



NORTH CENTRAL REGION COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT EXTENSION IMPACT REPORT 2025



MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY



MICHIGAN

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

Location: East Lansing, MI
<https://www.canr.msu.edu/outreach/>



768
 community or organizational
PLANS / POLICIES DEVELOPED



31,953
VOLUNTEER HOURS
 for community generated work



\$7.8
MILLION

GRANTS & RESOURCES
 generated by communities

IMPACT INDICATORS

Educational Contacts	82,379
Number of community or organizational plans/policies developed	768
Number of community or organizational plans/policies adopted or implemented	148
Number of participants reporting new leadership roles and opportunities undertaken	208
Number of volunteer hours for community generated work	31,953
Dollar value of organization and/or community-generated volunteer hours based on Independent Sector hr value	\$1,078,094
Dollar value of grants and resources leveraged/generated by communities	\$7,793,983
Number of participants completing skill development training programs offered through Community Development Extension	714
Number of Community Development full-time equivalents (FTEs) — i.e., FTEs funded by Extension specifically for Community Development Extension programming.	50

IMPACT STATEMENTS

Short-Term Rental Options for Local Communities

Strengthening local capacity to navigate short-term rental policy and housing goals in Michigan

Short-term rentals (STRs) have expanded rapidly nationwide, moving beyond major tourist destinations into communities of all sizes. In Michigan, many [local governments are also facing housing shortages and affordability challenges](#). STRs can present both opportunities and concerns for communities, requiring efforts that support tourism and local economies to be balanced with potential impacts on housing availability, neighborhood character, and public health and safety.

In 2025, Michigan State University Extension delivered eight 1.5-hour programs to share current research on the STR industry, Michigan's legal framework for STR regulation, and more than a dozen policy examples from communities of varying sizes and contexts. Participants also received [an in-depth report on STRs from the MSU Extension Center for Local Government Finance and Policy](#) to strengthen their STR policy toolkits.

Michigan Emerging Leader Program

Michigan Emerging Leader Program inspires personal growth and thoughtful leadership across sectors

Leaders across business, education, nonprofit and government sectors face increasingly complex challenges that require more than technical expertise. Effective leadership today depends on self-awareness, emotional intelligence, empathy, and the ability to navigate relationships and systems thoughtfully. Many professionals lack impactful opportunities to pause, reflect and intentionally develop these foundational leadership capacities. Creating space for personal growth and relational skill-building is essential to cultivating leaders who can foster inclusive workplaces, strengthen organizations and serve their communities.

Michigan State University Extension's [Great Lakes Leadership Academy](#) addresses this need through its annual [Emerging Leader Program](#) (ELP). In 2025, 29 leaders from across Michigan participated in the program, engaging in three immersive, three-day sessions that combined facilitated dialogue, coaching, experiential learning, and reflective practice.

Participants explore core leadership capacities including systems thinking, vulnerability, humility, continuous learning, and empathy. The program emphasizes authentic connection, understanding how individual actions affect broader systems, and translating personal insight into effective leadership across sectors.

Post-program evaluation responses demonstrated significant growth across all 30 leadership development competencies

In all, the "Short-Term Rental Options for Local Communities" programs engaged 116 local leaders, including elected and appointed officials, planners, and administrators from across Michigan. Post-event evaluations demonstrated strong learning and confidence gains. Of the 84 participants who completed the evaluation, more than 96% reported increased knowledge of the topic, and nearly 91% indicated they could now suggest ways to regulate or enforce STRs in their communities.

Participants also reported enhanced skills and confidence to fulfill their local leadership roles, with many indicating plans to apply what they learned during the program. These outcomes indicate participants are better prepared to lead informed, constructive discussions and pursue STR policy actions aligned with their community goals.



The 2025 Cohort of the Great Lakes Leadership Academy's Emerging Leader Program.

measured. Respondents averaged an 18.4% increase in their leadership capacity, with the greatest growth seen in developing written plans for professional growth (47% increase) and applying systems thinking when addressing complex situations (35.5% increase). Respondents also rated the program's structure and content highly, indicating the sessions were worth the time invested (4.89/5.00), meaningful (4.86/5.00), and aligned to their learning style (4.68/5.00).

By cultivating leaders who value empathy, connection, and continuous learning, the Emerging Leader Program strengthens organizations and communities while empowering leaders to serve everyone.

"These are incredibly powerful sessions! They literally changed my life."

- Michigan Emerging Leader Program participant
