



SOUTHERN MINNESOTA  
INITIATIVE FOUNDATION

Collaborating for Regional Vitality

# Winona County Investments

We envision southern Minnesota as a prosperous and growing region with vibrant communities, innovative and successful economies, and engaged and valued citizens. To achieve this vision, Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation, a regional development and philanthropic organization, fosters economic and community vitality in 20 counties of southern Minnesota through a culture of collaboration and partnership.

For every donation of  
from Winona County

\$1



\$21

is invested back  
into Winona County  
communities.\*

\*Includes grants, loans & programming

## 40 LOANS

\$1.9 million to Winona County entrepreneurs

## 219 GRANTS

\$2 million to support community initiatives

***\$5 million invested annually to the 20 counties of  
south central and southeastern Minnesota***

Since 1986, Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation has leveraged local investments & partnerships to create a stronger **Winona County**:

**\$344,000** in local donations to SMIF

# \$7.2 million

invested by SMIF in Winona County through grants, loans, and programming for stronger kids, businesses and communities

## Loans & Equity Investments\* Supporting local entrepreneurs & creating jobs

Premier Tool Repair, Winona	Tool repair, rental & resale of tools
Whitewater Gardens Farm, Altura	Small-scale vegetable farm
Bluff Country Co-op, Winona	Co-op grocery store
Kind LLC, Utica	Home health care
Gypsoil Pelletized Products, St. Charles	Converts gypsum into a granule capable of blending with fertilizers

\*Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation in partnership with CEDA and DEED hold the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Region 10, allowing these counties to apply for Economic Development Administration funding at the Federal level.

## Grants Investments in economic development, early childhood and community vitality

AmeriCorps LEAP Initiative, St. Charles and Winona	Members helping with social emotional skill development
SE MN Together	Collaborative regional project to address workforce issues
Project FINE	Creative online marketing for diverse businesses
Winona County	Farmers' Market project to assist immigrant and local growers
St. Charles Public Schools	Hundreds of books awarded for "ECFE on Wheels"
A Chance to Grow, Winona	Continued S.M.A.R.T. training to prepare children for kindergarten
Riverway Learning Community	Hundreds of books awarded through multiple literacy grants
Whitewater Garden Farms, Altura	FEAST! Smart Start client
Quality Child Care Program, St. Charles and Winona	Increasing quality child care through provider training
Winona Port Authority	Trainings and resources for entrepreneurs and "The Garage Cowork"

## Affiliate Funds Increasing rural philanthropy

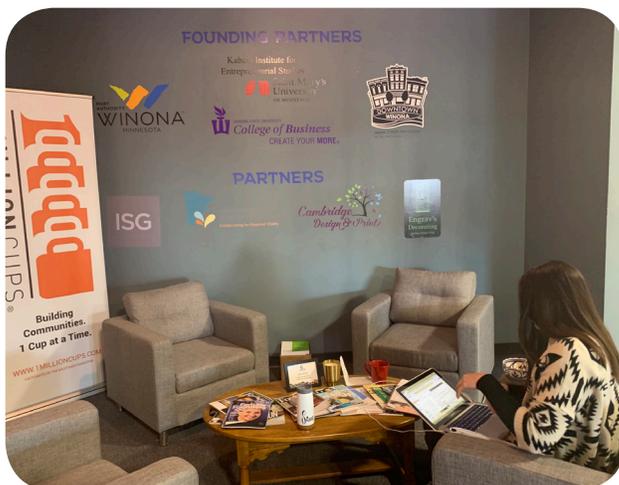
St. Charles Area Community Foundation	Greenspace Fund
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## Community Collaborations Bringing communities together for change

City of St. Charles, Regional Community Growth Initiative
Winona Community Growth Initiative
St. Charles Early Childhood Initiative (started in 2012)
Winona Early Childhood Initiative (started in 2006)

## Making a Difference

Fostering economic development through coworking spaces



Winona Port Authority received an Economic Development Grant to support a series of training sessions and resources for entrepreneurs. Their new coworking space, The Garage Cowork, hosts these trainings and offers a space for professionals to build their business, connect with others, and receive guidance. SMIF is proud to be a part of this innovative project in Winona focused on inspiring entrepreneurs and fostering economic development. "Thanks to these communities and partnerships southern Minnesota continues to springboard new ideas creating pathways to grow innovative entrepreneurs," Pam Bishop, Vice President of Economic Development at SMIF.