

## United States Senate

July 8, 2021

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Chairman  
Appropriations Committee  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Vice Chairman  
Appropriations Committee  
Washington, DC 20510

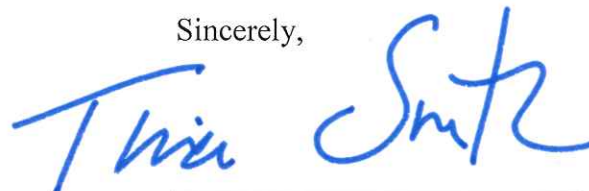
The Honorable Patty Murray  
Chair  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education, and Related Agencies  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee  
on Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education, and Related Agencies  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy, Vice Chairman Shelby, Chair Murray, and Ranking Member Blunt,

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has a pecuniary interest in any of the congressionally directed spending items that I have requested in the Fiscal Year 2022 Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, consistent with the requirements of paragraph 9 of Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

Sincerely,



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Tina Smith  
United States Senator

**Smith, Tina(D-MN) Labor and Health and Human Services  
Congressionally Directed Spending Requests**

Recipient Name	Project Purpose	Project Location	Amount Requested (\$000)
Minnesota Recovery Connection	Minnesota Recovery Connection (MRC)'s mission is to strengthen the recovery community through peer-to-peer support, public education and advocacy. MRC envisions a world where addiction is understood and recovery from addiction is encouraged, promoted and supported - at home, work and in the community. The organization is a statewide leader in providing peer recovery support services, which are a person-centered, evidence-based model of giving and receiving non-clinical care and assistance for recovery from SUD. MRC seeks to amplify its capacity as a leading provider of wraparound, community-based peer recovery support services and programming for individuals and families living with substance use disorder (SUD). Peer recovery support services help individuals and families in achieving and sustaining long-term recovery from SUD via non-clinical assistance. SUD is an increasing health, social and economic crisis in Minnesota, exacerbated by widening racial and ethnic disparities and the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Through MRC's spectrum of programming, individuals stabilize their lives; access mainstream networks and institutions such as healthcare; secure safe housing; connect to education; gain job skills; and become fully contributing members of Minnesota's community, skilled workforce and economy.	7-County Twin Cities Metropolitan Region MN	\$200
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe	Minnesota Department of Health has released Preliminary FY 2020 Drug Overdose Deaths Report. This report showed that Greater Minnesota drug overdose deaths increased 21% from 2019 to 2020. The increase from Quarter 1 to Quarter 2, drug overdoses was 43%. The MDH data also shows that adults aged 25 to 34 years had the highest number of opioid related drug overdose deaths increased by 57% that is 98 more individuals that lost life in 2020 than in 2019. The disparities from metro areas to greater Minnesota are apparent in all areas of support services and were highlighted during the pandemic. Mille Lacs Band proposed to open a culturally based treatment facility in Greater Minnesota. At this time there are only 9 treatment facilities in the Greater Minnesota region. With the Band's proposal we can contribute to combatting the opioid crisis in rural regions with multiple barrier to self-sufficiency and a healthy lifestyle.	Aitkin County MN	\$5,200
Alexandria Technical and Community College	Alexandria Technical and Community College (ATCC), along with its Distance Minnesota (DM) partners (Bemidji State University, Northwest Technical College, and Northland Technical and Community College) seek to provide leadership in further development of a military transfer curriculum portal that assists service members by providing complete analysis of Military Occupational Codes to degree completion programs. We expect this project, called Minnesota's Global Military Learning Network, to increase enrollment, diversify our student body, and better align with Equity 2030 objectives, designed to close opportunity and graduation gaps of people of color and other non-traditional student groups.	Alexandria MN	\$1,090
Forum of Regional Arts Councils of Minnesota	While the Americans with Disabilities Act "prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in all areas of public life, including jobs, schools, transportation, and all public and private places that are open to the general public," many of Minnesota's arts and cultural venues do not meet this minimum requirement. This creates a great disadvantage for Minnesotans with disabilities to fully participate in the arts the way they should and could throughout the state. Recognizing the need to make the arts more accessible in Minnesota, Regional Arts Councils of Minnesota seeks to fund physical improvements to bring venues up to the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act.	All 87 counties MN	\$3,000
Dakota Child and Family Clinic	Despite the Medicaid expansion, approximately a half-million Minnesotans remain uninsured. Dakota Child and Family Clinic (DCFC) serves as a safety net for these vulnerable Minnesotans by expanding health care access to the underserved/uninsured, regardless of their ability to pay. Their populations include but are not limited to farmers and migrant farmworkers, racial/ethnic minorities, immigrants with language barriers, low-income children with mental health disorders, pregnant, rural populations, and people who are disabled, elderly, or experiencing homelessness. These patients have unmet social needs such as hunger, unemployment, language and transportation barriers, domestic violence etcetera causing them to slip through the cracks of major health care systems. To better address the needs of the people they serve, DCFC piloted the ImPaCT program and expanded access to clinic hours on Saturdays to help working families access care. Last year, the program was able to serve about 200 underinsured/uninsured families. Through ImPaCT, DCFC looks to expand their Saturday hours to full days, increase telehealth appointments, integrate dental and eyecare services, and increase staff capacity at the Family Assistance and Navigation (FaN) center.	Burnsville MN	\$200
Southern Anoka Community Assistance (SACA)	Since its founding in 1976, SACA Food Shelf and Thrift Store has remained committed to providing basic needs services to the communities of Columbia Heights, Hilltop, Fridley, Spring Lake Park, and NE Minneapolis. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, our goal is to serve participants with dignity and respect, in hopes of providing a pathway to stability and self-sufficiency. Last year alone SACA served over 44,000 individuals and gave out 804,976 pounds of food to those in need. SACA has always had a home in Columbia Heights. We are thankful for the building that houses us, but we are bursting at the seams which makes it difficult to serve the rising need. The increased demand for services due to the COVID-19 outbreak, has made it clear that SACA needs a larger space earlier than originally planned.	Columbia Heights MN	\$1,000
Northwest Technical College	Rural western Minnesota has long been faced with a critical shortage of healthcare workers throughout the region (Minnesota Department of Health, 2017). This shortage has been particularly discernible with the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic. The need for a more robust and extensive healthcare workforce calls for an immediate and collaborative response to produce a substantial number of properly trained and certified employees who can support the health and vitality of these communities. Along with a shortage in healthcare professionals, Beltrami and Mahnommen counties located within western Minnesota have the highest poverty rates of any other county in the state (Minnesota Department of Health, 2017). Additionally, many District 7 counties face some of the lowest health factors and outcomes (County Health Rankings, 2021). Therefore, it is clear the need for a solid, and diverse healthcare workforce is imperative to better support these rural Minnesota communities. The proposed project is an extension of an existing and successful high school career academy model that integrates community resources. The project enables the expertise of three Minnesota State higher education institutions to train a new cohort of nursing assistants and introduce individuals to other career opportunities in the medical field. Success with this model will create a more robust pathway for employment, specifically, the ability to fill a significant void in our healthcare workforce. This project will also create educational access for those interested in obtaining the nursing assistant credential but have been limited by financial and accessibility barriers.	District 7 counties MN	\$1,025
Lake Superior College	Lake Superior College in Duluth, MN offers a nationally recognized aviation maintenance technician program which produces highly skilled and in-demand Airframe and/or Powerplant (A&P) certified mechanics. In 2018, Delta Air Lines selected Lake Superior College as an approved national partner college in training future aviation maintenance technicians (AMTs). Delta TechOps evaluated numerous AMT schools throughout the country with a goal to find colleges that are committed to meeting FAA standards and Delta's principles of excellence to help meet the high demand for Aviation Maintenance Technician positions expected over the next several years. While LSC greatly values the relationship and partnership with Delta, the college also strives to recruit and retain talent in northeast Minnesota. Prior to the pandemic, LSC worked very closely with AAR in Duluth. More than half of the nearly 300 employees at Duluth's AAR were trained at LSC. In 2019, LSC and AAR announced an expanded partnership to continue to recruit and retain talent for years to come by launching the Eagle Pathway Program. The program was vastly successful from the start, allowing AAR to expand their hiring in the summer of 2019 and even extend their lease in the City of Duluth for an additional twenty years, with great confidence. AAR was adding a fourth maintenance line/night shift, while LSC had three full cohorts and was preparing to add a fourth when the pandemic hit which devastated the airline industry. AAR lost their primary customer in United Airlines and was forced to close their Duluth operation in June of 2020. In the meantime, LSC's AMT program continues to maintain strong enrollment and continues to seek a new aviation partner in the existing hangar. Several aviation partners have expressed interest in the hangar, including MRO Holdings. A new aviation partner could bring as much as 300-500 new jobs to the area and take advantage of the already thriving aviation industry in Duluth/NE Minnesota. In order to help recruit, partner with, and successfully support another aviation partner, LSC needs to update their increasingly outdated equipment to meet industry standard and ensure students are learning on modern equipment. The attached proposal includes \$2.6M in needed equipment which would bring the program and its equipment to modern standards and enhance LSC's ability to recruit, retain and train our region's future aviation workforce. As a member of the Minnesota State system, Lake Superior College is a member of the Minnesota Transportation	Duluth MN	\$2,618

