

**News Release**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Funding Available to Train Craft Beverage Industry Employees**

NORTHWEST, MI – Funding is available to help train employees in the craft beverage industry in Northwest Lower Michigan. The U.S. Department of Labor Expansion Grants, available through Northwest Michigan Works!, provide funding to support apprenticeships for employers in the craft beverage industry, related agricultural, and other businesses. The grants are available to employers in Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Emmett, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, and Wexford Counties.

“Apprenticeship programs provide an excellent opportunity for employers to pass along the history and skills of professional trades to a new generation of workers”, said Evelyn Szpliet, Apprenticeship Success Coordinator for Northwest Michigan Works!

The program provides dollars that may be used towards training and related instruction costs of a U.S. Department of Labor registered apprenticeship program. These apprenticeship programs provide apprentices with work based learning and technical education focused on craft beverage and related occupations. After completion of the apprenticeship program, apprentices will receive a national credential demonstrating proficiency in the job competencies within those industries.

Employers select apprentice participants from within their existing workforce or through the hiring of new employees. Northwest Michigan Works! can also assist in the recruitment of apprentice candidates through MiTalent.org, referrals, hiring events and other resources.

Northwest Michigan Works! provides technical assistance and administrative support throughout the length of the program, including development and implementation guidance.

(MORE)

“The expansion grant dollars are a terrific way for employers in this unique industry to explore and succeed with apprenticeship opportunities. The occupations employers can choose from in this exceptional field vary greatly including Professional Brewer, Winemaker, Bartender, Manufacturing, Processing, Horticulturist, and Administrative, and more,” said Szpliet.

Employers interested in learning more about the program are encouraged to contact Evelyn Szpliet at [Evelyn.Szpliet@networksnorthwest.org](mailto:Evelyn.Szpliet@networksnorthwest.org) or 231.723.2535.

Individuals interested in additional information on applying to participate as an apprentice in this program are encouraged to contact their nearest Northwest Michigan Works! Center or call 1-800-442-1074.

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NOTE to Media: Images are oftentimes available upon request by e-mailing Dan Boss at [dan.boss@networksnorthwest.org](mailto:dan.boss@networksnorthwest.org) and stating preferences for resolution (300 dpi?), file format (.tif? .jpg?) and file size (1MB or less?). Or, phone (231) 929-5047. Check our online Media Room at: [networksnorthwest.org/media](http://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, Small Business 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 Networks Northwest offers if you visit our web site, [networksnorthwest.org](http://networksnorthwest.org)  
Networks Northwest's member counties are: Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Emmet, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, and Wexford.