



14 nonprofits receive grants from Northland Foundation’s *Strengthening Communities Initiative* to further economic recovery efforts in the region

(August 2010)

The Northland Foundation is pleased to announce competitive financial awards have been made to 14 of the 18 first-round participants in the Foundation’s federally funded program, “Strengthening Communities Initiative: Building Nonprofit Capacity to Advance Economic Recovery”.

**Strengthening Communities Initiative
Cohort I – July 2010 Financial Awards**

Nonprofit Grant Recipient	Main Location	Grant Award
CHOICE, unlimited	Duluth	\$16,803
Churches United in Ministry	Duluth	\$20,000
Circles of Support	Grand Rapids	\$10,000
Common Ground Construction	Duluth	\$20,000
Community Action Duluth	Duluth	\$20,000
Little Treasures Center, Inc.	Duluth	\$10,000
Lutheran Social Service	Duluth	\$20,000
Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans	Duluth	\$20,000
Minnesota Citizens Federation-Northeast	Duluth	\$9,618
Minnesota Diversified Industries	Grand Rapids	\$20,000
Northeast Entrepreneur Fund, Inc.	Virginia	\$20,000
Northern Communities Land Trust	Duluth	\$20,000
Program of Promise	Duluth	\$6,696
SOAR Career Solutions	Duluth	\$20,000
Total		\$233,117

Supported primarily through a federal American Reinvestment and Recovery Act grant along with Northland Foundation resources, the Strengthening Communities Initiative is designed to build nonprofits’ capacity to help lower-income people of all ages to find and keep employment, earn higher wages, and/or improve their ability to access State and Federal benefits. Up to 40 nonprofits in all are expected to be engaged in the initiative over the course of the 18-month program period.

The competitive financial awards were recommended for funding by an independent panel and approved by the Northland Foundation Board of Trustees. The awards will be used by the nonprofit recipients to meet a wide variety of capacity-building needs. For example, SOAR Career Solutions will apply their grant toward developing a new curriculum to

serve people with multiple employment barriers enter and remain in the workforce. The Northeast Entrepreneur Fund is updating their financial management system and loan software. Minnesota Diversified Industries will purchase equipment to diversify their manufacturing capabilities, and Churches United in Ministry (CHUM) will use the award to develop strategies intended to increase engagement by local congregations as well as make IT upgrades.

For nonprofits interested in being part of the second cohort of participants, applications are being accepted by the Northland Foundation through August 13, 2010. Visit www.northlandfdn.org/Grants/StrengtheningCommunities.shtml for more information.



Building a Strong Foundation for the Future of Our Region

610 Sellwood Building ▪ 202 West Superior St., Duluth, MN 55802 ▪ 218.723.4040 ▪ 800.433.4045 ▪ f. 218.723.4048 ▪ www.northlandfdn.org