	<p>Center of Excellence which includes the two other AMT programs in the State of Minnesota: Northland Community and Technical College (NCTC) in Thief River Falls and Minneapolis Community and Technical College (MCTC). Together, our three campuses, along with St. Cloud State University, have been discussing ways to promote the AMT programs, career opportunities and increasing workforce needs. LSC/Duluth has a unique, competitive advantage in the sense that there is an empty hangar ready for a new aviation partner to begin taking advantage of the pipeline of highly trained aviation talent being produced by LSC. As the only AMT school in northeast Minnesota, LSC wants to ensure Duluth/NE Minnesota remains a premiere aviation maintenance training destination and a thriving aviation hub. Thank you for your support. This would be a huge win not only for LSC and aviation, but for the entire regional economy.</p>		
Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota	<p>Over more than a century of service, Bethany Crisis Shelter – Duluth has functioned as an orphanage, a crisis shelter, and a place of safety and care for generations of children. Throughout this time, LSS has adapted the service delivery method to care for children in crisis and meet family needs. Between 2012 and 2017 there was a significant increase in the number of very young children requiring emergency shelter in St. Louis County. In the last few years, there is a greater mix of ages between birth and 17, with more large sibling groups and a decreased length of stay. The trauma experienced however, is more significant in recent years and youth are disproportionately from BIPOC communities. To meet the change in needs, LSS has improved the service model, providing more specialized training for staff and incorporated Children’s Therapeutic Supports and Services (CTSS) into programming. We’ve also hired a Clinical Therapist who is embedded in our youth and family services to provide mental well being services to children and families on a voluntary basis.</p> <p>LSS is committed to continue offering emergency shelter in a safe environment where children can escape, recover, and heal from trauma. In order to do so, we are rebuilding the Bethany Crisis Shelter – Duluth to be a space that is safe, comfortable and flexible enough to welcome all children, regardless of age or need.</p> <p>At the same time LSS recognizes the need for additional services that remove barriers and address family needs by supporting families before crisis occurs. We continue to see families in need of support and resources related to education, employment with livable wages, safe and affordable housing, mental health and chemical health. Parents seek connection in community, safety and security for themselves and their children. And we know that providing access to resources stabilizes families, helps them remain together and prevents crisis. With a vision of service model improvement, the rebuilt Bethany Crisis Shelter will include space for family reunification, supervised visits, parent coaching, and more.</p> <p>Whether crisis has occurred or resources are provided to prevent crisis, LSS Bethany Crisis Shelter – Duluth will be able to offer the support to partner with families to regain stability, increase resiliency and remain whole.</p> <p>With vast community support and engagement, LSS has raised sixty-five percent of the funds required for the project. Congressionally Directed spending would allow LSS to move forward in rebuilding Bethany Crisis Shelter – Duluth, to provide safety, comfort, and healing for Northland families now and in generations to come.</p>	Duluth MN	\$750
Accessible Space Inc.	<p>Since their founding in 1978, Accessible Space, Inc. (ASI) has played a significant role in providing accessible, affordable housing to those who need it most. Currently, ASI seeks to develop a 55 unit, affordable, accessible senior housing project at Morgan Park Senior Apartments in Duluth, MN. Developing this housing would connect older adults with the long-term services and supports necessary to keep them out of institutional settings. Financial burdens resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic have challenged ASI, and the pandemic has only heightened the demand for affordable housing. Amidst a critical need for new housing, ASI’s ability to successfully finance new housing initiatives is challenged by ongoing and significant increases in construction materials and related construction costs, as well as by continued low housing tax credit values which reduce funding available for construction.</p>	Duluth MN	\$7,100
Churches United in Ministry (CHUM)	<p>This proposal will address the critical need for permanent supportive housing in Duluth for people experiencing homelessness who also experience mental illness and/or substance abuse. About two-thirds (600+) of the people who come to CHUM’s emergency shelter each year fall into this category. There is almost no hope for recovery without stable housing. As the operator of St. Louis County’s largest homeless shelter, CHUM has seen a tragic cycle of people going to treatment, returning to the street/shelter environment and relapsing. To break this cycle we propose to build a facility, modeled after Duluth’s San Marco Apartments, which would provide permanent supportive housing and medical/mental health support in the same way that San Marco provides housing, medically supervised alcohol programs and sobriety supports to chronic alcoholics. For people with chronic substance use and mental health disorders, stable housing is an essential form of health care.</p> <p>The proposed project would complement St. Louis County’s Clarity Project. The Clarity Project is a collaborative initiative of numerous partners from across the Arrowhead Region of Minnesota designed to respond to a growing need to serve those who need mental health, behavioral health, and substance use services (<a href="https://www.stlouiscountymn.gov/departments-a-z/public-health-human-services/adult-services/clarity-project">https://www.stlouiscountymn.gov/departments-a-z/public-health-human-services/adult-services/clarity-project</a>). The Clarity Project has two parts, and this proposal would add a third.</p> <p>For the past four years, the Clarity Project Partners have been working on the first part: to develop a regional initiative to build partnerships to improve quality and coordination of care for people experiencing mental health or chemical health crises, especially at transitions of care. The second part of the project is to build a physical space in Duluth, called the Clarity Center for Wellbeing, that will serve as a hub for services across the region and will provide on-site, tele-medicine and tele-ponic services to serve the needs of individuals across the region. The vision of the Clarity Center for Wellbeing is to provide patient-centered, holistic support and care to any age individual who is experiencing a substance use and / or mental health crisis through comprehensive care models facilitated by caring professionals. Funding for the construction of the Clarity Center for Wellbeing has been allocated from bonding from the MN Legislature and construction is targeted to begin in the spring of 2022.</p> <p>This proposal would add the third leg of the program: stable housing to support long-term recovery. We envision a 50-unit building, with efficiency apartments (including kitchenettes), that would also include office and clinical space for provision of mental health and/or chemical health services, including medically assisted treatment and telehealth. The facility would include community space that would serve both as a community living room and for congregate dining. The housing model would follow housing first, harm reduction and trauma-informed principles. It would be staffed by licensed alcohol and drug counselors, peer support specialists, and social workers. There would be a secure front desk, staffed 24/7.</p> <p>Potential tenants would be identified through the St. Louis County Continuum of Care, with similar eligibility as the State of Minnesota’s “Housing Supports for Adults with Serious Mental Illness” (HSAMI) grant to the Human Development Center and St. Louis County’s grant for housing supports for people with substance abuse disorder (SUD). CHUM is a sub-recipient on both of these grants. The limiting factor on both the HSAMI grant and the SUD grant is available units with supports to maintain housing and mental or chemical health stability. This proposal would help meet that need.</p> <p>In addition to the clinical and medical services on site, tenants would be eligible for Housing Supports and Housing Stabilization Services (part of Minnesota’s Medicaid Expansion). Rental subsidies could be available through Housing Supports, or tenant-based vouchers through the Duluth Housing and Redevelopment Authority. We would apply for project-based rental assistance as part of the development plan for the Clarity Project Housing.</p>	Duluth MN	\$25,000
Together For Life Northland, Inc	<p>The Star of the North Maternity Home in Duluth, Minnesota has been in operation for almost two years, serving homeless pregnant women and their babies for the Northland region by offering a safe home, providing services, and coordinating the use of existing community services. The goal is to help mothers experience healthy pregnancies, learn to care for their babies after birth, and take steps towards self-sufficiency and independent living. In their first year or so of operation, the Star of the North Maternity Home has seen an overwhelming demand—receiving applications from 73 women and have been able to house 15 mothers and their babies. As a result, the home seeks to expand staffing and services to adequately respond to the great need.</p>	Duluth MN	\$64
Nexus Family Healing	<p>The North Metro Minnesota Mental Health Center will fill a critical gap in the region’s mental health support network by offering multiple levels of services more readily accessible to children, adults and families the right care at the time they need it most. The lack of flexible mental health services throughout Minnesota today has rippling and crippling effects on families, communities and health care systems. The widely documented lack of mental health services creates: - Expensive and emotionally distressing backlogs of children and adults being boarded for days and sometimes weeks in area hospitals; - Failure to address youth mental health needs when they emerge, leading to a large amount of out of state placements that rip youth from their communities resulting in extreme stress for the children and families in addition to high strain on public funds. - Involvement in law enforcement to address mental health challenges, leading to detention, arrests and jail time when a mental health intervention is needed Nexus Family Healing has been directly contacted by three counties and one ten county region around the dire need for “no wrong door” behavioral health services in the past year. There is a clear need to fill this gap for short term crisis services, longer term stabilization services and higher end residential for youth with extreme mental and behavioral health challenges.</p>	East Bethel MN	\$2,700

