



March 2016 grant awards

Local Grants

Area of focus: Vibrant Itasca County

Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency

Operations support of the Free At Last independent living skills program and the LIFE homeless youth program in 2016-17 in Itasca County

\$24,000

Bigfork Valley Foundation

Capital support to complete the Bigfork Riverwalk project in Itasca County

\$50,000

Deer River Area Health Care Foundation

Donation in support of improving health outcomes and quality of life in Itasca County.

\$250

Edge of the Wilderness Community Center

Project support for 2016 performances and events in Itasca County.

\$8,700

ElderCircle

Donation in support of scholarship funds for local nonprofits to attend Community Volunteer Leadership training and certification program in Itasca County.

\$1,000

Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation

Operations support for the Itasca County Sharing Fund in 2016-17.

\$200,000

Grand Rapids Players

Donation in support of underwriting the spring production of Zombie Prom in Itasca County.

\$500

Greenway 316 Foundation Inc

Donation in support of Financial Aid Night for Greenway High School students and parents in Itasca County.

\$150

Greenway Joint Recreation Association

Donation in support of the third annual fishing tournament for the Greenway Sports Complex in Itasca County.

\$500

Greenway Music Boosters, Inc.

Donation in support of new uniforms for Greenway music students in Itasca County.

\$1,000

Independent School District 118, Remer

Capital support for the Inspire Me disability-friendly playground project in Itasca County.	\$5,000
Independent School District 118, Remer Donation in support of Financial Aid Night for Northland High School students and parents in the Itasca County area.	\$125
Independent School District 316 Donation in support of the 2016 Greenway Post Prom event in Itasca County.	\$500
Independent School District 316 Project support for the 2015 Children First! New Year's Eve event in Itasca County.	\$5,750
Independent School District 318 Donation in support of the Grand Rapids High School 2016 post prom event in Itasca County.	\$750
Independent School District 318 Donation in support of Financial Aid Night for Grand Rapids High School students and parents in Itasca County.	\$150
Independent School District 319 Donation in support of the 2016 Financial Aid Night for Nashwauk-Keewatin High School students and parents in Itasca County.	\$100
Itasca Community College Donation in support of the college readiness program for area students in grades 6-12 in Itasca County.	\$1,000
Itasca County Donation in support of emergency safety signs for the Sheriff's Search and Rescue team in Itasca County.	\$1,000
Itasca Youth for Christ Donation in support of staff match for the Ground Floor youth center in Itasca County.	\$500
Lets Go Fishing of MN Donation for the Itasca Chapter of Lets Go Fishing with Seniors in Itasca County.	\$1,000
Reif Arts Council Operating support through June 2017 in Itasca County.	\$170,000
Area of focus: Expand Opportunity	
Boys and Girls Club of the Leech Lake Area Operating support in 2016.	\$70,000

Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation	
Donation in support of Mobility Mania’s awareness and community event campaign in Itasca County.	\$1,000
Independent School District 363	
Donation in support of updating the Northome School District’s library books in the Itasca area.	\$1,000
ISD 317 Deer River	
Project support to develop a Scholarship Coach support system for Deer River High School students in Itasca County.	\$6,000
Itasca Area Schools Collaborative	
Project support for a study to align staffing needs across three education initiatives in Itasca County.	\$2,250
Itasca Community College	
Project support for continuation of financial aid programs for Itasca County high school graduates for the 2016-17 academic year.	\$375,000
Itasca Economic Development Corporation	
Operating support to promote economic development opportunities during 2016-17 throughout Itasca County.	\$500,000
KOOTASCA Community Action, Inc.	
Operating support over two years for Circles of Support, Teen Parent Program, Crisis Nursery, Homelessness Prevention and Community Engagement activities in Itasca County.	\$539,800
MN Assistance Council for Veterans	
Project support for programming and services to veterans in the Itasca County area.	\$10,000

Rural Minnesota

Area of focus: Expand Opportunity

Bemidji Area Indian Center	
Project support for the delivery of education and community engagement in rural Minnesota.	\$22,500
Itasca Community College	
Project support for the 2016 career fair in Itasca County and the surrounding area.	\$10,000
Latino Economic Development Center	
Operating support in 2016-18 for the continued development and delivery of business services to Latino populations in rural Minnesota.	\$225,000

