

MAY 2021 - MAY 2025

# Maada'ookiing Outcomes & Impacts

## Contact Us

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## The Story of Maada'ookiing

In Indigenous community, the act of giving and sharing is a mutual act that benefits the entire community. Traditional giveaway ceremonies involve thoughtful preparation, kind intention, and putting positive energy into the gift itself. In this spirit, Maada'ookiing ("the distribution") was created.

Seeking to strengthen partnerships with Native nations and community members, Northland Foundation approached Tribal officials and other Native American leaders for guidance. Through a group process, these leaders determined the structure and strategies for a new Native-led philanthropy program. Maada'ookiing was introduced in May 2021.

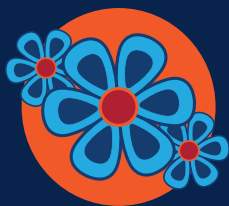
## Indigenous Designed and Led

An advisory board made up of Tribal and Native American leaders from the area help guide the program and approve funding. Grassroots grantmaking is a key component. Grants up to \$5,000 are awarded three times per year to individuals or groups to support creative community solutions and activities. This effort has led to the opportunity to help fund a wide variety of projects throughout the region.

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|  <b>Zagaakwaandagowininiwag</b><br>(Bois Forte Band of Chippewa)<br><b>\$17,500 (7 Grants)</b>                |  <b>Carlton County</b><br><b>\$5,000 (2 Grants)</b>                  |
|  <b>Nagaajiwanaang</b><br>(Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa)<br><b>\$64,400 (22 Grants)</b>         |  <b>Northern St. Louis County</b><br><b>\$17,490 (5 Grant)</b>       |
|  <b>Gichi Onigaming</b><br>(Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa)<br><b>\$30,000 (10 Grants)</b>      |  <b>Southern St. Louis County</b><br><b>\$47,210 (17 Grants)</b>     |
|  <b>Gaa-zagaskwaajimekaag</b><br>(Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe-District I)<br><b>\$40,000 (12 Grants)</b>        |  <b>Regional/Multiple Communities</b><br><b>\$59,829 (24 Grants)</b> |
|  <b>Misi-zaaga'igani Anishinaabeg</b><br>(Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe District II)<br><b>\$5,000 (2 Grants)</b> |  <b>Itasca County</b><br><b>\$5,000 (2 Grant)</b>                    |



## Voices of Grantees



**Danielle Fairbanks**  
*Moccasin Making*

"My goal was to preserve and share knowledge, ensuring that teachings could be passed down to future educators. This project allowed me to help others feel a sense of connection, belonging, and pride as they prepared and completed their moccasins."



**Brian Stillday**  
*Singing and Dancing*

"We are all connected one way or another. I would like to bring this to every community of the surrounding areas."



**Nedahness Greene**  
*Finding Strength and Healing*

The Journey of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women: "Organizing this event was a deeply transformative experience, both for me personally and for the community it served."

## Major Grant Project Themes

### Passing on Knowledge

Indigenous Language-based Teachings  
Storytelling  
The Seven Grandfather Teachings  
Mahnomini (Wild Rice) Harvest  
Birch Bark & Basswood Basketry

### The Arts

Textile Arts & Regalia  
Beadwork  
Anishinaabe Imagery  
Drum & Dance

### Healing and Wellness

Ceremony & Prayer  
Traditional Food & Medicine Systems  
Smudging  
Medicine Bags  
Feasting

## Reflections and Impressions

We are humbled to reflect upon lessons learned, wisdom gained and shared, and the invaluable guidance of the voices of our community.

In 2024, the maximum grant award increased from \$2,500 to \$5,000 with the hope of opening up more possibilities for grantees to grow their good work in their communities.

Maada'ookiing grants have funded activities and projects that have blossomed into larger projects or initiatives or inspired other community-building projects and ideas. It is exciting to think about what comes next for our talented and innovative grantees. Maada'ookiing, as well, will continue to grow and evolve, and we are grateful for the opportunity to shine a light on the beautiful work that is being done.

*Miigwech to the Maada'ookiing Advisory Board members for their dedication and to grantees for their hard work and creativity!*

MAADA'OOKIING IS  
AN INDIGENOUS-LED  
PROGRAM OF THE



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