



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

\*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
SE MN Together	Collaborative regional project to address workforce issues
Spring Grove Area - Past Present and Future	New model to support entrepreneurs and businesses
City of La Crescent	Community branding for future development
La Crescent Public Library	Promoting summer literacy with Lunch Wagon event
Houston County Public Health	Provide social and emotional screenings and early literacy activities
Carlson Roasting Co., Houston	FEAST! Smart Start client
Spring Grove Public Schools	Create Makerspace program for students
City of Houston	Youth program to investigate local issues
City of Spring Grove	Entrepreneurial Toolkit project

## Affiliate Funds Increasing rural philanthropy

Houston Area Community Foundation
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## 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 City of Houston received a \$10,000 Small Town Grant from SMIF to immerse youth ages 13 – 18 in the Houston community's historical and cultural resources. Students gathered and produced compelling community stories detailing Houston's economy and worker identity through the Stories: YES Houston project.

The grant helped fund materials and supplies to bring the students' research to life in the form of an exhibit. The grant also supported the professionals who helped make this opportunity come to life.