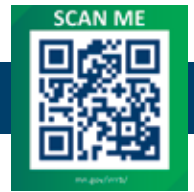


# Northeastern Minnesota Community Resource Guide



**2025**  
Fiscal Year

## WHO WE ARE



Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation is a state of Minnesota economic development agency that reinvests local taconite production taxes back into northeastern Minnesota businesses and communities to strengthen and diversify the economy.

The agency has three economic development goals related to business, community and workforce in northeastern Minnesota.

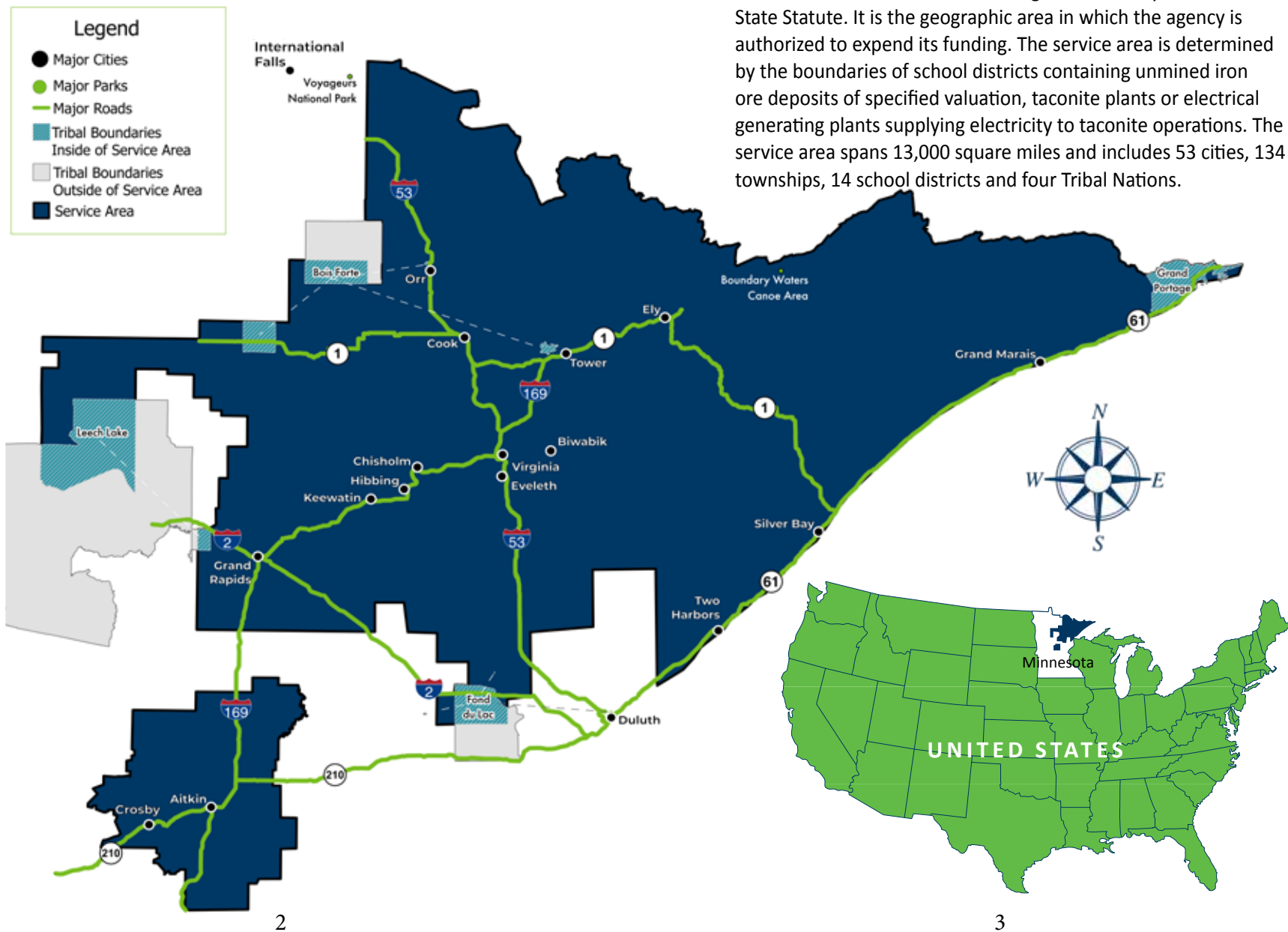
1. Businesses invest in northeastern Minnesota.
2. Communities invest in their foundational and social assets to ensure quality of life.
3. Workers have the education and training to meet business needs.

