

NLEA's Service Provider Support Program

In the last 3 years, the Community Foundation has awarded over \$55,000 to support the Entrepreneurial Division of Northern Lakes Economic Alliance. The E-Division is multifaceted, with Business Resource Centers, one-on-one business counseling, and workshops and seminars.

One element of the effort to grow entrepreneurs in our community is the Service Provider Support Program, a unique and efficient program designed to connect entrepreneurs with service providers for specific technical assistance.

Entrepreneurs who are working with NLEA may have needs that require a particular expertise and must be paid for, like legal or accounting work, for example. NLEA matches that entrepreneur with a service provider who is well-suited to the work and who will reduce their charge because of their support of the overall effort.

"We are thrilled with the results," said NLEA president, Andy Hayes. "For an investment of less than \$10,000, we assisted 18 entrepreneurs (13 new business start ups and 5 expansions), created 37 new jobs and the total value of the services provided was over \$34,000." Now that's a good return on investment!



Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area
community foundation