



News Release

Dayna Keranen,
Communications Coordinator
P.O. Box 7009
Marquette, MI 49855

Phone 906/226-1660
Fax 906/228-5572
dkeranen@niupnorth.org
www.niupnorth.org

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NORTHERN INITIATIVES NAMED

Marquette, MI -

The Corporation for a Skilled Workforce (CSW) and the Aspen Institute has announced Northern Initiatives as the successful candidate to convene a grant entitled “Regional Collaboration to Support Very Small Businesses in Michigan”. The grant intends to conduct evaluations in order to determine means by which economic support organizations could increase and build activity in Northern Lower Peninsula of Michigan.

Carrie Hammerman, Policy and Development Analyst with CSW, stated, “Both the Aspen Institute and CSW are pleased to work in partnership with Northern Initiatives in support of effective business and entrepreneurial development. We feel that Northern Initiatives will offer strong leadership which is imperative in convening such a large and varied group of economic support organizations. The intent of this event is to attain an inventory of the resources available to rural Michigan communities and to develop partnerships and collaboration amongst participating communities”.

The grant was developed in response to a recommendation from a study conducted in 2006 by CSW and the Aspen Institute. This study was commissioned by the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation to evaluate the state of microenterprise in Michigan. The study, entitled [Making Every Business Count, Findings from a Study of Michigan’s Microenterprise Field](#), was published in April of 2007. It can be found at www.skilledwork.org.

Northern Initiatives will draw upon its 15 years of experience in the Upper Peninsula to convene discussions during a two day event in May. Discussion topics will cover issues and processes related to methods that engender and encourage new business starts and entrepreneurial growth in the Northern Lower Peninsula.

Northern Initiatives offers business loans, consulting and technical assistance services to businesses and business start-ups in the Upper and Northern Lower Peninsulas of Michigan. Northern Initiatives also works closely with local banks and can complete bank financing packages, either by providing direct loans that supplement bank financing or through participation in bank loans.

NI's central office is located in Marquette. For more information about NI products and services call (800) 254-2156 or visit the website at www.niupnorth.org

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Prepared by Dayna Keranen