

Duluth-Proctor-Hermantown Minnesota Thrive Initiative Overview

What is the Duluth-Hermantown-Proctor Minnesota Thrive Initiative?

In January 2007, the Northland Foundation launched the Duluth-Proctor-Hermantown Minnesota Thrive Initiative. These communities are part of the **Minnesota Thrive Initiative: Promoting the Healthy Social and Emotional Development of Our Youngest Children** which is led by the Northland Foundation and the five other Minnesota Initiative Foundations. The overall goal of this statewide effort is *to create local support networks to ensure the healthy social and emotional well-being of young children, ages birth to five.*

There are six pilot sites, one in each rural region served by the Minnesota Initiative Foundations. In addition to **Duluth-Proctor-Hermantown**, other participating sites include: **Bemidji-Blackduck-Kelliher, Freeborn County, Greater St. Cloud Area, McLeod County, and Pope County.** Each pilot site will work to strengthen programs and services across the early childhood mental health continuum of care—from promotion and prevention, to early intervention services, interventions, and intensive interventions.

The Duluth-Proctor-Hermantown Thrive Action Team, with broad representation from all sectors, will participate in an organizing process. The team will gather information, raise awareness, identify strategies, and implement an action plan to develop a strong network of services that promote the healthy social and emotional well-being of our youngest children.

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What is Early Childhood Mental Health?

Early childhood mental health is the developing capacity of a child from birth to age five to experience, regulate, and express emotions; form close and secure interpersonal relationships; and explore the environment and learn. Infant mental health refers to how these issues affect development in the first three years of life. Early childhood mental health is synonymous with healthy social and emotional development (*Zero to Three*).

How Do I Learn More About the Minnesota Thrive Initiative?

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