

November 2025 Grant Awards

Local Grants

Bigfork Valley Foundation

Support for Bigfork School Music Boosters to reestablish a music program at Bigfork School, and funding for the Itasca Strings Scholarship Program (\$18,000 for Music Boosters and \$2,000 for Itasca Strings Scholarships Program)

\$20,000

City of Grand Rapids

Support for Pokegama Golf Course to make improvements to the course and resolve long-standing maintenance issues that will benefit a wide range of community members

\$8,000

Edge of the Wilderness Community Center

Support for Stages Theatre Summer Show, which brings arts to an underserved community, creating accessible systems to share resources of the metro area, and exposes youth artists to rural Northern MN

\$5,000

Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation

For the Free Range Food Co-op general operations and programming

\$38,000

Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation

For the Itasca Area Cancer Crisis Endowment

\$5,000

Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation

For the Eric Northard Travel Scholarship fund, providing high school students the potentially life-changing opportunity to be immersed in foreign cultures

\$25,000

Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation

For the Star of the North Lion's Club fund, which serves the Grand Rapids area community through small, local grants

\$6,000

Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation

Project support to build capacity and grow local endowment funds in the Itasca County area

\$1,000,000

Grand Rapids FFA Alumni and Supporters

Support for general operations and programming

\$10,000

Grand Rapids Players Inc Support for rural placemaking through community theater	\$5,000
Hope House of Itasca County Operational and programming support to help individuals facing mental health and substance use challenges reclaim their lives and build a strong foundation for the future	\$9,000
Itasca Community Television, Inc. Support for general operations and programming	\$5,000
Itasca Community Television, Inc. Programming support to increase organizational capacity through the implementation of service journalism in Itasca County, MN	\$500,000
Itasca County Family YMCA Inc Support for general operations and programming	\$7,000
Let's Go Fishing - Itasca Support for general operations and programming	\$5,000
MacRostie Art Center For creative placemaking in the Grand Rapids area	\$5,000
New Beginnings Pregnancy Care Center General operating support for services that aid women and their families in need	\$7,000
Northern Community Radio KAXE Support for general operations and programming	\$5,000

Rural Grants

Ann Bancroft Foundation Event support for Ann Bancroft Foundation Girlhood Summit on October 11, 2025, so that girls and young women from rural areas throughout Minnesota may attend, regardless of their financial situation or lack of reliable transportation	\$5,000
Bridges of Hope Support for Operation Sandwich and the homeless shelter in the Brainerd Lakes Area	\$10,000
City of Chisholm For community-building in the City of Chisholm and improving public spaces	\$10,000

City of Chisholm In support of commemorative work in rural Minnesota	\$25,000
City of Hibbing Support for programming at the library and parks and rec in Hibbing	\$5,000
Friends of Frog Tree Farm Support for programming that advances the organization's mission to be stewards of the environment and teach others about sustainability practices, while seeking to build a strong, sustainable, equitable future for Minnesotans	\$5,000
Friends of the Finland Community For community center capital improvements in rural Minnesota	\$30,000
Headwaters Foundation for Justice Support for general operations and programming	\$5,000
Initiative Foundation Support for general operations and programming	\$5,000
Leech Lake Tribal College Project support for LLTC's presidential leadership transition	\$30,000
Lower Sioux Indian Community Support for arts and cultural programming at Cansayapi Wicoicage Oti, Lower Sioux Cultural Incubator	\$25,000
Minnesota Humanities Center Support for Sketches of Minnesota held in Bigfork, October 2025	\$10,000
Mississippi Headwaters Area Dental Health Center Operational support for organizational resilience and sustainability for its work in rural MN	\$200,000
Mukwa Support for programming that empowers Indigenous leadership and promotes well-being, equity, and understanding through education, outreach, and systemic change	\$5,000
Northwest Minnesota Foundation Disaster recovery support in the Bemidji area	\$100,000
Onyx Collective General operating support to aid in the goal of providing Black people in rural Minnesota opportunities for wholeness and healing	\$5,000

Peacemaker Resources

Support for programming that offers cultural responsiveness training and events, seeking to promote authentic connections in rural MN \$5,000

Project Optimist

Support for programming which engages residents of greater MN through storytelling & an arts-based approach to collaborate across common divides, tackle problems & grow more optimistic about the future of their communities, region & world \$10,000

Town of French

For community program and facility upgrades \$5,000

Two Spirit Advocacy

Support for building inclusive community and welcoming space for 2SLGBTQIA+ people in the Bemidji area \$10,000

United Way of Northeastern Minnesota

Support for general operations and programming \$5,000

Voices For Ethnic and Multicultural Awareness Corporation

Operating support to bring cross-cultural understanding, foster an inclusive community, and educate community members on the contributions of multicultural communities in rural, Northern MN \$25,000

Total

40 grants \$2,200,000