



Benefits of Grant-Making

Grants from NMF's community-based family of funds are a vital force for good. They represent the power of local generosity in action—transforming charitable intentions into meaningful investments that build better lives across our region.

Homegrown Generosity. Lasting Impact

Each of the funds in our 450+ family of funds is grounded in a deep commitment to a specific place or purpose. Created by individuals, families, and groups who care about their communities, these funds allow for locally informed grantmaking that reflects the unique strengths, needs, and aspirations of Northwest Minnesota.

Because fund advisors and community volunteers help guide these funds, grant decisions are rooted in local knowledge and relationships. This means resources are deployed where they're needed most, in ways that reflect our shared values.

Responsive to Today. Resilient for Tomorrow

Grants from family of funds are nimble—allowing communities to act quickly in times of crisis or to pilot bold ideas when opportunities arise. Whether supporting a local food shelf, upgrading a community center, supporting your local school, or launching a youth mentorship program, these grants are often the seed that helps ideas grow.

The flexible nature of community grantmaking ensures rural communities can respond to change, tackle challenges, and build resilience.

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GRANT-MAKING

FUND ADVISOR TOOLKIT

Northwest Minnesota Foundation



Showing Donors the Power of Their Giving

Grants are one of the most visible and powerful ways donors see the impact of their generosity. Each grant tells a story—of hope, of progress, of a better future made possible through their investment. Whether a donor gives once or builds an endowment, seeing their fund at work in their community creates a lasting connection between their values and real-world change.

By sharing grant outcomes, success stories, and local testimonials, we show donors how their gifts matter. This not only reinforces their original intention, but often inspires continued and expanded giving.

Strengthening Our Communities from Within

These grants empower local nonprofits, schools, civic groups, and volunteers to do their best work. From boosting early childhood education to enhancing outdoor spaces, from investing in workforce development to advancing arts and culture, grants from NMF family of funds help communities lead with confidence and care.

A Legacy of Local Leadership

When someone creates or contributes to a fund at NMF, they're not just giving for today—they're investing in tomorrow. Endowed funds grow over time and generate a sustainable source of support for the causes and places that matter most. This long-term vision ensures our region continues to thrive for generations.

Grants from NMF's community-based family of funds are community investments with ripple effects. They reflect our belief that rural places deserve big opportunities—and that by working together, we can build a stronger, more vibrant Northwest Minnesota for all.

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We believe Northwest Minnesota offers boundless opportunities.

