September 2019 grant awards

Local Grants

Area of focus: Vibrant Itasca Area

Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency
Project support for Community Connect 2019  $5,000

Bigfork Valley Foundation
Donation in support of Bigfork community projects  $250

Bovey Farmers Day Association
Donation in support of the 2019 Bovey Farmers’ Day celebration  $1,000

City of Grand Rapids
Donation in support of the 2019 National Night Out hosted by the Grand Rapids Police Department  $250

City of Grand Rapids
Capital support for upgrades to Mississippi River park  $142,000

City of Nashwauk
Project support over three years to establish a School Resources Officer position to support the Nashwauk-Keewatin High School  $45,000

Grace House of Itasca County
Project support for strategic planning in Itasca County  $2,500

Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation
Capital support to install a turf playing surface on Noble Hall Field at Grand Rapids High School  $130,000

Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation
Project support for the Free Range Co-op’s community outreach project  $10,000

Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation
Project support for the Community Action Team to update the video “Colored Lines – A Story of Race in Itasca County” with more stories told by Itasca County residents of color  $9,950
Grand Rapids Economic Development Authority
Program-related investment over ten years to continue the Commercial Building Improvement Loan program  **$500,000**

Greenway Joint Recreation Association
Capital support to make ADA accessibility improvements to the Hodgins-Berardo Arena  **$10,000**

Independent School District 319, Nashwauk-Keewatin
Project support for after-school programming at Nashwauk-Keewatin elementary school  **$10,000**

Independent School District 317, Deer River
Project support of a two-year initiative to improve student and family outcomes by developing a school-wide Social and Emotional Learning framework  **$30,000**

Itasca Area Schools Collaborative
Project support to implement a Career Pathways Initiative across IASC districts  **$500,000**

Itasca Hospice Foundation
Donation in support of the 2019 educational seminar for healthcare providers and volunteers  **$500**

Jacobson Community Volunteer Fire Department
Capital support to purchase a water storage tank for firefighting  **$5,000**

Propel Nonprofits
Project support over three years to continue nonprofit capacity building  **$385,000**

Regents of The University of Minnesota
Project support for a Ripple Effects Mapping training  **$4,000**

**Area of Focus: Expand Opportunity**

4-Directions Development Inc
Project support for small business development on the Red Lake Reservation  **$215,000**

Comunidades Latina Unidas en Servicio
Operations support for financial empowerment services in Willmar and Austin  **$300,000**
Rural Minnesota

Area of Focus: Expand Opportunity

Chisago County Housing and Redevelopment Authority-Economic Development Authority
Project support to conduct a feasibility study to better understand options for improving broadband infrastructure and services within the townships of Sunrise and Lent in Chisago County as part of the Broadband Program $5,750

City of North Branch
Project support to conduct a broadband survey of all households within the City of North Branch as part of the Broadband Program $7,500

Grand Marais Arts
Expansion of physical spaces for community engagement and economic development purposes $50,000

Headwaters Regional Development Commission
Project support for youth entrepreneurship development as part of the Blandin Leadership Grants program $5,000

Minnesota Council of Nonprofits Inc
Donation in support of sponsorship of the Overcoming Racism conference $1,000

Productive Alternatives Inc
Project support of transitional workforce housing $10,000

Area of Focus: Community Leadership

Alexandria Technical College
Project support for Voices: A Roundtable Talk Series on Inclusion as part of the Blandin Leadership Grants program $5,000

Hornets Hive
Project support to develop a youth-led bistro to promote job training and life skills management as part of the Blandin Leadership Grants program $5,000

Iron Range Partnership for Sustainability
Project support to produce outdoor activities to build community as part of the Blandin Leadership Grants program $3,000

Lac Qui Parle County Historical Society
Project support to host a two-day poetry festival featuring Roger Bly’s legacy as part of the Blandin Leadership Grants program $2,000

Luverne Area Community Foundation
Project support for a one-day retreat to evaluate efforts to move people out of poverty as part of the Blandin Leadership Grants program $3,000
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe
Project support to produce a workbook of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe Constitution as part of the Blandin Leadership Grants program  $5,000

Native Governance Center
Donation in support of follow-up planning as a result of US Census 2020 Tribal Partnership training  $350

Redwood Area Communities Foundation
Project support for a capital campaign feasibility study as part of the Blandin Leadership Grants program  $5,000

White Earth Tribal and Community College
Project support to hire a grant writer to work with community leaders as part of the Blandin Leadership Grants program  $3,400

Total
36 grants  $2,416,450