

## **Center for Change supports the EUP Connect Collaborative**

On Tuesday, May 4, 2021, the Center for Change: a Northern Michigan Advocacy Group formally adopted a motion, “To show strong support for the creation of the EUP Connect Collaborative, thereby immediately committing contracted resources and 2021 fiscal budget resources to the project.”

The Center for Change exists to Educate, Inspire and Empower Neighbors for Collective and Progressive Advocacy. Being neighbors and a part of the Upper Peninsula community, we agree that equitable, affordable connectivity is needed for all citizens of the Eastern Upper Peninsula. Additionally, we agree that communities working independently has not been effective and that collaboration is needed.

The Center for Change will immediately pivot a portion of its investment, in time and resources to working on this important collaborative effort in the Eastern Upper Peninsula, including Chippewa, Mackinac and Luce counties.

C4C Executive Director Joanne Galloway stated, “Reliable and affordable connectivity for all of my neighbors is an issue I have been passionate about for years. In 2012, as a small farm business owner, I partnered with, then, Chippewa County Commissioner Don Mclean and Eastern Upper Peninsula Regional Planning and Development Commission CEO Jeff Hagan to bring together key stakeholders in an effort to offer support for their continued efforts to solve the problem. I’m fortunate to have had the opportunity since to find other thought leaders in the region also passionate on the topic that join me here today.”

The Center for Change, whose members and leadership are residents from Northern Michigan, is proud and excited to be a part of this important work. And hopes to help our neighbors in a significant, meaningful way.