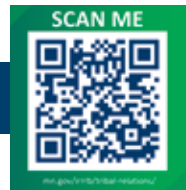
Our agency provides vital funding, including low or no interest loans, and loan guaranties to businesses relocating or expanding in the region. A variety of grants are available to local and Tribal governments, educational institutions and nonprofits that promote livable communities and workforce development.





The Taconite Assistance Area is a region defined by Minnesota State Statute. It is the geographic area in which the agency is authorized to expend its funding. The service area is determined by the boundaries of school districts containing unmined iron ore deposits of specified valuation, taconite plants or electrical generating plants supplying electricity to taconite operations. The service area spans 13,000 square miles and includes 53 cities, 134 townships, 14 school districts and four Tribal Nations.





*Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa was awarded a Community Infrastructure grant to update the interior infrastructure of its Community Center. The project included the replacement of an outdated and inefficient heating system, replacement of the indoor swimming pool liner and decking, and electrical wiring to accommodate new commercial freezers. The Community Center houses the Oshki Ogimaag (Young Leaders) Charter School which provides local, quality education with an emphasis on the Anishinaabe culture to grades K-6. It is also home to a tutoring program, after school programming, youth summer camps, fitness center, gymnasium and the Elderly Nutrition Program. The facility is used for numerous events, meetings, cooking and other enrichment classes.*

The Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation Tribal Liaison works to support government-to-government relations between the agency and the four Tribal Nations located within the service area:

- Bois Forte Band of Chippewa.
- Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa.
- Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa.
- Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe.

The four Tribal Nations are separate sovereign nations, and each has an independent relationship with the United States and the state of Minnesota. The Tribal Liaison fosters partnerships related to projects that impact community, business and workforce development.



This project made possible through taxes paid by  
**Minnesota's Mining Industry**  
**m**  
DEPARTMENT OF IRON RANGE  
RESOURCES & REHABILITATION



# HOW WE ARE FUNDED



Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation is funded primarily by a portion of a local taconite production tax paid by mining companies on each ton of iron ore pellets produced. The tax is paid in lieu of property taxes by mining companies located within the agency's service area.

The agency utilizes a portion of the tax funds as an economic development tool to invest in growing businesses that create and retain jobs, prepare communities for change and growth, invest in an educated workforce and improve the quality of life in northeastern Minnesota.



## GRANT RESOURCES



Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation promotes and invests in community development through a selection of grants that strengthen northeastern Minnesota.

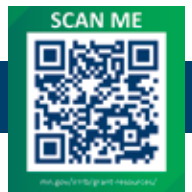
Our community development team works in partnership with cities, townships, counties, tribal governments and nonprofits to support projects that advance community vitality and growth.

Eligible applicants in our service area are encouraged to apply for grants. Applicants can access the grant guidelines through FLUXX, the grant management system on our website.

Grant programs include:

- Broadband Infrastructure.
- Business Energy Retrofit.
- Commercial Redevelopment.
- Culture & Tourism.
- Development Partnership.
- Downtown Building Rehabilitation.
- Downtown Redevelopment.
- Grant Writing Assistance.
- Housing.
- Mineland Reclamation.
- Public Works.
- Regional Trails.
- Residential Redevelopment.
- Workforce Development.





## Broadband Infrastructure

Broadband Infrastructure grants assist projects that help households and businesses reach the state of Minnesota broadband speed goal.

**Eligible applicants:** Cities, townships, nonprofits, Tribal governments and governmental entities created pursuant to Minnesota Statutes within the agency's service area. Multi-organization collaboration is welcomed.

