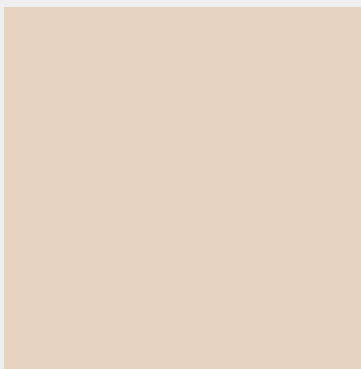
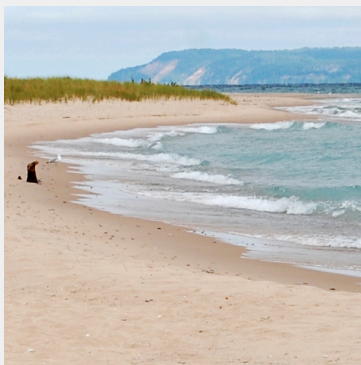
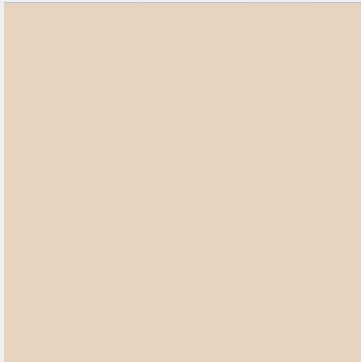


Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department

# 2024 Annual Report



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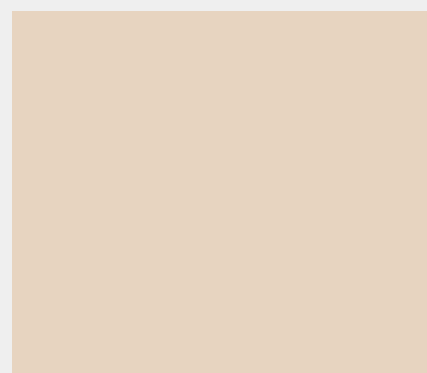
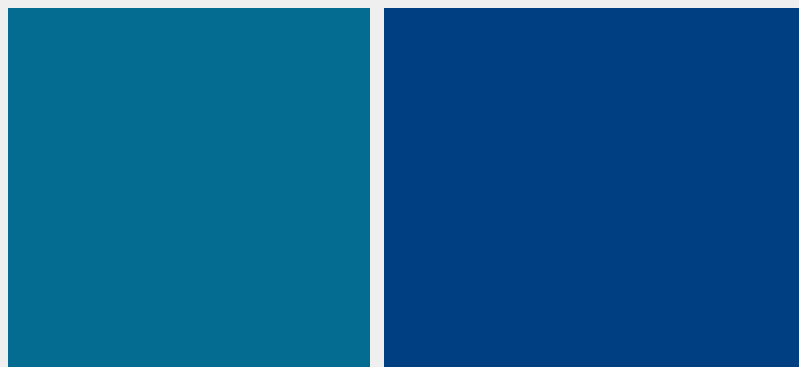
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# Letter from our Health Officer

As we reflect on 2024, I am filled with gratitude and pride for the good work we have done at the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department. Rooted in service and growing with purpose, we continue to strengthen our commitment to the health and well-being of our communities.

Our incredible team exemplified what it means to be dedicated to public health. Their unwavering passion and hard work have enabled us to expand our outreach efforts, bringing resources to more residents than ever. From health fairs and vaccine clinics to educational events, our impact continues to grow because of their teamwork and commitment.

We also celebrated remarkable milestones among our staff. Lauren, a valued social worker, earned her Michigan Association for Infant Mental Health (MI-AIMH) Endorsement® and joined our administration team, where her leadership is helping to grow our mental health team in our school-based programs. Ruth, who has been a pillar in our Hearing and Vision program for an astounding 33 years, continues to inspire us all with her dedication to the children in our community. Natalie, our mental health provider at Suttons Bay Public Schools, achieved her Licensed Clinical Social Worker credential, enhancing our ability to support student wellness.

Innovation and progress also defined our Environmental Health Department this year. Alex, one of our Environmental Sanitarians, completed specialized Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) training in tick dragging and identification, equipping us to better monitor and address tick-borne illness risks at a time when tick activity has grown significantly. Additionally, we proudly opened a new Leelanau Environmental Health office at the Government Center, creating a centralized space to enhance services and improve access and efficiency for our residents.

