

Albion's Regional & Multicultural 10-Point Workforce Readiness Plan

Albion Economic Development Corporation (AEDC) and our partners are working to pave the way for our community's population to grow from 7,500 to a robust 12,500. Presented as a 10-point plan, this work includes our strategy to uplift the nearly 30% of individuals in our society grappling with poverty and facing significantly low incomes.

This plan includes all current and future members of our diverse community, especially those from economically disadvantaged and underserved communities who seek to contribute and be recognized for their families' historical contributions to Albion. Embracing inclusivity, this economic development plan is meticulously designed to be both people and data driven.

1 TECHNOLOGY & EDUCATION

There are roughly 700 underemployed or unemployed individuals in the Albion area who are ready to undergo education and obtain/maintain employment. We are currently interviewing and identifying the barriers these individuals face and have identified technical education as a critical need.

We are fortunate to have private and public partnerships in our region engaged in this process.

2 CHILDCARE & TRANSPORTATION

Ensuring that workers have accessible childcare and transportation is key to allowing individuals to maintain and focus on employment.

As we continue to explore innovative transportation alternatives, we've joined forces with [Pulse](#) to develop and institute accessible and pertinent childcare solutions for the Albion region. AEDC also backs new and established local childcare centers to maintain and build quality care for children in our community.

3 HOUSING

Albion needs more than 1,500 affordable housing units. In exploring a shelter and drop-in center, we seek to build resiliency by empowering families to achieve economic freedom.

Our 3-year plan involves lot-by-lot housing repair and replacement, supporting new home purchases, multi-family and senior housing, and market-rate projects by leveraging [Michigan State Housing Development Authority \(MSHDA\)](#) programs and collaborating with diverse developers and specialists.

4 BUSINESS DISTRICTS DEVELOPMENT

The Albion region has a rich legacy yet has work to do to restore to its former glory.

Collaborating with [Michigan Economic Development Corporation \(MEDC\)](#) and expert developers, we're revitalizing downtown to enhance social engagement for current and future residents, including the [Albion College](#) community. Beyond the Superior Street Downtown Corridor, we're extending opportunities along the North Eaton, Austin Avenue, and Michigan Avenue corridors.

5 ENTREPRENEURS

Entrepreneurs play a pivotal role in shaping our past and future, and often serve as the glue that binds our families together.

To cultivate and strengthen enterprising efforts, our [Albion Entrepreneur Coaching Program](#) aims to attract, retain, and assist these driven individuals and families. With a specific focus on breaking down barriers for Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) individuals and families, we're committed to fostering success, creating generational wealth, and serving the Albion community.

6 INDUSTRIAL RETENTION, ATTRACTION, & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE WORK

Recognizing past environmental injustices, we're actively collaborating with experts and funders to address and rectify these issues while moving forward mindfully.

Efforts to expand the industrial presence in Albion are focused on generating jobs that will revitalize our community and empower individuals and families achieve sustained prosperity while protecting the environment and our shared community health.

7 LEADERSHIP

Hearing and promoting local voices is key to developing meaningful and lasting change within the region.

Grants from the **Industry-Led Collaborative (ILC)** in partnership with **Michigan Works!** and **Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Opportunity (LEO)** allow Albion-Marshall area employers to access **Dale Carnegie** Leadership training through 2024. We look forward to extending the 12-week Communications, Leadership, and Human Relations course in 2025 with future ILC funding. Future plans also include the establishment of a youth council at **Harrington Elementary School**.

8 FINANCIAL LITERACY

Financial literacy serves as a powerful equalizer in our community, fostering generational wealth and personal confidence in navigating the economic landscape.

One of our initiatives in this realm involves participating in **Children's Savings Accounts (CSA)** with **Community Economic Development Association of Michigan (CEDAM)**, and we're actively exploring additional opportunities.

9 QUALITY & AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE

Equitable access to quality healthcare is a cornerstone for regional families and businesses.

The presence of the **Albion Health Alliance** and access to healthcare via the **Oaklawn** and **Henry Ford** health centers are great sources of reliability and health within our community. Promoting and extending this access is a key initiative.

10 EQUITABLE ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES

The topic of reparations is challenging and necessary. Our city's foundation rests on the labor of our ancestors, and we seek to honor their contributions by empowering current and future residents for success.

Inspired by Asheville, North Carolina's approach, we aim to guide citizens, non-governmental organizations (NGOS), municipalities, businesses, developers, and investors in creating policies and best practices for the equitable allocation of resources and meaningful reparations.

The greater Albion region is positioned for economic development and generational success.

The collaboration of area organizations, businesses, and individuals continues to drive our success, but ongoing partnership is key.

BE PART OF OUR REGION'S CONTINUED GROWTH!

Contact Albion Economic Development Corporation today!



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