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a Northland Foundation program

Strengthening Relationships with Indigenous Community

Building Partnerships with Tribal Nations and Communities

Expanding Capacity in Northeast Minnesota

**Find details and access the Maada'ookiing grant application portal at:**  
<https://northlandfdn.org/special-initiatives/maada-ookiing.php>

**Program overview.** The [Maada'ookiing Grassroots Grant Program](#) recognizes that Indigenous people are actively resilient and rich in creative solutions that strengthen and sustain Indigenous community. This grant opportunity is an innovative approach to support the ongoing community work happening at the grassroots level outside of formally organized institutions and organizations. Some past examples of the community work that happens, often unfunded, include a community-organized talking circle, a youth running group, sobriety support activities, teaching traditional art forms across generations, language tables, food sovereignty activities, and many other activities that Indigenous community members bring to life. Maada'ookiing Grassroots Grants are a way to support this creative, impactful, and Indigenous-led community building.

**Geographic service area.** The Northland Foundation is a publicly supported foundation serving all or parts of five Tribal Nations: Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior, Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe (District 1), and Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe (District II), and seven northeastern Minnesota counties: Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, and St. Louis County.

**Who is eligible.** Individuals or small groups, who are Tribal citizens, descendants, or have kinship ties or affiliation to Indigenous communities in the geographic service area. In recognition of Indigenous identity and community identity, eligibility is defined to be inclusive of the broad relationships of belonging.

Northland Foundation encourages Tribal Nations and/or affiliated agencies, Indigenous-led nonprofit organizations, and other eligible formally organized groups to apply for project support through the [Northland Foundation Grant Program](#).

#### **Areas of focus and priorities:**

- Supporting Indigenous Youth
- Strengthening Use of Indigenous Language
- Creating Access to Indigenous Language (digital apps, dictionaries, video projects, and other creative projects)



- Strengthening Indigenous Cultural/Spiritual Practices and Activities
- Sustaining Tribal Civic Engagement, Sovereignty, and Self-Determination (including non-partisan Get Out the Vote or civic education)
- Shifting the Narrative and Increasing Visibility of Contemporary Indigenous Community
- Promoting Indigenous Leadership Experiences
- Building Indigenous Economy and Entrepreneurship (projects that provide training, networking, or education opportunities)
- Involving Indigenous Grassroots Organizing (projects that strengthen community well-being and/or addresses and responds to Indigenous community issues)

**Northland Foundation supports Tribal sovereignty and respects self-determination.** If applicants have projects that impact Tribal Nation communities or occur within Tribal Nation boundaries, the Maada'ookiing Advisory Board will consult with Tribal Nations as a matter of respect and recognition of sovereignty.

**Indigenous leadership is key.** This new grassroots grantmaking initiative is led and guided by the Maada'ookiing Advisory Board, comprised of nine Tribal Nation representatives and Indigenous community members.

**Funds available.** Each project is eligible to apply for **up to \$2,500**.

**Eligible Expenses.** Grant funds can be used to cover the following expenses:

- Materials and supplies, including technology, to carry out grant-funded activities
- Food for program participants
- Space rental
- Honorarium for Indigenous knowledge holders assisting the project (elders, spiritual leaders, etc.)
- Compensation for program organizers

**Ineligible activities and expenses.** Northland Foundation does not fund capital projects (i.e. purchase or renovation of buildings or projects that are primarily to purchase large equipment) or hard costs related to starting a business, political campaigns or other partisan political activities, sectarian religious activities, and personal compensation not related to project activities.

**How to apply.** Applications can be submitted using the online portal for this grant opportunity found at <https://northlandfdn.org/special-initiatives/maada-ookiing-grant-details-application.php>.

**Contact for more information or assistance.** If you have questions or need assistance with the application, please contact the Northland Foundation Grant Program staff at [grants@northlandfdn.org](mailto:grants@northlandfdn.org).