December 2021 Grant Awards

Local Grants

**Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency**
Donation in support of the Community Connect event in Itasca County.  $1,000

**Blackberry Township**
Project support for Itasca Area Small Communities Development in Blackberry Township in Itasca County.  $50,000

**Buck Lake Improvement Club**
Project support for Itasca Area Small Communities Development in the Buck Lake area in Itasca County.  $30,000

**City of Bigfork (Bigfork Valley Foundation, as fiscal agent)**
Project support for Itasca Area Small Communities Development in Bigfork in Itasca County.  $100,000

**City of Bovey**
Project support for Itasca Area Small Communities Development in Bovey in Itasca County.  $150,000

**City of Coleraine**
Project support for Itasca Area Small Communities Development in Coleraine in Itasca County.  $150,000

**City of Deer River**
Project support for Itasca Area Small Communities Development in Deer River in Itasca County.  $150,000

**City of Effie (Bigfork Valley Foundation, as fiscal agent)**
Project support for Itasca Area Small Communities Development in Effie in Itasca County.  $75,000

**City of Grand Rapids**
Project support to research and market the impact of Minnesota’s Automated Rural Transit Initiative as part of the Broadband Program in Itasca County.  $50,000

**City of Grand Rapids**
Project support for a pilot project to test the technological, social, economic, and environmental viability of operating a Connected and Automated Vehicle (CAV) service in Itasca County.  $450,000

**City of Keewatin**
Project support for Itasca Area Small Communities Development in Keewatin in Itasca County.  $150,000
City of LaPrairie
Project support for Itasca Area Small Communities Development in LaPrairie in Itasca County. $100,000

City of Nashwauk
Project support for Itasca Area Small Communities Development in Nashwauk in Itasca County. $150,000

City of Northome
Project support for Itasca Area Small Communities Development in Northome in Itasca County. $150,000

City of Marble
Project support for Itasca Area Small Communities Development in Marble in Itasca County. $50,000

City of S-Lake
Project support for Itasca Area Small Communities Development in City of S-Lake in Itasca County. $50,000

ElderCircle
Donation in support of the 2021 Community Thanksgiving Dinner in Itasca County. $1,000

Great Minds Learning Center
Project support for capacity building to research grant resources for financial sustainability in the Itasca Area. $4,800

Harris Township
Project support for Itasca Area Small Communities Development in Harris Township in Itasca County. $100,000

Itasca Economic Development Corporation
Project support to promote an Innovation Center to provide education and training to area students and community members as part of the Broadband Program in Itasca County. $10,000

Marcell Township (Bigfork Valley Foundation, as fiscal agent)
Project support for Itasca Area Small Communities Development in Marcell Township in Itasca County. $50,000

Nashwauk Township
Project support for Itasca Area Small Communities Development in Nashwauk Township in Itasca County. $40,000

S-Lake Local Indian Council (Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation, as Fiscal Agent)
Project support for Itasca Area Small Communities Development in the S-Lake Community in Itasca County. $150,000

Trout Lake Township
Project support for Itasca Area Small Communities Development in Trout Lake Township in Itasca County.  $30,000

Rural Minnesota

Area of focus: Expand Opportunity

Duluth Lighthouse for the Blind
Project support to alleviate social isolation by promoting broadband connectivity and use among rural Arrowhead seniors as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota.  $50,000

Face it Together Bemidji
Project support for organizational development and capacity building in rural Minnesota.  $60,000

Hibbing Dylan Project
Project support to improve community vitality by upgrading Hibbing’s downtown sound system and creating playlists to showcase local musicians as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota.  $10,400

Kanabec County
Project support to conduct a broadband feasibility study in Kanabec County as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota.  $25,000

Minnesota Council on Foundations
Project support for membership assistance in 2022 in rural Minnesota.  $23,000

Native Governance Center
Project support for the We Are Still Here Initiative in rural Minnesota.  $40,000

Upper Midwest Film Office (Northland Foundation, as Fiscal Agent)
Project support to Northland Foundation as fiscal agent for the Upper Midwest Film Office for capacity building over 18 months in rural Minnesota.  $100,000

Pine County
Project support to conduct a broadband feasibility study in Pine County as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota.  $25,000

Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians
Project support for key elements of launching a new Indigenous charter school including curriculum development, board training, and staff/student recruitment in rural Minnesota.  $50,000

United Way of the Brown County Area, Inc.
Project support for 2021 Rural Equity Summit to help speakers share stories of equity and inclusion work taking place throughout rural Minnesota.  $1,000

Voice for Racial Justice
Project support to help establish Seeds of Justice as a 501c3 and to continue with capacity building in rural Minnesota.  $150,000

Zeitgeist Center for Arts and Community
Project support for capacity building to support the launch of the Northland Film School and the Northland Film Festival on the Iron Range in rural Minnesota.  $150,000

Area of focus: Community Leadership

City of Fosston
Project support to establish a physical location for the Fosston Arts and Culture Commission as part of the Blandin Leadership Grant Program in rural Minnesota.  $5,000

Kerkhoven Lions Club Foundation
Project support to establish a local arts council as part of the Blandin Leadership Grant Program in rural Minnesota.  $5,000

Native Governance Center
Program support to promote a Native nation rebuilding movement, including leadership development, direct tribal governance support, and community engagement in rural Minnesota.  $750,000

Wisdom Steps
Project support for Native American elder organizational development as part of the Blandin Reservation Community Leadership Program in rural Minnesota.  $5,000

Total  40 grants  $3,691,200