

News Release
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Micro-Grants Available to Help Communities With Their Placemaking Efforts

NORTHWEST MI—Grants available through the Northwest Michigan Council of Governments (NWMCOG) and in partnership with the Alliance for Economic Success, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, Northern Lakes Economic Alliance, and the Traverse Bay Economic Development Corporation, will give local units of government an opportunity to support their communities' Placemaking goals. The Placemaking Micro-Grants of up to \$5,000 and/or technical assistance, will be made available on a competitive basis to city, village, and township governments within Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Emmet, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, and Wexford Counties. The grant application deadline is August 2, 2013.

"The Placemaking Micro-Grant Program is intended to assist local decision makers wishing to improve the places within their community so they invite greater interaction between people and foster healthier, more social, aesthetically pleasing, and economically viable communities," said Matt McCauley, NWMCOG director of regional planning and community development.

Placemaking is a community-based approach involving the discovery and implementation of practices that make our communities distinctive, economically viable, accessible, and visually pleasing. Placemaking capitalizes on a local community's assets, inspiration and potential, creating good public spaces that promote people's health, happiness, and economic well-being. In support of assisting communities with their placemaking goals, the Placemaking Micro-Grants Program is intended to provide resources to communities looking to realize their placemaking efforts.

(MORE)

Placemaking Micro-Grant applicants are encouraged to review the NWMCOG Placemaking website, CreateMIPlace.org, for additional information on the principals of placemaking and how it supports efforts like The Grand Vision. This website is designed to empower local citizens and unique collaborative groups in communities across northwest lower Michigan to foster community pride through better public spaces. It also provides the Northern Michigan Community Placemaking Guidebook that offers critical approaches to creating and managing successful public spaces. The level of a community's local pride plays a significant role in the quality and maintenance of local places, an overall sense of place and identity, and ultimately economic prosperity.

More information and application instructions are available at: nwm.org/micro-grants.

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NOTE to Media: Images are oftentimes available upon request by e-mailing Tom White at 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

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

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