

# Building ECONOMIC SUCCESS Together



**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
COMMUNITY INVESTMENT  
CAMPAIGN**  
2026-2028



**LEAP BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Bert Cook  
*Executive Director, LEAP*  
Mike Riehle  
*President of Business Services, LEAP*  
Mayor Tom Dermody  
*City of La Porte*  
Dawn Zigler  
*Meridian Title Corporation*  
Nick Otis  
*Newby Lewis Kaminski & Jones*  
Todd Hudson  
*BOSS Air*  
Chris Mahlmann  
*GreatNews.Life*  
Don Babcock  
*Purdue University Northwest*  
Cindy Admave  
*NIPSCO*  
Mike Schultz  
*La Porte County Assessor*  
Brittany Smith  
*CompressAir*  
Trudy Menke  
*Reframing Leadership, LLC.*  
Tony Kazakevicius  
*Chicago South Shore & South Bend Railroad*  
Dr. Sandra Wood  
*La Porte Community School Corp.*  
Julia Diaz  
*Horizon Bank*  
Jason Wood  
*MC Doors*  
Mark Casanova  
*Northwest Health*

**EDCMC BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Clarence Hulse  
*Executive Director, EDCMC*  
Seth Spencer  
*Sera Group*  
Stephanie Oberlie  
*Harbour Trust & Investment Management Co.*  
Bill Hackney  
*The La Porte County Herald-Dispatch*  
Steve Kring  
*Horizon Bank*  
Jessica Bailey  
*Sullair - A Hitachi Group Company*  
Mayor Angie Nelson-Deutch  
*City of Michigan City*  
Jesse Baldwin  
*Triplex Plating*  
Dr. Wendell McCollum  
*Michigan City Area Schools*  
Dr. Vidya Kora  
*City of Michigan City*  
Don Babcock  
*Purdue University Northwest*  
Antonio Conley  
*Temerity Boutique*  
Aco Sikoski  
*Ivy Tech Community College*  
Cassie Martin Graham  
*D Martin Enterprises, Inc.*  
JC Rieger  
*Blue Chip Casino Hotel Spa*

**DEAR COMMUNITY INVESTOR,**

The La Porte Economic Advancement Partnership (LEAP) and the Economic Development Corporation Michigan City (EDCMC) are continuing to partner in a joint economic development Program of Action. Over the past three years, both organizations have been working on economic development initiatives including new business attraction, existing business retention and expansion, research and marketing. This unique partnership is successfully helping to position both communities as locations of choice for new business investment and existing business growth.

While both organizations contract with their respective cities of La Porte and Michigan City to perform economic development activities, funding from the business community is essential to continue these expanded and new aggressive economic development initiatives planned through this pivotal joint program. The 2026-2028 Economic Development Community Investment Campaign, with a goal of \$800,000, will be shared by both organizations for administration and implementation of the programs.

Please consider becoming an investor by making a three-year pledge toward the funding of this unique partnership. Through your financial investment LEAP and EDCMC play key roles in ensuring successful projects, as well as advancing the revitalizations of both cities' downtowns. The joint Program will ultimately result in enhancing the overall vitality and quality of life in the greater La Porte and Michigan City areas.

Once again, LEAP and EDCMC are partnering with the Unity Foundation of La Porte County, which has established the Economic Development Investment Fund. This is a special fund for these tax deductible donations.

*Become an Investor* and help La Porte and Michigan City *Build Economic Success Together!*

Mayor Tom Dermody  
*City of La Porte*

Bert Cook  
*LEAP Executive Director*

Mayor Angie Nelson-Deutch  
*City of Michigan City*

Clarence Hulse  
*EDCMC Executive Director*



"We're optimistic and excited about the future of Michigan City and La Porte. LEAP and the EDCMC have played a vital role in attracting significant investments to our community. Horizon understands how important these organizations are to our community's growth and prosperity and are proud to continue its support of the investment campaign."

