



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

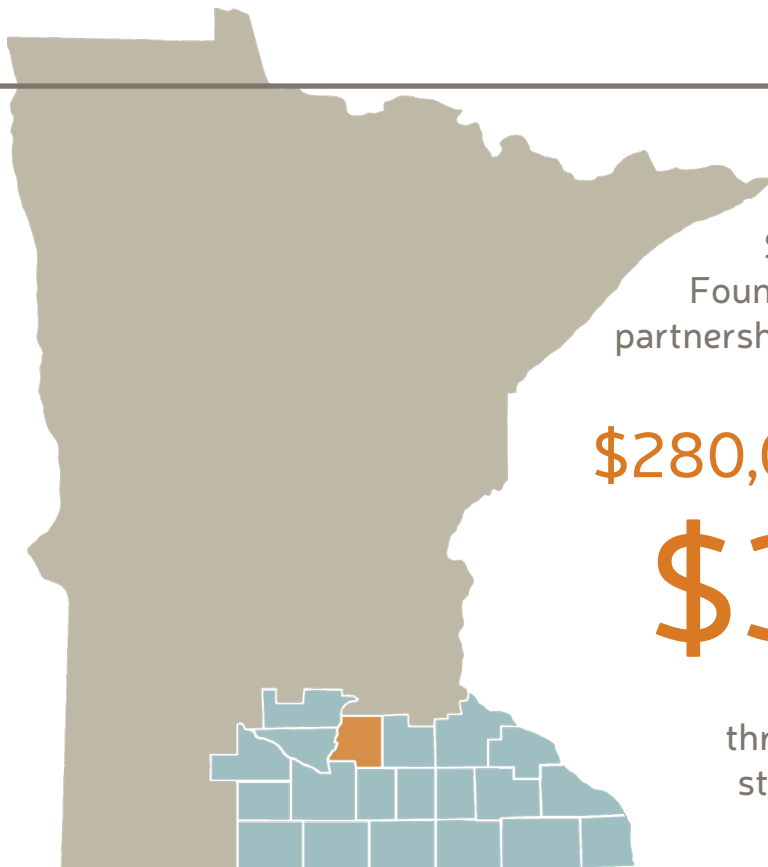
***\$5 million invested annually to the 20 counties of  
south central and southeastern Minnesota***

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
Whitewater Creek Grain & Feed Incorporated, Waterville	Buying, storage, feed sales, & marketing services to farm producers
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	Hundreds of books awarded through multiple literacy grants
Quality Child Care Program, Le Sueur	Increasing quality childcare through provider training
Tri-City United Public Schools, Montgomery	Feasibility study for trail project

## 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



One of SMIF's newest loan clients, Chabelita's Yummy Foods and Fruits, brings more dining options to Le Sueur residents. Raul and Maria Castellanos started out with candy and fruit salad, and now provide a full menu of Mexican dishes. "SMIF's loan helped us purchase a range hood so we can start preparing cooked food," said Raul Castellanos. "People have been supportive of us, because they want some other dining options."