Northland Community & Technical College	Mental health resources and support continue to be a significant need throughout our communities. Although empirical data are just now becoming available, pandemic-related stressors coupled with social and political unrest have exacerbated mental health and substance abuse issues. For example, a 2020 study found that 30.7% of adult Minnesotans surveyed reported experiencing symptoms of anxiety and depression. This figure is contrasted with a study three years prior with 19.3% of adults reporting any type of mental illness. Further, the Minnesota Department of Health reports that upwards of 40% of adolescents may experience mental health issues in a given year and nearly 2.4% of Minnesotans ages 12 and over report drug dependence. Based on these findings, it is imperative that we offer critical resources and training to community members to ensure they have the necessary tools to support their own and others' mental health and wellness. That is why Northland Community & Technical College seeks to increase mental health first aid access and training through an evidence-based mental health training program. Targeting rural areas in Western Minnesota, where access to mental health resources and training are more limited, this program will provide hundreds of people with the knowledge and tools to support and offer resources to those who may be experiencing mental health challenges.	East Grand Forks MN	\$183
Town of Embarrass	Town Hall in Embarrass is used for various things. Hall rentals for public to hold events, Township events, and Clerk Office. Every year the roof leaks into the clerks office, bathrooms and kitchen. Repairs have been made several times due to lack of funds. 2020 the leaks did damage to office equipment and many ceiling tiles because of the leaks worsening. Also on the property is a playground area with playground equipment and a tennis / basketball court. The court is now kept locked up because the cement is cracked and very uneven. Township board agreed to keep it closed up until it can be repaired due to the fact it could easily cause a injury.	Embarrass MN	\$35
Apple Tree Dental	Apple Tree operates eight Centers for Dental Health serving low-income, underserved, children, families, people with special needs, and the elderly, the majority of whom are on Medical Assistance. Our Critical Access Dental clinics and mobile sites are located across the state, in Coon Rapids, Fairmont, Fergus Falls, Hawley, Little Falls, Madelia, Mounds View, and Rochester. Our programs serve patients from 85 of the Minnesota's 87 counties. Shortages of dental care are particularly acute in rural communities, as documented by the Minnesota Department of Health, and by the fact that Apple Tree has thousands of families on waiting lists seeking care. The result is a critical need for federal appropriation to fund the creation of Minnesota's first rural dental residency program, and the expansion our rural mobile dentistry program.  In spite of the pandemic's many challenges, Apple Tree provided 66,990 dental visits to 29,158 patients with a service value of nearly \$24 million in 2020. 82.5% of Apple Tree's patients depend on Medical Assistance. Our Centers were among a small number of clinics that were prepared and trained to stay open to provide critically needed urgent dental care that kept people out of hospitals. During mid-2020, nearly a third of the patients we treated were new patients, referred by regional hospitals, health plans, and other dental clinics that couldn't provide care.  Apple Tree is designated by the Minnesota Department of Human Services as a Critical Access Dental (CAD) Provider. With an integrated team of professionals that includes specially trained dentists, dental therapists, and a multilingual staff, we prioritize preventive care while also providing a full range of needed treatments and advanced services for people with complex medical, behavioral and dental needs. Using our mobile delivery systems, we provide comprehensive care on-site at 145 locations across the state in collaboration with local health, education, and social services organizations. We are the largest provider of dental care to long-term care facilities statewide.  Founded as a non-profit in Minnesota in 1985, Apple Tree's mission is to overcome barriers to oral health, and our vision is to inspire partnerships that foster healthy communities. Apple Tree is nationally recognized for its pioneering approach to integrating dental care as part of overall health and well-being.  In addition to 36 years delivering care in long-term care facilities, Apple Tree has several ground-breaking medical-dental integration projects at three of its Centers located within hospitals, a program that integrates dental care within a pediatric medical clinic, and a collaboration with Minnesota's Department of Human Services' Special Care Dentistry Clinic located within our new Fergus Falls Center. 20 years ago, Apple Tree led the nation in using tele-dentistry at Head Start Centers, and has been recognized for expanding teledentistry during the COVID-19 pandemic.  To support continued innovations, Apple Tree Dental is respectfully requesting funding for the following initiatives: 1) The Fergus Falls Center for Dental Health in the West Central Minnesota region to create and launch Minnesota's first rural dental residency program. 2) Supporting telehealth in West Central Minnesota with additional digital x-ray sensors to expand mobile on-site dentistry in the region.	Fergus Falls MN	\$184
Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	Fond du Lac Human Services Children's Crisis Shelter will be emergency housing in a safe, residential setting that is short term in duration. The setting will be staffed 24 hours a day with availability of mental health professional, community health nurses and social workers. Fond du Lac will offer the children and youth culturally based services from a relational worldview with the working definition of a safe child.	Fond du Lac Reservation MN	\$800
Red Wing Ignite	Despite doing well in STEM classes early on, studies show that many girls do not pursue STEM subjects or majors due to lack of experience, confidence and perception of lack of fit in the domain due to social and environmental factors. Understanding this, Red Wing Ignite seeks to provide an introductory woodworking summer camp to young girls in order to create a time and place to safely build skills, gain confidence and witness their own ideas brought to life. They are given tasks and opportunities to practice fine motor, observational, planning, spatial and visual processing skills. Exposure to the basic woodworking tools and projects is instrumental in developing problem solving skills. Female instructors, who are positive role models, create a welcoming and comfortable environment. In addition to woodworking, they have a series of team building activities. There is empowerment for the girls in knowing how to work with these basic tools and decrease intimidation. One final and significant component of the camp is giving back to the community. They have a collective project they build and donate to a local organization on the final day. This hands on demonstration of their efforts, making a real difference in their own community, reinforces empathy and concern for others.	Goodhue County MN	\$19
Red Wing Ignite	To prepare our youth with the future ready skills they need in a changing economy, Red Wing Ignite proposes piloting Youth Coding Leagues in the seven school districts of Goodhue County, targeting 5th through 8th grades. It is important to begin motivating youth at this early stage by introducing them to STEM learning activities that are fun so that in the long run, they develop digital skills and in turn, we develop a competitive digital workforce. As we "recover" from the COVID 19 pandemic, these skills are all the more critical for job security and sustaining businesses in the evolving technology dependent economy.	Goodhue County MN	\$84
Clare Housing	Hennepin County (which includes Minneapolis and its western suburbs) has identified an HIV outbreak among unsheltered people, a disproportionate number of whom are Native American and/or injection drug users. Hennepin County's Healthcare for the Homeless reported that they have identified 30 people living in the County, unsheltered, with HIV and 70 people living in the Hennepin County shelter system with HIV. This represents a significant increase from past years, where, according to the MN Department of Health, in the past decade the typical number of new cases annually was 0-3 for injection drug users.	Hennepin MN	\$1,250
Independent School District #701	The School District is looking to improve the general education areas of each building by providing collaborative learning environments that enhance learning within the classroom and shop areas. This includes updating building notification to allow better communication throughout the facilities. Industrial Tech renovation/addition to keep students on pace with other districts. Classroom remodels and expansions through out the district to better fit the needs of students and staff.	Hibbing MN	\$3,399
Pine Technical and Community College	Pine Technical and Community College has submitted a federal grant request for the Institutional Resilience and Expanded Postsecondary Opportunities (IREPO). Developing safe and stackable career and technical pathways for secondary students is critical to expanding the workforce in East Central Minnesota. The IREPO grant provides key resources across a very rural region of Minnesota and to the only college that provides a critical portal to career technical education in East Central Minnesota. If funded, resources will target two key priorities and help build the capacities that ensure the long term sustainability of this key educational entity. These funds address many challenges and support the rapid pivot needed as institutions of higher learning position themselves to best serve learners. PTCC can use these funds to build the roadmap for this work. As a small flexible institution they can best lead the way for others and share their discoveries and leverages the federal investments. The project will focus on key objectives: 1. Expand Opportunities and build Institutional Resilience - Expand safety infrastructure and learning technology to ensure the ability to continue critical in-person applied learning opportunities at PTCC and throughout 14 regional high schools. 2. Develop Resilient Instructional Delivery Models - Develop expanded instructional and technological capacities within 14 area high schools to promote sustainable Hy-Flex career technical education programming options. 3. Provide Dual Enrollment Opportunities to Students Who live in Rural Communities - Develop new pathways that promote new career pathways and learning experiences for prospective college students.	Kanabec, Pine, N. Chisago & S. Mille Lacs counties	\$1,082