Together, we've built on our deep roots of service and embraced opportunities for growth that will benefit our community for years to come. Thank you to our staff, partners, and community members for your trust and support. We look forward to continuing this important work and growing with purpose in the year ahead.

Warm regards,  
Daniel Thorell, Health Officer



# Leadership

## Administration Team

Health Officer: Daniel R. Thorell, MS, RS  
Medical Director: Joshua Meyerson, MD, MPH  
Director of Administrative Services: Dodie Putney, BS  
Director of Environmental Health: Eric Johnston, RS  
Director of Personal Health: Michelle Klein, RN, MA, PH-C  
Assistant Director of Personal Health: Debbie Aldridge, RN  
Personal Health Supervisor: Autumn Jurek, RN, IBCLC  
Personal Health Supervisor: Betsy Hardy, MSN, RN  
Personal Health Supervisor: Lauren Wolf, LMSW, IMH-E  
Public Health Technician Supervisor: Kerry Turner, MBA

## Board of Health

Chairperson: Gary Sauer- Benzie County Commissioner  
Vice Chairperson: Dr. Barbara Conley- Leelanau County Member at large

### Members:

Gwenne Allgaier- Leelanau County Commissioner  
Dr. Mark Kuiper- Benzie County Member at large  
Art Jeannot - Benzie County Commissioner  
Ty Wessell- Leelanau County Commissioner

## Mission and Vision

The mission of the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department is to prevent disease, prolong life, and promote public health

Our vision is optimal community health and well-being supported by equitable services, outreach, and education, delivered by expert, caring, and compassionate public health professionals.



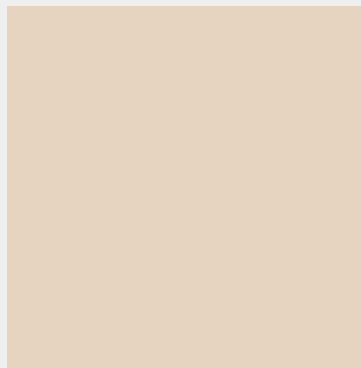
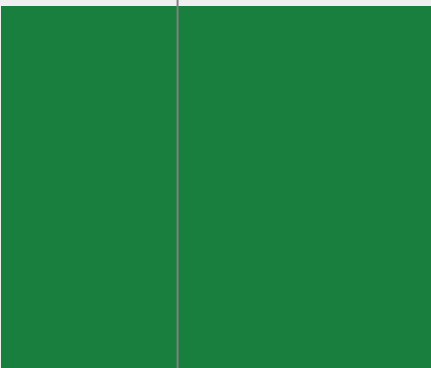
# Personal Health Highlights

## Employee Recognition

Congratulations to our amazing social worker, Lauren! This year, Lauren earned her MI-AIMH Endorsement for Culturally Sensitive, Relationship-focused Practice Promoting Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health® as an Endorsed Reflective Supervisor (ERS). Her dedication to nurturing the mental health of infants and young children reflects the strong foundation of care we are rooted in, and her leadership on the BLDHD Administration Team will help us grow with purpose in this vital area.

A huge congratulations to Ruth, whose 33 years of service in our Hearing and Vision program make her one of Michigan's most tenured technicians! Ruth's unwavering commitment to improving the health and well-being of countless children in our community is a shining example of being deeply rooted in service. Her expertise continues to inspire us as we expand our programs to support healthier futures for our youth.

We are also celebrating Natalie, our dedicated mental health provider for Suttons Bay Public Schools, who earned her Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) credential this year! Natalie's growth reflects our shared purpose of empowering mental well-being for the next generation. Her hard work strengthens our roots in community care and paves the way for brighter futures for local students.



# Outreach and Events

This year, our outreach efforts exemplified how we are growing with purpose across the community! From speaking at conferences to weekly outreach at local baby pantries, we've extended our reach to meet families where they are. Our breastfeeding awareness events and participation in community health fairs helped root essential resources in the community, while our school-based nurses cultivated healthier futures by providing critical health education.

