



Development Partnership Grant Report

Purpose	Assists with research, education and development-based initiatives which support the long-term economic growth of northeastern Minnesota.
Strategic Plan Alignment	Business Development ✓ Community Development ✓ Workforce Development ✓

What did we do?	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23
Budget	\$375,000			
Grants	12			
Agency Investment	\$375,000			
Total Project Investment	\$1,909,842			
Leverage	4.1 : 1			
Key Impact Measures	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23
Industries Served	8			
Economic Development Partners	71			

What were the results?
<p>FY20: The grants support projects that combine the region’s resources, subject matter experts, educators, job placement services and entrepreneurial advisors. The projects can drive economic development, propel a business, grow an industry or solve a workforce barrier. Project examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nine census tracts within the agency’s service area were officially designated as Opportunity Zones through the U.S. Tax Cut and Jobs Act of 2017. The program encourages long-term investments in low-income and urban communities nationwide. Northspan Group launched “Minnesota Opportunity Collaborative” which brought together developers, investors, businesses, and community development entities to host a statewide Opportunity Zones online project directory. Training sessions (in person and virtual) were provided to stakeholders who wanted to learn more about Opportunity Zones. • Itasca Economic Development Corporation’s recruitment plan for a new manufacturer to fill the void left by the upcoming closing of GSI Solutions due to COVID-19. The Bigfork plant closing will impact 59 workers. A new manufacturer is being recruited whose needs match the plant assets: the building, site, workforce and equipment. <p>COVID-19 Global Pandemic: Northeastern Minnesota was significantly impacted by COVID-19 including the closure of schools, businesses, community centers, clinics, public recreation and parks, and government buildings. Budgetary constraints resulted in the public and private sectors. The pandemic impacted agency-funded projects: some projects were delayed or canceled, some lost funding from other resources. However, many projects were completed and able to benefit the region at a time when community, economic and quality of life growth was greatly needed.</p>

Fiscal Year 2020 Grants			
Grantee	Description	Agency Investment	Total Project Investment
East Range Joint Powers Board	Economic development services	\$50,000	\$155,967
Enterprise Minnesota, Inc.	Manufacturing consulting services	\$25,000	\$50,889
Itasca Economic Development Corporation	Emergency business recruitment	\$11,000	\$22,000
Laurentian Arts & Culture Alliance	Artspace study	\$5,000	\$11,000
National Lead for America, Inc.	Train community leaders	\$30,000	\$170,232
Northland Foundation	Small business development center	\$60,000	\$808,080
Northspan Group, Inc.	Upper Minnesota Film Office	\$5,000	\$26,400
Northspan Group, Inc.	Minnesota Opportunity Collaborative	\$10,000	\$157,857
Northspan Group, Inc.	Northlandconnection.com	\$20,000	\$103,517
Northspan Group, Inc.	NORTHFORCE.org	\$50,000	\$180,900
Two Harbors Development Fund	Business assistance	\$100,000	\$200,000
Wabana Township	Update comprehensive plan	\$9,000	\$23,000