



SOUTHERN MINNESOTA
INITIATIVE FOUNDATION

Collaborating for Regional Vitality

Houston County Investments

We envision southern Minnesota as a prosperous and growing region with vibrant communities, innovative and successful economies, and engaged and valued citizens. To achieve this vision, Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation, a regional development and philanthropic organization, fosters economic and community vitality in 20 counties of southern Minnesota through a culture of collaboration and partnership.

For every donation of
from Houston County

\$1



\$12

is invested back into
Houston County
communities.*

*Includes grants, loans & programming

10 LOANS

\$593,000 to Houston entrepreneurs

82 GRANTS

\$464,00 to support community initiatives

***\$5 million invested annually to the 20 counties of
south central and southeastern Minnesota***

Since 1986, Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation has leveraged local investments & partnerships to create a stronger **Houston County**:

\$153,000 in local donations to SMIF

\$1.8 million

invested by SMIF in Houston County through grants, loans, and programming for stronger kids, businesses and communities

Loans & Equity Investments* Supporting local entrepreneurs & creating jobs

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| Amanda's Daycare, Hokah | Family child care provider |
| Caledonia Oil Company | Service station |
| Eitzen Manufacturing Incorporated | Manufacturer of feed and hay handling equipment |
| Sno Pac Foods, Caledonia | Organic food processor |
| Old Hickory Orchards Incorporated, La Crescent | Apple Orchard |

*Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation in partnership with CEDA and DEED hold the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for Region 10, allowing these counties to apply for Economic Development Administration funding at the Federal level.

Grants Investments in economic development, early childhood and community vitality

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| AmeriCorps LEAP, Ridgeway Community School, Houston | Members helping with social emotional skill development |
| SE MN Together | Collaborative regional project to address workforce issues |
| Spring Grove Area - Past Present and Future | New model to support entrepreneurs and businesses |
| City of La Crescent | Community branding for future development |
| La Crescent Public Library | Promoting summer literacy with Lunch Wagon event |
| Houston County Public Health | Provide social and emotional screenings and early literacy activities |
| Carlson Roasting Co., Houston | FEAST! Smart Start client |
| Spring Grove Public Schools | Create Makerspace program for students |
| City of Houston | Youth program to investigate local issues |
| City of Spring Grove | Entrepreneurial Toolkit project |

Affiliate Funds Increasing rural philanthropy

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| Houston Area Community Foundation |
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Community Collaborations Bringing communities together for change

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| Spring Grove "Entrepreneur Community Growth Initiative" |
| La Crescent Community Growth Initiative |
| Houston County Early Childhood Initiative (started in 2006) |
| Rural Entrepreneurial Venture (REV) Community, Spring Grove |

Making a Difference Empowering youth in small communities



The City of Houston received a \$10,000 Small Town Grant from SMIF to immerse youth ages 13 – 18 in the Houston community's historical and cultural resources. Students gathered and produced compelling community stories detailing Houston's economy and worker identity through the Stories: YES Houston project.

The grant helped fund materials and supplies to bring the students' research to life in the form of an exhibit. The grant also supported the professionals who helped make this opportunity come to life.