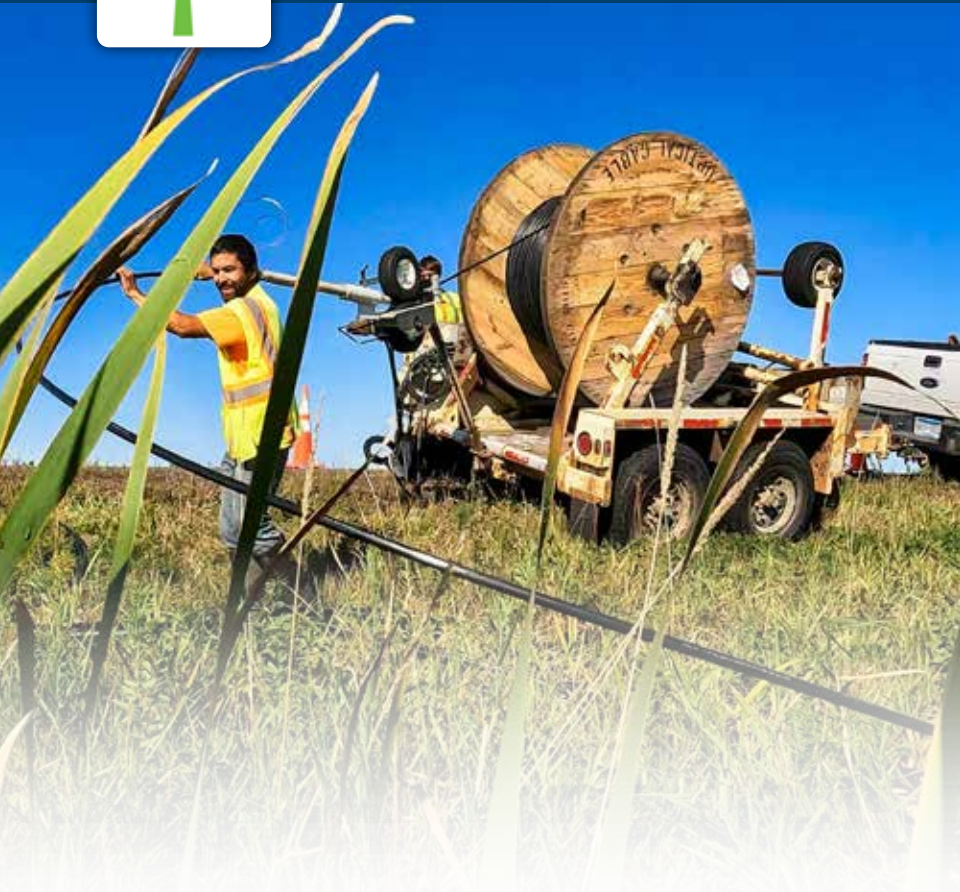
**Examples of projects:** Constructing fiber to the home buildout to unserved households.

**Required match per project:** 1:1

**FY25 funding:** \$1,000,000. Grant amounts vary.

**Evaluation criteria:**

- Anticipated broadband service improvements.
- Partnerships.
- Regional and community benefit.
- Diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility.
- Job creation and retention.

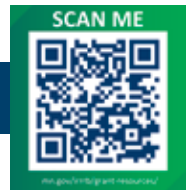


*Paul Bunyan Communications (PBC) was awarded a Broadband Infrastructure grant to deploy fiber optic fast broadband with speeds up to 10 Gbps to approximately 66 unserved homes in an area around Ash Lake in rural northwestern Saint Louis County (SLC). The 66 locations will have access to the fastest internet speeds available. PBC was also able to leverage the fiber installed to provide services to mobile phone towers. The expanded mobile phone coverage will greatly improve communications throughout the area.*

**Fiber Optic Fast Broadband  
Ash Lake Area**



## Business Energy Retrofit (BER)



*Small business owners Katie and Kyle Winchester were awarded Business Energy Retrofit (BER) grants to help make energy efficiency upgrades to the vacant building they purchased in downtown Hibbing. Electrical systems were upgraded that included an appropriate-sized modern electrical panel to accommodate appliances needed to operate a hair salon. The Winchesters transformed the building into Mirror Mirror Salon on the main level and two long-term residential apartments on the upper level. Katie is a licensed cosmetologist. She is originally from Keewatin and has resided in Hibbing for 15 years where she previously leased another building. In her new building, Katie offers hair products and services such as haircuts, color, highlights, treatments and styling. Other services are available including nails and waxing.*

Mirror Mirror Salon  
Hibbing

Business Energy Retrofit (BER) grants assist with energy efficiency improvements to buildings that can result in reduced utility bills, improved building aesthetics and increased building life. BER enhances the overall image of the region's communities/downtowns and improves northeastern Minnesota's environment. BER is funded by the agency and administered through Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency (AEOA).

**Eligible applicants:** Small business owners with 100 employees or less, Tribal governments and nonprofits located within the agency's service area.

**Eligible projects:** Projects related to energy efficiency including lighting and fixtures, building envelope air sealing, appliances, motors and equipment, insulation and ventilation, heating and cooling, window and door replacements and renewable energy.

**Required match per project:** A business may be provided up to 1/3 of the total project cost up to \$20,000. An application fee is required to participate in the program.

**FY25 funding:** \$1,500,000. Grant amounts vary.

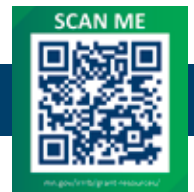
### Evaluation criteria:

- Location within a community that has been previously underserved by BER.
- Prior BER grant funding.
- Location within a downtown corridor.
- Leveraging of other local, state or federal funding sources such as DEED SCDP, USDA or PACE.
- Project readiness.





