

Growing Michigan Together Council: Workgroup Operations and Charge

Background

To support the development of actionable recommendations to advance the Growing Michigan Together Council's (GMTC's) vision, the council has established the following four workgroups:

- **Higher Education:** Focused on postsecondary education and career readiness
- **Infrastructure and Places:** Focused on infrastructure and place-based investment
- **Jobs, Talent, and People:** Focused on strategies to grow Michigan's population, workforce, and economy through investments in business and talent attraction and retention
- **PreK–12 Education:** Focused on reforms to our PreK–12 education system

This document is intended to outline the structure, operations, timeline, charge, and focus areas for each workgroup so that it can carry out its work in an inclusive, efficient, and productive manner.

Roles and Responsibilities

Each workgroup consists of approximately 15 individuals with a diverse set of perspectives, subject matter expertise, and a commitment to working collaboratively on advancing strategies that support the GMTC's charge. The workgroup will be led by two co-chairs, with staffing support from Public Sector Consultants (PSC), the National Center for Education and the Economy (NCEE), and Boston Consulting Group (BCG).

Co-chairs will be responsible for encouraging workgroup members' participation and engagement, coordinating data and research requests, directing workgroup staff, and drafting workgroup recommendations. The co-chairs will also present their group's recommendations to the full council in October.

Workgroup members are responsible for showing up to each meeting prepared, having reviewed the agenda and meeting materials in advance. They will be actively involved in suggesting and shaping the recommendations of the workgroups and should be active participants in each meeting.

The **workgroup staff** will be responsible for working with the workgroup co-chairs to schedule meetings, invite guest presentations, vet materials, ensure active participation in meetings, and foster collaboration across the group. Workgroup staff will also be responsible for drafting agendas and materials for chair review, managing meeting logistics and technology, taking notes, and managing follow-ups and next steps. The following organizations are assigned to each workgroup:

- PSC will provide staffing support to the Infrastructure and Places Workgroup
- BCG will provide staffing support to the Higher Education Workgroup
- NCEE will provide staffing support to the PreK–12 Education Workgroup
- PSC will provide staffing support to the Jobs, Talent, and People Workgroup

GTMC members can attend workgroup meetings to provide relevant resources and data but are nonvoting and should not direct the development of recommendations. Staff members for GMTC council members may attend to listen to the discussion, with input limited to providing information if asked to by a workgroup chair.

Topical experts and state agency employees, regardless of their affiliation with the GMTC, may be called upon to produce research, data, and expert guidance. Experts and state agency employees are nonvoting and should not direct the development of recommendations.

Timeline and Tasks

Below is a high-level timeline for the proposed meeting cadence and topics. It is anticipated that timelines, meeting agendas, and other aspects of the workgroup recommendation development process will adjust based on the unique characteristics and focus areas of each workgroup.

Month	Key Tasks
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete survey to gauge initial viewpoints/perspectives • Workgroup orientation • Review survey data, • Collectively define success • Grounding presentations • Start defining key themes and groupings for recommendations
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations • Draft recommendations • Develop and refine recommendations
October	Presentation of workgroup recommendations to the GMTC

Charge

Each workgroup is intended to focus on areas outlined in Executive Order 2023-4. Below is a summary of the language from the executive order, as well as the focus areas that each group has been charged with analyzing in the development of recommendations. The topic areas of those four workgroups will be as follows:

- **Higher Education:** Propose long-term, sustainable, and equitable funding solutions for Michigan’s postsecondary education system, including student financial aid, to help meet the 2050 population goal identified in the report. The workgroup must:
 - Consider the need to improve college access and success, lower costs, and provide education and training that meets the demands of the state’s economy
 - Consider and build on the existing efforts within the Office of Sixty by 30 and make recommendations to achieve and exceed this goal
 - Propose solutions to retain talent in the state at the critical transition point postgraduation
- **Infrastructure and Places:** Propose long-term, sustainable, and equitable funding solutions for Michigan’s multimodal transportation systems and aging water infrastructure to help meet the 2050 population goal identified in the report. Recommendations must:

- Consider the need for placemaking investments that will support retention and attraction goals
- Consider the need for sustainable investment among the emergence of more fuel-efficient vehicles and an unprecedented influx of one-time federal money
- Propose solutions on how to create attainable housing options for Michiganders in every income bracket and create investment-ready sites across the state
- **Jobs, Talent, and People:** Using the GMTC-established population goal for 2050, propose economic development strategies that create safe, vibrant communities and lead to opportunities and upward economic mobility for every Michigander. The policy recommendations must drive concrete, equitable investments that:
 - Ensure domestic migration to Michigan (a combination of retaining our young talent and attracting talent to come to Michigan), as well as international migration to Michigan (creating welcoming pathways for new Americans)
 - Give direction on how to leverage Michigan’s rich natural resources and expected climate migration from other states
 - Identify potential future workforce shortages and strategic opportunities for Michigan’s growth and create targeted programs to keep or attract talent in these areas
 - Reflect the state’s growth in communities of color
- **PreK–12 Education:** Propose statewide goals and policy recommendations on how Michigan can improve student outcomes to help every student reach their full potential, strengthen accountability to meet shared goals, and attract people and businesses to our state. The workgroup must:
 - Benchmark Michigan’s statewide performance against top-performing states and countries
 - Develop specific initiatives that help guarantee every child can realize their full potential in Michigan, allowing them to be a lifelong Michigan resident
 - Ensure Michigan’s preK–12 system is an asset in achieving our population-growth goals

Recommendations

While workgroup chairs and staff will push for consensus on recommendations, it may not be possible in all cases. If the advancement of a recommendation lacks consensus, a simple majority vote will decide if it moves forward. The workgroup chair can note this lack of consensus when presenting recommendations to the full GMTC.

To support the work of the full council’s recommendations, which must identify revenue gaps and recommended expenditures, any necessary changes in existing programs, and identify the implementation timeframe, the workgroups recommendations will be structured similarly. While workgroup staff will ultimately develop a template for documenting recommendations and supporting information, it is expected that each recommendation will include the following elements:

- Implementation time frame (short, medium, or long term)
- Implementation mechanism (e.g., legislative, administrative action, constitutional change)
- Summary of proposed change
- Rationale for proposed change
- Identification of launch step or first action necessary for implementation

- Funding, revenue, and budget needs and implications
- Identification of supporting policies and other impacted regulations or programs
- Identification of additional information that may be needed (e.g., polling to gauge public support)