Matt Hall; Senate Majority Leader Winnie Brinks; and Senate Minority Leader Aric Nesbitt. Alliance Partners upheld the tradition of hosting a reception for the Northern Caucus the evening before.

## SENATOR DEBBIE STABENOW RECOGNIZES THE ALLIANCE AT THE WHITE HOUSE

Senator Debbie Stabenow appeared at The White House in May to discuss federal investment in rural communities across the country. During her speech, the Senator mentions the Northern Michigan Policy Conference and her collaboration with the Northern Michigan Chamber Alliance on the two key issues she hears most from rural Michigan communities: childcare and housing. Earlier this year, the Alliance recognized Senator Stabenow at the 2024 Northern Michigan Policy Conference with the inaugural Legacy Award for her efforts supporting northern Michigan's small businesses, farmers, and the local economy.



## PETOSKEY AND CHARLEVOIX HOST CANDIDATE FORUM

Alliance Partners, the Petoskey and Charlevoix Area Chambers of Commerce, held a candidate forum for those running in the August primary election at North Central Michigan College. The event included a meet-and-greet and brief remarks from candidates running in the 1st Congressional District and in contested commission races in Emmet and Charlevoix counties. The focus of the event was a moderated forum for the three candidates in the 107th House race that includes all of Charlevoix and Emmet counties and portions of Cheboygan, Chippewa and Mackinac counties.



Candidates Jodi Decker, Neil Friske, and Parker Fairbairn listen to moderator Scott LaDeur.

## 46TH ANNUAL GOVERNOR'S BREAKFAST IN CADILLAC

Alliance Partners gathered in Cadillac for the 46th Annual Governor's Breakfast with the Cadillac Area Chamber of Commerce. Close to 1,000 people came out to be a part of the event at the Wexford Civic Center including hundreds of area high school seniors. Cadillac Chamber President Caitlyn Stark introduced Governor Gretchen Whitmer to provide remarks, which highlighted her goals for education, infrastructure, housing, and ways to attract and retain young people. Following the event, Cadillac Chamber President Caitlyn Stark took the Governor on a tour to local industries, including Cadillac Castings, Inc., and for transportation conversations with The Cadillac Wexford Transit Authority.



## NEW AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT COMES ONLINE

The Alliance applauds the recent opening of Annika Place, a new 53-unit affordable housing community located in Traverse City. The \$14.7 million investment was made possible in part by the Michigan State Housing Development Authority. Traverse Connect President Warren Call is proud to represent the Alliance on the Michigan State Housing Development Authority board where he advocates for the policy and funding needs of northern Michigan. The successful debut of Annika Place exemplifies the strength of the Alliance's unified voice in Lansing on the issues critical to northern Michiganders.



Annika Place in Traverse City

# SENATORS MCMORROW AND DAMOOSE HOST ROUNDTABLE IN TRAVERSE CITY

Senator John Damoose and Chair of the Michigan Senate Economic & Community Development Committee, Senator Mallory McMorro co-hosted a roundtable discussion in Traverse City with leaders in economic and area development, regional attraction and growth, and small business owners. The goal of the discussion was to hear input on the state's first-ever 10-year comprehensive economic development strategy. This event was the first in a series of roundtable discussions that Senator McMorro hosted across the state to develop a regionally tailored approach to the strategy. The roundtable participants included prominent regional leaders, including business owners, local units of government, and state officials including Amy Hovey, CEO and Executive Director of MSHDA, Sarah Lucas, Director of the LEO Office of Rural Prosperity, and Matt McCauley, SVP of Regional Development with MEDC.

The full list of attendees: Mark Heydlauff City Manager for City of Charlevoix; Chris Forsyth, Deputy County Administrator of Grand Traverse County Economic Development Corporation; Jim Bardenhagen, President of Leelanau Peninsula Economic Foundation; Patricia Soutas-Little, Chair of Leelanau Early Childhood Development Commission and Leelanau Peninsula Economic Foundation; Bob Sutherland, Owner of Cherry Republic; Matt McCauley, SVP of Regional Development with MEDC; Janie McNabb, CEO of Networks Northwest; Danielle McCann, Government Relations Specialist with MEDC; Sarah Lucas, Director of LEO Office of Rural Prosperity; Henry Wolf, Director of Policy and Grant Programs at LEO Office of Rural Prosperity; Trevor Tkach, President of Traverse City Tourism; Kevin Shephard, County Admin Charlevoix County; Bill Myers, President of Promethient; Amy Hovey, CEO and Executive Director of MSHDA; Payton Heins, President of Northern Lakes Economic Alliance; Bill Mansfield, Owner of Lavender Hill Farms; Aubrey Jabour, Owner of Northbound PT; Brayton Farr, President of Leelanau Peninsula Chamber of Commerce.

## ALLIANCE MEMBERS

### PARTNERS



### SUPPORTING PARTNER



### ASSOCIATE PARTNERS



## PROUD PARTNERS OF THE NORTHERN MICHIGAN CHAMBER ALLIANCE

