

THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF COMMUNITY AIRPORTS

Airports are vitally important in the economic growth and prosperity of small to medium communities, are magnets for business and trade, and can ultimately increase the standard of living in the local region. The Essential Air Service (EAS) program was created by Congress in 1978 to ensure that smaller communities would retain a link to the National Air Transportation System, with Federal subsidy when necessary. The U.S. Department of Transportation subsidizes air carriers serving 5 of the 6 commercial airports in the U.P., which in 2018 totaled over **\$14 million**. Sawyer International Airport is the only non-EAS airport in the U.P.

Source: 2018 EAS Subsidy Amounts from U.S. Department of Transportation

