



Building Better Lives Through Stewardship

The 4 R's and the Power of Responsive Grantmaking

At the Northwest Minnesota Foundation (NMF), stewardship is at the heart of how we serve. Defined as the responsible management of another's property, finances, or affairs, stewardship reflects our values of accountability, transparency, and trust—values that guide everything we do in partnership with our community.

Our work is made possible by our network of local community-based family of funds, which serve as fund advisors/grant makers in their communities. These funds are led by passionate volunteers who understand local priorities and invest directly in meaningful, responsive solutions.

The 4 R's of Stewardship

1. Reciprocity

We recognize and thank donors, volunteers, and board members. Their generosity powers our mission, and their commitment deserves acknowledgment and appreciation.

2. Responsible Use

We do what we promise. Whether asking someone to give, serve, or volunteer, we follow through with integrity and honor the intent behind every contribution.

3. Reporting

We provide clear, transparent updates on financial and program activities. We let stakeholders know what was accomplished through their support—closing the loop on impact.

4. Relationship

We treat our partners as collaborators, not just contributors. We involve donors, staff, and fund advisors in the outcomes their support makes possible.

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GRANT-MAKING

FUND ADVISOR TOOLKIT

Northwest Minnesota Foundation



Stewardship + Responsive Grantmaking

Our family of funds are local fund advisors/grant makers who listen, learn, and respond to the unique needs of their communities.

Stewardship ensures that each grant is:

- Rooted in reciprocity, by valuing local expertise
- Driven by responsible use, through effective and strategic investment
- Supported with clear reporting, for shared accountability
- Strengthened through relationships that foster long-term partnerships

By weaving stewardship into every aspect of grantmaking, our funds build trust, amplify impact, and respond to what matters most.

Our Commitment

Together, through responsible stewardship and responsive grantmaking, NMF and its family of funds are building better lives for the people of Northwest Minnesota.

To learn more about becoming a fund advisor, donor, or grant maker in your community, visit www.nwmf.org.

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We believe Northwest Minnesota offers boundless opportunities.

