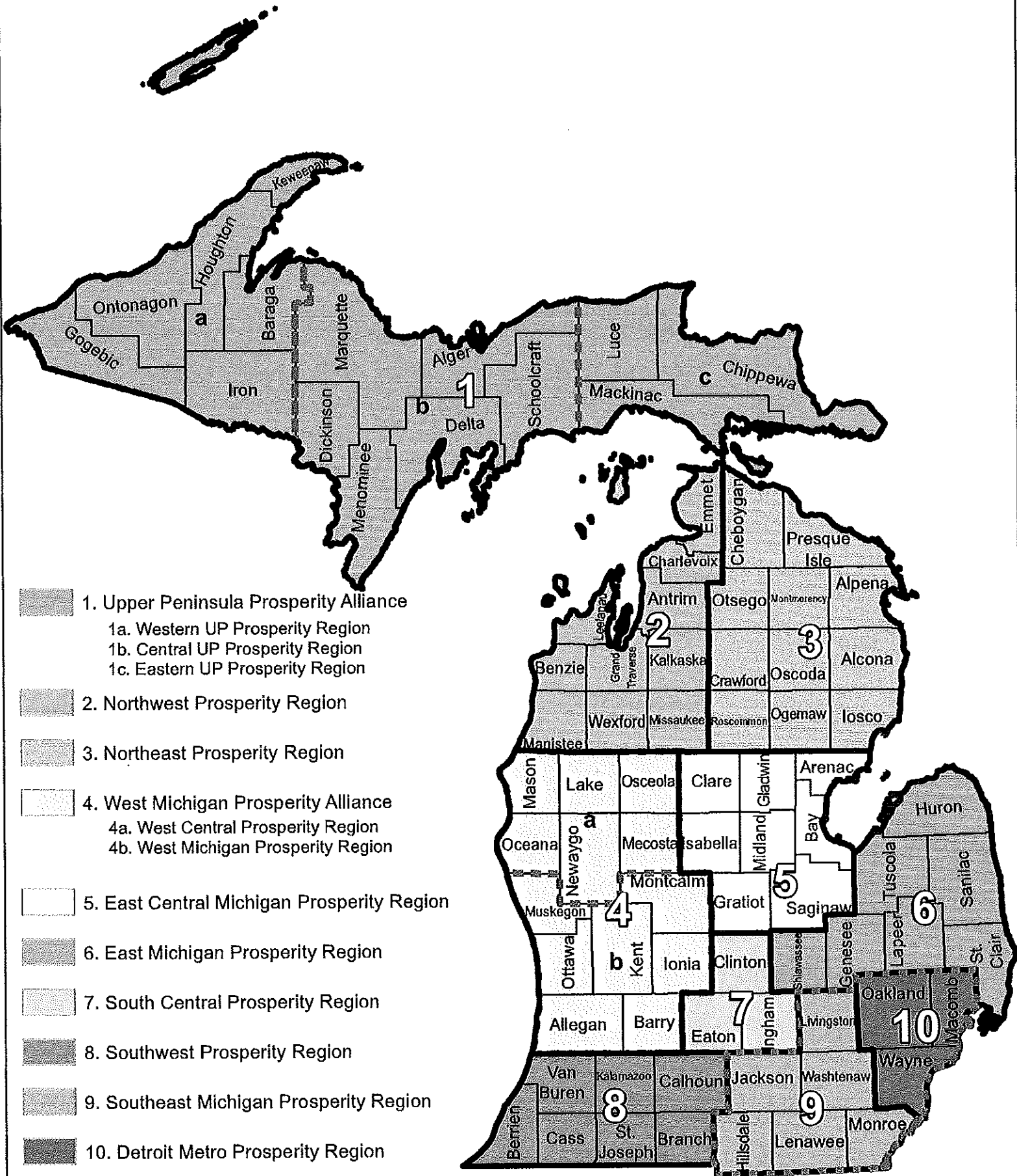


State of Michigan Prosperity Regions



- 1. Upper Peninsula Prosperity Alliance
 - 1a. Western UP Prosperity Region
 - 1b. Central UP Prosperity Region
 - 1c. Eastern UP Prosperity Region
- 2. Northwest Prosperity Region
- 3. Northeast Prosperity Region
- 4. West Michigan Prosperity Alliance
 - 4a. West Central Prosperity Region
 - 4b. West Michigan Prosperity Region
- 5. East Central Michigan Prosperity Region
- 6. East Michigan Prosperity Region
- 7. South Central Prosperity Region
- 8. Southwest Prosperity Region
- 9. Southeast Michigan Prosperity Region
- 10. Detroit Metro Prosperity Region

Service Delivery Regions



Gov. Snyder pushing for regional economic planning

The Associated Press By The Associated Press

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on August 08, 2013 at 2:18 AM, updated August 08, 2013 at 2:21 AM

BY DAVID EGGERT, The Associated Press

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — Gov. Rick Snyder is hoping to boost regional economies across Michigan by enticing local agencies to come up with more cohesive plans for their future.

The state has set aside \$2.5 million for a voluntary program in which regions can apply for money to create "prosperity" plans. They can qualify for different amounts of funding depending on the extent to which they share administrative services or even consolidate various planning and workforce development boards along with economic development districts.