Second Harvest North Central Food Bank

Project support for the Kids Backpack program in Itasca County and operational support for the Cass Lake Food Shelf in the Cass Lake area. **\$5,000**

University of Minnesota Extension

Donation for UMD's Center of American Indian and Minority Health in support of supplementing science program materials for teachers of Native students in rural Minnesota. **\$1,000**

Area of focus: Invest in Leadership**CommunityGiving**

Project support for the Brainerd Lakes Area Community Foundation's planning work for their Community Vision 2025 in rural Minnesota. **\$10,000**

Duluth Area Family YMCA

Project support for community efforts in Cook County to increase quality and access to early childhood care and education as part of the Blandin Leadership Grants Program. **\$5,000**

Strong Towns

Project support for strengthening and expanding the Curbside Chat program to promote sound community infrastructure planning and development in up to ten communities in rural northeast Minnesota. **\$20,000**

Winona State University Foundation

Donation in support of a World Café event in Winona to identify mutual vision and possible commitment as part of the Blandin Leadership Grants Program. **\$1,000**

Broadband**Rural Minnesota grants****Aitkin County**

Project support to provide technical assistance to businesses to market their products through online presence and social media as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota. **\$25,000**

Brainerd Lakes Area Development Corp

Project support to implement the Tech Services marketing plan as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota. **\$4,000**

Brainerd Lakes Area Development Corp

Capital support for video conferencing equipment for use by area businesses and organizations as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota. **\$7,500**

Carlton County

Project support to conduct a feasibility study to understand options for improving broadband infrastructure and services within the county

as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota. **\$25,000**

**Chisago County Housing and Redevelopment Authority/
Economic Development Authority**

Project support to create and maintain a multi-community/area website to serve visitors and residents with information on activities, attractions and community events as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota. **\$5,500**

**Chisago County Housing and Redevelopment Authority/
Economic Development Authority**

Project support to inventory, map and showcase businesses and attractions along Old Highway 61 through online web and mobile devices as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota. **\$3,050**

**Chisago County Housing and Redevelopment Authority/
Economic Development Authority**

Project support to increase the number of local businesses that have an online presence as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota. **\$5,518**

**Chisago County Housing and Redevelopment Authority/
Economic Development Authority**

Capital support for two video conference systems to enable distance learning for the county, local residents, businesses and organizations as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota. **\$11,133**

**Chisago County Housing and Redevelopment Authority/
Economic Development Authority**

Project support to mobilize community stakeholders to gather and share information about existing and proposed broadband services and to develop and implement broadband improvement strategies as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota. **\$10,000**

**Chisago County Housing and Redevelopment Authority/
Economic Development Authority**

Capital support to create 8-10 wi-fi hot spots across Chisago County for enhanced public access as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota. **\$8,500**

City of Big Lake

Project support to install wi-fi access point at the Big Lake City Park to provide public internet access and for community events as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota. **\$10,000**

City of Moose Lake

Project support to expand the Moose Lake Community Digital Messaging System to other community entities enabling them to broadcast messages to the public in rural Minnesota. **\$5,000**

City of Redwood Falls

Project support to utilize telemedicine and other services that leverage Broadband networks to provide advanced and specialized medical care for the convenience of southwest Minnesota residents as part of the

Broadband Program in rural Minnesota. **\$25,000**

City of Redwood Falls

Capital support to update technology for patron usage as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota. **\$10,500**

Cook County

Project support to create a co-working center in Grand Marais that will provide space for entrepreneurs and tele-workers to congregate and work using the fiber optic network and center equipment as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota. **\$17,200**

East Central Regional Development Commission

Project support to work with up to five rural townships to identify and implement broadband solutions providing public access in areas with little to no existing broadband access as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota. **\$13,000**

Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

Capital support for classroom technology to enhance staff professional development and encourage collaboration between school staff, students and community members as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota. **\$2,100**

Independent School District 518

Project support to implement the use of the myON digital library in the Worthington area for the benefit of preschoolers and their families as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota. **\$5,000**

Independent School District 728

Project support to increase public Internet access by opening the Community Education Center an additional 240 hours on nights and weekends as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota. **\$2,000**

Independent School District 94

Project support for technology training and resources for enrichment activities and parenting skills to pre-K students and families as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota. **\$17,760**

Joseph R. Brown Heritage Society

Capital support to create 26 wi-fi hot spots in five communities in Renville and Sibley counties as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota. **\$25,000**

Kandiyohi County & City of Willmar EDC

Project support to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of a new Fiber to the Premise network throughout Kandiyohi County as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota. **\$25,000**

Martin County

Capital support to provide a variety of devices for local school districts allowing them to upgrade their use of technology as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota. **\$15,000**

Martin County

Project support to provide businesses in the Martin County area relevant training in social media and online presence as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota.