City of Lambertson	The City of Lambertson, MN needs funding to build a 24-unit assisted living facility for its aging residents. The need for lower income housing for seniors is driving many residents to neighboring / larger cities. To sustain population and growth for the community as a whole, rural communities need to retain residents. The City of Lambertson needs to provide members of its senior population with activities for daily living while meeting nutrition and healthcare needs. The lack of care facilities in rural communities can cause hardship and difficult choices for individuals and their families. When not available, families must decide if home care is possible or if relocation to a facility outside of their community is necessary. A move to another community can be stressful, and family members might not be able to visit as often as they would like. Communities also experience economic loss and diminished social connections when people leave.	Lamberton MN	\$4,500
Finishing Trades Inst. of the Upper Midwest Trust	This project provides employment and educational opportunities, especially for underserved populations in Minnesota, in addition to those seeking career employment opportunities living in the Twin Cities Region, Greater Minnesota, and Western Wisconsin. FTIUM is currently serving 300 apprentice union members, and the total union membership served by the institution is 3,002. Employers benefit from a skilled and knowledgeable workforce that can help them compete and grow, and FTIUM serves nearly 200 employers. Effectively, this project provides opportunity and growth for three primary groups: underserved populations, incumbent union workers, and employers. Additionally, this project supports social progress by solidifying and expanding community partnerships driving economic growth. This aligns with the primary goal to create a sustained pipeline of middle school and high school students, graduates, and other young adult candidates for construction, manufacturing, and industrial Registered Apprenticeship programs.	Little Canada MN	\$3,288
Apple Tree Dental	<p>Apple Tree operates eight Centers for Dental Health serving low-income, underserved, children, families, people with special needs, and the elderly, the majority of whom are on Medical Assistance. Our Critical Access Dental clinics and mobile sites are located across the state, in Coon Rapids, Fairmont, Fergus Falls, Hawley, Little Falls, Madelia, Mounds View, and Rochester. Our programs serve patients from 85 of the Minnesota's 87 counties. Shortages of dental care are particularly acute in rural communities, as documented by the Minnesota Department of Health, and by the fact that Apple Tree has thousands of families on waiting lists seeking care. The result is a critical need for federal appropriation to build the dental workforce at our Centers.</p> <p>In spite of the pandemic's many challenges, Apple Tree provided 66,990 dental visits to 29,158 patients with a service value of nearly \$24 million in 2020. 82.5% of Apple Tree's patients depend on Medical Assistance. Our Centers were among a small number of clinics that were prepared and trained to stay open to provide critically needed urgent dental care that kept people out of hospitals. During mid-2020, nearly a third of the patients we treated were new patients, referred by regional hospitals, health plans, and other dental clinics that couldn't provide care.</p> <p>Apple Tree is designated by the Minnesota Department of Human Services as a Critical Access Dental (CAD) Provider. With an integrated team of professionals that includes specially trained dentists, dental therapists, and a multilingual staff, we prioritize preventive care while also providing a full range of needed treatments and advanced services for people with complex medical, behavioral and dental needs. Using our mobile delivery systems, we provide comprehensive care on-site at 145 locations across the state in collaboration with local health, education, and social services organizations. We are the largest provider of dental care to long-term care facilities statewide.</p> <p>Founded as a non-profit in Minnesota in 1985, Apple Tree's mission is to overcome barriers to oral health, and our vision is to inspire partnerships that foster healthy communities. Apple Tree is nationally recognized for its pioneering approach to integrating dental care as part of overall health and well-being.</p> <p>In addition to 36 years delivering care in long-term care facilities, Apple Tree has several ground-breaking medical-dental integration projects at three of its Centers located within hospitals, a program that integrates dental care within a pediatric medical clinic, and a collaboration with Minnesota's Department of Human Services' Special Care Dentistry Clinic located within our new Fergus Falls Center. 20 years ago, Apple Tree led the nation in using tele-dentistry at Head Start Centers, and has been recognized for expanding teledentistry during the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>To meet the dental access needs of thousands of underserved Minnesotans, Apple Tree Dental is respectfully requesting funding for the following initiatives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The Little Falls Center for Dental Health in the Central Minnesota region to help us achieve our rural workforce development goal, which is to attract and retain dentists, hygienists, and dental assistants to solve long standing dental health professional shortages in the region.</li> <li>2) The Fairmont and Madelia Centers for Dental Health in Southern Minnesota to support the expansion of Apple Tree Dental's advanced IV sedation and general anesthesia team, and provide specialized services in the Fairmont and Madelia areas.</li> </ol>	Little Falls, Fairmont, Madelia MN	\$540
Apple Tree Dental	<p>Apple Tree operates eight Centers for Dental Health serving low-income, underserved, children, families, people with special needs, and the elderly, the majority of whom are on Medical Assistance. Our Critical Access Dental clinics and mobile sites are located across the state, in Coon Rapids, Fairmont, Fergus Falls, Hawley, Little Falls, Madelia, Mounds View, and Rochester. Our programs serve patients from 85 of the Minnesota's 87 counties. Our statewide dental access crisis is revealed in the Twin Cities Public Television documentary: <a href="https://www.tpt.org/uncovered-minnesotas-dental-crisis/">https://www.tpt.org/uncovered-minnesotas-dental-crisis/</a> Shortages of dental care are particularly acute in rural communities, as documented by the Minnesota Department of Health, and by the fact that Apple Tree has thousands of families on waiting lists seeking care. The result is a critical need for federal appropriation to fund the expansion our dental facilities.</p> <p>In spite of the pandemic's many challenges, Apple Tree provided 66,990 dental visits to 29,158 patients with a service value of nearly \$24 million in 2020. 82.5% of Apple Tree's patients depend on Medical Assistance. Our Centers were among a small number of clinics that were prepared and trained to stay open to provide critically needed urgent dental care that kept people out of hospitals. During mid-2020, nearly a third of the patients we treated were new patients, referred by regional hospitals, health plans, and other dental clinics that couldn't provide care. To learn more, please view a short 2-minute video about Apple Tree Dental: <a href="https://youtu.be/H-es3KtqIU">https://youtu.be/H-es3KtqIU</a>.</p> <p>Apple Tree is designated by the Minnesota Department of Human Services as a Critical Access Dental (CAD) Provider. With an integrated team of professionals that includes specially trained dentists, dental therapists, and a multilingual staff, we prioritize preventive care while also providing a full range of needed treatments and advanced services for people with complex medical, behavioral and dental needs. Using our mobile delivery systems, we provide comprehensive care on-site at 145 locations across the state in collaboration with local health, education, and social services organizations. We are the largest provider of dental care to long-term care facilities statewide.</p> <p>Founded as a non-profit in Minnesota in 1985, Apple Tree's mission is to overcome barriers to oral health, and our vision is to inspire partnerships that foster healthy communities. Apple Tree is nationally recognized for its pioneering approach to integrating dental care as part of overall health and well-being.</p> <p>In addition to 36 years delivering care in long-term care facilities, Apple Tree has several ground-breaking medical-dental integration projects at three of its Centers located within hospitals, a program that integrates dental care within a pediatric medical clinic, and a collaboration with Minnesota's Department of Human Services' Special Care Dentistry Clinic located within our new Fergus Falls Center. 20 years ago, Apple Tree led the nation in using tele-dentistry at Head Start Centers, and has been recognized for expanding teledentistry during the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>To meet the dental access needs of thousands of underserved Minnesotans, Apple Tree Dental is respectfully requesting funding for the following initiatives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Little Falls Center for Dental Health construction and equipment to serve Morrison County in Central Minnesota</li> <li>2) Mobile dental offices and equipment to be used by staff from our Fairmont and Madelia Centers for Dental Health to serve nursing homes, group homes and other sites in Southern Minnesota.</li> <li>3) Remodeling at our Rochester Center for Dental Health that will support expanded dental services in Southeastern Minnesota.</li> <li>4) Truck and mobile dental offices needed to launch a new mobile dental program at our Fergus Falls Center for Dental Health in West Central Minnesota.</li> </ol>	Little Falls, Rochester, Fergus Falls, Fairmont MN	\$2,600
Vinland National Center	Vinland National Center is the only residential SUD program in the state of Minnesota that meets the complex needs of adults with disabilities seeking treatment for drug and alcohol abuse, specializing in brain injuries and other cognitive issues as well as those clients with severe and persistent mental illness. The project will provide for a Meaningful Living Skills portion to Vinland's treatment program. This would help clients learn basic computer skills, so that they might be able to learn how to conduct online banking, or to search out recovery support meetings and/or podcasts, apply for jobs and search for a place to live. Teaching these basic skills will help individuals when transitioning from Vinland back to the outside world.	Loretto MN	\$140

