

**News Release**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Creating Opportunities Summit November 6 in Traverse City**

TRAVERSE CITY, MI—Creating opportunities for everyone in the community will be the focus of the Creating Opportunities Summit November 6 in Traverse City. Many groups are discussing how to improve the community. The Summit will bring all those discussions together and make sure that people in poverty are a part of creating opportunities and finding solutions. The event will run from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Bayview Wesleyan Church located at 720 Wayne Street. The Summit is being organized by the Traverse Bay Poverty Reduction Initiative (PRI) in partnership with the Northwest Michigan Council of Governments as a project of Framework for Our Future.

The featured speaker at the Creating Opportunities Summit will be nationally known poverty expert Dr. Donna Beegle. She spent years living in poverty but eventually went to college and earned her PhD. Beegle will discuss how people in poverty are affected by a community's infrastructure including transportation, housing, energy, education, employment, and healthy food. The Summit will also include breakout sessions focused on improving community infrastructure and creating opportunities that benefit people in poverty and the entire community.

The Creating Opportunities Summit includes lunch. There is no cost to attend but registration is required at: [TraverseBayPRI.org](http://TraverseBayPRI.org) or by calling Anna at 231-929-5067.

The Traverse Bay Poverty Reduction Initiative (PRI) is a community-driven, collaborative effort to reduce poverty in the Traverse Bay region. PRI consists of representatives from local businesses, public and government agencies, and concerned citizens. Working subcommittees focus on five strategic directions: Navigators, Mentoring, Education, Advocacy, and Communications.

(MORE)



The Framework for Our Future is a project of the Northwest Michigan Council of Governments. The project is a grassroots effort to help local decision makers define and implement the guiding principles of The Grand Vision in Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, and Wexford counties.

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NOTE to Media: Images are oftentimes available upon request by e-mailing Tom White at [tomwhite@nwm.cog.mi.us](mailto:tomwhite@nwm.cog.mi.us) and stating preferences for resolution (300 dpi?), file format (.tif? .jpg?) and file size (1MB or less?). Or, phone (231) 929-5044. Check our online Media Room at: [nwm.org/media](http://nwm.org/media)

Founded in 1974, the Northwest Michigan Council of Governments (NWMCOG) facilitates and manages various programs and services for the 10 county region. These programs include Northwest Michigan Works, YouthBuild, Small Business & Technology Development Center, Procurement Technical Assistance Center, various business services, and many different regional planning initiatives in response to our communities' requests and needs. You will see the broad spectrum of workforce, business and community services NWMCOG offers if you visit our web site, [nwm.org](http://nwm.org)

NWMCOG's member counties are: Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Emmet, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, and Wexford.