



SOUTHERN MINNESOTA
INITIATIVE FOUNDATION

Collaborating for Regional Vitality

Houston 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 Houston County

\$1



\$12

is invested back into
Houston County
communities.*

*Includes grants, loans & programming

10 LOANS

\$593,000 to Houston entrepreneurs

82 GRANTS

\$464,00 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 **Houston County**:

\$153,000 in local donations to SMIF

\$1.8 million

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

Loans & Equity Investments* Supporting local entrepreneurs & creating jobs

Amanda's Daycare, Hokah	Family child care provider
Caledonia Oil Company	Service station
Eitzen Manufacturing Incorporated	Manufacturer of feed and hay handling equipment
Sno Pac Foods, Caledonia	Organic food processor
Old Hickory Orchards Incorporated, La Crescent	Apple Orchard
Spring Grove Battery	Remanufactured power tool batteries and battery sales

*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, Ridgeway Community School, Houston	Members helping with social emotional skill development
One Big Thing: SE MN Together	Collaborative regional project to address workforce issues
Spring Grove Area - Past Present and Future	New model to support entrepreneurs and businesses
Caledonia Green Street Scapes	8 gallons of paint for Main Street mural
La Crescent Public Library	Promoting summer literacy with Lunch Wagon event
Houston County Public Health	Provide social and emotional screenings and early literacy activities
Disaster Recovery Grant	Replacement of equipment and losses sustained due to flood
Spring Grove Public Schools	Create Makerspace program for students
City of Houston	Youth program to investigate local issues

Community Collaborations Bringing communities together for change

Spring Grove "Entrepreneur Community Growth Initiative"
La Crescent Community Growth Initiative
Houston County Early Childhood Initiative (started in 2006)
Rural Entrepreneurial Venture (REV) Community, Spring Grove

Making a Difference Empowering youth in small communities



The Spring Grove Public School District received a \$10,000 Small Town Grant from SMIF to support a new Community Makerspace Program that will empower and direct students to address community challenges through their own individualized, creative projects. The Makerspace allows students to explore hands-on learning including woodworking, 3-D printing, and more. The grant helps build capacity for the project by providing necessary tools, equipment and supplies for students to apply their skills to community challenges like housing, walkability and public art.