 **Benzie Central Schools** 1d · 🌐

Nurse Rudy talking with Mrs. Roper's 2nd grade class at Lake Ann Elementary about sugar levels in different drink choices. "Rethink the Drink" and ch... See more



# Personal Health Program Numbers

(October 1st, 2023-September 30th, 2024)

- **Harm Reduction:** six community boxes were placed in the community and over 1,400 Narcan kits distributed.
- **Healthy Futures:** 291 contacts with 87 home visits to 135 families
- **Hearing Screening:** 1,339 screenings were completed for school-aged children.
- **Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS):** 138 clients enrolled and 61 plans of care were completed
- **Community Connections:** 1530 referrals received and 1,803 visits made (home, community, or phone). We also provided outreach to 3,006 clients who were referred to us by our Medicaid managed health plan partners informing them of services they were due or eligible for.
- **Immunizations:** 3,407 immunizations were administered in 849 Immunization appointments.
- **Infection Disease Control:** 2,130 case investigations were conducted.
- **Maternal Infant Health Program (MIHP):** 160 MIHP clients were served in 781 home and office visits.
- **Parenting Communities:** 407 children served from 301 Leelanau County Families enrolled.
- **School Oral Health Screening:** 174 screenings were completed for school-aged children
- **School Based Health Centers:** 2,266 nurse visits were completed and 1,640 mental health visits were completed in five public school districts.
- **Sexual Health:** 48 clients were tested for sexually transmitted infection (STI), eight clients were tested for HIV, and three clients were tested for Hepatitis C.
- **Tuberculosis (TB) Test:** 95 TB tests were administered
- **Vision Screening:** 1,987 screenings were completed for school-aged children.
- **Women, Infants, and Children (WIC):** 704 clients enrolled in WIC, 113 fluoride varnish applied, and 103 lead tests were completed



# Environmental Health Highlights

The Environmental Health Department also made meaningful strides! Our Environmental Sanitarian, Alex, completed a specialized MDHHS training in tick dragging, a technique used to collect and study ticks in their natural environment. This method, which involves dragging a white cloth over vegetation to catch ticks, allows us to grow our expertise in monitoring tick populations and protecting public health in tick-prone areas.

Additionally, we are excited to share that the Leelanau County Environmental Health office has moved to a new location at the the Government Center! With this expanded space, we are ready to provide even better support for environmental health services, inspections, and resources. Our new location offers the convenience of one-stop shopping for anyone needing permits for their projects, as well as improved communication between permitting agencies in Leelanau County.

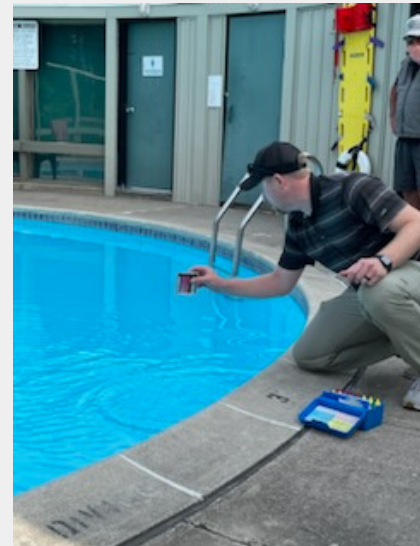
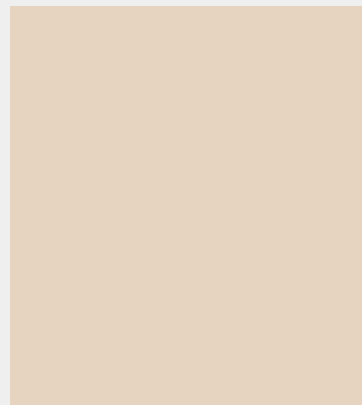