## Commercial Redevelopment



*Cook County/Grand Marais Joint Economic Development Authority was awarded a Commercial Redevelopment grant to support the internal demolition of the Birchbark Building in downtown Grand Marais. Interior demolition included the removal of lighting, suspended ceilings, insulation, support structures and wall coverings. Cook County Real Estate Fund (CCREF) purchased the vacant 6,384-square-foot building and transformed it into a multi-tenant commercial lease facility with two retail and seven office spaces. The owner made exterior improvements to modernize the building and improve the aesthetics. Restrooms were added, and code compliancy and energy efficiency improvements were made.*

**Birchbark Building**  
Grand Marais

Commercial Redevelopment grants assist with the full and selective demolition of commercial and industrial buildings and the clean-up of brownfields to pave the way for new development.

**Eligible applicants:** Cities, townships, counties, Tribal governments and governmental entities created pursuant to Minnesota Statutes within the agency’s service area. Multi-organization collaboration is welcomed.

**Eligible projects:** Full and selective demolition of commercial or industrial buildings and clean-up of brownfields. Abatement expenses are eligible and considered a component of the demolition project.

**Required match per project:** 1:1

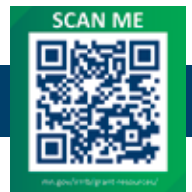
**FY25 funding:** \$1,000,000. Grant amounts vary.

**Evaluation criteria:**

- Development.
- Economic impact.
- Diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility.
- Environmental impact and mitigation.
- Job creation and retention.
- Project readiness and timeliness.
- Removes blight.



## Culture & Tourism



*Goodland Township was awarded a Culture & Tourism grant to expand and renovate its existing 25-year-old playground to better serve the community and make it ADA compliant. Outdated and aging equipment was replaced with features that appeal to children of varying age levels and abilities. The playground is a popular gathering place for residents who often use it for family picnics and birthday parties. It is located adjacent to a ballfield and community center that is utilized as a senior center, community gathering space, election polling site and rental venue for private functions such as weddings and funerals.*

Culture & Tourism grants assist projects that support arts, culture, history, tourism and recreational activities, enhance the quality of life in the region and attract visitors.

**Eligible applicants:** Cities, townships, nonprofits, Tribal governments and governmental entities created pursuant to Minnesota Statutes within the agency's service area. Multi-organization collaboration is welcomed.

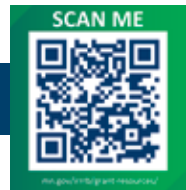
**Eligible projects:** Examples include, but are not limited to, capital improvements, historic preservations, community arts and culture, tourism and recreational activities and promotion to new audiences. Project examples include, but are not limited to, museum improvements, downtown beautification, digital ad campaigns, splash pads, pickleball courts, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-inclusive playground equipment, community signage, benches and lighting.

**Required match per project:** 1:1

**FY25 funding:** \$600,000. Grant awards range from \$2,500 to \$30,000.

### Evaluation criteria:

- Project enhances the quality of life and visitor experiences.
- Economic impact.
- Community benefit and partnerships.
- Diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility.
- Environmental impact and mitigation.
- Visibility of project.
- Job creation and retention.



## Development Partnership



*Advanced Machine Guarding Solutions (AMGS), based in Hibbing designs and produces safety steel wire mesh guarding for the automation industry. AMGS manufactures standard and custom doors, panels and posts that are used in almost all automated industries such as automobile and food packaging. The wire mesh guarding protects employee operators and equipment from hazards in machine areas and is mandated by OSHA's safety standards. Owner Jason Wobbema utilized services of Northland Small Business Development Center (SBDC) for development of a working capital analysis to help refine cash and financing needs for rapid growth in his company. SBDC also provided him with human resources technical assistance. Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation provided a Development Partnership grant to ensure that there is a designated SBDC representative in the region to support small businesses.*

Advanced Machine Guarding Solutions  
Hibbing

Development Partnership grants provide funds for research, planning, education and development-based initiatives that support the long-term economic growth of northeastern Minnesota.

**Eligible applicants:** Cities, townships, nonprofits, Tribal governments and governmental entities created pursuant to Minnesota Statutes within the agency's service area. Multi-organization collaboration is welcomed.

**Eligible projects:** Collaborations and partnerships within the agency's service area that support the agency's mission. Examples include, but are not limited to, community lending programs that support downtown building rehabilitation, assistance with costs for potential child care providers during the planning and development phase to ensure the projects are fiscally sound and in regulatory compliance, manufacturing consulting services to help manufacturers achieve operational and bottom-line efficiencies.

