



30th Anniversary Community Collaboration Grantees

Early Childhood Initiatives: \$94,000 total

Austin Early Childhood Initiative, Mower County – “Social Emotional Development in the Daycare Setting”
Provide social emotional training to daycare staff using the Tier One Pyramid Model. Students in those daycares will be pre- and post-tested using an assessment tool tied to the training and developmental standards. Participating child care sites will receive social emotional toolkits and materials to use and keep.

Brown County Early Childhood Initiative – “Librarians Building Social Skills”
The Public Librarians (with the assistance of ECFE staff) in Brown County will visit 25 child care providers in Brown County to not only encourage and develop literacy opportunities within the program, but to give the provider the tools to also help children develop their social/emotional skills in order to be successful in kindergarten.

Fairmont Early Childhood Initiative, Martin County – “ECI on the Go”
Fairmont’s ECI outreach plan includes active, early learning visits to day care providers/centers with age appropriate literacy and dental resources, as well as exciting learning activities. Parent information letters with additional learning activities will be distributed through the provider or center following each visit. Collaboration with other local and county ECFE, Healthy Families and ECI home visitor programs will complement and enhance the efforts of each to promote early learning awareness and opportunities to both youth and adults in a unique way.

Lake Crystal Area Early Childhood Initiative, Blue Earth County – “Our Community, Our Kids”
Provide educational presentations to the community. Presentation topics would be centered around community concerns, social / emotional development and parenting strategies.

New Prague Early Childhood Initiative, Le Sueur County – “Social Emotional Book Bags”
Create social emotional-themed take home book bags for Pre K teachers and childcare providers in the community. They will host an initial training for the Pre K and childcare sites provided by a parent educator to teach social emotional skills referencing the Second Step Curriculum, send each home with five book bags on themes including manners, dealing with disappointment, problem solving, anger, and feelings.

Northfield Early Childhood Initiative, Rice County – “Apoyando Nuestros Bebes (Supporting Our Babies)”
Access to high quality early childhood programming is strongly linked to kindergarten readiness, future academic success, and overall health and wellbeing. With support from SMIF, Northfield Public Schools Early Childhood Initiative Coalition will implement three innovative outreach efforts, the Latino Childcare Providers Network, Early Learning Childcare at the Greenvale Park Community School and Tiempo Para Bebe (Time for Baby Class).

Saint Charles Early Childhood Initiative, Winona County – “Early Learning Outdoor Community Playground”
Continue Saint Charles’ ECI work in enhancing the social and emotional skills in the young children of their community. They plan to continue to install an age-appropriate play space at the elementary school to be used by preschool children as well as the community.

Tri-City United Early Childhood Initiative, Rice County – “Parents Support Early Literacy”
Focus on parents’ education of early literacy. They believe that by providing learning opportunities for parents in their community, children’s learning will be directly affected at all stages of their childhood.





SOUTHERN MINNESOTA
INITIATIVE FOUNDATION

525 Florence Avenue • PO Box 695 • Owatonna, MN 55060-0695
PH 507.455.3215 • FAX 507.455.2098 • smifoundation.org

Watonwan County Early Childhood Initiative – “Investment in Child Care”

Increase the quality and quantity of child care options in Watonwan County due to the shortage of child care in the area. Collaborating partners in this effort include the Economic Development Authority (EDA), County Day Care Licensor - Family Child Care, Day Care Centers, AmeriCorps and Public School Early Childhood programs.

Winona Early Childhood Initiative, Winona County – “Community PreK-3 EduSnap Initiative”

EduSnap is a time sampling observation instrument that describes the children’s’ experiences throughout the day within activity settings, learning content and teaching approaches. The data collected allows teachers and administrators to see areas of practice that include strengths and areas that need improvement. Funding will provide organizations the opportunity for vertical planning, professional development, guided observations, etc., as they work towards improving the educational experiences of young children.





Community Foundations: \$140,400 total

Blue Earth Community Foundation, Faribault County – “Blue Earth Community Marketing Project”
Develop and implement a mixed media marketing campaign for Blue Earth. The grant will be paired with other locally raised funds and directed by a committee led by the Blue Earth Community Foundation.

City of Eagle Lake (Affiliate Fund Partner: Eagle Lake Community Development Foundation), Blue Earth County – “Active Community League (ACL)”
Create a recreation program aimed at introducing youth ages 13-18 to international and historical sports. In addition to providing equipment and organized events for those interested in learning about the sports and recreation activities, ACL will also strive to support more traditional sports leagues in Eagle Lake, as recent trends have seen Eagle Lake teams and leagues become consumed by nearby Mankato’s recreation leagues. The Community Collaboration Grant would allow the City of Eagle Lake to introduce youth to unique and historical activities, while also supporting efforts to bring sports teams and leagues back to Eagle Lake.

