

Duluth-Proctor-Hermantown Thrive

The Northland Foundation's Thrive Initiative works to increase the capacity of community-based organizations that serve young children and their families and to strengthen the infant and early childhood mental health continuum of care in Duluth, Proctor, Hermantown, and the surrounding region. Early childhood mental health and the social-emotional development of young children has been defined as their developing capacity to experience, regulate, and express emotions; form close and secure interpersonal relationships; explore the environment, and learn. Thrive strategies include:

- Providing a forum for information-sharing to support the healthy social and emotional development of young children,
- Creating opportunities to network and build relationships among the individuals and agencies serving young children and their families,
- Spurring new partnerships, collaborations, and initiatives, and
- Offering local trainings presenting current information and research.



The Story of Thrive

Thrive was piloted by the Northland Foundation and the five other [Minnesota Initiative Foundations](#) starting in 2007 in response to Greater Minnesota communities calling for increased infant and early childhood mental health resources and access for rural families.

The Northland Foundation has provided technical assistance and support to guide its site, the Duluth-Proctor-Hermantown Thrive Action Team, to identify needs and implement action plans. Through their participation with Thrive, professionals from social services, medical and mental health, nonprofit agencies, County and Tribal Health and Human Services, early care and education, K-12, higher education, and other sectors have enhanced their practices as well as influenced systems change.

Teamwork in Action

The Duluth-Proctor-Hermantown Thrive Action Team has carried out innovative work resulting in a stronger network of infant and early childhood mental health resources in the region. Projects have included infant and early childhood mental health resource directories, reflective supervision, maternal mental health classes, and Circle of Security Parenting groups. Annually, 10 to 12 high-quality trainings provide learning opportunities to more than 800 professionals working with young children and families.

Thrive Funding Partners

The Minnesota Thrive Initiative pilot project ended in June 2010, but the Northland Foundation remains committed to Thrive. With funding support from Essentia Health and other partners, the Duluth-Proctor-Hermantown Thrive Action Team meets monthly to learn, network, collaborate, and implement projects rooted in best practice.