



NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Northwest Michigan Works! and Networks Northwest Designated as a Recovery Friendly Workplace

TRAVERSE CITY, MI – Networks Northwest and Northwest Michigan Works! (a program of Networks Northwest) are proud to announce that the organization has officially been designated as a **Recovery Friendly Workplace (RFW)**, reaffirming its long-standing commitment to supporting employees, customers, and community members in recovery from substance use and related challenges.

This designation formalizes what has long been part of the agency's culture—an environment that values second chances, empathy, and holistic support for individuals working to rebuild their lives. It reflects Northwest Michigan Works!' belief that recovery and meaningful employment go hand-in-hand.

"Our Recovery Friendly Workplace designation is about more than policy—it's about people," said Jessica Willis, Northwest Michigan Works! Director. "For years, our teams

Antrim ● Benzie ● Charlevoix ● Emmet ● Grand Traverse ● Kalkaska ● Leelanau ● Manistee ● Missaukee ● Wexford

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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.



have worked side by side with individuals in recovery. This designation simply continues and strengthens the values we've always upheld—support, dignity, and opportunity.”

As part of this continuing commitment, Naloxone (NARCAN) distribution boxes have been installed at all Northwest Michigan Works! Service Centers in Petoskey, Cadillac, Traverse City, and Manistee through a partnership with Harm Reduction Michigan. These boxes provide free, life-saving access to Naloxone, a medication that can reverse opioid overdoses, and further demonstrate the organization's dedication to creating safer, healthier communities.

“Installing Naloxone boxes is a simple but powerful extension of our values,” added Lisa Schut, Regional Director of Policy and Resource Management at Networks Northwest. “It's a visible reminder that every life matters, and that our Service Centers are places where people can find help and hope without judgment.”

The Recovery Friendly Workplace Initiative promotes wellness and recovery by fostering supportive workplaces, with Northwest Michigan Works! expanding recovery awareness, strengthening connections to community resources, and reinforcing a culture of compassion and inclusion that supports self-sufficiency, sustainable employment, and overall well-being.

For more information about Northwest Michigan Works! and Networks Northwest, visit www.networksnorthwest.org.

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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 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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