

Golden Shovel Prospectus:

I shared all the feedback that I received with Golden Shovel – so thank you for that. Also, thanks to Mark, who gave us some great photos that we could use. Those have also been turned over to the design team. I do have them holding a place for “Contact Information.” We need a contact person for that piece of marketing. Anywhere my information appeared, there needs to be another designated contact person. Bethany Quinn will be attending our meeting virtually on March 9 for the unveiling of the final piece. She will need a Zoom link for that meeting.

Rural Child Care Innovation Program:

We are still moving along on this project. We met last month in a very productive meeting. We are now operating with five teams working on different SMART Goals. Our teams are focused on the following goals:

1. An Arenac Community Center child care center.
2. A. Pinconning child care center.
3. Awareness, Education, and Advocacy
 - a. Working with the MEDC on a Webinar regarding child care.
 - b. Working on a customizable presentation that can be delivered in 20 minutes.
4. Revolving Loan Fund
 - a. Would cover costs for families who are eligible for the child care subsidy to start child care so that they can maintain or start a job. There is currently a gap between the time eligible families enroll in child care and the time eligible families’ providers are reimbursed. Most families do not have the funds to expend, and most providers cannot afford to wait. This would fill that gap.
 - b. Fund would be reimbursed by MDHHS.
5. Workforce Development and Employer-Based Solutions
 - a. Apprenticeship Design
 - i. Michigan Works! Region 7B fulfilled the requirements of the Early Childhood Investment Corporation’s Apprenticeship Design Grant, and we’re now working with child care facilities on apprenticeships in multiple areas of Early Childhood Education.
 - b. A subscription-based model that employers and child care centers can utilize to build a partnership that secures a specified number of slots that can be held for employees to ensure child care needs are met.
 - c. A “sub-hub”, or a list of qualified volunteers (i.e. retired teachers) that can fill in during talent shortages at child care centers.

Going Pro Talent Fund:

Arenac County had two successful applications in the first round of Going Pro Talent Fund awards. Vantage Plastics received over \$62,000 in training funds; while Magline received over \$30,000. Press releases will be forthcoming in the next few weeks. We had one application that did not make the deadline, and we're working on an Industry-Led Collaborative application to assist that business. Another business did not receive funding, but since they are a manufacturer, Michigan Works! Region 7B is able to cover the cost of that training with Michigan Industry Cluster Approach (MICA) 3.0 funds that are designated for Arenac County manufacturers, so that the business will receive over \$17,000 worth of training for their employees.