



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
**January 9, 2017**

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**HEALTH**  
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[www.nwhealth.org](http://www.nwhealth.org)

### **Communities Invited to Apply for Greenspace Improvement Dollars**

CHARLEVOIX, Mich. – The Health Department of Northwest Michigan invites local communities to apply for funds to implement infrastructure, policy, and educational enhancements to public greenspaces. By improving the aesthetics, accessibility and safety of greenspaces, the project aims to increase the percentage of adults and youth who meet federal physical activity guidelines, ultimately reducing poor health outcomes and health disparities in Michigan.

Eligible applicants include any local government department, agency, special purpose district, public school district, Indian Tribal organization or 501(c)(3). Several grants will be awarded, with individual grants limited to \$20,000. Entities with greenspace sites in the following counties are eligible to apply:

- Antrim
- Benzie
- Charlevoix
- Emmet
- Grand Traverse
- Kalkaska
- Leelanau
- Manistee
- Missaukee
- Otsego
- Wexford

The grant, Building Healthy Communities, is part of continued work by the Health Department of Northwest Michigan to ensure all residents have an opportunity to live a healthy life. A portion of the grant aims to fund sustainable public greenspace enhancements that will create a lasting impact on the health of the community.

“We are excited to support local agencies in their work to improve greenspaces while also promoting healthy lifestyles and preventing against disease,” said Erika Van Dam, the Director of Community Health Services at the Health Department of Northwest Michigan. “These investments will be coupled with our continued work in health education and policy, systems, and environmental changes across the Northern Michigan region.”

Letters of Intent are due January 27<sup>th</sup> and the submission deadline is February 10<sup>th</sup>. An informational call will take place on January 30<sup>th</sup>. For further information, including application requirements, visit [www.nwhealth.org](http://www.nwhealth.org) or call the Health Department of Northwest Michigan at (800) 432-4121.

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan is mandated by the Michigan Public Health Code to promote wellness, prevent disease, provide quality healthcare, address health problems of vulnerable populations, and protect the environment for the residents and visitors of Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, and Otsego Counties.

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