Speaker of the House Jase Bolger, R-Marshall, right, listens as Michigan Republican Gov. Rick Snyder delivers an address in Lansing, Mich.

AP Photo/Carlos Osorio, File

As part of the initiative, Snyder is ordering state departments to start serving 10 regions around the state. His aides said there now are at least 80 different geographic areas served by state agencies dealing with everything from public health to roads to prisoners' re-entry into society.

"The more you can get under one roof, the better you are at moving things forward on behalf of a region," Bill Rustem, Snyder's director of strategy, told The Associated Press on Wednesday, a day before the Snyder administration planned to formally release details of the effort.

To qualify for funding in the fiscal year that starts Oct. 1, Rustem said, state-designated planning regions and Metropolitan Planning

Organizations must bring together representatives of transportation, economic development, workforce development, adult education and higher education so they get on the same page on a regional vision instead of operating in silos.

He said it's the first time in decades that the state, not just local governments or the federal government, will have "skin in the game" in regional planning. Snyder aides stressed that local officials will call the shots on their regional economic plans rather than state government.

"It really gives them a stronger voice down here," said strategy adviser Sarah Wycoff.

Too often, Rustem said, a local transportation plan may have nothing to do with the area economic development plan, which may have nothing to do with what colleges and universities are doing. Where local and regional collaboration is occurring, it often is cumbersome and happens in spite of a structure seemingly designed to dissuade it, he said.

Under Snyder's plan, local representatives from the private, public and nonprofit sectors could get up to \$250,000 to create a Regional Prosperity Collaborative, \$375,000 for a Regional Prosperity Council or \$500,000 for a Regional Prosperity Board. They would have to approve 5- to 10-year economic development blueprints and measurable annual goals and update their progress.

Snyder aides pointed to collaboration in the Traverse City region as an effort worth emulating in the rest of the state. Snyder asked for \$5 million for the initiative, and lawmakers gave him half for the 2013-14 budget year. He plans to continue funding the program in future fiscal years if authorized by the Legislature.

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Regional initiative to coordinate service delivery, grow economy through local collaboration

Regional collaboration will make state more globally competitive

Thursday, August 8, 2013

LANSING, Mich. – Gov. Rick Snyder and advocates of regional collaboration are aligning Michigan's statewide service delivery structure, which will create greater efficiencies and effectiveness, and strengthen local economies by providing communities with more opportunities to control their economic futures.

The effort is part of the Regional Prosperity Initiative, a voluntary, competitive grant process for existing state-designated planning regions and Metropolitan Planning Organizations. The initiative, unveiled in Snyder's fiscal year 2014 budget, empowers local and regional partners to develop a consensus vision and implementation plan for economic success.

Under the initiative, the current system of delivering state services is being revamped by state departments, which was among the recommendations of a broad-based stakeholder group that came together to discuss how Michigan can support local partners by eliminating overlapping goals and competing priorities. For example, more than 80 state services now are provided in a regional fashion with almost none of the regions sharing common boundaries.

"We're investing in the success of our regions and their local communities," Snyder said. "This initiative does so in ways that are meaningful to the people who live, work and play there every day. We recognize that local partners – not Lansing – are best equipped to create strong regional strategies for prosperity. By supporting our local partners and their visions for vibrant economies, we can help put them in the best positions for long-term success. I appreciate the outstanding work of our local and regional partners from across the state who volunteered their time to help move Michigan forward."

The absence of a common economic vision and coordination of services for our regional economies creates both redundancies and gaps. This causes confusion for local, state, federal, private and nonprofit partners seeking to support a region.

“Our experience in economic development over the last 18 months is that there is a real thirst for greater collaboration within the regions across the state,” said Michael Finney, president and CEO of the Michigan Economic Development Corp. “Community, education and business leaders are seeing great benefits from working together to address the issues they face. If we are serious about increasing our state’s competitiveness, it is vitally important to foster greater regional collaboration. We have seen successes in places that only underscore that there’s much more we can accomplish with a broader adoption of this strategy.”

Under the initiative, all state government departments will begin serving 10 regions across the state, enhancing service delivery and encouraging communities to collaborate on a regional basis. The new regional map supports the governor’s vision that economic development must be viewed as a system that encompasses and coordinates talent and infrastructure along with traditional economic development strategies.

One of the key attributes of the initiative is that it does not add layers of government or bureaucracy, the governor said.



“This is about the most efficient and effective use of limited resources,” Snyder said. “This is a new, collaborative model that can bring existing groups together to better leverage local and regional assets. The result is a more globally competitive Michigan.”

To qualify for Regional Prosperity Initiative grants, applicants must collaborate with businesses and nonprofit representatives as well as representatives from local and regional economic development organizations, work force boards, adult education providers and the higher education community.

Visit www.michigan.gov/regionalprosperity for more information on the Regional Prosperity Initiative.

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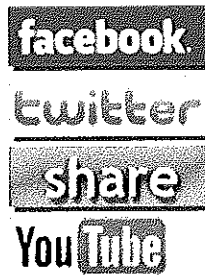
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