

Grant will be used to help people with disabilities live independently

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Holland, MI — People with disabilities will get more support as a result of a state grant awarded to Disability Network/Lakeshore.

The Holland group received \$228,853 Thursday, Oct. 9, from the Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth.

The grant will be used to help people with disabilities in Ottawa and Allegan counties live more independently and gain employment by enabling the nonprofit to expand information and support it provides.

The group received \$22,000 more than last year. This is the 13th year of receiving the grant.

"There's a lot of support at the state level for the work we do because we save the taxpayer money," said Ruth Stegeman, Disability Network/Lakeshore executive director.

The organization helps people get back to work and get off of government benefits, she said.

Disability Network/Lakeshore is one of 15 designated centers for independent living in Michigan. It is operated by and helps people with disabilities.

The group is working on housing related issues, transportation and accessibility to businesses and governmental entities, she said.

Disability Network/Lakeshore will use some of the money to collaborate with Michigan Rehabilitation Services in working with employers, promote a Youth Employment Summit and other services including job shadowing.

More than \$5.92 million in state and federal money is being awarded to 17 organizations throughout the state that promote independent living.

For more information, call (616) 396-5326 or visit www.dnlakeshore.org.

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