Mahnomen County	The physical structure of Mahnomen Health Center has outlived its life expectancy and does not meet building code requirements and life safety code requirements. Being the only hospital and nursing home on White Earth Reservation and Mahnomen County, there are many individuals who count on MHC for their immediate healthcare needs and when the time comes, become long term residents of the MHC nursing home. Being the poorest county in Minnesota, many individuals do not have the means or ability to travel 30+ miles to the next nearest facility.	Mahnomen County MN	\$15,000
MRCI	Since 1953, MRCI has focused on individuals with a menu of services that offer person centered choices at home, at work and in the community. MRCI has continued to operate as a true leader in the field of disability services by providing employment programs that assist in their achievement of personal goals and by focusing on the people we serve through individualized planning.  Unemployment has risen sharply because of the COVID-19 crisis, particularly among people with disabilities. Approximately 1 million U.S. workers with disabilities have lost their jobs since the World Health Organization proclaimed the outbreak a pandemic in March, according to the New Hampshire University Institute on Disability. Since March, 1 in 5 workers with disabilities have been dismissed from employment, compared with 1 in 7 in the general population, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.  When the COVID-19 virus began to hit businesses, many employees were laid off or furloughed. Furthermore, the greatest job losses have been in the retail and hospitality sectors, where many people with disabilities had found community-based jobs. Some employers have been hesitant to hire people with disabilities during the pandemic out of fear that reasonable accommodations would be expensive.  The pandemic "financially decimated many employers," limiting their ability to accommodate workers with disabilities as robustly as before the spread of COVID-19.	Mankato MN	\$550
Minnesota Center for Rural Policy & Development	The Minnesota Center for Rural Policy & Development seeks to support and expand their ongoing unbiased, nonpartisan research into the shifting social, economic and demographic forces that affect the lives and well-being of rural families in Minnesota. Although not limited to, the research will focus on childcare, housing, healthcare, and quality jobs. The hope is to share this research with policymakers, economic developers, and other stakeholders to help improve the quality of life and economic vitality of all rural residents.	Mankato MN	\$1,000
Community Dental Care	Community Dental Care (CDC) requests a grant of \$45,000 to cover the remaining costs of a required information technology and computer equipment upgrade at our dental clinics. The total cost for the project for our entire organization is \$190,000. We have completed 76% of the project and the remaining 24% would be completed with the funding from this request.	Maplewood MN	\$45
YMCA of the North	The YMCA of the North requests Congressionally Directed Spending funds to support our Neighborhood Centers (launched in 2002), a unique program based in affordable housing communities designed to help families increase success, close opportunity gaps, address family barriers, and enhance health and wellness. Programming is delivered at no cost to participants. We offer a two-generation approach to disrupting the cycle of poverty. Neighborhood Centers is offered year-round based in an affordable housing communities in the Twin Cities metro suburbs. Our approach provides strengths-based supports accessed in a safe environment within their housing community. Families participating in YMCA Neighborhood Centers face multiple barriers to achieving success: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All participants have low or very low incomes.</li> <li>• More than 96% of families are people of color or recent immigrants (majority from Afghanistan, Somalia, Kenya, Ethiopia, and Russia). These families may be adjusting to a new and different culture in Minnesota.</li> <li>• Participants speak at least 10 different languages at home, and some are English language learners.</li> <li>• Many have lived through civil war, refugee camps, or other traumatic events. Some may have post-traumatic stress from experiencing unstable living situations, violence, or uncertain citizenship statuses.</li> <li>• Youth often face additional responsibilities in the home. Adults in many of the families we serve are often short on time as they work long hours, multiple jobs, or attend training to gain skills that will qualify them for higher-paying jobs.</li> </ul> Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic: The pandemic has exacerbated racial and economic disparities in our community. Per data from MN DEED, the Impact of COVID-19 on Minnesota's Labor Market, by Alessia Leibert, delivers multiple insights. Leibert notes: Between March-August 2020, 678,225 Minnesotans filed a jobless claim that was certified as eligible for benefits. This figure is 85% above the baseline. Emergent trends noted by Leibert show that the pandemic has disproportionately impacted specific groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Race: African American claimants represent 11% of the jobless population while they made up 6% of the labor force, and experience the highest average number of weeks claimed, followed by American Indians.</li> <li>• Education: People without education beyond high school are overrepresented (38%) and have the longest duration of unemployment and highest probability of still being out of work.</li> <li>• Wage Level: Layoffs disproportionately affected workers whose earnings were below the statewide median wage; the pandemic has taken a toll on the working poor and individuals earning less than \$14.70/hour pre-COVID-19 are the most likely to be still out of work.</li> </ul> The families we serve are amongst those who have been the hardest hit by the pandemic. Many struggle with generational poverty as well as poverty related to immigration. Low-income families, immigrants, and people of color have moved to suburbs to access housing, suburban schools, lower crime rates, etc. These dynamics have created pockets of poverty, producing gaps, and poverty has continued to grow. Yet, compared to cities in the urban core, suburban communities do not offer as robust a network of resources therefore, lower-income families are facing barriers with less access to resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economic Assets: In 2018, the median household income for Black families was \$38,600 in Minnesota, compared to \$70,300 for White people (US Census).</li> <li>• Academic Achievement: A 2019 report from the Minnesota Department of Education showed: 35% of low-income students met 3rd grade reading standards and 36% met 8th grade math standards, both indicators of probable high school graduation; and 62% of Black, Native American, and Latino students graduate on time compared to 88% of Caucasian students.</li> <li>• Health Impacts: The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted health inequities as more people of color face disproportionate impacts from COVID-19 on their health.</li> </ul> YMCA Neighborhood Centers are designed to meet needs by providing an array of supports. The YMCA is delivering a research-guided approach. Our centers are resource rich environments that are designed to address the disparities. Given the challenges of ending the generational cycle of poverty, and the increasing number of homes with single guardians, non-parent guardians, and multiple generations in one household, our multi-generational approach is critical. We believe we have a service model that could be replicated as one that demonstrates results for increasing healthy child and family development and holistic wellbeing.	Maplewood/LittleCanada/Minnetonka/EdenPrairie/Oakd MN	\$100
Southwest Minnesota State University Foundation	The Southwest Minnesota State University Center for Integrated Agriculture and Food Systems will create multidisciplinary experiential educational opportunities within research projects that encourage sustainable agricultural practices, expose a diverse student population to rural career paths, and address food security issues. The migration of young college-bound students from rural to urban areas is creating a lack of educated workers willing to settle in rural Minnesota. This trend has a significant impact on the agriculture and food production industries due to their dependence on rural communities. There is also a need to address food security issues in rural communities and throughout Minnesota. Further, the future of sustainable agriculture, the rural environment, and food security can benefit from programs designed to expose undergraduate students to hands-on experiential education opportunities that inspire innovation.	Marshall MN	\$1,980
Native American Community Clinic	In the last two years, NACC has doubled in size from under 40 employees to more than 80 currently due to the growing demands for culturally responsive health programming and the toll COVID-19 has taken on the Native American community. The clinic has implemented telehealth services, hosted testing pop-ups and vaccination clinics, and continues to work to address any emerging needs of the community in Minneapolis amidst the COVID recovery period. NACC has been planning a clinic expansion plan since 2019 and the pandemic has further proven their need for more space. The clinic expansion project will allow NACC to double its impact, from serving 5,000 unique patients to nearly 10,000 yearly with augmented clinic and outreach health services. Additionally, the expansion will allow the clinic to expand their services such as responsive COVID-19 care and recovery, chemical health programs, school-based programs, and pediatric health. Lastly, it will provide more than 20 new jobs for individuals within the community.	Minneapolis MN	\$1,000

