



## Northland Foundation awards 36 grants totaling over \$1 million April through June

(August 8, 2023)

From April through June, the Northland Foundation awarded \$1,011,000 in quarterly grants and another \$27,500 in Maada'ookiing grants to benefit the people and communities within its geographic service area.

Two large, Systems Change Grants totaling \$300,000 were awarded to initiatives that target the root causes of social issues. Beyond providing direct services, grantees are seeking to shift policies, mindsets, and power dynamics that have allowed issues to exist and persist, or to modify how services are delivered leading to better outcomes for populations being served. Systems Change grantees are working to promote fairness within the procedures, processes, and distribution of resources by institutions or systems.

**Two-year grants of \$150,000 each** were awarded to: **Koochiching County Food Access** to help move food systems and access in the county toward a more sustainable and equitable model, and to **Carlton County** to improve community response for domestic violence survivors and their children and help break the cycle of violence across generations.

"Undoing existing systems and services and rebuilding them to be better is no small task," stated Michelle Ufford, Director of Grantmaking. "That's why we're committing significant resources over multiple years to organizations that have the capacity take on these big challenges and opportunities for change."

In addition to quarterly and systems change grants, 11 Maada'ookiing grants totaling \$27,500 were awarded in June. Maada'ookiing is an Indigenous-led program offering up to \$2,500 to individuals for creative projects that strengthen Indigenous community, culture, and regional capacity.

The Northland Foundation serves seven counties: Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, and St. Louis, and five Native nations: Zagaakwaandagowininiwag (Bois Forte Band of Chippewa), Gichi Onigaming (Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa), Nagaajiwanaang (Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa), Gaa-zagaskwaajimekaag (Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe-District I) and Misi-zaaga'igani Anishinaabeg (Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe District II).

### MAADA'OOKIING GRANTS

**Aaron Fairbanks, Cass Lake, \$2,500**

To hold a multi-day class teaching beading skills to the Leech Lake community.

**Linda Newman, Hovland: \$2,500**

To provide mentorship, leadership skills, and entrepreneurial skills to young women at Grand Portage.

**Polly James, Grand Portage, \$2,500**

To purchase sewing machines and supplies for Grand Portage elders.

**Jamie Wise, Duluth: \$2,500**

To hold an Indigenous Lacrosse camp for youth in the Duluth urban area.

**Mark Fairbanks, Deer River: \$2,500**

To hold classes teaching youth about the process of minnow trapping and collecting bait for fishing activities.

**Jalisa Ojibway, Cloquet: \$2,500**

To hold a leadership program for Fond du Lac youth, centering community building and cultural values.

**Michelle Goose, Duluth: \$2,500**

To hold an Ojibwemowin/English playgroup for children and their families to learn Ojibwemowin in an experiential setting.

**David Wise, Sawyer: \$2,500**

To hold educational classes to introduce the community to the Ojibwe spirit horse.

**Travis Novitsky, Grand Portage: \$2,500**

To purchase photography equipment to expand upon an educational initiative about the Indigenous connections to the night sky.

**Charles Wagner, Hibbing: \$2,500**

To bring traditional singing and drumming to Indigenous youth in Northeastern Minnesota.

**Levi Libra, Grand Portage: \$2,500**

To educate the Grand Portage community about the night sky, centering on traditional knowledge and teachings.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION GRANTS *Early care and education quality and access, parenting education and supports*

**Esko Public Schools - ISD 099, Esko: \$15,000**

To provide hands-on learning materials for a new Pre-K program at Esko Public Schools.

**St. Louis County Child Care Startup & Expansion Grants: \$10,000**

To help support the start-up or expansion of center-based or family-based child care programs in Greater St. Louis County.

- Janara Lynn Maure, Chisholm: \$5,000
- Brilliant Minds, Eveleth: \$5,000

**St. Louis County Child Care Sustainability Grants: \$15,000**

To help Greater St. Louis County licensed family-based child care providers and centers experiencing an unanticipated repair, upgrade, or equipment replacement needed to maintain services.

- Dream Weaver Childcare, Hibbing: \$15,000

**Child Care Start-up and Expansion Grants, Northeast Minnesota: \$3,500**

To support the start-up or expansion of center-based or family-based child care programs in northeast Minnesota, in partnership with the State of Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development.

- Tessa Maki, Bovey: \$3,500

**Pine Technical and Community College, Pine City: \$30,000**

To provide support for a family child care provider network and childcare management software in northeast Minnesota.

**Regents of the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis: \$32,000**

To support a community of practice for Indigenous and non-Indigenous childcare practitioners in northeast Minnesota to build their capacity to offer culturally relevant outdoor learning.

OUT OF SCHOOL TIME SERVICES GRANTS *Programming and enrichment activities for children and youth*

**Lake Superior School District - ISD 381, Two Harbors: \$10,000**

To provide support for an out-of-school learning opportunity in Lake County to strengthen reading and math skills in elementary students and engage the community as learning allies.

