



Initiative Foundation at work in  
**CHISAGO COUNTY**

**\$411,630**

in local donations to the Initiative Foundation.

**\$2.9 MILLION**

returned to Chisago County in grants and loans.

**Our Mission:**

To empower people to build thriving communities and a vibrant region across Central Minnesota.

405 First Street SE  
Little Falls, MN 56345  
(877) 632-9255  
[ifound.org](http://ifound.org)



**Powering Possible**

**Return on Investment**

For every local dollar contributed, the Initiative Foundation has invested **\$7.08** back into Chisago County.

**Economic Impact**

[1986 to present]

- Awarded 132 grants totaling **\$1.2 million**
- 33 loans totaling **\$1.74 million**
- Secured **390 quality jobs**
- Leveraged **\$13 million** in private business financing

# CHISAGO COUNTY Investment Highlight

For a full listing of Initiative Foundation investments in Chisago County, Contact us at (877) 632-9255.

## Grants Thriving Economy, Thriving Communities

|                                                   |                                                                             |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Chisago County Economic Development, North Branch | ABC Competiton Project                                                      |
| City of Rush City                                 | Thriving Communities Initiative                                             |
| City of North Branch                              | Economic development data collection                                        |
| Chisago County                                    | EDA/HRA National Development Council training; Highway 8 business loan fund |
| City of Taylors Falls                             | Parks and trails master plan                                                |
| City of Wyoming                                   | Community economic strategic plan                                           |
| Horizon Health, Inc., Pierz                       | Nonprofit social enterprise program                                         |
| Lakes Area Youth Service Bureau, Forest Lake      | Nonprofit social enterprise program                                         |
| North Branch Area Schools                         | Early childhood projects                                                    |
| Wildlife Forever                                  | Preventing the spread of Aquatic Invasic Species                            |

## Business Financing Local Ownership, Quality Jobs

|                                                      |                                             |
|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Chad P. Nelson Law Office, LLC, Lindstrom            | Law office                                  |
| Franconia Restaurant Enterprises, Inc., Taylor Falls | Drive-in restaurant                         |
| LEI Packaging, LLC, Chisago City                     | Manufacturer of paper pulp egg cartons      |
| Link Corporation dba SwitchGenie LLC, Stacy          | Lighting systems and equipment manufacturer |

## Charitable Funds Activating Generosity

Manufacturing Fund of Central Minnesota | Chisago Lakes ABC Initiative Fund | Braham Area Education Foundation

## Technical Assistance Investing in Talent

|                             |                     |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Link Corporation, Stacy     | Feasibility study   |
| Wyoming Machine, Stacy      | Sales and marketing |
| Hwy 8 Businesses, Lindstrom | Sales and marketing |

## Community Action The Power of Partnership

The Chisago Lakes Area is approaching a goal of 100 percent energy independence thanks to the early success of its Clean Energy Financing Hub. Created in partnership with an energy consulting firm, and using a grant from the Initiative Foundation, the Hub leverages public and private financing resources to develop clean energy projects and reduce energy consumption.

Wyoming is transitioning from a small community to thriving business hub. To ease its growing pains and attract new businesses, the community is creating a strategic plan to chart its economic future. Supported by

an Initiative Foundation grant, city officials are meeting with consultants and business owners to explore community needs, identify areas of improvement and outline projects to attract and retain skilled workers.

The Chisago Lakes Area is rolling along with improvements following its April Top 8 finish in the America's Best Communities (ABC) contest. In addition to creating an Initiative Foundation-hosted Partner Fund to support joint efforts, the five participating communities have added signage along the Chisago Lakes Water Trail, and they've dedicated a new Memorial Park trailhead in

Lindstrom with sightseeing information and hydration and bike repair stations.

High-speed internet is coming to part of Sunrise Township, east of North Branch, thanks to a Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) broadband grant. Township and local government officials partnered with DEED and CenturyLink to bring broadband to nearly 600 homes and a major manufacturing business. A longtime supporter of broadband access, the Initiative Foundation sponsored the Blandin Foundation's October Border to Border Broadband Conference at Madden's Resort.