# Environmental Health Program Numbers

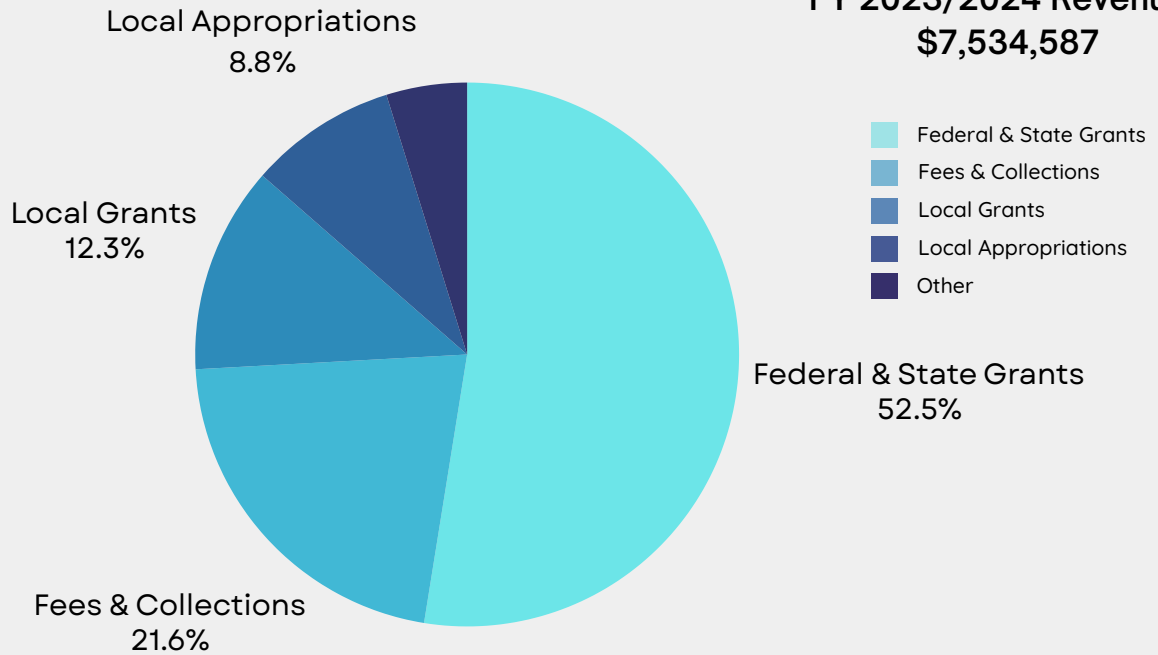
(October 1st, 2023-September 30, 2024)

- **Well Permits Issued:** 357
- **Septic Permits Issued:** 493
- **Vacant Land Evaluations:** 152
- **Existing Well and Septic System Evaluations:** 612
- **Swimming Beaches Monitored:** 9
- **Partial Body Contact Advisory Issued:** 3
- **Septage Hauling Vehicle Inspections:** 30
- **Septage Receiving Facility Inspections:** 4
- **Tattoo Parlor Inspections:** 2
- **Routine Food Inspections:** 391
- **Follow up Food Inspections:** 102
- **Mobile/Special Transitory Food Unit (STFU) Inspections :** 58
- **Food Complaints:** 11
- **Foodborne Complaints:** 5
- **Plan Reviews Received:** 14
- **Temporary Food Inspections:** 81
- **Pool Inspections:** 29
- **Campground Inspections:** 29

