



Northland Foundation awards 54 grants totaling \$976,910 January - April 2023

Northeast MN and Tribal Nation Land Holdings – The Northland Foundation awarded grant funds to benefit the people and communities within its geographic service area, which includes the counties of Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, and St. Louis and Native nations Zagaakwaandagowiniwag (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).

A number of awards were made in partnership with other funding sources designed to strengthen access to child care in the region.

Following a regional research study, the Northland Foundation launched a Child Care Workforce Solutions Pilot Project to make flexible funding available through a competitive process to help licensed child care programs address staff recruitment and retention. In partnership with the [City of Duluth 1200 Fund](#), the Northland Foundation awarded 17 grants, totaling \$120,500 to assist licensed child care programs with implementing creative recruitment and retention strategies. In partnership with the [Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota Foundation](#) and other partners, Northland awarded funding to 30 licensed child care programs totaling \$212,061 to implement workforce solution strategies.

The Northland Foundation is also currently implementing [grant opportunities to help child care](#) businesses start and expand in the region, including special funding for Greater St. Louis County child care, as well as offering grants to existing licensed family- and center-based child care to help pay for critical needs that allow them to sustain services.

In addition to quarterly grants, Maada'ookiing Indigenous-led grants and Youth In Philanthropy grants are also announced. The [Maada'ookiing Board](#) awarded seven grants totaling \$17,310 in late March. [Maada'ookiing](#) grants are made to individuals to support creative projects that strengthen Indigenous community, culture, and regional capacity.

In addition, two grants were awarded in April by the young people of the [Youth In Philanthropy Board](#). The grants help support school and community projects that are planned and developed by children and youth, with funding from the Scott and Holly Martin Family Foundation and other Northland Foundation Emeritus Trustee Group members.

All grants awarded January 1 – April 30, 2023, are as follows.

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION GRANTS

Aitkin Public Schools - ISD 001, Aitkin: \$10,000

To support social emotional learning activities for young children in the Aitkin school district.

Cook County Schools - ISD 166, Grand Marais: \$13,000

To expand early childhood family education programming to the west end of Cook County and Grand Portage.

Licensed Child Care Workforce Grants, Duluth: \$120,500

In partnership with the City of Duluth 1200 Fund, the Northland Foundation awarded 17 grants to assist licensed child care programs with implementing creative recruitment and retention strategies.

Arrowhead Zoological Society: \$2,500

Bubbling Brook Child Care Center: \$12,000

Aunty's Childcare: \$7,500

Young Minds Learning Center: \$5,000

Hope for Kids Childcare Center: \$7,500

Endion Square Children's Center, LLC: \$5,000

Happy Time Day Care Center: \$12,000

Little Lambs Learning Center: \$5,000

Montessori School of Duluth, Inc.: \$5,000

New Hope Child Care: \$5,000

Lakeside Early Learning, Duluth: \$12,000

Educational Frontiers Inc.: \$12,000

Stella Maris Academy: \$7,500

Building Blocks Learning Center: \$12,000

Mesabi Preschool Academy, LLC: \$5,000

YWCA of Duluth: \$5,000

Lakeview Christian Academy: \$2,500

Child Care in Greater St. Louis County: \$260,100

In partnership with St. Louis County, the Northland Foundation is administering American Rescue Plan Act funding to help existing licensed child care programs and new start-up child care businesses in Greater St. Louis County. Grants include sustainability grants, start-up and expansion grants, and project grants prioritized by the County Board of Commissioners.

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

Nancy's Day Care, Virginia \$1,100

Brilliant Minds, Eveleth \$4,000

Start-Up And Expansion Grants help support the start-up or expansion of center-based or family-based child care programs in Greater St. Louis County.

Tranquility Childcare, Eveleth \$5,000

To support the initial start-up of a family child care program.

Priority Projects provide funding to identified projects as directed by the St. Louis County Board of Commissioners.

Polar Cubs Childcare Center, Floodwood: \$175,000

To support construction and initial start-up of Polar Cubs Childcare Center.

Valley Youth Centers, Duluth: \$15,000

To conduct a feasibility study to explore including a child care center in the development of the Spirit Valley Building for Youth & Community Wellness.

Child Care Start-up and Expansion Grants, Northeast Minnesota: \$65,000

In partnership with the State of Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development the Northland Foundation awarded two grants to support the start-up or expansion of center-based or family-based child care programs in northeast Minnesota.

