



SOUTHERN MINNESOTA
INITIATIVE FOUNDATION

Collaborating for Regional Vitality

Le Sueur 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 Le Sueur County

\$1

=

\$13

is invested back into
Le Sueur County
communities.*

*Includes grants, loans & programming

20 LOANS

\$1.4 million to Le Sueur County entrepreneurs

123 GRANTS

\$596,000 to support community initiatives

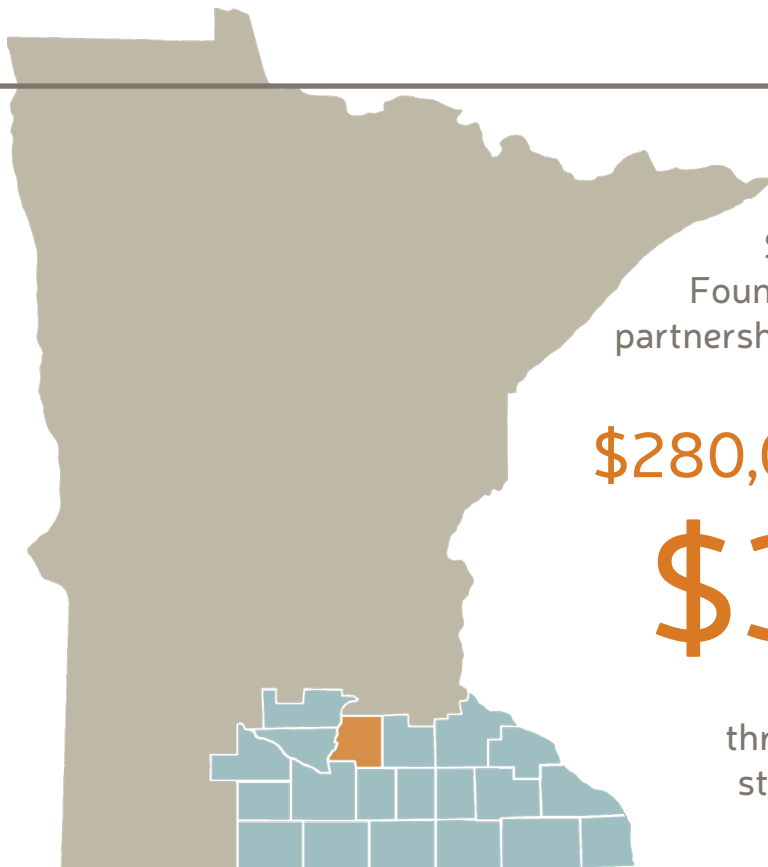
***\$5 million invested annually to the 20 counties of
south central and southeastern Minnesota***

Since 1986, Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation has leveraged local investments & partnerships to create a stronger **Le Sueur County**:

\$280,000 in local donations to SMIF

\$3.7 million

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



Loans & Equity Investments Supporting local entrepreneurs & creating jobs

Farmhouse Market LLC, New Prague	Organic, locally-sourced 24/7 food market
EJ Mushrooms, Kasota	Year-round mushroom farming
Rolco Incorporated, Kasota	Plastic injection molding
Odenthal Meats, New Prague	Local meat market
Chabelita's Yummy Foods & Fruits, Le Sueur	Mexican restaurant
LCS Precision Molding, Waterville	Plastic injection molding specializing in window, door, appliance, electronics, and automotive industry applications

Grants Investments in economic development, early childhood and community vitality

AmeriCorps LEAP Initiative, Le Center	Members helping with social emotional skill development
New Prague Area Schools	Pre-K to Grade 3 Alignment grant
New Prague Chamber of Commerce	35 gallons of paint awarded for mural
Waterville-Elysian-Morristown Public Schools	Support for WEM new parent needs & services survey
New Prague Area Early Childhood Initiative	Create social-emotional book bags for area preschool teachers
Tri-City United Public Schools, Montgomery, Lonsdale, Le Center	Hundreds of books awarded through multiple literacy grants
Quality Child Care Program, Le Sueur	Increasing quality child care through provider training
Tri-City United Public Schools, Montgomery, Lonsdale, Le Center	Feasibility study for trail project
Region Nine	FEAST! Smart Start grant to expand local foods coaching program
Tri-City United Public Schools, Montgomery, Lonsdale, Le Center	Provide social-emotional skills trainings to local caregivers

Affiliate Funds Increasing rural philanthropy

Elysian Community Foundation	New Prague Area Community Foundation
Le Sueur Community Foundation	Sakatah Area Foundation
Le Sueur Community Wellness Collaborative	Waterville Friends of the Library
Montgomery Community Foundation	

Community Collaborations Bringing communities together for change

New Prague Early Childhood Initiative (Started in 2015)
Tri-City United Early Childhood Initiative (Started in 2008)
Rural Entrepreneurial Venture (REV) Community, City of Le Sueur

Making a Difference Turning business dreams into reality



EJ Mushrooms is a new year-round mushroom growing business that was launched by husband-wife team Efraim and Jessica of Kasota. They specialize in fresh gourmet and medicinal oyster, shiitake, chestnut and lion's mane mushrooms. The couple received a Grow a Farmer loan to fund equipment, supplies and inventory. Their mushrooms will be supplied to local restaurants, co-ops and farmers' markets.