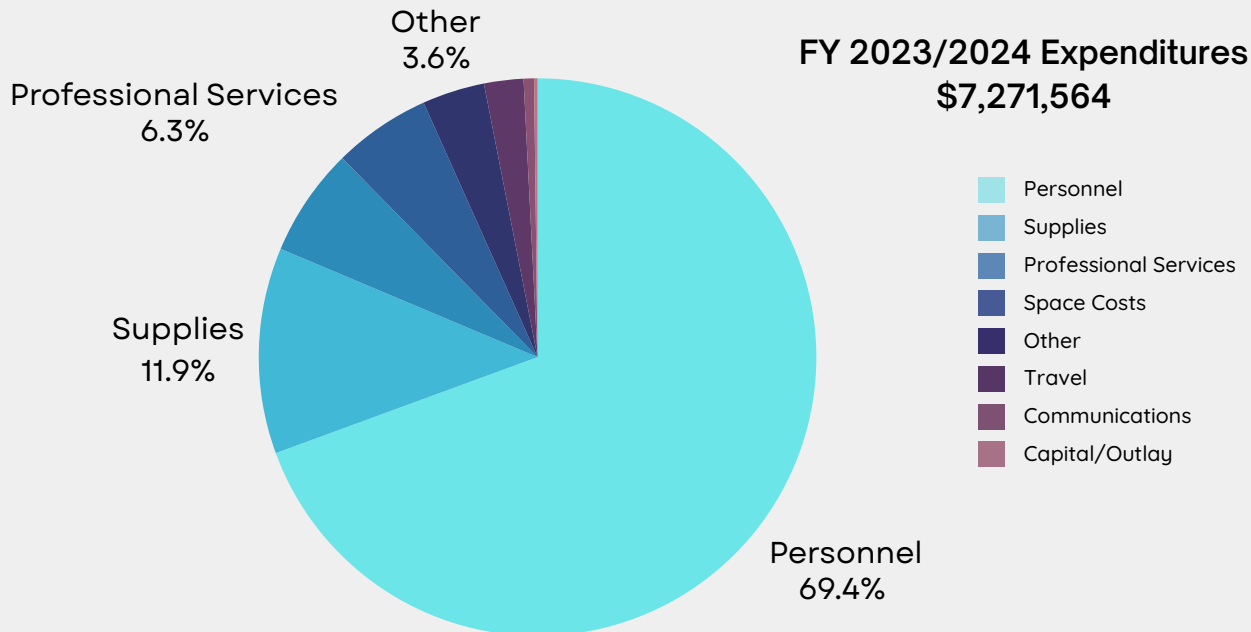


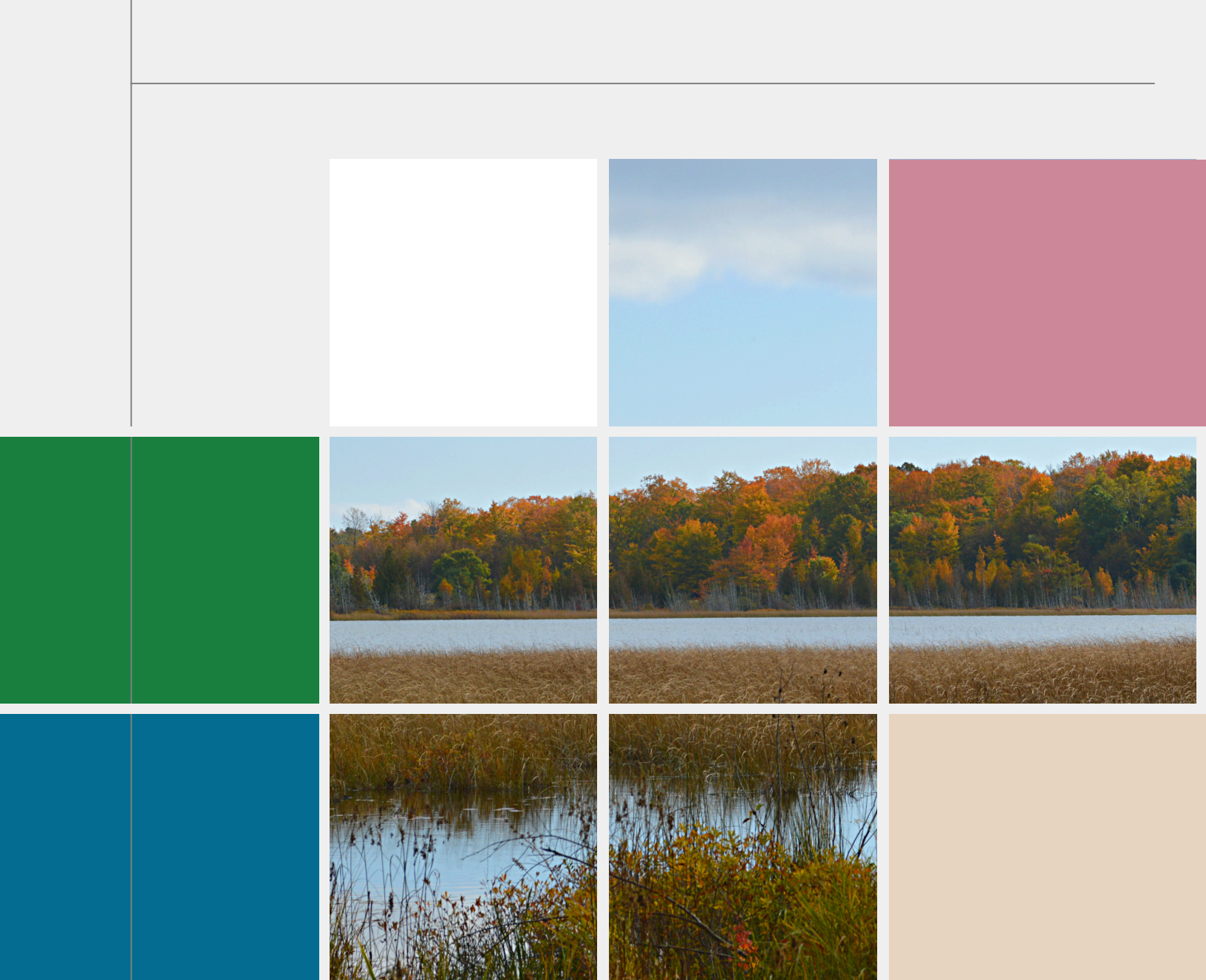
# Financial Statement

**FY 2023/2024 Revenues**  
**\$7,534,587**



**FY 2023/2024 Expenditures**  
**\$7,271,564**





# Thank You



231-882-4409



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@benzieleelanau/