Steve Kring  
Regional President - Northwest Indiana  
Horizon Bank



# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM OF ACTION

## BUSINESS ATTRACTION

Funds raised will be used to market and promote La Porte and Michigan City as the premier locations of choice for new and existing businesses.

- "Sell" La Porte and Michigan City as the best locations for business
- Develop marketing materials and social media outreach
- Aggressive interactive websites
  - [www.laportepartnership.com](http://www.laportepartnership.com)
  - [www.edcmc.com](http://www.edcmc.com)
  - Special Site Selector Section
  - Databases on available buildings and sites
- Maintain information on local, regional and state demographics and incentives
- Share business prospect inquiries between LEAP and EDCMC
- Attend trade shows
- Interact with Chicago area, regional, and local commercial/industrial Realtors and brokers
- Process new prospect leads from the Indiana Economic Development Corporation

## BUSINESS RETENTION & EXPANSION

Ensuring that existing businesses in La Porte and Michigan City are being recognized and served is a prime initiative of the Program. LEAP and EDCMC work on an aggressive Retention and Expansion Program.

This program addresses the needs of local businesses through an aggressive business visitation effort.

- Identify specific concerns and problems of local businesses and provide effective solutions
- Acquaint business executives with programs that better strengthen their companies
- Assist with expansion plans
- Serve as liaison between local government and businesses
- Promote interaction among local businesses
- Assist with workforce/training needs and incentives

## SPECIAL PROGRAMS

- Assist with brownfield redevelopment
- Develop "shovel" ready properties
- Conduct Business Appreciation Events
- Host site selector professionals

## CIRCLE OF INVESTORS

All investors will become members of the Circle of Investors. Their companies will be placed on a Preferred Vendor List which will be posted on both the LEAP and EDCMC websites.

Investors will receive updated information on the progress of the Program of Action and will be invited to Circle of Investors receptions. Investors will also receive special recognition for their support.



**The Hunter Woods Ground  
Breaking in La Porte**

## 2026-2028 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT FUND

COMPANY \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT/TITLE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

### INVESTMENT LEVELS

Palladium  
Platinum  
Diamond  
Gold  
Silver  
Bronze

### ANNUAL AMOUNT

\$15,000+  
\$10,000+  
\$7,500+  
\$5,250+  
\$2,750+  
\$1,250+

### THREE YEAR TOTAL

\$45,000+  
\$30,000+  
\$22,500+  
\$15,750+  
\$8,250+  
\$3,750+

Amount of your investment:

Annual \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Three Year Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Make tax deductible investment checks payable to:

Unity Foundation of La Porte County, ED Investment Fund, 422 Franklin St., Suite C, Michigan City, IN 46360

For information, contact: EDCMC: 219.873.1211 • LEAP: 219.324.8584





*"As a member of the EDCMC board, I have observed the ongoing collaboration between Michigan City and La Porte leaders in advancing economic development. Driven by innovative leadership and common objectives, our communities are well positioned to maintain progress and growth. It is a privilege to contribute to these efforts as a supporter of both EDCMC and LEAP."*

**Stephanie K. Oberle**  
President  
Harbour Trust Investment Management Company

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY

During the past three years, through the support of Investors, much has been accomplished in creating new jobs and investment, as well as, retaining existing jobs in La Porte and Michigan City. LEAP and EDCMC collaborate with their economic development PARTNERS in achieving their successes.

- La Porte and Michigan City Councils
- La Porte and Michigan City Redevelopment Commissions
- NIPSCO
- Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC)
- Northwest Indiana Forum
- Regional Development Company
- Center of Workforce Innovations/NW IN Workforce Board
- Indiana Small Business Development Center (ISBDC)
- Michigan City Chamber of Commerce
- La Porte County Office of Economic Development
- La Porte County Convention and Visitors Bureau
- SCORE

## LEAP AND EDCMC SUCSESSES BETWEEN 2022-2025



## R&E VISITS FROM 2022-2025

LEAP  
230 VISITS

EDCMC  
87 VISITS

## THANK YOU TO OUR 2026-2028 LEADING INVESTORS!

