



January 27, 2022

Leelanau County Board of Commissioners  
8527 E. Government Center Drive  
Suttons Bay, MI 49682

Dear Leelanau County Commissioners,

It is no secret that there is something special in Northwest Michigan. When problems arise, our community pulls together to meet the challenges we face. That collaborative spirit is alive and well in our region as we work together to utilize resources available from the American Recuse Plan Act (ARPA).

In 2019, the Community Development Coalition of Northwest Michigan was launched; a cross-sector group of leaders from Leelanau and neighboring counties, representing environmental, social, and economic organizations. Together, we created and maintain a [scorecard](#) to track progress on the toughest issues facing our region.

Our ask to you, is that you please consider allocating ARPA resources towards endeavors that advance metrics on our shared scorecard – specifically:

- Improved access to housing
- Improved youth mental health and well-being through social-emotional learning and child safety
- Increased school readiness
- Improved arts and culture resources and experiences

ARPA funds are available for programs and services such as those listed above. By pursuing this once-in-a-generation opportunity, in coordination with the diverse and organized [partners represented in this Coalition](#), we will together be able to tackle long-standing issues that have been exacerbated by the on-going pandemic.

We thank you for your leadership in ensuring Leelanau County remains a bright star in this region and a wonderful place for families to call home. Thank you for considering this request, and please reach out if you would like to learn more about the Coalition.

Respectfully submitted,

Northwest Michigan Community Development Coalition  
c/o Dave Mengebier, President and CEO, Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation