



SOUTHERN MINNESOTA
INITIATIVE FOUNDATION

Collaborating for Regional Vitality

Nicollet 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 Nicollet County

\$1

=

\$14

is invested back
into Nicollet County
communities.*

*Includes grants, loans & programming

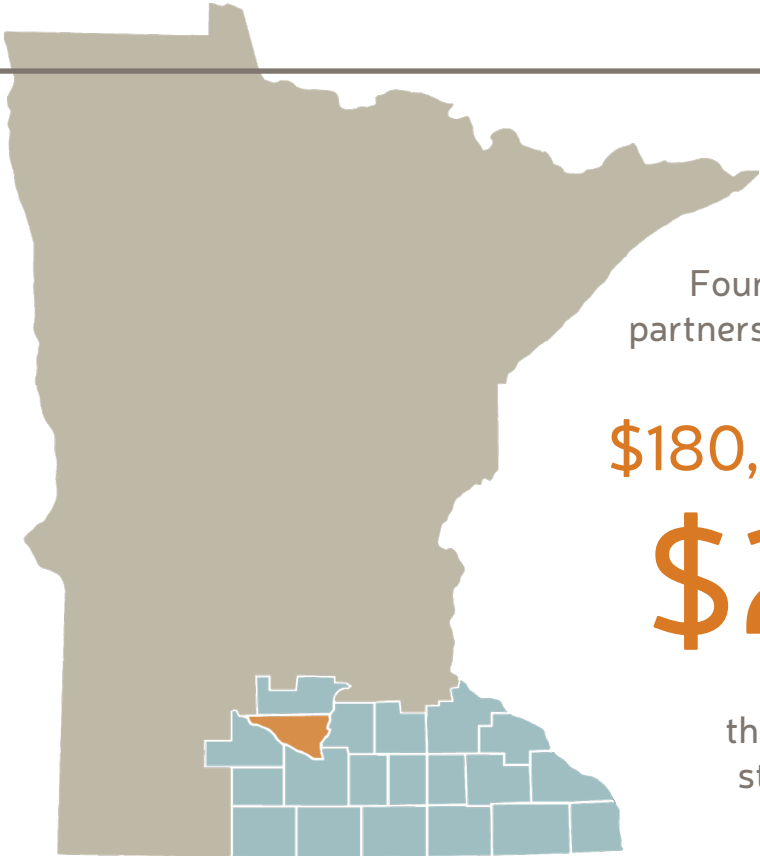
18 LOANS

\$979,000 to Nicollet County entrepreneurs

72 GRANTS

\$497,000 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 **Nicollet County**:

\$180,000 in local donations to SMIF

\$2.5 million

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

Loans & Equity Investments* Supporting local entrepreneurs & creating jobs

Angie's Artisan Treats LLC, North Mankato	Snack food manufacturer
River Rock Coffee LLC, Saint Peter	Café specializing in fresh homemade foods and speciality drinks
Exceed Packaging Inc, Saint Peter	Contract packaging (non-food) & assembly
Lucky's Popcorn Dressing LLC, North Mankato	Manufactures, bottles & distributes gourmet sauces
CAB Construction Company, North Mankato	Manufacturing, metal fabrication, and construction enterprise

*SCORE Chapter

Grants Investments in economic development, early childhood and community vitality

AmeriCorps LEAP (Learning Early Achieves Potential), Saint Peter	Members helping with social emotional skill development
Saint Peter Community Childcare Center Incorporated	Hundreds of books awarded through multiple literacy grants
Saint Peter Public Schools	Linking to learning - program supporting parents of at-risk students
Region Nine Centers of Excellence, Mankato	Trainings on the social emotional development of children birth to 5
ECDN (Early Childhood Dental Network), Blue Earth & Nicollet County	Increase awareness of the importance of dental health in children
Region Nine	Increasing capacity to provide technical assistance to entrepreneurs
MNVAC	Implement Growing Great Kids curriculum
Quality Child Care Program, Saint Peter	Increasing quality child care through provider training
Nicollet Public Schools	Awarded 75 books for bookmobile program
Ruhk, North Mankato	FEAST! Smart Start client
Region Nine	FEAST! Smart Start grant to expand local foods coaching program

Making a Difference

Training child care providers



More than 650 child care providers have participated in SMIF's Quality Child Care Program (QCCP) since its launch in 2013, and 28% of participants have gone on to participate in Minnesota's Parent Aware Quality Rating System. Saint Peter recently hosted one of these trainings and had 13 child care providers attend.

Using a case study model based on a typical rural Minnesota child care provider named Angie, providers learn the true value of high quality child care and how it can impact the bottom line of their business. Providers receive two credit hours of approved training through Develop, Minnesota's quality rating and improvement tool.