



NEWS RELEASE

Date: October 24, 2022

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Let's Talk!

NEW VENTURE NORTH SITE FOR GROWING BUSINESSES

NORTHWEST MICHIGAN – “Let’s Talk” is the two-word message to northwest Michigan businesses in the new web site (www.venturenorthfunding.org) of Venture North Funding and Development, a charitable nonprofit that exists to help businesses. Venture North business assistance programs include: Affordable Lending; Mini-Grants for Growth; and Business Consulting.

“Our accomplishments are measured by the success of small businesses we serve in our ten-county region,” said Laura Galbraith, President of Venture North. “We take pride in developing creative solutions with our business clients that include startup businesses. Any business can go online, hit our “Let’s Talk” button and complete and send us a brief intake form that should take less than ten minutes to complete. We will then contact the business within 24-hours and determine together which of our services will be the best fit. It’s simple, fast and effective.”

Venture North has made over 130 loans to small businesses ranging from \$5,000 to \$350,000 totaling \$35 million; awarded Mini-Grants to over 350 businesses and helped over 1,100 business with free business consulting. Venture North is certified as a Community Development Financing Institution that gives priority to serving businesses located in areas of economic distress. “People are often surprised to learn that about 60 percent of the area we support is classified as economically distressed,” Galbraith said. Counties served by Venture North include Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Emmet, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee and Wexford.

The [new website](#) describes Venture North services along with examples of clients who have put those services to work to help their businesses.

“We are fortunate to have relationships with many organizations that have a crucial role in helping small businesses,” Galbraith said. “That includes private, corporate and nonprofit foundations as well as other financial services organizations that we often partner with in making affordable loans and government agencies and programs. For those wanting an in-depth understanding of who Venture North is and how we work, we hope the new Web site is a powerful source of information.”

“We also know that nothing tops having a person to speak with who will listen and wants to offer a helping hand,” she said. “We’re here and ready to serve in any capacity our clients prefer!”