



Blandin Foundation grants approved in March 2009

The Blandin Foundation Board of Trustees approved grants totaling \$7,752,500 at its March 2009 meeting. Of the total grants awarded, 98 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
Depot Commons Association – for support of the Youth Leadership for Vital Communities initiative in Itasca County	\$12,500
	Total \$12,500

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
Minnesota Public Radio – for continued support of delivering news programming to rural communities throughout Minnesota	\$125,000
	Total \$125,000

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

Organization	Grant Award
Grand Rapids School District —to develop an Itasca area resource library, parent support group for gifted and talented students and a multi-district symposium to help Itasca area staff understand the needs of gifted and talented students.	\$15,000
Remer School District —continued operations of the Northland Early Childhood Collaborative	\$150,000/2 years
Hill City School District —continued operations of the Hill City Early Start program	\$150,000/2 years
	Total \$315,000

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
Depot Commons Association —project support to implement the Community Branding effort in the Itasca County area	\$50,000/2 years
The Conservation Fund —project support for the Outdoor Heritage Fund in Itasca County	\$7,000,000
	Total \$7,050,000

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

Organization	Grant Award
Itasca County Family YMCA —Operating support for the senior and youth center at the YMCA in Grand Rapids	\$100,000/2 years
Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation —for continued support of the Itasca County Sharing Fund including the communities of Hill City, Remer, Northome and Blackduck	\$150,000/2 years
	\$250,000