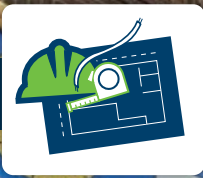
**Required match per project:** 1:1

**FY25 funding:** \$1,875,000. Grant amounts vary.

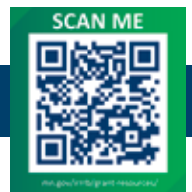
**Evaluation criteria:**

- Job creation and retention.
- Enhances livable communities.
- Maximizes collaborations and partnerships.
- Strengthens businesses and worker education.
- Diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility.
- Environmental impact and mitigation.





## Downtown Building Rehabilitation (DBR)



*Small business owners Jarod Green and Alex Haugen were awarded a Downtown Building Rehabilitation (DBR) grant to help transform a vacant building in downtown Virginia into Five & Go. Fifth Degree Coffee Company and Go Figur Food Experience collaborated to serve fresh food and coffee at the new location on Chestnut Street. The grant helped make code compliancy upgrades to the building related to the fire suppression system, kitchen plumbing, gas appliance connections and kitchen flooring. Five & Go serves breakfast, lunch, coffee, other beverages and treats. Green and Haugen are both Virginia natives and have been lifelong friends and now business partners.*

Downtown Building Rehabilitation (DBR) grants assist downtown businesses with the costs of code compliance construction and remodeling projects. Code compliance upgrades can help improve land values, enhance public image in downtowns that spur economic development, improve safety and reduce health threats. DBR is funded by the agency and administered through Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency (AEOA).

**Eligible applicants:** Business owners, Tribal governments and nonprofits who own a downtown building located within the agency's service area.

**Examples of projects:** Projects related to code compliance with general construction, electrical, plumbing, elevators, ADA, lead and asbestos removal, mechanical, sprinklers, housing rehabilitation, storefront and professional assistance.

**Required match per project:** A business may be provided up to 1/3 of the total project cost up to \$50,000. An application fee is required to participate in the program.

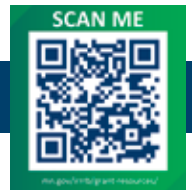
**FY25 funding:** \$500,000. Grant amounts vary.

### Evaluation criteria:

- Building is prominent or historically significant.
- Building is highly visible on the main street in a downtown area.
- Code compliance issues are clearly identified.
- Project will support business expansion or retention.
- Project will bring a building back into use, expand the use of a building or retain a business that is in jeopardy of vacating a building.
- Project readiness.



## Downtown Redevelopment



*Local downtowns are vital to the region's communities and impact both the economy and quality of life. People rely on them as places to do business and where they engage in cultural and social events. New this year is the Downtown Redevelopment program which provides funding incentives to stimulate investment in the redevelopment of downtown properties. The new program supports local communities and their work to further revitalize their downtowns.*

Downtown Redevelopment program provides funding incentives to stimulate investment in the redevelopment of downtown properties. The program offers gap financing for business owners through grants, loans or a combination of both.

**Eligible applicants:** Private businesses, cities, counties, Tribal governments and governmental entities created pursuant to Minnesota Statutes within the agency's service area. Multi-organization collaboration is welcomed.

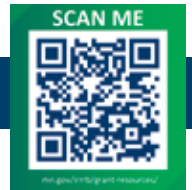
**Eligible projects:** Examples include, but are not limited to, new facility construction and existing facility re-construction located on a non-active business property at the time of application and in a downtown commercial corridor.

**FY25 funding:** \$1,000,000. Projects that leverage private investment and bank or alternative lender financing will be prioritized.

This is a pilot program, and pre-application meetings are required.



## Grant Writing Assistance



*The city of Tower was awarded Grant Writing Assistance funding to hire a professional grant writer. The grant writer secured \$11,000 in grants from state and philanthropic sources to help renovate the Train Depot Museum, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The renovations involved a new roof and interior improvements including repair and painting of the ceiling and ticket office walls. Located at the entrance of Tower, the Train Depot complex features a 1910 steam locomotive engine, passenger car and cabooses. The museum tells stories of life at the turn of the century through historic pictures and logging and mining artifacts. The surrounding grounds offer a picnic area, playground and a two-room trapper's log cabin.*

**Train Depot Museum  
Tower**

Grant Writing Assistance reimburses the costs of preparing and applying for a non-agency grant that will advance economic growth.

**Eligible applicants:** Cities, townships, nonprofits, Tribal governments, public school districts and governmental entities created pursuant to Minnesota Statutes within the agency's service area. Multi-organization collaboration is welcomed.

**Eligible projects:** Funds may be used for grant writing assistance to include preparation and submission of applications for grant funding from state, federal or private grant programs. Projects should involve larger, complex grant proposals that address local needs and advance economic growth.

