



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



\$14

is invested back into
Le Sueur County
communities.*

*Includes grants, loans & programming

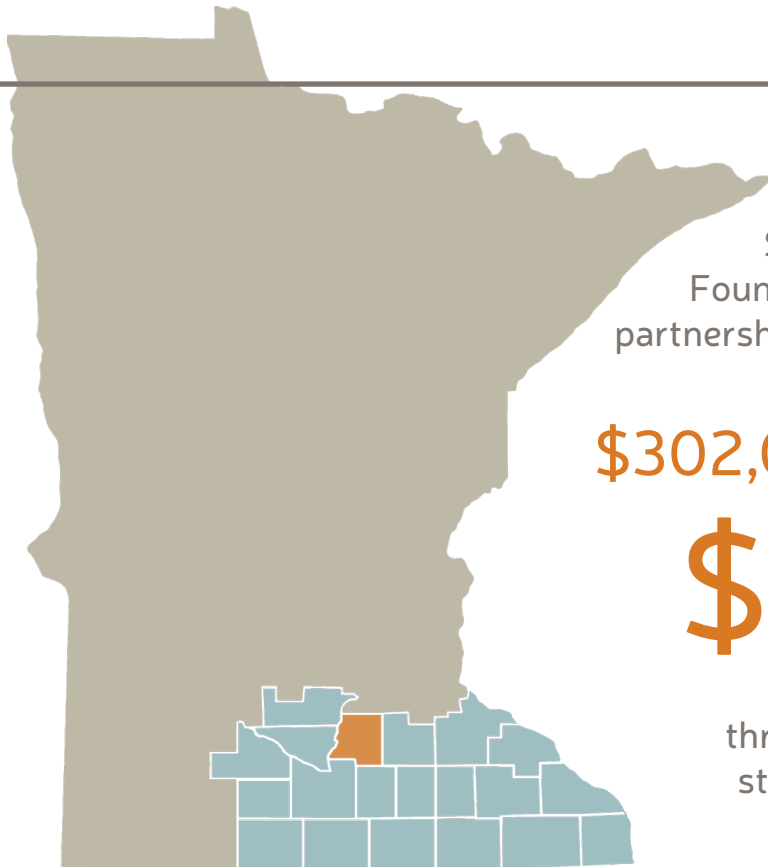
25 LOANS

\$1.4 million to Le Sueur County entrepreneurs

171 GRANTS

\$702,000 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**:

\$302,000 in local donations to SMIF

\$4.1 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
Small Business Emergency Loans	Five businesses received COVID-19 relief loans

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	Hundreds of books awarded through multiple literacy grants
Tri-City United Public Schools, Montgomery, Lonsdale, Le Center	Hundreds of books awarded through multiple literacy grants
Region Nine	FEAST! Smart Start grant to expand local foods coaching program
Small Business Relief Grants	46 businesses received COVID-19 relief grants
Montgomery Community Foundation	Grant to support businesses affected by COVID-19
Community Foundation Relief Fund Grants, Montgomery, Le Sueur, New Prague	Grants to support COVID-19 relief efforts in each community

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

Responding quickly to help our smallest communities through the pandemic



At the onset of the pandemic, SMIF offered a matching grant to the 30 Community Foundations under its umbrella so that they could directly assist those in need. For every dollar they raised for their localized relief efforts, SMIF offered a match of four dollars. The Le Sueur Community Foundation was able to provide \$4,375 to local schools to purchase ChromeBooks for families to support equitable distance learning and \$1,875 to the Ridgeview Le Sueur Medical Center for additional Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for staff and visitors. The Montgomery Community Foundation provided \$5,000 for businesses to invest in e-commerce platforms and \$1,250 to the Montgomery Food Shelf.