

Development Partnership Grant Program

Program Description

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

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	\$1,590,000	\$1,875,000		
Number of Grants	23	19		
Total Agency Investment	\$1,502,211	\$1,425,735		
Total Project Investment	\$5,727,746	\$30,525,483		
Leverage	2.8:1	20.4:1		

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 industries served and economic development partners.

Table 2.

Key Impact Measures	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27
Industries Served	8	9		
Economic Development Partners	74	52		

Fiscal Year 2025 Grants

Table three below provides an overview of the grantees, project descriptions, communities served, industries served, agency investments and total project investments.

Table 3.

Grantee	Project Description	Communities Served	Industries Served	Agency Investment	Total Project Investment
Aitkin County Growth d/b/a Growth Innovations	Market study for housing development	Aitkin	Housing	\$7,500	\$29,400
Curl Mesabi Foundation	Support the Pan Continental Curling Championships	Multi-community	Culture & Tourism	\$50,000	\$130,000
East Range Joint Powers Board	Economic development initiatives	Multi-community	Community	\$50,000	\$110,000
Eveleth	Support downtown business attraction and retention efforts	Eveleth	Business	\$9,485	\$18,969
Eveleth	Development plan and brownfield remediation for Alice Location	Eveleth	Housing	\$60,000	\$139,495
Hibbing	Facility planning for the Androy Ballroom	Hibbing	Planning/ Research	\$3,750	\$7,500
Hibbing Chisholm Youth Hockey Association	Economic impact study	Multi-community	Planning/ Research	\$4,000	\$8,000
Itasca Economic Development Corporation	Support Thrive Up North initiative — Phase 4	Multi-community	Workforce	\$10,000	\$74,000
Itasca Economic Development Corporation	Support Bigfork Business Revitalization Grant Program	Bigfork	Business	\$16,500	\$66,000
Iron Range Learning and Development Center	Expansion and retention of child care facility	Multi-community	Child care	\$270,000*	\$984,900
Iron Range Tourism Bureau	Purchase geolocation software for tourism	Multi-community	Culture & Tourism	\$7,500	\$15,000
Laurentian Chamber of Commerce	Purchase economic development analytic software	Multi-Community	Business	\$5,000	\$10,000
Nashwauk	Zoning ordinance reform plan	Nashwauk	Housing	\$12,000	\$24,000

Grantee	Project Description	Communities Served	Industries Served	Agency Investment	Total Project Investment
Northland Foundation	Support the Northland Small Business Development Center	Taconite Assistance Area	Business	\$100,000	\$716,000
Northland Foundation	Iron ore study	Taconite Assistance Area	Planning/ Research	\$50,000	\$100,000
Northspan Group, Inc.	Support producers and partners in regional food systems	Taconite Assistance Area	Agriculture	\$20,000	\$51,966
Northspan Group, Inc.	Support Driving Access to Wealth & Networks (DAWN)	Taconite Assistance Area	Business	\$50,000	\$915,253
Upper Midwest Film Office	Support film production and industry in the taconite assistance area	Taconite Assistance Area	Film	\$500,000	\$26,500,000
Virginia	Downtown Commercial Rehabilitation Program	Virginia	Business	\$200,000	\$625,000

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