**Required match per project:** 1:1

**FY25 funding:** \$50,000. Grant amounts vary and range up to \$3,000.

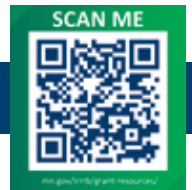
**Evaluation criteria:**

- Complexity of the grant application.
- Qualifications of the grant writer.
- Copy of the grant application(s) and guidelines.
- Diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility.
- Job creation and retention.





## Housing



*The grants support projects that increase the region's housing capacity through new housing development and rehabilitation of existing housing. The regional housing shortage is a critical economic issue. Supply and choice of inventory are currently low, and demand is high. The shortage is not unique to the region; it is occurring throughout the state of Minnesota. The need for additional housing in northeastern Minnesota impacts employers, employees, municipalities, families, school districts, seniors and new and existing residents.*

Housing grants assist projects or programs that result in the creation of new housing units or the rehabilitation of existing housing units. The program will support housing solutions that align with local priorities and regional employer's needs.

**Eligible applicants:** Cities, townships, counties, nonprofits, Tribal governments and governmental entities created pursuant to Minnesota Statutes within the agency's service area. Multi-organization collaboration is welcomed.

**Eligible projects:** Examples include, but are not limited to, infrastructure and site work of new housing developments on vacant and redeveloped land, repurposing non-residential buildings for residential use, rehabilitating existing single-family and multi-family housing and funding for housing trust funds or programming to support local workforce housing initiatives.

**Required match per project:** 1:1

**FY25 funding:** \$6,000,000. Grant amounts vary.

### **Evaluation criteria for Housing Program Initiative:**

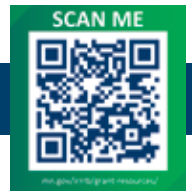
- Project readiness.
- Financial resourcefulness.
- Job creation and retention.
- Diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility.
- Environmental impact and mitigation.

### **Evaluation criteria for Housing Projects Initiative:**

- Project readiness.
- Economic impact and market characteristics.
- Diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility.
- Environmental impact and mitigation.
- Job creation and retention.



## Mineland Reclamation



*The city of Hibbing was awarded a Mineland Reclamation grant to construct two structures that serve as visitor centers overlooking Hull Rust Mine View. One structure will contain displays of historical artifacts, maps and artwork. The other structure will have an exhibit hall, reception area, gift shop and outdoor balcony overlooking the mine. The two new facilities are scheduled for completion in 2024. The mine view was relocated several years ago to accommodate Hibbing Taconite’s mining operations. The new location offers the public 360-degree viewing access of Hibbing Taconite’s mine operations and the historic city of Hibbing. The new mine view is called “Windows to the World” and includes walking trails, interpretive signage, multiple viewing points and a park where kids can climb on mining equipment artifacts.*

**Hull Rust Mine View  
Hibbing**  
Photo by: FORTERRA

Mineland Reclamation grants assist with highly visible development and restoration of mining-impacted land.

**Eligible applicants:** Cities, townships, counties, nonprofits, Tribal governments and governmental entities created pursuant to Minnesota Statutes within the agency’s service area. Multi-organization collaboration is welcomed.

**Eligible projects:** Projects that reclaim or repurpose former mining-impacted lands not otherwise provided by state law or that sustain current and future mining. Examples include stockpile reclamation and vegetative enhancements, master planning, recreational and mine pit development and improvements.

**Required match per project:** 1:1

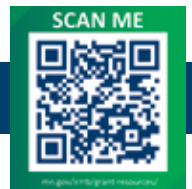
**FY25 funding:** \$350,000. Grant amounts vary.

**Evaluation criteria:**

- Impact.
- Community benefit and partnerships.
- Project readiness and timeliness.
- Diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility.
- Environmental impact and mitigation.
- Job creation and retention.



## Public Works



*The city of Grand Rapids was awarded a Public Works grant to renovate the Yanmar Arena (formerly known as the Itasca Recreation Association Civic Center) with ADA, mechanical and structural improvements. An elevator was added, the parking lot was upgraded, two flexible meeting rooms were created, and the roof truss system and ice making equipment were replaced. The electrical, heating, venting and air conditioning systems were either upgraded or replaced. The center hosts numerous community events, athletic and hockey functions, concerts, conventions, private banquets and weddings.*

Yanmar Arena  
Grand Rapids

Public Works grants support local and Tribal governments with infrastructure funding that provides essential services and promotes economic development.

**Eligible applicants:** Cities, townships, Tribal governments or affiliated government economic development authorities created pursuant to Minnesota Statutes within the agency's service area. Multi-organization collaboration is welcomed.

