



SOUTHERN MINNESOTA
INITIATIVE FOUNDATION

Collaborating for Regional Vitality

Mower 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 Mower County

\$1

=

\$10

is invested back
into Mower County
communities.*

*Includes grants, loans & programming

29 LOANS

\$928,000 to Mower County entrepreneurs

125 GRANTS

\$825,000 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 **Mower County**:

\$336,000 in local donations to SMIF

\$3.5 million

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

Loans & Equity Investments* Supporting local entrepreneurs & creating jobs

Hill Concrete & Masonry L.L.C., Lyle	Concrete and masonry
Jessica's Daycare, Austin	Family child care
Auscon Inc, Austin	Electronic Manufacturing Services (EMS)
CanCure Laboratories LLC, Austin	Biotechnological company that develops an anticancer drug
Akkerman, Brownsdale	Develops, manufactures & supports pipe jacking & tunneling equip.
West Oakland Auto Repair, Austin	Mechanic and auto repair shop
Austin BioSciences LLC	Medical diagnostic company focused on cancer detection

*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, Austin and Lyle	Members helping with social emotional skill development
A Chance to Grow, Austin	Continued S.M.A.R.T. training to prepare children for kindergarten
Riverland Community College Foundation, Austin	High Tech Farm & Agbio-Entrepreneur Camps for aspiring farmers
Southern MN Education Consortium, Adams	Hundreds of books awarded through multiple literacy grants
Austin Aspires	Parent training in multiple languages for kindergarten readiness
Parenting Resource Center Incorporated, Austin	Community workshop open to child care providers and preschools
Jacaranda LLC, Austin	Prosperity Initiative client
Austin Community Growth Ventures	Commercialization co-working space
Austin Early Childhood Initiative	Social emotional development project in child care settings
Leroy-Ostrander Public Schools Community Education	Awarded 275 books for library family event
Parenting Resource Center Inc	Awarded 250 books to help connect separated children & parents

Affiliate Funds Increasing rural philanthropy

Hormel CARE Fund (employee assistance fund)	Hirsh Family Foundation Fund
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Community Collaborations Bringing communities together for change

Austin Early Childhood Initiative (started in 2006)
Development Corp. of Austin, Biobusiness Community Growth Initiative
Austin (United Way of Mower County), Communities Addressing the Child Care Shortage

Making a Difference Addressing the child care crisis



Child care is an economic driver for communities in greater Minnesota, and child care shortages have a dramatic impact on families and the local economy. Recent research shows that Austin is short 847 child care slots.

Austin was selected as one of five communities for a new program called Communities Addressing the Child Care Shortage. SMIF will work with a core leadership team over a period of 6 to 18 months to develop a plan that is best suited for Austin's needs.