



# "The HUB' Doles Out First Set Of Grants To Upper Peninsula Small Businesses

By Jack Hall

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The Central Upper Peninsula Small Business Support Hub (the Hub) has awarded a total of \$105,875 to small businesses across the Upper Peninsula, marking the successful completion of its first Direct Grant cycle and laying the groundwork for the remaining three cycles to support local entrepreneurs.

The Hub is a collaboration of regional economic development organizations that aims to empower small businesses by providing resources, guidance, and funding to foster economic growth in the Upper Peninsula. Over the course of the Hub's operations, more than \$400,000 will be available in direct grants to businesses who work with their County's designated Hub Small Business Resource Navigator and participate in at least one Hub program, event, or service within 6 months prior to the Award.

The first grant cycle saw a diverse range of businesses across the region benefit from this initiative, with awards distributed as follows:

**Alger County**

- Express Drain Service LLC, \$5,000
- Mick's Mechanical LLC, \$5,000

**Baraga County**

- Beartown Beauty LLC\*, \$5,000
- Ihana Jewelry\*, \$4,950
- Smith Holistic Care, LLC, \$3,200

**Delta County**

- LeverEdge Chiropractic PLLC, \$2,500
- Maria's Taxes & More Inc, \$2,495
- Rock Electric Service, \$5,000
- TBIM Mngmnt: Youngs Menswear, \$5,000

**Dickinson County**

- Eureka Tire Company, \$3,200
- LifeFit BrainFit, LLC, \$4,000
- Open Door Counsel & Life Coaching, LLC, \$3,700
- Superior Genomics Inc., \$4,100

**Marquette County**

- Caught Dreamin' Therapy, LLC\*, \$5,000
- Codd Farms LLC DBA Shirley's Suds, \$5,000
- Elevate Athletic Training, \$3,500
- Fleur de Lis Therapeutic Massage, LLC, \$5,000
- Honey Baked Bread Co. LLC, \$3,400
- Little Agate\*, \$5,000
- MEGG LLC DBA Amanda's Home Daycare, \$600
- Peace Pie Company, \$4,800

**Menominee County**

- Believe to Succeed, \$3,900

**Schoolcraft County**

- Campfire Shores, LLC, \$4,730
- Of Curious Nature, \$2,000
- The Blue Mystique Inn LLC, \$5,000
- Yooper Fitness, \$4,800

*\*Indicates a Tribal Owned business*

"We are very proud to announce this first round of grant awardees," said Erica Huss, Small Business Support Hub Project Manager. "We're just getting started with this program. Our goal is to assist as many small businesses as possible through grants and connecting them with local resources."

The next grant cycle will be open from January 17 through February 14, 2025. In preparation for this cycle, interested participants are encouraged to join Erica Huss' Winter 2025 Direct Grant Overview Webinar on Wednesday, January 15 to learn more about the grant and application process. Register for the webinar at [bit.ly/Direct-Grant](https://bit.ly/Direct-Grant).

**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.

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

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