**Eligible projects:** Examples include, but are not limited to, sewer (lines, lift stations, treatment facilities), water (lines, treatment facilities, water storage/towers), stormwater, streets, street lightings, sidewalks, dams, building improvements (city halls, townhalls, fire departments, public safety buildings, public works, libraries) and recreational facilities, such as arenas and community centers, large regionally significant parks or campgrounds, airport buildings and infrastructure.

**Required match per project:** 1:1

**FY25 funding:** \$6,000,000. Grant amounts vary.

**Evaluation criteria:**

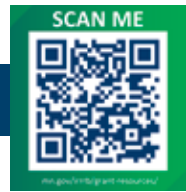
- Project impact.
- Non-applicant funding sources.
- Mining-impacted community.
- Diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility.
- Environmental impact and mitigation.

**Note:** Beginning in fiscal year 2025, Community Infrastructure and Development Infrastructure grant programs merged into the Public Works grant program.





## Regional Trails



Regional Trails grants assist with the design, engineering and construction of various types of trails.

**Eligible applicants:** Cities, townships, nonprofits, counties, Tribal governments and governmental entities created pursuant to Minnesota Statutes within the agency's service area. The applicant or collaboration partners must be the current or intended property owner with control of the property. Multi-organization collaboration is welcomed.

**Eligible projects:** Examples include trail master planning, design, engineering, construction, fencing, trail counters, signage, emergency access roads, parking lots, kiosks, trailheads and trail equipment.

**Required match per project:** 1:1

**FY25 funding:** \$500,000. Grant awards vary.

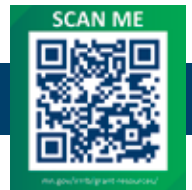
**Evaluation criteria:**

- Economic impact.
- Enhancement to region/community.
- Community partnerships and support.
- Diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility.
- Environmental impact and mitigation.
- Project readiness and timeliness.
- Job creation and retention.

*The city of Crosby was awarded a Regional Trails grant to construct a beginner mountain bike trail and learning space on the Cuyuna Range Elementary School grounds, providing Crosby area youth and community members the opportunity to develop mountain biking skills. The trail is also used for preschool through 6th grade students to hike, snowshoe and cross country run. Teachers and students may utilize the trail as an outdoor classroom for studying nature and bird and animal watching.*



## Residential Redevelopment



*The city of Hoyt Lakes was awarded a Residential Redevelopment grant to demolish one blighted garage that had structural issues beyond repair. A new garage was constructed in its place, improving the property and neighborhood.*

Residential Redevelopment grants assist with demolishing residential structures or full deconstruction of homes for reuse of materials. Projects must eliminate blight, improve property maintenance, promote health and safety, reduce waste or encourage economic development. Homeowners interested in applying should contact their municipality.

**Eligible applicants:** Cities, townships, nonprofits, counties, Tribal governments and governmental entities created pursuant to Minnesota Statutes within the agency's service area. Multi-organization collaboration is welcomed.

**Eligible structures:** Single-unit residential homes, residential duplexes, residential multi-unit structures, garages, sheds and barns located within a residential zone. Dilapidated cabin removal may be eligible if a redevelopment plan to build new is in place.

**FY25 funding:** \$225,000. A maximum of \$3 per building square foot or 75% of demolition costs including basements, whichever is less.

**Evaluation criteria:**

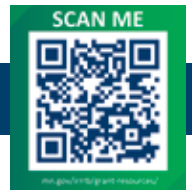
- Redevelopment use.
- Removes blight.
- Project readiness and timeliness.
- Diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility.
- Environmental impact and mitigation.
- Urgent public health and safety issues.
- Job creation and retention.





*Minnesota North College Customized Training Solutions was awarded Workforce Development grants to launch training programs for new and incumbent frontline workers within the healthcare and emergency services fields. The program increased the frequency of entry-level short-term training options in northeastern Minnesota and has resulted in new firefighters, emergency medical responders, certified nursing assistants, medication aides and others in mental health and first aid. The grants are helping open the door for many people to enter the field at a lower financial risk. The newly certified professionals are serving area communities on fire departments, ambulance services, healthcare facilities and law enforcement agencies.*

## Workforce Development



Workforce Development grants assist with education, training and career awareness initiatives that address regional workforce needs and gaps emerging in industries and schools.

**Eligible applicants:** An accredited post-secondary education institution, nonprofits, Tribal governments and governmental entities created pursuant to Minnesota Statutes providing education or training programs for the benefit of service area industries and workers. Multi-organization collaboration is welcomed.

**Examples of projects:** College program to increase women's enrollment in high-demand nontraditional fields of study such as heating and cooling technicians, industrial mechanics and electrical maintenance.

