



IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Central U.P. Small Business Support Hub Awards \$109,974 to Local Businesses in Third Grant Cycle

Central U.P., MI – The Central Upper Peninsula Small Business Support Hub (the HUB) has awarded \$109,974 to 17 small businesses across the Upper Peninsula, marking the successful completion of its third Direct Grant cycle. Combined with the \$218,975 awarded during the first two cycles, the HUB has now distributed \$328,949 in grant funds to support 59 small businesses across the region.

The HUB is a collaboration of regional economic development organizations, with the Lake Superior Community Partnership (LSCP) serving as the coordinating entity. These collaborating organizations are dedicated to empowering small businesses by providing resources, guidance, and funding to foster economic growth in the Upper Peninsula. Throughout the program, more than \$400,000 will be awarded in direct grants to eligible businesses that work with their county's designated Small Business Resource Navigator and participate in at least one HUB program, event, or service within six months prior to the award.

"While the LSCP has proudly supported Marquette County businesses for over 25 years, serving as the coordinating entity for the Central U.P. Small Business Support Hub has allowed the LSCP to assist in expanding access to critical resources for our small business community across seven counties," said Christopher Germain, LSCP CEO. "The direct grants are just one tool in the Hub's toolbox, and I encourage businesses in the Hub's coverage area to connect with their local Small Business Navigator to learn more about all the resources available through the Hub, including technical assistance, networking, and connections to other partner organizations."

The third grant cycle supported a diverse range of competitive small businesses. Awards were distributed as follows:

Alger County: 1

Baraga County: 1

Delta County: 1

Dickinson County: 3

Marquette County: 6

Menominee County: 1

Schoolcraft County: 4

"We're excited to work with this next round of grantees. Each cycle has become increasingly competitive as more businesses refine and focus their projects and applications, drawing on The HUB's Direct Grant and Grant Writing 101 Webinars and the feedback they've sought out. This round features a diverse group of small businesses with thoughtfully crafted projects designed to make the most impact within modest budgets," said Erica Huss, Small Business Support Hub Project Manager. "As we collect feedback from past awardees, we're continuing to strengthen the program and connect businesses to as many resources as possible, regardless of whether they've received grant funding from us."

The final grant cycle opens October 10 and closes November 7, 2025. To help businesses prepare, Erica Huss will host a Fall 2025 Direct Grant Overview Webinar on Tuesday, September 9, at 3:00 p.m. ET. Between grant rounds, businesses are encouraged to use the myriad of other resources available through the Hub.

Businesses can find their County's Small Business Resource Navigator at marquette.org/thehub-contact. Learn more at marquette.org/thehub or follow the Central U.P. Small Business Support Hub on LinkedIn.

About the HUB

In November 2023, the Michigan Economic Development Corporation announced \$73 million in grant awards to establish Small Business Support Hubs across the state. A group of local economic development organizations collaborated to apply for funds and were awarded a total of \$3,426,015 over three years to set up and operate the Central Upper Peninsula Small Business Support Hub ("the HUB"), covering Alger, Baraga, Delta, Dickinson, Marquette, Menominee, and Schoolcraft counties.

To date, the HUB has awarded \$328,949 to 59 small businesses across the Central Upper Peninsula and interacted with 518 businesses through 1:1 consultations, workshops, new resources, and more.

The Hub is made possible through the coordination of the Lake Superior Community Partnership, in collaboration with many partners including Accelerate U.P., Innovate Marquette SmartZone, Northern Michigan University, Small Business Development Center Upper Peninsula Region, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, and Sault Tribe Thrive.

Learn more about the Hub at marquette.org/thehub or follow *Central U.P. Small Business Support Hub* on LinkedIn.

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Prepared by Lauren Rotundo. For more information, contact the Lake Superior Community Partnership at (906) 226-6591. The Lake Superior Community Partnership (LSCP) is Marquette County's local resource for economic development. The LSCP helps our partners make the connections that matter – between businesses, organizations, leaders and legislators, and provides a powerful legislative voice for programs and policies that strengthen our regional economy. More information on the Lake Superior Community Partnership can be found at marquette.org.