

Programs

As a force and resource for Northwest Minnesota, we champion ideas that stabilize and strengthen our communities. Working side by side with neighbors and local leaders, together we address today's challenges and build tomorrow's best future.



Our commitment

Our purpose, building better lives, shows through in all that we do — starting with the principles we act by. These guiding principles are our commitments for how we conduct our work and are the standard for our actions.

We build relationships

with organizations that share our goals, seeking mutual understandings and solutions to shared challenges.

We develop community leaders

through our partners who offer world-class leadership development programs. We believe big change starts at the local level. We commit to helping connect local leaders to opportunities, to grow their leadership capacity.

We value our natural assets

for the quality of life and economic resources they bring to the region, and we commit to promoting stewardship of the region's natural assets.

We commit to equity

for all in our region. We seek to ensure that all programming and work involving the foundation has been designed to be culturally supportive and effective for all.

Children & Families

Families will be strengthened in our communities with higher needs, larger disparity gaps, and with committed leadership who share a desire for change. We will help strengthen children and families through improved family supports, helping to support community-led, community-driven “coming together” for a shared vision and action.

Child Care

We grow the capacity of quality child care in our region. We lead and support collaborative efforts in communities to find innovative, sustainable solutions to help solve their unique child care needs. We incentivize child care providers to improve the quality of their care, and we assist providers and communities through flexible lending and grant products.

Homelessness

We lead a regional approach to ending homelessness *for all* across the region through systems-change efforts, facilitating collaboration and investing resources to develop capacity. With a strategic emphasis on ending youth homelessness we will work to ensure that any instances of youth homelessness (those under 25 years of age) are rare, brief, and one-time.

Housing

We support the region through collaboration and development of creative solutions to add housing capacity. We provide a mix of lending and grant products to assist housing efforts in our communities. Activities and products are designed to address workforce, affordable, and supportive housing needs.

Entrepreneur & Small Business Development

We support and develop the region’s entrepreneurs and small businesses. Making local business strong makes our whole community stronger. With our support, business owners gain the mentorship, strategic connections, and valuable resources they need for their business to move ahead. We provide business technical assistance and loans.

Northwest SBDC

The SBDC provides free information, confidential counseling, and one-on-one support to start, build and grow your business. We have the tools, templates, training and services to make the process as easy as possible.

Communities Thrive

We invest resources to help communities thrive. We work with communities to help identify the communities’ needs and provide a mix of flexible lending and grant products to help communities meet those needs.