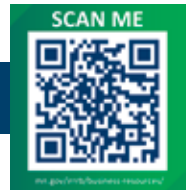
**Required match per project:** 1:1

**FY25 funding:** \$400,000. Grant amounts vary.

**Evaluation criteria:**

- Workforce impact.
- Regional benefits and partnerships.
- Diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility.
- Project planning and management.
- Job creation and retention.





*Range Steel Fabricators (RSF) owners Jeff and Gina Halter utilized a bank participation loan to add a new Okuma Genos M560-V 4-axis vertical machining center (VMC) to its operations. The VMC decreases production time and increases quality of finished products for one of RSF's largest customers. The new computerized VMC offers excellent cutting performance, accuracy and repeatability. It can handle a variety of materials from steel to titanium to aluminum. RSF machines and fabricates steel and aluminum components and supplies them to industries such as energy and utilities, mining and minerals, paper and forest products, commercial construction, heavy equipment and industrial manufacturing. Local companies use the components from RSF to assemble their products that are then sold and shipped all over the world from northeastern Minnesota.*

Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation works to grow and diversify the region's economy across industries by working directly with CEOs of large corporations, small business owners and entrepreneurs to provide financial assistance packages for both existing and new businesses.

Flexible, custom, low-interest loans are available to qualifying businesses relocating to the region and to existing businesses that are expanding. The agency is limited to a maximum of 50% participation in eligible financed costs.

The agency works to support existing businesses and recruit new businesses that offer well-paying jobs representing a wide variety of skill sets. Businesses provide jobs that can range from engineers to welders, customer service representatives to managers, or machinists to mechanics.

Three types of loans are available:

- Bank Participation Loan.
- Direct Loan.
- Loan Guaranty.



## Business Loans



*Lamppa Manufacturing of Tower is a fourth-generation manufacturer of wood-burning sauna stoves and warm-air furnaces. The company always tries to use American-made steel and locally sourced materials to manufacture its saunas and furnaces, which are sold in Minnesota and across North America. One of its products, the patented Kuuma Vapor-Fire 100, is the cleanest burning and most efficient gasification wood furnace ever certified by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). CEO Garrett Lamppa recently utilized a bank participation loan to provide working capital to bring the highly efficient and clean-burning Kuuma BluFlame Gasification Sauna Stove to market and develop a new electric sauna stove.*

Lamppa Manufacturing  
Tower

### Bank Participation Loan

The agency purchases a portion of a loan originating with a commercial bank or other regulated lender. The interest rate on the agency's purchased participation will be set at a minimum interest rate of three percentage points less than the full-faith and credit obligations of the United States government of a comparable term to the loan, rounded up to the nearest .5%. The minimum rate charged on participation loans is 1%.

### Direct Loan

The agency provides a loan directly to the eligible business. The interest rate is set at one percentage point less than the full-faith and credit obligations of the United States government of comparable term to the loan, rounded up to the nearest .5%. The minimum rate charged on direct loans is 3%.

### Bank Participation and Direct Loans - Allowable use of loan funds:

- Property and building acquisition.
- Building renovation.
- New building construction (only permanent term financing).
- Property improvements.
- Machinery and equipment purchase.
- Inventory purchase.

### Loan Guaranty

The loan guaranty program allows the agency to guaranty a bank loan for eligible businesses. The guaranty can be up to 75% of the total loan or up to a \$75,000 maximum.

### Grants

Competitive grants are available to local municipalities and Tribal governments that promote business development and community growth. The grants help pay for infrastructure, sitework, internal and external building demolition for property reuse and energy efficient upgrades to buildings.

## Business-Related Grants



### Business Energy Retrofit (BER)

Assists business owners with energy efficiency improvements to their building. See complete grant information on pages 12-13.



### Commercial Redevelopment

Assists with the full and selective demolition of commercial and industrial buildings and the clean-up of brownfields to pave the way for new development. See complete grant information on pages 14-15.



### Downtown Building Rehabilitation (DBR)

Assists downtown business owners with costs of code compliance construction and remodeling projects. See complete grant information on pages 20-21.



### Downtown Redevelopment

The pilot program will provide gap funding to support building construction projects serving locally owned businesses on main streets in downtown areas. See complete grant information on pages 22-23.



### Public Works

Assists with infrastructure projects that support business development. See complete grant information on pages 30-31.



### Workforce Development

Assists with education, training and career awareness initiatives that address regional workforce needs and gaps emerging in industries and schools. See complete grant information on pages 36-37.

## NOTES





Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation works to  
improve economic opportunities for diversity and  
inclusion within its service area.



**IRON RANGE RESOURCES  
& REHABILITATION**

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