



Southern
Minnesota
Initiative
Foundation

SMIF's investments and partnerships in

Rice County since 1986

Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) is a regional development and philanthropic organization that fosters economic and community vitality in southern Minnesota through a culture of collaboration and partnership. Serving 20 counties which includes 175 communities and one Native nation.

For every donation
from Rice County
of

\$1 → **\$34** is invested back into
Rice County
communities.*

**Includes grants, loans & programming*



63 Loans

to support entrepreneurs

444 Grants

to support community projects

\$15 Million

invested by SMIF in Rice County through
grants, loans and programming

Questions?

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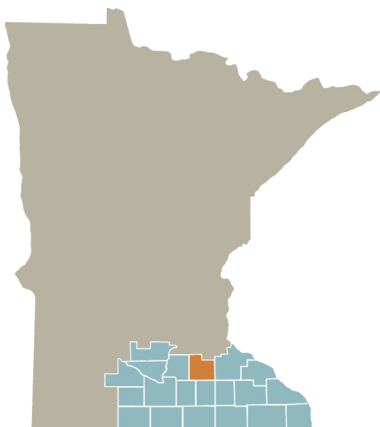
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Community Vitality

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Check out SMIF's recent activity in your county



SMIF's Recent Activity in Rice County

Early Childhood Spotlight



\$16,700 Early Care and Education Grant to Peace Lutheran Preschool (Faribault)

This grant supported training and coaching events for staff and parents of Peace Lutheran Preschool and the surrounding Faribault community. The staff were trained in Conscious Discipline and workshops for parents were offered to support families in cultivating emotionally healthy and safe families.

Other recent activity:

- 400 books to Allina Health
- 11 child care providers received free business support

Entrepreneurship Spotlight



\$15,000 Inclusive and Equitable Entrepreneurial Grant to Rice County Neighbors United

"Our goal was to create a business association of minority-owned businesses. This led to the successful creation of the Mercado Local [in Northfield]. This new space is a marketplace and art center for local Latino artists to sell their work. The initiative happened organically out of the conversations with business-oriented members and it would not have been possible without the grant."

-Mar Valdecantos, director of RCNU

Other recent activity:

- \$15K IEEC Grant to River Bend Nature Center in Faribault
- Loans: Cry Baby Craig's, Max Shine Detailing, Twisted Chicken

Community Vitality Spotlight



Paint for historic steeple repairs in Nerstrand

Due to major structural rot in the Valley Grove historic church steeples, the exterior and interiors of the steeples had to be repaired. The Valley Grove Preservation Society received a Paint the Town Grant to help in the restoration process of the historic structures which were built in the 1800s.

Other recent activity:

- \$10K Small Town Grant for Dundas Oktoberfest
- \$9K in matching grants to Lonsdale Area Community Foundation

3.3K Children Supported

107 Entrepreneurs Supported