



Culture & Tourism Grant Program

Program Description

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.

Results

Documented results for fiscal year 2025 as of **September 2, 2025**.

Projects

Table one below provides an overview of project funding across fiscal years 2024 (FY24), 2025 (FY25), 2026 (FY26) and 2027 (FY27), including program budget, number of grants, total agency investment, total project investment and leverage.

Table 1.

Project Funding	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27
Budget	\$600,000	\$600,000		
Number of Grants	33	30		
Total Agency Investment	\$595,000	\$599,400		
Total Project Investment	\$3,462,030	\$4,271,281		
Leverage	4.8:1	6.1:1		

Key Impact Measures

Table two below provides an overview of key impact measures across fiscal years 2024 (FY24), 2025 (FY25), 2026 (FY26) and 2027 (FY27) projects, including tourism projects, parks and recreation projects, arts, culture and history projects, communities served and funding partners.

Table 2.

Key Impact Measures	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27
Tourism Projects	8	7		
Parks and Recreation Projects	17	13		
Arts, Culture and History Projects	8	10		

Key Impact Measures	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27
Communities Served	22	20		
Funding Partners	79	80		

Fiscal Year 2025 Grants

Table three below provides an overview of the grantees, their project descriptions, location, agency and total project investments.

Table 3.

Grantee	Project Description	Location	Agency Investment	Total Project Investment
Aitkin County Friends of the Arts	Renovations at The Terrace	Aitkin	\$30,000	\$60,000
American Bear Association	Construct new wildlife sanctuary	Orr	\$30,000	\$60,000
Aurora	Construct Pine Grove Park warming house and shelter	Aurora	\$30,000	\$163,693
Babbitt	Improvements at city's park	Babbitt	\$30,000	\$69,192
Bigfork Valley Community Foundation	Support destination marketing campaign	Bigfork	\$25,000	\$60,000
Cast Outdoor Adventures, Inc.	Purchase adaptive dog sleds	Ely	\$6,000	\$12,000
Cook County Community YMCA d/b/a Duluth Area Family YMCA	Construct inclusive playground	Grand Marais	\$30,000	\$102,544
Crow Wing County Land Services	Construct non-motorized walking trails at Milford Mine Memorial Park	Crosby	\$30,000*	\$2,140,550
Ely Area Community Foundation	Renovate a multi-purpose space at the Ely Area Hub	Ely	\$25,000	\$50,000
Ely's Historic State Theater	Upgrade facility and technology	Ely	\$30,000*	\$175,650
Eveleth Heritage Society	Preserve Franklin Elementary School mural	Eveleth	\$4,500	\$13,040
Flintlock Range Association	Upgrade the Flintlock Sports Park shooting and archery range facility	Grand Marais	\$14,100	\$28,522
French Township	Construct new pickleball courts	Side Lake	\$30,000	\$116,320
Grand Marais Art Colony	Construct a new outdoor classroom and community gathering space	Grand Marais	\$10,000	\$20,000
Grand Portage Reservation Tribal Council Business Committee	Restoration of the Grand Portage Log School and Community Building	Grand Portage	\$30,000	\$61,305
Greenwood Community Recreation Board	Upgrade Greenwood Township Recreation Area	Tower	\$10,000	\$39,000
Hibbing Area Chamber of Commerce	Purchase traveling mural system	Hibbing	\$13,950	\$27,900

Grantee	Project Description	Location	Agency Investment	Total Project Investment
Iron Range Tourism Bureau	Support marketing campaign in St. Cloud region	Eveleth	\$20,000	\$55,000
Itasca County Land Department	Construct new pavilion and ADA accessibility upgrades at Bass Lake Park and Campground	Grand Rapids	\$30,000	\$69,000
Itasca Ski and Outing, Inc.	Purchase snow guns and facility upgrades at Mount Itasca	Coleraine	\$30,000	\$64,000
John Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon	Support the 2025 John Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon	North Shore	\$8,900	\$21,000
Judy Garland Children's Museum	Renovations to the Children's Discovery Museum	Grand Rapids	\$14,000	\$33,000
Knife River Heritage and Cultural Center	Enhance boat shelter with cultural aspects	Knife River	\$1,275	\$2,550
Lincoln Parent Teacher Organization	Construct inclusive playground at Lincoln Elementary School – Phase 2	Hibbing	\$30,000*	\$567,303
Noatun Community Wooden Boat Works	Support wooden ship building and new shop space	Knife River	\$12,000	\$24,000
Pelican Lake Resort Association	Support marketing campaign for Pelican Lake	Orr	\$25,000	\$50,000
Silica Volunteer Fire Department	Construct new pickleball court	Hibbing	\$24,500	\$56,150
Stages of the Range Players	Support performances by Stages of the Range Players	Virginia	\$9,500	\$25,813
Truman Blakesley American Legion Post 432	Upgrade and install new recreational amenities at campground – Phase 2	Warba	\$11,500*	\$95,400
VFW Post 4456	Purchase power wheelchair lift for community events	Gilbert	\$4,175	\$8,350

**Project received agency funding from another fiscal year or program.*