Hennepin Healthcare	The Hennepin Healthcare East Lake Clinic was destroyed during the civil unrest after George Floyd's death. This clinic and the primary zip codes served in South Minneapolis are in a Federally Designated Medically Underserved Area (MUA). The rebuilt clinic will be co-located within the new Hennepin County Human Services Center at 2215 East Lake Street, just across Hiawatha Ave. The new location enhancements include situated on the light rail transit route to help with transportation barriers and co-located with critical Hennepin County Public Health and Human Services programs to align with their services, easy patient access cross-referrals, and group space. Hennepin County has invited this co-location partnership to pilot a promising new expansion of traditional primary care with one-stop access to improve access to Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) services, behavioral health care, and insurance and other benefit application assistance. Hennepin Healthcare has received a Bush Foundation Community Innovation grant to create a new trauma-informed primary care model, taking into account systemic racism, Social Determinants of Health, and trauma. To be a trauma-informed care provider is to be aware that patients likely have a wide and varied personal history of events that have caused them to endure trauma and to provide care in a way that seeks to minimize re-traumatization. An 18-month community collaborative will lead the planning so patients, community members and partners will guide the work. Hennepin Healthcare plans to pilot the developed model at the East Lake Clinic.	Minneapolis MN	\$4,600
American Indian OIC	American Indian OIC requests \$350,000 to develop new job training programs in heavy equipment operation and elder care. Funds will allow the organization to help workers who lost their jobs due to COVID-19 get back to work and into good paying jobs where there is a demand for skilled labor and that align with federal infrastructure investments.	Minneapolis MN	\$350
Ignite Afterschool	This request supports development of a statewide Minnesota STEM Ecosystems Network that includes out-of-school time STEM learning opportunities for girls, young People of Color, and low-income young people in Minnesota. Jobs in STEM related fields are the fastest growing jobs in Minnesota while girls and Black, Indigenous and other People of Color are underrepresented. This proposal grows regional coordination among K-12 education, out-of-school time providers, higher education, and industry to ensure more coordinated opportunities and STEM pathways that support girls and young People of Color to build a STEM identity, have equitable access to STEM learning, and pursue STEM careers. This proposal also supports no fewer than ten STEM Afterschool programs in communities across Minnesota to expand and improve their STEM afterschool programming to align with STEM learning effective practices.	Minneapolis MN	\$400
Summit Academy OIC	Minnesota at Work is a prosperity and wealth creation platform for people locked out of our society in Minnesota and left behind socially and economically. It is a talent-readiness solution designed to build foundational work skills on short-term assignments preparing participants (crews) for skilled training and/or full-time employment. The mission is to create opportunity, stability, and prosperity for works of today, tomorrow and the future in the poorest communities of Minnesota. Minnesota at Work aims to disrupt the growing dual public health crisis of crime and imprisonment by providing opportunities for those struggling in our communities the resources and connections they need to become productive citizens, employees, and neighbors. It positions communities of color to take advantage of the great "tech" explosion and the massive proposed infrastructure investments by providing the education, skills and relationships needed to take advantage of the opportunities out there and to become self-sufficient. Our economic prosperity platform consists of four key elements: 1) STEM education and IT training, 2) Credentialed and customized training for emerging business sectors, 3) Work readiness and WPA-style jobs, and 4) Direct placement with employers. This systemic approach is underway and is poised to expand. This multi-pronged approach will maximize talent attachment to the workforce in a time where employers are facing a skills and talent shortage.	Minneapolis MN	\$2,000
City of Minneapolis	The Minneapolis Tech Pathway aligns and scales the work of Step Up, Minneapolis Youth Works (WIOA) and MSP TechHire by building out a clear and comprehensive tech training and internship model for youth and young adults ages 16 to 24 in Minnesota Congressional District 5. While many youth and young adults may be on a college pathway, there are a significant number of young adults for whom college enrollment is not possible or expedient at this time. The Tech Pathway offers alternative access to high demand tech careers with credential training options in secondary schools and community organizations. By embedding tech training opportunities in schools and community-based organizations, participants still in high school can earn certifications before they graduate, and young adults can access training and certifications with the support of trusted community partners and youth service organizations. Following certification, youth will be supported by tech specific paid internships.	Minneapolis MN	\$2,000
The Aliveness Project	The Aliveness Project seeks \$100,000 in direct appropriation funding to help us expand our existing physical space to accommodate the growing staff needed to meet the increased needs of low-income Minnesotans living with HIV. Despite reduced days/hours due to the pandemic, in 2020 the Aliveness Project was able to serve nearly 30,000 meals, distribute over 210,000 pounds of groceries, conduct 600 HIV tests to high-risk populations, and provide housing resources to 50 people. The biggest driver of our growing need for space expansion is our Housing Program. With the funding from this proposal, we aim to triple the amount of households we help find stable housing, as well as provide hundreds of thousands of dollars in housing assistance to folks struggling with homelessness.	Minneapolis MN	\$100
Southside Harm Reduction Services	Southside Harm Reduction Services (SHRS) is a grassroots, comprehensive harm reduction program that primarily serves the unsheltered, Indigenous community in South Minneapolis. Harm reduction and syringes services programs are CDC-backed health interventions, and evidence shows that people who engage with harm reduction services are more likely to access health care and ultimately cease their drug use. Among all states and the District of Columbia, Minnesota had the eighth-lowest rate of fatal overdose in 2018. But digging into the numbers by race, the statistics are severely inequitable. In 2019, Native Minnesotans were 7x more likely to die from a drug overdose as White Minnesotans; African Americans were twice as likely to die from a fatal drug overdose as White Minnesotans. In 2018, these race rate disparities were the worst, and second-worst, in the country. SHRS seeks to expand their ability to carry out core harm reduction services to ensure that everyone is able to claim their rights to health and dignity.	Minneapolis MN	\$600
Hennepin Healthcare - Whittier Clinic	Aquí Para Ti (APT)/Here for You is a comprehensive positive youth development clinic that provides medical care, behavioral health assessment, coaching, health education, and referrals to Latinx youths, their parents, and young adults. APT has been serving Minneapolis for over 20 years and has observed a dramatic 3-fold increase for the need for mental health services for youth in the past four years. The clinic's positive youth development approach focuses specifically on helping youth establish a positive cultural and racial identity through fostering critical consciousness, providing mental health services, ensuring academic success, and improving family relationships. This person-centered care allows APT to reduce the impact of social determinants on youth of color. COVID-19 sent a second wave of crisis that affected Latinx youth with increased force. The pandemic created multiple "shadow pandemics" (the Health-related, the Economic, the negative impact to mental health, and the increase of Gender-based Violence), all significantly affecting marginalized communities. APT experienced a surge in demand for services and has over 70 patients on the waitlist. Although the clinic has created a triage plan to ensure most teens were screened timely around higher needs, the team is still experiencing capacity issues. To meet the growing demand for the clinic's family-centered, trauma-informed services, APT is seeking to increase access to care for its patient population. The clinic hopes to expand its program to develop and conduct training on sexual exploitation of youth, healthy relationships, safe sex practices, and general family planning. Additionally, APT hopes to allow new Community Health Workers (CHW) to receive specific training on identifying and preventing sexual exploitation of youth. The CHW will collaborate with Hennepin County Human Services program coordinators to build a strong referral network for youth who have been sexually exploited. This project will support APT's goals to ensure timely coordination of care for high-need youth, increase awareness and education on sexual exploitation of youth, and improve collaboration across Hennepin Healthcare's departments and external partners to serve youth of color.	Minneapolis MN	\$600
City of Minneapolis	In Minnesota, suicide is the second-leading cause of death for 11- to 18-year-olds, and statewide surveys show increasing rates of youth depression, anxiety, and suicide. School based health care has pioneered a successful model of onsite mental health services that are culturally relevant. Having mental health services in a convenient, easy to access location, has been shown particularly beneficial for Minneapolis public school students. However, there are not enough therapists to meet the needs of students across Minneapolis' several high schools. MPS is seeking funding in order to hire three additional school-based mental health professionals, which would result in over 150 additional teens being served annually at South, Roosevelt, Henry, Washburn, Edison, and Southwest high schools. Adolescent clients will receive from 2 to 30 visits resulting in the addition of 525 to 776 visits annually.	Minneapolis MN	\$900

