



# Economic Development & Business Financing

## Local business ownership. Quality jobs. Bustling communities and thriving families.

That's the Initiative Foundation's vision of economic opportunity in central Minnesota. Our wealth-building programs help communities, entrepreneurs and working families across a number of fronts.

For businesses, our loans fill financing gaps that may prevent a company from starting or expanding. For nonprofits, our grants tackle issues like community planning, transportation, childcare and workforce development. We monitor the economic pulse of the region, forming partnerships and strategies to attract and grow businesses in central Minnesota.

### FINANCING >

The Initiative Foundation's business loans work to strengthen communities and diversify local economies. Always in partnership with other lenders, the foundation offers supplemental loans to entrepreneurs who:

- *Wish to start or expand a locally owned business.*
- *Have a sound business plan and acceptable credit.*
- *Demonstrate a financing gap.*
- *Create quality jobs with living wages and benefits.*
- *Advance local and regional goals for target industries.*

Initiative Foundation loans range from \$50,000 to \$500,000 and are seldom more than 50 percent of a total financing package. Terms require a personal guaranty. The foundation does not award grants to businesses or finance alcohol, tobacco, gambling or pornography.

### FUNDS >

#### Direct Business Loan Fund

Up to \$250,000 for value-added agriculture and manufacturing companies that bring new revenue to communities.

#### Technology Capital Fund

Up to \$500,000 for emerging high-tech ventures and technologies that increase manufacturing productivity.

#### Green Business Loan Fund

Up to \$250,000 for eco-businesses that preserve the environment, reduce energy demands or recycle existing waste streams.

#### Seed Capital Fund

Up to \$50,000 for equity investments that finance early-stage research and development for emerging technology products.

#### Microenterprise Loan Guaranty

Up to \$50,000 lender guaranty (up to 80% of project) for small businesses that meet community needs, including nontraditional borrowers and service/retail.

### FYI >

Business loans are competitive and subject to review by staff evaluators and a volunteer committee. Loans may require 90 days to review and close based on documentation and complexity.



### For more info, contact:

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