

NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 27, 2026

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Networks Northwest Named Host of Great Start to Quality Resource Center for Northwest Michigan

TRAVERSE CITY, MI – Networks Northwest is the new host of the Great Start to Quality Northwest Resource Center, which supports child care providers and families across the ten counties of northwest Lower Michigan. The change took effect October 1, following a competitive statewide selection process led by the Early Childhood Investment Corporation (ECIC) with funding from the Michigan Department of Lifelong Education, Advancement, and Potential (MiLEAP).

Great Start to Quality is Michigan's quality recognition and improvement system for early care and education. Its regional Resource Centers give child care programs and educators individualized coaching, training, and professional networking, and help families find child care and preschool options. Networks Northwest is one of seven organizations selected to operate the state's 10 Resource Centers, which are aligned with Michigan's 10 economic development regions.

Antrim ☐ Benzie ☐ Charlevoix ☐ Emmet ☐ Grand Traverse ☐ Kalkaska ☐ Leelanau ☐ Manistee ☐ Missaukee ☐ WexfordPO Box 506 ☐ Traverse City, MI 49685-0506 ☐ Phone (231) 929-5000 ☐ Fax (231) 929-5012 ☐ networksnorthwest.org

Networks Northwest and Northwest Michigan Works! are supported by the State of Michigan and are proud partners of the American Job Center Network. Projects may be funded with the authorized and appropriate use of federal funds. Contact Networks Northwest for additional information. Equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and service are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Individuals with speech or hearing impairments may call the Michigan Relay Center by dialing 711.

Providers and families will continue to work with the same people. The Resource Center's coaches and specialists are now part of Networks Northwest and will continue to serve Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Emmet, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, and Wexford counties. After a period of transition, the move gives the Resource Center a stable, long-term home in the region it serves, backed by Networks Northwest's leadership and organizational support.

"Child care is an essential industry, and the rest of our regional economy is built on it," said Janie McNabb, CEO of Networks Northwest. "Child care providers are small businesses and educators, and our region cannot thrive unless they succeed. Hosting the Resource Center lets us put our whole organization behind them."

The Resource Center joins Networks Northwest's Child Care Initiatives department, alongside the Family Child Care Networks, the PreK for All Home-Based Pilot, the Regional Child Care Coalition, and the Early Education Wage Initiative. The department focuses on supporting child care providers and the quality of care they offer. The brain development and social-emotional learning that happen in quality child care settings lay the foundation for the region's future skilled workforce.

Child care providers and families can reach the Great Start to Quality Northwest Resource Center at 877-614-7328 or find contact information for their county's coach at greatstarttoquality.org/northwest-resource-center. To learn more about Networks Northwest's child care work, visit nwm.org/childcare.

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NOTE to Media: Images are oftentimes available upon request by emailing Dana O'Dell at dana.odell@networksnorthwest.org and stating preferences for resolution, file format, and file size. Or phone (231) 929-5075. Check our online Media Room at networksnorthwest.org/media

Founded in 1974, Networks Northwest facilitates and manages various programs and services for the 10-county region. These programs include Northwest Michigan Works!, APEX Accelerator (formerly PTAC), 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 Networks Northwest offers if you

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Chief Elected Official: Chris Christensen
Board Chair: Nicole Sulak
Chief Executive Officer: Janie McNabb

visit our website, networksnorthwest.org. Networks Northwest's member counties are Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Emmet, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, and Wexford.

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