Baudeck's Daycare, LLC, Chisholm: \$25,000

Polar Cubs Childcare Center, Floodwood: \$40,000

BELONGING GRANTS

Zeitgeist Center for Arts and Community, Duluth: \$20,000

To support community organizing efforts to improve the quality of life in Duluth's Central Hillside neighborhood.

ABUSE AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION GRANTS

Native Lives Matter Coalition, Superior: \$17,000

To provide activities across the Duluth area to advocate, heal, and support Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relations.

Men As Peacemakers, Duluth: \$40,000

To support programming for youth in grades 4 - 12 in the Duluth area around violence prevention, gender equity, social emotional learning, and leadership development.

OUT-OF-SCHOOL-TIME SERVICES GRANTS

Mentor North, Duluth: \$30,000

To foster connections between caring adults and at-risk youth.

GND Development Alliance, Duluth: \$20,000

To support out-of-school time enrichment programs for youth in the Gary-New Duluth neighborhood.

BASIC NEEDS GRANTS

Koochiching County Food Access, International Falls: \$25,000

To support efforts to reduce food and nutritional insecurity through a variety of programs throughout Koochiching County.

American Indian Community Housing Organization, Duluth: \$75,000

To provide support services for families living in the Gimaajii-Mino-Bimaadizimin building and general operating support for AICHO.

Life House Inc, Duluth: \$35,000

General operating support for programming to assist youth at-risk of or experiencing homelessness.

United Way of Northeastern Minnesota, Chisholm: \$35,000

To provide support to youth experiencing homelessness and families moving into permanent housing.

Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency, Virginia: \$75,000

To support the expansion of shelter and services for people experiencing homelessness across the Iron Range.

Grace House of Itasca County, Grand Rapids: \$10,000

To support shelter and services to people experiencing homelessness in Itasca County.

Churches United In Ministry, Duluth: \$30,000

To strengthen supportive services to children and families at the Steve O'Neil Apartments.

Care Partners of Cook County, Grand Marais: \$25,000

To support programs and services to help older adults live independently in Cook County.

Ely Community Health Center, Ely: \$20,000

To support access to health and dental care for people without insurance in the Ely area.

Sawtooth Mountain Clinic Inc, Grand Marais: \$20,000

To support access to oral health care services and education for children, youth, and older adults.

Cook County Higher Education, Grand Marais: \$25,000

To support commercial driver license training opportunities in Cook County.

COMMUNITY VITALITY GRANTS

APEX, Duluth: \$15,000

To support economic development efforts in Duluth and the surrounding area.

Grumpelstiltskins Fiber Mill, Culver: \$15,000

To support a pilot program, in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation (DIRRR), that assists small businesses to help them successfully navigate rapid growth.

Duluth Library Foundation, Duluth: \$15,000

To support planning for the redevelopment of the downtown branch of the Duluth Library to better serve the community.

MAADA'OOKIING GRANTS

Sam Zimmerman, Duluth: \$2,500

To create a series of paintings celebrating Ojibwe constellations and seasonal teachings, design and create Ojibwemowin coloring pages, and exhibit and distribute the materials.

Lurinda DeFoe, Brookston: \$2,500

To hold a multi-day class teaching Fond du Lac youth about the traditional harvesting and use of wiigwaas, or birch bark.

Wendy Savage, Duluth: \$2,310

To develop a lecture on the history of Ojibwe moss bags and create an accompanying art activity book and art lesson instructing children on creating one.

Crystal Seelye, Cass Lake: \$2,500

To teach Indigenous youth about the history of ribbon skirts and how to make their own.

Frank Goodwin, Duluth: \$2,500

To host a support group for Native American fathers focusing on wellness, relationships, and parenting skills.

Keith Secola, Crystal: \$2,500

To develop and arrange two original songs for use in school band classes to increase indigenous visibility and build capacity to teach native culture.

Fawn Sampson, Grand Rapids: \$2,500

To host a strategic action meeting to develop a pilot project plan for an Arts and Culture Center in Grand Rapids.

YOUTH IN PHILANTHROPY GRANTS

Hope Community Presbyterian Church, Virginia: \$1,000

To support children and families with food access challenges before and after school.

Girl Scouts of MN/WI Lakes & Pines, Duluth: \$1,000

To provide youth and adults with life-saving learning opportunities to help protect people in their community.

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