



Northland Foundation awards 28 grants totaling \$549,610 in first quarter of 2024

Rural aging, child care expansion funding awards highlighted

(May 20, 2024)

Northeast MN and Tribal Nation Lands – In the first months of 2025, the Northland Foundation awarded more than half a million dollars through its [Quarterly Grant program](#), as well as nine special opportunity grants to help child care programs start up, sustain operations, and expand access to child care in the region.

Quarterly grants are generally grants of \$10,000 or more made to nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations, Tribal Nations, local governmental agencies, and educational institutions/school districts.

Nearly one half of recent grant dollars went toward basic needs: food security and access; housing and homeless services; services to help older adults to age in place, health and wellness including mental health; and more. Another \$147,000 of recent grants are contributing to out-of-school time programming for children and youth.

“After school, weekends, summer months – times when kids are *not* in the classroom – are opportunities for positive interaction and activities,” states Michelle Ufford, who leads the foundation’s Grant Program. “We are eager to support programming that fosters development, learning, and overall well-being for all kids, especially those most at risk of ‘falling through the cracks’ or living in communities where resources are thinner.”

The Northland Foundation works within the counties of Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, and St. Louis, and the 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).

All quarterly grants awarded January 1 – March 31, 2024, are listed as follows.

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

Damiano of Duluth, Duluth: \$30,000

To provide general operating support for emergency food, clothing, and other vital services for people in need in Duluth.

The Salvation Army Duluth, Duluth: \$10,000

To provide operating support for food assistance programming for community members in St. Louis County.

North St. Louis County Habitat for Humanity, Virginia: \$50,000

To support the development of affordable housing within communities in northern St. Louis County.

Servants of Shelter of Koochiching County, International Falls: \$40,000

To support emergency shelter and permanent supportive housing programming in International Falls.

Divine Konnections, Duluth: \$25,000

To provide supportive services to mothers and children who are Black, Native American, or other people of color and who are experiencing homelessness.

Tourist Center Senior Citizens, Hibbing: \$10,000

To provide operating support for supportive programming for seniors in St. Louis County.

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.

Well Being Development, Ely: \$30,000

To provide person-centered, evidence-based programming to community members impacted by mental illness and substance use challenges in northern St. Louis County.

Miller-Dwan Foundation, Duluth: \$25,000

To expand accessibility of post-pandemic mental health care in the Duluth area through a network of community support intermediary organizations.

23rd Veteran, Duluth: \$25,000

To provide general operating support for services that address trauma and build community for veterans in St. Louis County.

BELONGING GRANTS *Support for projects and initiatives designed to help everyone, especially those who are under-served or underrepresented in traditional power structures, to gain full and fair access to essentials like quality housing, education, and employment, and generally thrive*

Youth Empowerment Support and Safety, Virginia: \$37,110

To support expanded supportive services that address the needs of LGBTQIA+ youth across the Iron Range.

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

Lincoln Park Children and Families Collaborative, Duluth: \$10,000

To provide general operating support for early childhood, youth programming, and parent services in the Lincoln Park neighborhood of Duluth.

Duluth 1200 Fund Child Care Workforce Grants

In partnership with the City of Duluth 1200 Fund, to assist licensed child care programs to implement creative staff recruitment and retention strategies.

- **Montessori School of Duluth, Inc., Duluth: \$5,000**
- **RSH Education, LLC, Duluth: \$2,500**
- **Little Lambs Learning Center, Duluth: \$5,000**
- **Essentia Health St Mary's Child Care Center, Duluth: \$10,000**
- **Regents of the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis: \$10,000**

Greater St. Louis County Start-up and Expansion Grants

To support the initial start-up of two licensed family child care programs in partnership with St. Louis County.

- **Alexis Skomsoyvog, Chisholm: \$5,000**
- **Up North Daycare, Orr: \$5,000**

Greater St. Louis County Sustainability Grants

In partnership with St. Louis County, to assist licensed child care programs located in Greater St. Louis County that experienced an unanticipated repair, upgrade, or equipment replacement required to maintain services.

- **Brandie's Little Bear Learning Center, Eveleth: \$15,000**

Greater St. Louis County Child Care Workforce Grants

To support licensed child care programs to implement creative staff recruitment and retention strategies, in partnership with St. Louis County.

- **Kiddy Karousel Child Care Center, Hibbing: \$10,000**

INTEGRATED RURAL COMMUNITY AGING PROGRAM GRANTS *A Northland Foundation program providing resources to three rural sites and three Tribal nations to integrate care coordination, social engagement, and quality of care for older adults, Tribal elders, and their caregivers*

Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, Nett Lake: \$25,000

To provide multi-year support for intergenerational activities through the Bois Forte AGE to age Program.

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

Great Expectations School, Grand Marais: \$10,000

To support an after-school Makers Space at the Great Expectations School in Grand Marais.

Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Grand Portage: \$30,000

To provide educational and recreational after-school programming for youth at the Grand Portage Reservation

Duluth Community School Collaborative, Duluth: \$25,000

To support out-of-school programming and student family basic needs at Duluth Public School District community schools.

Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Grand Portage: \$25,000

To support an Ojibwe language immersion summer camp for Grand Portage youth.

Mentor North, Duluth: \$30,000

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

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