**City of Chisholm, Chisholm: \$11,000**

To support professional development training opportunities for youth workers at the Chisholm Summer Recreation Program.

**Koochiching-Rainy River School District - ISD 363, Northome: \$20,000**

To support summer school programming for students K-6.

**Hartley Nature Center, Duluth: \$14,000**

To provide resources to increase access to outdoor education and learning to underserved youth.

**Mesabi Fit Coalition, Eveleth: \$30,000**

To support youth-led planning and development of out-of-school time programming for youth in Virginia, Eveleth, and Mountain Iron.

**Volunteers in Education, Virginia: 20,000**

To support tutoring services and academic support for academically at-risk K-8 students in northeast Minnesota.

**Duluth Public Schools - ISD 709, Duluth: \$6,500**

To support participation in a Historic Black College and University (HBCU) and Civil Rights History Tour for African, African American, and other Duluth area high school students and community members from diverse backgrounds.

BELONGING GRANTS *Efforts to help all people be fully a part of their community with the voice and power to shape institutions and systems*

**Family Freedom Center, Duluth: \$35,000**

To support programs that provide culturally grounded programming to serve members of Duluth's Black community including youth programming, elder outreach, community gardening, and entrepreneurship training.

**Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota, Duluth: \$30,000**

To support LGBTQ+ youth and allies in the Duluth area through support, networking, and advocacy.

**Waawaate Programs, Ely: \$20,000**

To support community-focused programming around Indigenous traditional practices, knowledge, and values.

**100 Rural Women, Marcell: \$10,000**

To support female leadership development on rural issues in northeast Minnesota.

BASIC NEEDS GRANTS *Food security, homeless services, affordable housing, and other human needs essential to wellbeing*

**Citizens for Backus AB Inc., International Falls: \$30,000**

To support efforts to reduce food insecurity in Koochiching County through community meal programs.

**Second Harvest North Central Food Bank, Grand Rapids: \$10,000**

To support food distribution to rural and underserved people in northeast Minnesota through a mobile Pop-Up Pantry.

**Union Gospel Mission, Duluth: \$35,000**

To support food, shelter, and supportive services programming for unhoused individuals in Duluth.

**Koochiching County Food Access, International Falls: \$150,000**

To support Borderland Community Food Center's vision, which aims to move the unhealthy and unjust food system of Koochiching County onto a path of sustainability, equity, and repair.

**Western Lake Superior Habitat for Humanity, Duluth: \$17,000**

To support affordable and sustainable housing and make safety and accessibility upgrades to older homes.

**Housing for Inmates Inc., Duluth: \$30,000**

To provide supportive services and housing to people in the Duluth area who were formerly incarcerated.

**Itasca County Habitat for Humanity, Grand Rapids: \$20,000**

To help support a new affordable housing program to increase the number of families served in Itasca County.

**One Roof Community Housing, Duluth: \$50,000**

To support the planning and development of a down payment assistance program for Black, Indigenous, and other people of color and first-generation homebuyer families in Duluth and surrounding communities.

**Koochiching Aging Options, International Falls, \$30,000**

To provide services to older adults and caregivers to help them maintain independence and age in place.

**North Shore Health Care Foundation, Grand Marais: \$30,000**

To support basic healthcare needs by improving existing services for youth and adults in Cook County.

**Zeitgeist Center for Arts and Community, Duluth: \$50,000**

To support a coalition of residents and community partner organizations to improve quality of life in the Hillside neighborhood of Duluth.

**SOAR Career Solutions, Duluth: \$30,000**

To support employment and re-entry services programming for people with employment barriers in the Duluth area.

ABUSE AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION GRANTS *Prevention and intervention in relation to domestic and family violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking*

**Carlton County, Carlton: \$150,000**

To help support the implementation of a sustainable, coordinated community response that will improve outcomes for victims and their children and disrupt generational violence.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/COMMUNITY VITALITY GRANTS *Other grants representing support for economic and community wellbeing in the region.*

**Accelerate Entrepreneurs Pilot Program, Northeast Minnesota: \$20,000**

Grants made in collaboration with the Minnesota Dept. of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation for a new program to help small businesses successfully navigate rapid growth.

- RSF Industries, Hibbing: \$14,360
- Advanced Machine Guarding Solution, Hibbing: \$5,640

**Itasca Economic Development Corporation, Grand Rapids: \$5,000**

To support the ongoing training on the Intercultural Development Inventory to government and community groups and organizations in Itasca County.

**Minnesota Diversified Industries, Minneapolis: \$30,000**

To support career development training for people with disabilities and provide businesses with tools to increase capacity and opportunities to employ people with disabilities in northeast Minnesota.

**Minnesota Council of Nonprofits, Saint Paul: \$12,000**

To support programming to strengthen the nonprofit sector in northeast Minnesota.