



Blandin Foundation Grants approved in December 2009

The Blandin Foundation Board of Trustees approved grants totaling \$4,270,850 at its December 2009 meeting. Of the total grants awarded, 83 percent was for the Grand Rapids and Itasca County area.

Leadership Development Grants – Grants that assist a community in identifying and mobilizing its economic assets.

Organization	Grant Award
University of Minnesota (Duluth campus) – Native Youth Leadership Program in rural Minnesota	\$555,000 over 3 years
	Total \$555,000

Rural Voice Grants – Grants to help rural residents be their own voice through supporting new and existing avenues to express the rural perspective in local and statewide policy debates.

Organization	Grant Award
Northern Community Radio – news programming throughout Itasca County	\$100,000 over 2 years
Northern Minnesota Public Television – programming and services in northern Minnesota	50,000 over 2 years
Duluth Superior Educational TV Corporation – for the production of Venture North and Native Report	50,000 over 2 years
Minnesota Council on Foundations – membership assistance	\$38,850 over 2 years
Center for Rural Policy and Development – research development and outreach for economic development opportunities across rural Minnesota	\$100,000 over 2 years
	Total \$338,850

Educational Attainment Grants – Grants to support rural communities in strengthening the educational attainment of disadvantaged groups.

Organization	Grant Award
Itasca County Historical Society – to collect, preserve, interpret and disseminate the history of Itasca County	\$90,000 over 2 years
Itasca Orchestra and Strings Program – to provide orchestral music opportunities for youth and adults in Itasca County	\$80,000 over 2 years

Charities Review Council of Minnesota – provide information and education to donors and charities	\$8,000 over 2 years
Centro Campesino – Immigrant Empowerment Project in southern Minnesota	\$80,000 over 2 years
Eagleview Community Foundation – to sustain its technology, broadband access, literacy, community education and robotics program in the S. Lake area	\$66,000 over 3 years
Grand Rapids School District – continued support of the Baby Steps Boutique, Step Ahead and Children First! programs in Itasca County	\$158,000
Itasca Community College – financial aid assistance for Itasca County high school graduates for the 2010-11 school year	\$350,000
Ready for K – to promote and improve school readiness throughout rural Minnesota	\$150,000 over 2 years
MacRostie Art Center – provide visual arts and educational programming	\$70,000 over 2 years
	Total \$1,052,000

Economic Opportunity Grants/Investment—Awards that assist Grand Rapids/Itasca area communities or statewide rural initiatives to identify and mobilize economic assets.

Organization	Grant Award
Latino Economic Development Center – to increase organizational capacity and economic development opportunities throughout rural Minnesota	\$195,000 over 3 years
Northeast Entrepreneur Fund Inc. – to provide business planning training and access to financing for unemployed and underemployed men and women in Itasca County	\$110,000 over 2 years
Itasca Economic Development Corporation – promote economic development in the Itasca County area	\$225,000
	Total \$530,000

Fairness and Opportunity—Grants toward social justice initiatives, especially those that address root causes.

Organization	Grant Award
Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation – operating support	\$270,000 over 3 years
Action Through Churches Together – operating support	\$30,000
Community Café – operating support	\$50,000 over 2 years
Friendship Ventures – scholarships for	\$6,000 over 2 years

Itasca County disabled youth to participate in camp	
Minnesota Special Olympics – operating support for the Itasca County program	\$60,000 over 2 years
Second Harvest North Central Food Bank – operating support	\$100,000 over 2 years
United Way of 1000 Lakes – operating support	\$44,000 over 2 years
Cooperative Solutions – operating support	\$100,000 over 2 years
First Call for Help of Itasca County – operating support	\$100,000 over 2 years
Itasca County Family YMCA – operating support	\$100,000 over 2 years
Bigfork Valley Hospital – Home Visitor program	\$30,000 over 2 years
ElderCircle – senior programming to Itasca County residents	\$60,000 over 2 years
Habitat for Humanity of Itasca County – low income housing development	\$50,000
Itasca Alliance Against Sexual Assault – support and advocacy to victims of sexual violence and prevention education in Itasca County	\$70,000 over 2 years
Advocates for Family Peace – promote safety, equity and peaces to families experiencing domestic abuse in Itasca County	\$100,000 over 2 years
Bridges Kinship Mentoring – provide mentoring opportunities for young people in the Itasca County area	\$80,000 over 2 years
Girl Scouts of MN and WI Lakes and Pines – support for the Itasca County program	\$20,000 over 2 years
Voyageurs Area Boy Scouts – support for the Itasca County program	\$20,000 over 2 years
Marcell Family Center – family center programming in Itasca County	\$65,000 over 2 years
Youth for Christ – Campus Life program in Itasca County	\$50,000 over 2 years
Grace House of Itasca County – operating support for the shelter and day services	\$50,000
Bovey Coleraine Youth Center – operating support	\$170,000 over 2 years
Youth for Christ – Ground Floor Youth Center	\$170,000 over 2 years
	Total \$1,795,000