



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF  
**LABOR & ECONOMIC  
OPPORTUNITY**

MICHIGAN  
OFFICE OF  
**RURAL  
PROSPERITY**



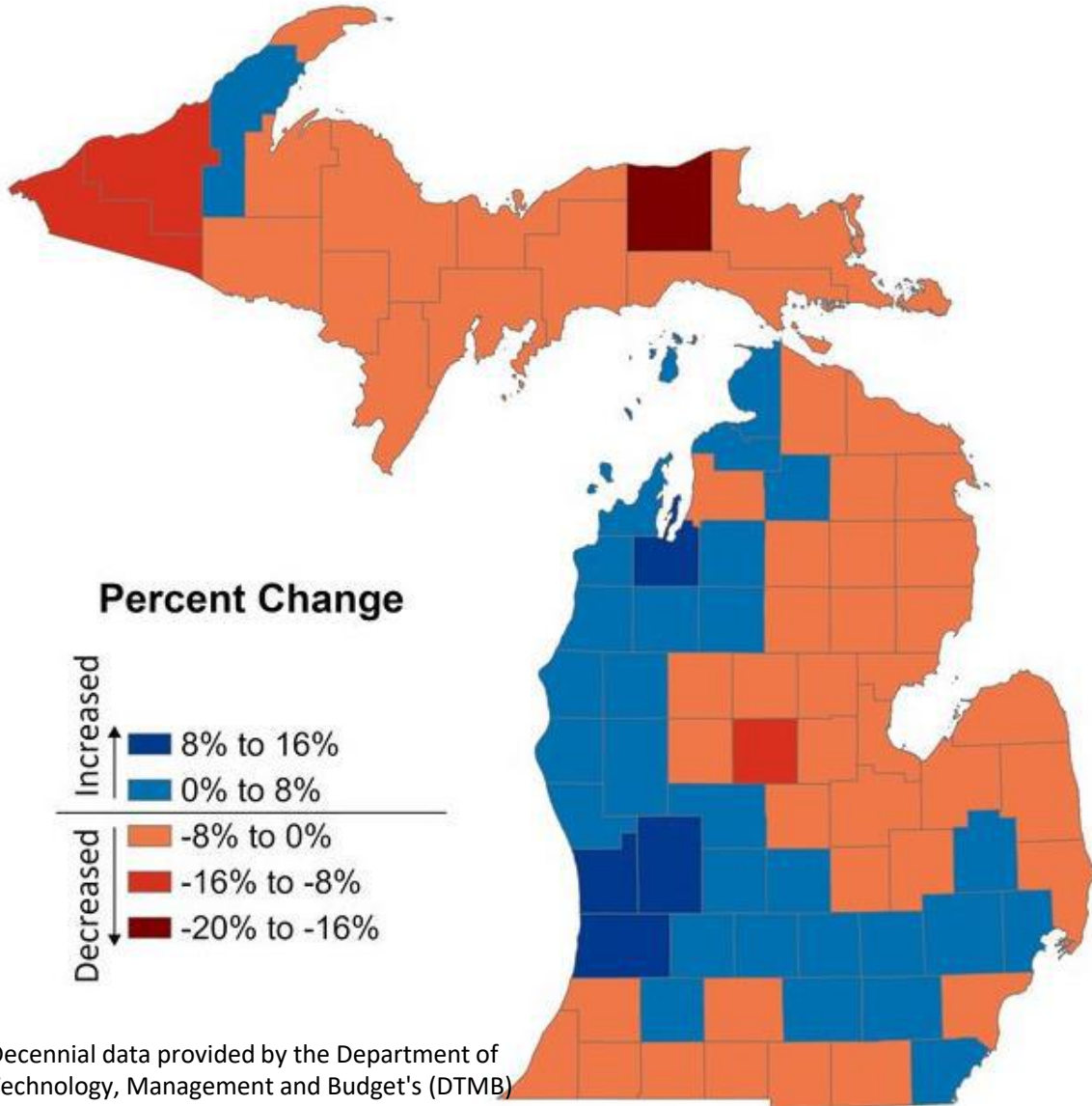
## **An intergovernmental and cross-sector liaison and 'front door' for rural communities**

Strategize and advocate  
for rural needs in policy  
and program decisions

Help rural communities  
navigate to partners  
and resources

Build a strong rural network to  
keep rural communities  
connected to each other and  
resources

## Michigan Population Change (2010-2020)



## Rural Michigan is facing tremendous change, challenges, and opportunities

The largest single demographic in rural MI is age 65+

Housing shortages and childcare create local/regional challenges in attracting population to new jobs and other opportunities

Forecasted population declines will impact health outcomes, educational attainment, tax revenue, and future income of rural residents

Climate change impacts to migration, natural resources, and the economy

New funding resources for key priorities and improvements

Decennial data provided by the Department of Technology, Management and Budget's (DTMB) Michigan Labor Market Information located at [milmi.org/population](http://milmi.org/population)

# **Prosperity and resilience depend on the ability of communities to plan for and manage change**

Knowledge, expertise, and leadership

Community engagement and partnerships

Plans and project pipelines

Administrative processes and staff



## Rural Readiness Grant Program

\$50,000 (20% match, in-kind or cash) awards to local governments and tax-exempt organizations are eligible

Internships and fellowship opportunities are filling capacity gaps around grant writing

Grant writing supports and education and giving communities tools for planning and grant administration

Housing strategies and community engagement are building knowledge, expertise, plans, and partnerships

New staff and organizational infrastructure are attracting partners and developers and preparing land for housing

Shared infrastructure is helping organizations to successfully deliver critical community services, including health/behavioral health, food access, emergency response, and other services.

**Accepting letters of intent through October 7**

**[Michigan.gov/ruralreadiness](https://Michigan.gov/ruralreadiness)**



# Rural Readiness Network & Supports

Peer connections

Targeted training and technical assistance

Connections to resource providers

Eligible for other program supports including community coaching, grant navigation, and microgrants

[Michigan.gov/ruralreadiness](https://Michigan.gov/ruralreadiness)



# Thank you!

[LucasS5@michigan.gov](mailto:LucasS5@michigan.gov)

517-331-7181

Michigan.gov/ORP