



LANSING REGIONAL CHAMBER

We Work Relentlessly to Help Businesses Connect, Grow and Thrive.

January 3, 2022

Dear local governmental leaders,

For the last two decades, Michigan has strived to regain its position as a top state for income, jobs, and widely shared prosperity. With our state receiving tens of billions of dollars in federal aid under the American Rescue Plan, which has flowed down to our local units of governments, leaders at all levels have had a unique opportunity to shape Michigan's future.

We understand that many of these federal dollars were used to backfill areas impacted directly by the COVID-19 global pandemic. However, the next question is how we ensure that the remaining funding will be used to continue to help our region and state emerge from this global pandemic even stronger.

At this moment, we continue to encourage all our leaders to work together across party and jurisdiction lines. Naturally, there will continue to be many ideas for spending these one-time dollars. The Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce (LRCC) strongly urges leaders to take the time needed to ensure these funds are not simply spent. They must be used effectively in transforming our region, which will make our community and state into a better place to live, work and thrive.

We believe leaders at all levels should follow a few key principles when investing the remaining stimulus dollars:

- **Focus on Transformational Investments:** The highest priority should be given to investments that help us achieve long-term goals and leapfrog other states and regions in education/skills, fostering business competitiveness and growing well-paying jobs for years to come.
- **Maximize Michigan's Share of Stimulus Dollars:** Specific federal funding streams and programs address many of the economic, health, and educational gaps created by COVID-19. We should assist Michigan's businesses, residents, and communities in applying and accessing these competitive funds.
- **Protect Flexible Funding and Target Uncovered Gaps:** Flexible funds should fill uncovered COVID health, educational and economic gaps only after other sources are exhausted. Gaps should be well defined using data, and funding should be targeted rather than scattershot.
- **Prioritize Leverage and Avoid Unfunded Mandates:** Investments that leverage private and public sector dollars to achieve larger goals and provide ongoing returns should be encouraged. Investments must be sustainable and avoid creating recurring tax burdens for our residents or businesses.



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- **Measure Outcomes and Assure Transparency:** There should be clear goals and metrics identified and measured, with programs designed to adjust based on this data. Transparency into where and how the funds are spent is essential.

By following these basic guidelines, we believe that these dollars can be invested wisely and contribute to sustainable, equitably shared prosperity for our residents, communities, and businesses. In that spirit, we offer you our support and assistance to ensure our region takes full advantage of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Sincerely,

Tim Daman
President & CEO
Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce