

## News Release

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 23, 2012

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## Community Growth Grants Available to Support Grand Vision Principles

NORTHWEST MI—Grants available through the Northwest Michigan Council of Governments (NWMCOG) will give local units of government in northwest lower Michigan an opportunity to support the principles of The Grand Vision.

The New Designs for Growth: Community Growth Grants program will award grants of up to \$15,000, provided as cash or technical assistance, available on a competitive basis to city, village, township, and county governments within the six-county Grand Vision region. The grant deadline is September 7, 2012.

“These grants strengthen our region by removing barriers and creating incentives for greater public and private sector investment in the communities in our region,” said Matt McCauley, NWMCOG director of regional planning and community development. “Their purpose is to move The Grand Vision to action by providing direct financial support to communities for leadership, planning, collaboration, local decision-making, and action-oriented projects that enhance our communities’ sense of place, and build the foundation for a stronger regional economy.”

Successful projects will create a framework for sustainable and efficient growth and development by implementing strategies consistent with The Grand Vision principles.

The Grand Vision is a citizen-led vision for the future of land use, transportation, economic development and environmental stewardship in Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, and Wexford counties.

(MORE)

The ultimate goal of The Grand Vision is to create prosperity by making the communities it serves more attractive and viable.

The New Designs for Growth: Community Growth Grants program is administered by the Northwest Michigan Council of Governments, in partnership with the Traverse City Area Chamber of Commerce and the Northern Lakes Economic Alliance, and is made possible through generous support from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

For application instructions and more information, please contact Matt McCauley at (231) 929-5000.

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NOTE to Media: Images are oftentimes available upon request by e-mailing Tom White at [tomwhite@nwm.com.mi.us](mailto:tomwhite@nwm.com.mi.us) and stating preferences for resolution (300 dpi?), file format (.tif? .jpg?) and file size (1MB or less?). Or, phone (231) 929-5044. Check our online Media Room at: [nwm.org/media](http://nwm.org/media)

Founded in 1974, the Northwest Michigan Council of Governments (NWMCOG) facilitates and manages various programs and services for the 10 county region. These programs include Northwest Michigan Works, YouthBuild, Small Business & Technology Development Center, Procurement Technical Assistance Center, various business services, and many different regional planning initiatives in response to our communities' requests and needs. You will see the broad spectrum of workforce, business and community services NWMCOG offers if you visit our web site, [nwm.org](http://nwm.org)

NWMCOG's member counties are: Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Emmet, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, and Wexford.