



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 18, 2021

Contact:

Laura Galbraith
Venture North Funding and Development
231-995-7110
Laura@venturenorthfunding.org

Joan Moore
Leelanau Township Community Foundation
231-386-9000
director@leelanaufoundation.org

**SMALL BUSINESSES IN LEELANAU TOWNSHIP CAN APPLY FOR COVID-19 RELIEF FUNDING
BEGINNING MAY 24 FROM REGIONAL RESILIENCY PROGRAM**

Administered by Venture North in Coordination with Leelanau Township Community Foundation

NORTHPORT, MICHIGAN – Small businesses with nine or fewer employees in Leelanau Township may apply for COVID-19 relief grant funding beginning May 24 at 8 a.m. to June 4 at 5 p.m. through the Regional Resiliency Program (RRP).

The program will be coordinated in Leelanau Township with the support of the Leelanau Township Community Foundation in partnership with Venture North that administers the RRP in their ten-county Northwest Michigan region. A total of \$35,000 is available for grants of up to \$5,000 each with \$25,000 donated by the Community Foundation and \$10,000 from Venture North. A grant application must be completed online at www.venturenorthfunding.org. It's important for businesses to note that the RRP provides grants, not loans that have to be repaid. The Leelanau Township Community Foundation was also a significant contributor to the program to support Township businesses through the RRP in 2020.

The Foundation has formed a team of local representatives to review grant applications and make funding recommendations that Venture North will follow in making grant awards. Funds provided can be used for urgent needs and adapting businesses to operate within the challenges of COVID-19. Examples have included using funds for payroll, retaining employees, inventory, online sales systems, insurance, safety supplies and much more.

“The businesses and entire population of Leelanau Township is fortunate to have the Leelanau Township Community Foundation serving them as a hub for philanthropy and charitable giving,” said

Laura Galbraith, President of Venture North. “This is a great way for the Foundation to support economic development and jobs in the Township and, once again, they are stepping up as a leader in the region, recognizing the significance and importance of small businesses.” Galbraith said that a Leelanau County RRP grant round is also beginning, but Leelanau Township businesses need submit only one grant application.

“We encourage eligible businesses in Leelanau Township that need help recovering from the pandemic to apply for these funds,” said Joan Moore, Executive Director of the Foundation. “We cannot afford to lose a small business as a result of this global disaster. While these grants won’t solve all needs involving the pandemic, they will provide a financial boost, encouragement and a pledge by Venture North to businesses to provide technical assistance and identify other programs that may help.”

“If any business has questions or needs help completing the grant application, contact us,” said Galbraith. “We will help you ensure that the application is submitted on time.” Galbraith said those needing help should contact Venture North at 231- 995-7115 or email info@venturenorthfunding.org.

Venture North, a tax-exempt nonprofit, continues to seek donations to the RRP to meet the demand. “Any entity or person can donate to the RRP program and know that 100 percent of their contribution will be used for grants to eligible small businesses that apply for funding,” Galbraith said. Funds may be donated online at “Donate to the RRP” at www.venturenorthfunding.org or by calling 231-995-7115.

“Our core business is financing the growth and development of small businesses in the ten-county area,” Galbraith explained. “We look forward to having RRP grant recipients contact us in the future about growth capital. We have the ability to provide flexible terms and welcome banks and credit unions as partners. It is our mission to partner with businesses and communities to support the recovery process and growth of small businesses in our region.”