\$5,000

Mille Lacs County

Project support to conduct educational outreach and “take rate” survey of County residents to develop a business plan for a fiber ring/wireless network for rural Mille Lacs County as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota.

\$10,000

Mille Lacs County

Project support for a feasibility study of using a wireless broadband system throughout the county as a part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota.

\$14,000

Mille Lacs County

Project support to provide a series of technology workshops to increase the online presence of businesses via websites and social media as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota.

\$10,000

MN State Community & Tech College – Wadena

Project support to host a one-day tech expo event in Wadena that will combine active learning by MNSCU students and displays and seminars for the general public as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota.

\$9,950

Moose Lake Community Schools

Capital support to equip school activity busses with wi-fi to provide access for students to be able to work on homework assignments when travelling long distances as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota.

\$5,000

Nobles County

Capital support for mobile devices within two branches of the Nobles County Library for patron usage and check out to community groups and preschools as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota.

\$7,000

Nobles County

Project support to bring fiber to the Biotechnology Advancement Center, its teleconferencing room, and the business incubators in the Worthington Industrial Park as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota.

\$6,600

Northland Foundation

Operations support for continued funding of the Rural Economic Development (RED) Group in rural Minnesota.

\$20,000

Northland Foundation

Project support to host the 2016 Early Childhood Summit in northeastern Minnesota.

\$5,000

Range Regional Health Services

Donation in support of the annual community health expo for northeastern Minnesota, including Itasca County.	\$1,000
Red Rock Central School Project support to provide technology training to students, residents, and businesses of the Lamberton area of Redwood County as part of the Broadband program in rural Minnesota.	\$6,000
Red Wing Ignite Project support to facilitate and host activities that will create and support a culture of innovation within Red Wing as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota.	\$25,000
Red Wing Ignite Project support for a unified marketing and branding initiative across all key stakeholder organizations in Red Wing as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota.	\$10,000
Redwood Area School District Capital support to provide current educational technology to preschoolers and their parents to enhance learning and readiness for kindergarten as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota.	\$9,300
Redwood County Project support to market and promote the new Technology Training Center and Lunch N Learn technology classes for area residents and businesses while promoting the need for better broadband as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota.	\$4,000
Redwood County Project support to provide Geographic Information Systems to the public via the Internet, creating efficiencies for both county staff and the public as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota.	\$12, 100
Rural and American indigenous Leadership Operating support over three years for women’s leadership training in rural Minnesota.	\$50,000
Sherburne County Capital support to extend an existing City of Elk River fiber network from Zimmerman School to Zimmerman City Hall to provide fiber-based broadband to the tenants and users of City Hall campus as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota.	\$10,000
Sherburne County Capital support to build fiber and install wireless networking equipment to provide visitors with broadband access as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota.	\$12,000
Sherburne County Capital support for wi-fi access in downtown Elk River as part	

of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota. **\$10,000**

Sibley County

Project support to provide one-on-one consulting assistance to local small businesses as they develop and implement enhanced online presence and social media strategies as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota. **\$5,000**

Sibley County

Project support to connect local businesses with high school students to increase the online activity of the businesses while businesses provide real-life training opportunities for students as parts of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota. **\$3,000**

Sibley County

Project support to provide computer and online technology training to area residents and businesses as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota. **\$3,750**

Spectrum High School

Capital support for classroom technology as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota. **\$10,000**

The Brainerd Baxter Youth Center

Project support to continue to train youth to refurbish computers and distribute them to low-income families in the Brainerd area as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota. **\$5,000**

Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center

Capital support to provide reliable, high-speed Internet access to promote the learning of K-12 students, graduate school students and community members visiting Wolf Ridge as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota. **\$5,000**

Total

91 grants

\$2,828,236