

Organizations interested in applying for grant funds are urged to discuss their project with grant program staff as the first step. Inquiries and requests are reviewed quarterly and are due by January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1 for consideration during the next cycle. Access our online grantee portal at [www.northlandfdn.org/grants](http://www.northlandfdn.org/grants), under "Applying and Reporting."

#### WE WILL CONSIDER GRANT REQUESTS FOR:

- Existing programs or expansion of programs, as well as special time-limited projects.
- Start-up costs for promising new programs or nonprofit organizations that demonstrate sound management and clear goals relevant to community needs.
- Support for organizations that seek to build their capacity and strengthen their organizational management or infrastructure.
- General operating support for organizations with which we have partnered successfully in the past, with a solid track record of high performance, and that provide programs and services that fit within our priority areas.

#### WE WILL NOT CONSIDER GRANT REQUESTS FOR:

- Programs or projects outside of our priority areas or taking place outside of the seven-county area of northeastern Minnesota.
- Organizations seeking to do work within our seven-county service area but which do not have staffing or a physical location within the region.
- Grants to individuals, businesses, or private foundations.
- Sectarian religious programs.
- Endowment, capital campaigns, or support for fundraising events.
- Replacement of traditional government services or public funding that has been cut.

Eligible organizations are 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofits, schools, and other public entities located in or serving the seven-county region of northeastern Minnesota.



#### MISSION STATEMENT

*The Northland Foundation invests in people and communities to support a thriving Northeast Minnesota.*

#### VALUES

**Integrity.** Be solid partners — ethical, reliable, and transparent. Keep the mission and values at the forefront. Walk the talk.

**Respect.** Listen with an open mind. Honor different cultures, traditions, and beliefs. Practice kindness.

**Empowerment.** Trust communities to know their own challenges and strengths; self-determination is a key to long-term success. Encourage that all voices be heard and all gifts valued. Meet people where they are.

**Inclusiveness.** Challenge ourselves, and others, to acknowledge privilege in all its forms. Be intentional to break down barriers and bring people together. Treat everyone equitably.



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# CONNECTING PEOPLE AND RESOURCES

GRANTMAKING FOR A VIBRANT REGION



The Northland Foundation provides grant funding to organizations, public entities, and schools to support programming that nurtures children, youth, and families and connects the generations; as well as programs that promote dignity for all people and improve individual and community wellbeing.

#### CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

Through the Grant Program as well as the KIDS PLUS Program, the Northland Foundation works to build positive, caring environments that nurture young children, youth, and families, and help to connect the generations.

The Northland Foundation supports programs that deliver:

- Positive interaction between youth and caring adults.
- Early childhood care and education.
- High-quality youth enrichment activities for in-school or out-of-school time.
- Parenting and grandparenting support.
- Promotion of respect, diversity, and inclusion.
- Children and youth-focused programming that engages multiple generations.
- Youth leadership, civic involvement, volunteerism, and philanthropy.



#### STRATEGIC APPROACHES

High-impact programs and projects often intentionally incorporate certain strategic approaches that improve outcomes. The Northland Foundation encourages inclusion of one or more of the following components to the work that we consider funding.

- **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion** Actively working to reach and fully reflect the diversity of communities served, facilitate inclusion, and counter systemic inequity.
- **Multi-Generational** Considering the needs of multiple generations when addressing an issue e.g. programs for children that include components for parents and guardians.
- **Collaboration** Bringing other partners into a program or project in order to tap others' expertise, expand geographic or demographic reach, and/or improve outcomes.
- **Multi-Sector** Engaging organizations from diverse sectors and disciplines in program design and delivery.
- **Systems Change** Seeking to change public policy and increase the civic engagement of under-represented populations.

The Northland Foundation also offers grants through the Minnesota Power Foundation Youth In Philanthropy Program. Students in grades 7-12 with adult mentors from throughout the region comprise the grantmaking board. Community groups, schools, and nonprofit organizations may submit grant proposals of up to \$1,000 for youth-driven projects.

#### INDIVIDUAL AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING

The Northland Foundation seeks to enhance the wellbeing of individuals and communities by supporting projects that address:

- Job training, employment, and education for people with low incomes or who are living in poverty.
- Asset building, including home ownership and financial literacy.
- Neighborhood revitalization and safe, affordable housing.
- Enhancing the lives of people with disabilities.
- Homeless issues and basic needs, such as food security.
- Prevention of domestic violence, abuse, and sex trafficking.
- Promotion of diversity, equity, and inclusion for all people.
- Helping older adults maintain independence and providing support for their caregivers.

