

**NEWS RELEASE
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NORTHWEST MINNESOTA FOUNDATION PUSHES MORE THAN \$1 MILLION INTO THE REGION IN FIRST QUARTER OF FY23

October 31, 2022 (Bemidji, MN) – More than \$1 million was loaned or granted out into the region from July through September through the Northwest Minnesota Foundation. This three-month timeframe comprises the first quarter of NMF’s fiscal year.

Funds released by NMF included more than \$560,000 through local philanthropic activities, nearly \$330,000 through loans to small business owners, and more than \$156,000 through NMF’s discretionary grant programs.

Additionally, the Northwest Small Business Development Center, for which NMF serves as the host, provided 835 hours of business consulting hours to 149 clients throughout the region.

“As a force and resource for Northwest Minnesota, we champion ideas that stabilize and strengthen our communities,” said Karen White, NMF President/CEO. “From business loans to grants to scholarships, we know that strengthening our local communities makes our whole region stronger.”

The Northwest Minnesota region served by NMF includes two tribal nations (Red Lake Nation and White Earth Nation) and 12 counties (Beltrami, Clearwater, Hubbard, Kittson, Lake of the Woods, Mahnomen, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake, and Roseau). Additionally, NMF’s Homelessness program serves the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe.

PHILANTHROPY (COMPONENT AND COMMUNITY FUNDS)

Through 102 philanthropic fund grants approved, over \$560,000 was dispersed into Northwest Minnesota. NMF houses around 415 funds within its family of funds, including community funds, donor-advised funds, education funds, scholarship funds, and others. Each fund has its own purpose.

Grants dispersed through these funds included:

- \$130,500 through scholarships (11 of the 16 were scholarships awarded to students at Northwest Technical College).

- \$148,950 through Community Service funds, supporting senior living, animal shelters, Boy Scouts and Rotarians, community development, churches and homeless shelters.
- \$93,000 through 30 grants from donor-advised funds, supporting a wide range of charities such as Scouts, pets, students, athletes, the hungry, conservation, arts, medical care, and schools.
- \$87,673 from Environmental and Recreation funds to support the Warroad Swim Program and \$26,000 to the Agassiz Audubon Society.
- \$23,757 through 17 Cultural fund grants, supporting local music, theater, and arts projects.
- \$35,600 through community funds to support local cities, school districts, and nonprofit organizations.
- \$14,000 was granted through health funds to support medical services.

BUSINESS LOANS AND SUPPORT

In this time period, NMF approved 13 loans for 10 businesses throughout the region, totaling \$329,500.

These loans included:

- An SBA Microloan for a business in Lake of the Woods County.
- One loan through the Emerging Entrepreneur Loan Program to a business in Polk County
- 5 loans through NMF's Child Care Finance Program to businesses located in Hubbard and Polk counties
- 6 loans through the CDFI Rapid Response program, with projects in Beltrami, Lake of the Woods, and Polk counties.

PROGRAMS

Through its internal grants programs, NMF approved more than \$156,000 in grants in this first quarter. Typically, granting done through internal programs at NMF can start slower at the beginning with each fiscal year as programs ramp up for the months ahead.

Approved grants this first quarter included:

- \$150,000 to support a new program to provide young adults affordable access to transportation in the following counties: Clearwater, Hubbard, Kittson, Lake of the Woods, Mahnommen, Marshall, Norman, Pennington, Polk, Red Lake Falls, and Roseau).
- \$4,600 to fund a mental health retreat for couples working in agriculture.



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To follow NMF grant opportunities, please visit and bookmark this page, www.nwmf.org/resources/grants/open-grant-rounds and follow NMF on social media.

To learn more about NMF funds or to speak with a Philanthropy Officer, please visit www.nwmf.org and click on "Ways to Give".

*NMF believes Northwest Minnesota offers boundless opportunities.
Our strength is connecting people, places, and possibilities.
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