

KEWEENAW ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC PLAN

VISION

We are a community driven by our leaders to be the best at utilizing our technology, education, and business assets to build a diverse economic base that leverages and develops the unique strengths of each county and its people.

MISSION

Engage community leadership to start, retain, grow, and attract companies that will increase the prosperity of the region through a holistic and collaborative strategy that builds on the assets and opportunities present in the region.

GOALS

Foster Business Growth
Improve Infrastructure
Revitalize Our Communities
Develop and Attract Talent
Enhance Cultural & Recreational Opportunities

The first half of 2025 continues to show us that our economy is growing stronger. KEDA's focus remains on addressing business and community development opportunities. Our manufacturing and tech companies are expanding, new housing and mixed-use projects are progressing, and momentum continues in addressing childcare shortages. Through new investments, grant funding, and active community partnerships we are building on last year's successes and continuing to move the needle on economic growth in the Keweenaw.

KEDA is very appreciative of all of you who continue to support economic development in the Keweenaw. Your funding support is crucial to the day-to-day delivery of services, developing projects, and undertaking initiatives that are designed to improve our regions economy. Thank you.

2025 IMPACT IN NUMBERS



\$18,381,680 generated in new direct private investments to seven local projects



\$3,874,000 grant funding leveraged on five projects



129 new jobs supported



130+ company visits



151 business owners, community leaders, and employees participated in KEDA educational programming



9 residential units financed and underway

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES JANUARY-JUNE 2025

FOSTER BUSINESS GROWTH

- Connected with over 130 local companies and businesses to provide outreach and support.
- Continuing to work with a local childcare team to provide start-up assistance for home-based and center based childcare businesses as well as assisting in the expansion of CLK's childcare center.
- Processed one loan and three industrial facilities tax exemptions for expanding local manufacturers.
- Referred multiple businesses to Michigan Works and the SBDC.

IMPROVE INFRASTRUCTURE

- Advocated for improved broadband infrastructure.

REVITALIZE OUR COMMUNITIES

- Supporting 12 commercial, mixed-use, and residential development projects, totaling an estimated \$49.1 million in investment and at least 107 residential units.
- Continuing to work on the Ruppe Building stabilization effort through fundraising, securing agreements, organizing volunteer clean-ups, and overseeing work progress.
- Managing multiple rounds of Blight Elimination funding for demolition and stabilization of properties in the area with five properties demolished and four being stabilized
- Working with the Village of Calumet to finalize the Public Green Space Park Project after the winter pause.

DEVELOP & ATTRACT TALENT

- Attended networking meetings with Michigan Works, Remote Workforce Keweenaw, and MTU.
- Hosted six MIOSHA training events with over 90 attendees
- Partnered with the MEDC and Cities of Houghton and Hancock to lead an Emerging Developer Workshop Series.

ENHANCE CULTURAL & RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

- Continued collaboration with KCVB, WUPPDR, and Houghton County Recreation Authority on trails and recreation infrastructure projects.
- Participated in governance and advisory committees for the Keweenaw Heartlands land acquisition.
- Actively supporting stabilization and redevelopment of the Calumet Air Force Station.
- Assisted Chassell Township to advance plans for a multi-use trail along the Chassell to Baraga rail grade.

CONTACTS:

Jeff Ratcliffe
Executive Director
906-482-6817
jeff@kedabiz.com

Sam Stonelake
Business Retention Specialist
906-231-1992
sam@kedabiz.com

Nikki Madisen
Administrative Assistant
906-482-6817
nikki@kedabiz.com