

Sarah Lucas, AICP, has worked in community and economic development in small communities and rural areas in Michigan for over 20 years, leading a variety of cross-sector initiatives and planning efforts that have resulted in long-lasting coalitions, local and state policy change, and enhanced regional capacity for growth and investment. Currently, she serves as the Deputy Director of Michigan's newly-formed Office of Rural Development, housed in the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. Previously, she served as CEO of the Lake Superior Community Partnership, Marquette County's primary economic development organization. Prior to her work with Lake Superior Community Partnership, Sarah served as the Community Development Director for Networks Northwest, a 10-county regional planning agency in Northwest Lower Michigan; led the development of Housing North, a regional organization devoted to policy and communications solutions to housing needs in Northwest Lower Michigan; and, after relocating to Marquette in 2020, worked with the Western Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Region (WUPPDR) to develop a regional economic development plan for "building back stronger" in the region's post-pandemic economy.

Sarah has served on a number of regional and statewide boards, including the Community and Economic Development Association of Michigan, the Economic Development Leaders of Michigan, and the Michigan Association of Planning. She holds an undergraduate degree in Urban and Regional Planning from Eastern Michigan University and a masters degree in Public Administration from Northern Michigan University. She lives in Marquette with her husband and their three boys.