





SOUTHERN MINNESOTA  
INITIATIVE FOUNDATION

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partners of best practices and creating opportunities for minority populations to network and access the business community. All resources are free for participating businesses.

“CliftonLarsonAllen Foundation is delighted to support Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation’s Prosperity Initiative that supports emerging entrepreneurs who are an integral part of our communities. Through this program they are able to receive coaching, mentorship and resources to be successful and support our local economies. We are proud to be a funding partner for this impactful program,” said Gregg Draeger, Principal at CliftonLarsonAllen.

This new cohort of 10 businesses, receiving one-on-one business coaching, is made possible not only by the generous funding from CliftonLarsonAllen Foundation, but also The McKnight Foundation and Fred and Shelley Kraemer of Fairmont. The program started as a pilot in 2016 with a grant from Minnesota’s Department of Employment and Economic Development.

In the first two years, the Prosperity Initiative provided 27 clients with one-on-one business coaching including more than 1,500 hours of direct consulting. SMIF is using feedback from a participant evaluations to make the program even stronger going forward.

To learn more about how to become a business, or to nominate a business owner, contact Pam Bishop at [pamb@smifoundation.org](mailto:pamb@smifoundation.org) or 507-214-7013. You can also visit [www.smifoundation.org](http://www.smifoundation.org).

#### **About Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation**

Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF), a donor-supported foundation, invests for economic growth in the 20 counties of south central and southeastern Minnesota. The Foundation has provided more than \$106 million in grants, loans and programming within the region during the past 31 years. SMIF’s key interests include early childhood, community and economic development. To learn more about our work and mission, visit [www.smifoundation.org](http://www.smifoundation.org).

