



NEWS RELEASE

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DTE ENERGY FOUNDATION GRANTS \$50,000 FOR SMALL BUSINESSES SUCCESS IN NORTHWEST MICHIGAN

NORTHWEST MICHIGAN – Growth and prosperity of small businesses is the purpose of a \$50,000 grant just awarded by the [DTE Energy Foundation](#) to Venture North Funding and Development. Funds will be used to offer no-cost professional consultation to small businesses to remove gaps and barriers that are hindering their ability to grow.

“We are grateful for the continued support of the DTE Energy Foundation,” said Laura Galbraith, President of Venture North. “The grant will build the capacity of small businesses, the economic background of our region, through one-on-one consultation. Based on the priorities of the business, we can deploy consultants aimed at addressing challenges involving legal and bookkeeping needs, marketing and selling, business and financial planning, inventory, acquisitions, client agreements, product development and more. This is about providing customized help rather than one-size-fits all assistance to ensure grant dollars and the assistance provided generate specific positive results.”

Galbraith said that over 1,200 businesses in their 10-county region have benefitted from their business consultation assistance. The counties include Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Grand Traverse, Emmet, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee and Wexford. As a certified Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI), Venture North gives first priority to helping businesses in areas of economic distress.

“Venture North has become known throughout the region as a community partner that works at the ground level focused on the bottom-line strength of the businesses it serves, and the DTE Foundation is grateful for our continued partnership to support local entrepreneurs,” said Rodney Cole, president of the DTE Foundation. “Our investment helps small businesses who serve as the backbone of our economy, aligning with the DTE Foundation’s goal to build productive neighborhoods to conduct local business, create jobs while attracting and retaining employees, particularly in underserved populations.”

Businesses seeking Venture North’s help can do so by going on line to www.venturenorthfunding.org or by calling or emailing 231-995-7115 or info@venturenorthfunding.org.