City of Henderson (Affiliate Fund Partner: Henderson Community Foundation), Sibley County – “Park Shelter Project”
Collaboratively build a 50' x 90' general use park shelter to compliment the facilities at Bender Park. The shelter would allow for expanded use of the park for various community festivals and events.

City of Mapleton (Affiliate Fund Partner: Mapleton Community Foundation), Blue Earth County – “Library 'Park Equipment”
The project will replace the two current pieces of park equipment that are unsafe for our children. They are currently over 30 years old. The city will update these two pieces of equipment with new equipment. This equipment would be for children ages 5 to 12.

Ellendale Community Foundation, Steele County – “Ellendale Community Building Stage 1 Project”
Make Ellendale’s Community Building entrance in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations. They will install handicap push button doors along with updating the entrance.

Harmony Area Historical Society (Affiliate Fund Partner: Harmony Area Community Foundation), Fillmore County – “Harmony Historical Project”
Develop a historical walking tour with a timeline of Harmony’s history. Signage to be focal point along with brochure development.

Lanesboro Area Community Foundation, Fillmore County – “Lanesboro Community Information Project”
Work in collaboration with the Lanesboro Public Schools and the Lanesboro Lions Club to install an electronic sign/display in a highly visible location to enhance awareness of community events and activities and share important/critical information. The sign will be installed on school property, facing Lanesboro’s main thoroughfare.

Parent Teacher League (Affiliate Fund Partner: Plainview Area Foundation), Wabasha County – “Playground Equipment Update”
The Parent Teacher League of the Immanuel Lutheran School is looking to replace the worn out playground equipment at our school. The equipment is used by the preschool thru 2nd grade school kids and is over 20 years old; the wood is disintegrating and is becoming unsafe for daily use.





Rochester Area Foundation (Affiliate Fund Partner: Byron Community Foundation), Olmsted County – “Most Fit City”

Team R.E.D. (Run. Eat. Drink.) strives to make Byron, MN as “The Most Fit City” in Minnesota. The title will be earned by building upon their existing assets and collaboration with other organizations. With these funds Team R.E.D will purchase fitness related equipment and implement a plan for cost effective ways for all members and their community to access the equipment and the events supported by Team R.E.D. The project will increase the visibility of the Byron Community Foundation and the amount of youth and families able to participate in activities within the Byron Community Foundation service area.

City of Rushford (Affiliate Fund Partner: Rushford Community Foundation), Fillmore County – “Veterans Memorial Park in Creekside Park”

In September 2016, Phase 1 of the Veterans’ Memorial Park in Rushford was dedicated with hundreds of local people and visiting dignitaries in attendance. The park, with its three flags and service stones, is beautiful and meaningful and involved many volunteers. There is a Phase 2 and a Phase 3 planned, and this grant will help with Phase 2 this summer, which includes installing ten markers, one for each war/conflict that local citizens served in.

Saint Charles Area Community Foundation, Winona County – “Saint Charles Green Space Initiative”

Develop a currently vacant green space into a functional community space. The focus of the initiative is to bring the community together in the development of a usable platform to hold meetings, provide educational programs, and hold other community-building events. The SMIF Community Collaboration Grant funding will be used to develop a concrete vision for the space, to acquire plans and a 3-D rendering of the space, and to begin securing additional funding to complete the project.

City of Sleepy Eye (Affiliate Fund Partner: Sleepy Eye Area Foundation), Brown County – “PrairieView Playground Rehabilitation”

PrairieView is a recreational softball facility in Sleepy Eye with a small playground for younger siblings of players. A local group has raised funds for improving the field. This project will upgrade the playground.

City of Spring Valley (Affiliate Fund Partner: Spring Valley Area Community Foundation), Fillmore County – “Life Trail Fitness Equipment”

Place age-specific exercise equipment along the bike/walking trail. Some will be placed beside the Senior Living Center and some beside the school.

Wabasha Public Library (Affiliate Fund Partner: Wabasha-Kellogg Area Community Foundation), Wabasha County – “Children’s Library Expansion Project”

Expansion project for the Wabasha Public Library. The expansion will add over 1100 sq. feet and will provide large and small group programming space, storage space, and more versatility within the children’s room.

Wanamingo Community Fund, Goodhue County – “Ball Field Improvements”

Implement the next phase of the ball field physical master plan.

