



Invest in Iosco

Community. Synergy. Solutions.

July 2025

OUR MISSION is to promote economic development in Iosco County, Michigan.

ONGOING INITIATIVES

Childcare



The Child Care Back Office (CCBO) is leading a pilot program in Northeast Michigan to support local child care businesses. With funding secured from Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan and Otsego Community Foundation, and 10 child care programs already on board, the pilot is providing essential back-office services—including billing, enrollment, HR, and administrative support—so providers can focus on delivering quality care while building sustainable long-term businesses.

For more detail, watch the video on our initiatives page: <https://develop-iosco.org/child-care>



CHILD CARE BACK OFFICE

Countywide Tourism & Recreation



Develop Iosco is actively engaged in strengthening tourism opportunities throughout Iosco County. The cruise line concept remains alive, with ongoing conversations to bring Great Lakes travelers to our communities. We host monthly virtual tourism committee meetings featuring guest speakers, open discussion, and updates on key opportunities and challenges—such as recent budget cuts impacting Lumberman's Monument and local tourism. Meetings are open to all, and we welcome community participation and collaboration.



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www.develop-iosco.org





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Grant Writing Support



Develop Iosco offers up to 20 hours of grant writing assistance to member organizations—helping turn local ideas into funded projects.

Rural Readiness Grant - Round 2 Outcomes

- For every dollar awarded, our community saw \$56 in value or impact
- \$2.9 million+ in grant awards secured, with several award decisions pending
- Presented seven grant writing workshops reaching 114 participants: 10 individuals, 10 businesses, 50 nonprofit representatives from 27 organizations, and 43 government officials from 22 entities
- Held two half-day post-election grant writing workshops for elected officials and municipal/county staff
- Produced and promoted a 75-minute grant writing video & multiple Grant Connector newsletters

High Speed Internet



Iosco County is ready. With broadband mapping complete, we're positioned for the next steps in expanding high-speed internet access. As the BEAD grant (Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment) program rolls out, internet service providers (ISPs) will soon apply for funding to serve unconnected and underserved areas. Develop Iosco continues to advocate for equitable access to reliable, high-speed internet across our communities.

ADVOCACY

Develop Iosco is a proud member of the Northern Michigan Chamber Alliance—a coalition of 19 chambers and economic development organizations advocating for the 1 million residents living north of M-55. In a state of 10 million, this Alliance ensures rural voices are heard in Lansing, advancing priorities like childcare, infrastructure, workforce development, and economic opportunity across Northern Michigan.

NORTHERN
MICHIGAN
CHAMBER
ALLIANCE



www.develop-iosco.org





Active Membership

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BUSINESSES & CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS

Alpena Community College
Black Bear Coffee
Child Care Back Office (CCBO)
Consumers Energy Foundation
Dangler Guys
Downtown Oscoda Beautification
DTE Foundation
FISH Inc. - Tawas
G. Brooks & Associates LLC
Great Lakes Insurance of MI
Huron Community Bank
Huron Housing Hope
Huron Shores Artisan Hall
Iosco County Coats for Kids
Iosco County Commission on Aging
Iosco County Medical Care Facility
Iosco Exploration Trail
Iosco Regional Education Service Agency
My Michigan Health
Northland Area Federal Credit Union
Northern MI Children's Assessment Center
Northeast Michigan Council of Governments
Northeast Michigan Community Service Agency

O'Connors
Oscoda-AuSable Chamber of Commerce
Oscoda Area Schools
Oscoda-Wurtsmith Airport Authority
Perceptions Agency
Proof Bakehouse
Sunrise Side Animal Rescue
Tawas Area Chamber of Commerce
Tawas Area Schools
Tawas Bay Beach Resort
Tawas Bay Players
Tawas Wellness Warriors
TCA Insurance
The Thin Gold Line
VFW Post 3735
Whittemore Chamber of Commerce

INDIVIDUALS

Blinda Baker
Michelle Bacarella
Vicki Seltz Barnes
David & Amanda Bergeron
Natasha Hardy
Wendy Hoin

GOVERNMENT ENTITIES

Alabaster Township	City of East Tawas	Oscoda Township
AuSable Township	City of Tawas City	Plainfield Township
Baldwin Township	City of Whittemore	Tawas Township
Burleigh Township	Grant Township	Wilber Township
	Iosco County	

** DI Membership increased by 93% in 2024

** DI has 59 active members including 13 of 15 townships and municipalities