Greater Twin Cities United Way	On any given night in the Greater Twin Cities, nearly 7,000 people will find themselves homeless. Those most likely to face this painful experience is hauntingly predictable: people of color were nearly four times as likely to experience homelessness vs. their white counterparts in 2018. Further, youth who have exited the foster care system and formerly incarcerated adults are vastly overrepresented among those experiencing homelessness. To combat this problem, community partners, coalition partners, etc. Greater Twin Cities United Way plans to launch an initiative that will break the pipeline into homelessness for these two vulnerable populations. This initiative was conceived with input from our many community partners. Pathways Home is an initiative to leverage the proven services (such as job training, mental health support, case management, and rent assistance) that help people facing homelessness maintain safe, stable housing, to proactively prevent homelessness among those at greatest risk: the 9,000 adults exiting incarceration and youth exiting foster care annually in Minnesota (among which Black and Indigenous Minnesotans and those of color are deeply overrepresented). We will leverage our deep partnerships with direct-service providers, grantees, and coalition partners to ensure services are extended to these vulnerable populations prior to homelessness ever occurring.	Minneapolis MN	\$1,000
Minnesota Public Health Association	The Minnesota Public Health Association (MPHA) was established in 1907 as the premier volunteer-driven membership organization of nearly 500 public health professionals from a wide range of disciplines across the state. Over the past few years, MPHA has committed to becoming a more anti-racist organization and has also identified a gap in public health workforce training for young leaders of color. Our work plans call for a sizable investment to realize our goals to further our internal anti-racist work and to initiate a leadership development program for public health leaders in Minnesota. This proposal directs a two-pronged approach to improve anti-racist public health in Minnesota through both top-down and bottom-up strategies. The first strategy calls for the creation of a cross-cultural public health advocacy training fellowship for current students, community public health advocates, and early professionals from communities of color and American Indians interested in public health. This fellowship would provide a framework for increasing participant's efficacy in local advocacy efforts and the opportunity to network and collaborate with Fellows from other disenfranchised communities. The funding would help support the administration needs for maintaining a cohort of students as well as provide compensation for individuals participating in the fellowship. A common barrier in extracurricular training programs is the lack of funding provided to participants, resulting in programs being overwhelmingly upper-class White individuals who can afford to spend time without compensation. Providing a competitive and living wage for the training fellows as well as increasing our ability to support and engage with our local and state community will create a stronger workforce. The second objective consists of offering culturally based trainers representative of communities of color and American Indian nations to the existing statewide public health workforce throughout the state, including the 51 Minnesota Community Health Boards (local public health). It is undeniable that the demographics of Minnesota are changing rapidly and we must adequately prepare our workforce for cross-cultural work. By intentionally providing culturally relevant and anti-racism training to our local public health workforce, we can increase the capacity of our local public health practitioners to be able to meet the needs of the communities they serve. Through MPHA's unique position as a long-standing, independent public health association, this two-fold strategy builds capacity to improve the health of all Minnesotans.	Minneapolis MN	\$1,100
Indian Health Board of Minneapolis, Inc.	Based on a March 2015 Urban Diabetes Care and Outcomes Summary Report from the Urban Indian Health Institute (UIHI), approximately 71% of American Indian/Alaska Natives (AI/AN) live in urban areas. 14.3% of IHB's service area population report having diabetes, which is the 4th leading cause of mortality in the service area. The ability to address the mental health and social supports needs of our population is essential. In all Urban Indian Health Organization (UIHO) service areas, 15.0% of AI/ANs report rarely or never receive emotional and social support, compared with 9.2% of the general population. Yet, in IHB's service area, a higher percentage of AI/ANs report having frequent mental distress (19.9%) compared to 7.1% of the general population. In IHB's service area, the report states that 78.0% of AI/ANs identified one or more providers from whom they usually receive care, compared to 76.5% of the general population. This measure shows how valuable an asset IHB is to the community by providing quality staff that patients trust. IHB, now in its 50th year, was the first Urban Indian Health Organization (UIO) in the nation. It is important to note that while 70% of Native people live in urban centers, UIOs get less than 1% of the IHS Budget. Further, UIOs do not have access to IHS building/ facilities capital which requires us to seek other sources of funds for our capital projects. IHB is developing the Indian Health Board Wellness Campus in the heart of Indian Country in South Minneapolis to provide traditional healing as well as medical, dental and specialty services to better serve our clients.	Minneapolis MN	\$10,000
People's Center Clinics and Services	Stigma, trauma from experiences of being a refugee and the opioid epidemic were subjects of increasing concern prior to coronavirus pandemic. PCCS was in regular dialogue with community partners and stakeholders such as the Brian Coyle Community Center, a Somali mothers group, Cedar Riverside Community Council, a newly formed youth organization - General Hope among others to identify ways to address the increased demand for mental health services and substance use treatment care in the East African community. With the lockdown that resulted from the pandemic, many of these groups and organizations either paused activities or shifted focus to deal with the pandemic. The COVID-19 pandemic has put our community at greater risk than they have ever experienced in their history. Our patients have multiple co-morbidities and without interventions by People's Center to innovate and develop infrastructure to address those, they would be facing potential loss of life should they be infected with the virus. It is in this environment and this urgent purpose for co-creating with community input an expanded, integrated behavioral healthcare model to address the trauma due to historical racism, experience as a refugee and the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.	Minneapolis MN	\$300
Accessible Space Inc.	Accessible Space Inc. offers accessible, affordable housing for extremely-low/very-low income people with disabilities. The proposed project seeks to make improvements to their properties to ensure that residents continue to be supported while remaining independent and safe in their homes, rather than in institutions.	Minneapolis and Saint Paul MN	\$690
Metro Meals on Wheels	Metro Meals on Wheels (MMOW) has been serving meals across the metro area since 1997. While the primary recipients of meals have been seniors and individuals with disabilities, MMOW is seeking to fund meal delivery aimed at veterans, aged 50 and older living in the Metro Meals on Wheels service area. The meal service not only provides nutrition services for those in need but a daily visit from a trained volunteer able to access the living conditions and health of the individual. A lack of nutrition has well documented detrimental effects on health and wellness, but little is discussed concerning social isolation and the effects it can have on the most vulnerable. In a VA published study in 2018 it, "Among five forms of social connectedness, loneliness was tied to the highest levels of depression and suicide ideation, or thoughts of committing suicide, the researchers found. Loneliness was also associated with the lowest levels of patient efforts to manage their health and to seek help." In a survey conducted by Metro Meals on Wheels in 2020, 60% of meal recipients said that receiving a daily visit from a Meals on Wheels volunteer made them feel less lonely or less isolated. This program will serve both the physical and mental health of veterans also saving resources over the long term as recipients become more likely to manage and seek help if needed.	Minneapolis/St. Paul MN	\$468
Minnesota State Community and Technical College	A Business Center will create an identity on the Moorhead campus for students pursuing programmatic areas including business, agriculture, accounting, management, marketing and sales. The center will include modern teaching facilities, a space for new entrepreneurs, and spaces to foster collaboration between students and industry partners. The project consists of renovating the current facilities to showcase business and agriculture careers and transform classrooms into more flexible learning arrangements with enhanced technology, expanding access to rural and place-bound students. The space will include incubator spaces, a business resource center and business/agriculture collaboration rooms. The goal of the Business Center project is to create spaces that emulate the atmosphere and culture of businesses where students can apply concepts learned in the classroom to real-world settings. With project funding, the College will develop certificates, certifications and degrees in agriculture sales and agriculture business based on the needs of the region. These activities within the Business Center will foster relationships between students, faculty, industry leaders and organizations in the Fargo-Moorhead region and surrounding communities and increase knowledge of best practices in the business and marketing industries.	Moorhead MN	\$1,000
Minnesota State Community and Technical College	A Healthcare Learning Lab on the Moorhead campus will be multidisciplinary in scope and comprise nearly 5,000 square feet of dedicated experiential learning space to serve our greater Minnesota communities. All M State students, from the entire Northwest Minnesota Region, will have access to, and will be taught in the Healthcare Learning Lab. The facility would be made available to all members of the School of Health Sciences, Human Services and Nursing, and Workforce Development Solutions to support current and prospective students in M State health programs, including cardiovascular technology - invasive, dental, nursing, pre-professional health and surgical technology.	Moorhead MN	\$1,250



Morrison County United Way	<p>The Morrison County Imagination Library program delivers age appropriate books to enrolled children from age birth to 5 years of age. Children receive 1 book per month until they graduate out of the program and move on to kindergarten.</p> <p>The program currently has 894 children enrolled and have graduated 4,119 children (Based on Demographic information there are approx. 1,969 children 5 and under in Morrison County). Additions are made by parents, teachers, hospitals and social services offices.</p> <p>It serves all of Morrison County and 3 zip codes in Todd County (Staples, MN, Grey Eagle, MN and Burtrum, MN).</p>	Morrison County MN	\$14
ISD 319 School Board	<p>While several Iron Range school districts have replaced their aging buildings with the help of funding from the IRRRB, state aid, and local taxpayer referendums in recent years, Nashwauk-Keewatin continues to struggle with the expensive and growing challenges of operating two 100+ year-old buildings. Both Keewatin Elementary and Nashwauk-Keewatin High School are the oldest schools in the state of Minnesota. Although we have made the most of our limited maintenance budget to make essential repairs, the list of facility needs grows larger and more costly with each passing year.</p> <p>Recent assessments by independent experts concluded that maintenance and educational deficiencies in our buildings extend far beyond the district's budget.</p> <p>The tax base in district 319 does not support the building needs of the district. Significant properties are old mining areas, projected mining areas or areas used for the processing of mining iron ore. These properties are undeveloped or the taxes from these lands go through the IRRR and do not properly support a capital need of the district.</p>	Nashwauk MN	\$5,000
Laura Baker Services Association (LBSA)	<p>Advocating for and coordinating services for families and guardians with a loved one with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDDs) can be exhausting and time-consuming. The resulting time, effort and frustration required to find support and work through behavioral challenges can negatively impact home and work life and there isn't adequate support to help loved ones navigate this journey. Even before COVID-19, the need for Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) for individuals with IDD was already increasing, and HCBS providers were experiencing organizational strain. To fill this gap Laura Baker Services Association (LBSA) is launching two new program expansion initiatives over the next year to answer unmet needs in the Intellectual and Developmental Disability (IDD) and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) communities in Minnesota and to create new sources of sustainable revenue for LBSA. Our Family Navigator Services program will help families and guardians of special needs people navigate the complicated IDD support world, identify and link to resources and provide education and ongoing support and connections to other people in the same situation. The Behavioral Consulting Services program will assist parents and guardians with young and adult children with the development of support plans to address behavioral challenges. These plans will be designed to stabilize behavior, with the goal of helping individuals remain in their existing housing environment and to increase their overall quality of life.</p>	Northfield MN	\$250
South Central College and Minnesota State College	<p>The future of work and the economic vitality in Southern Minnesota relies on automation in the Advanced Manufacturing sector. The implementation of robotics and other automated tasks does not replace the need for humans in the workplace, rather it requires more training in the maintenance and support of new technologies. In Greater Minnesota and rural economies, this requirement comes at a high price when there are labor shortages and training is not available on-site.</p> <p>Advance Greater Minnesota is a new model that supports entry-level employees as they plan a pathway to more advanced careers with higher wages, and allows employers to showcase emerging opportunities as a retention strategy early in a new employee's career trajectory. - - - - Advance Greater Minnesota expands access to high-quality training for rural manufacturers in the region by providing technology-enabled customized training for entry-level employees to advance into expanded career opportunities through educational and training pathways that are more readily available and accessible.</p> <p>Advance Greater Minnesota showcases a model that not only retains and grows existing manufacturers by developing the talent they need, but also attracts new employers with the appeal of a skill-ready workforce prepared to meet the demands of growing and flourishing industries.</p>	Northfield, Faribault, Cannon Falls, Red Wing, etc MN	\$3,000
Ramsey County	<p>The Ramsey County Housing Stability Department (HSD) reduces homelessness and mitigates barriers to successful permanent housing placement, enabling individuals and families to thrive and be more self-sufficient. The proposed Caring Collective is a demonstration project that centers around whole-family stabilization and wrap-around support models, preventing long-term multi-generational homelessness trends. Children and unaccompanied youth age 24 and younger make up nearly half of those experiencing homelessness. The 2018 Wilder Minnesota Homeless Study surveyed individuals experiencing homelessness about selected Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs); many of these experiences are strongly related to the development and prevalence of a wide range of health problems throughout a person's lifespan. A large majority of homeless youth (89%) had at least one adverse experience in childhood. Additionally, the study showed that a mere 28% of surveyed homeless Ramsey County families had "regular access to childcare." Furthermore, the 2020 Minnesota Housing Finance Agency: Evaluation of Permanent Supportive Housing found that 46% of surveyed parents who recently transitioned out of homelessness to public housing stated that they needed help accessing childcare and other services for children including children's mental health.</p> <p>With a goal to proactively combat the growing youth and family homelessness issue, the county's proposed Caring Collective is a families' first model that aims to break the cycle by targeting parents residing in homeless shelters and public and supportive housing facilities- connecting children to quality childcare and supporting families in their health care and employment goals. Caring Collective's approach is unique in that the county will target services for children in shelters and those already housed- focusing on long-term stability and investment into our community's future generations. The county will document their approach in order to create an effective model for long-term success, addressing what many communities experience as part of this nationwide challenge. Successful solutions will be shared with the MN Children's Cabinet along with Head Start and HUD national and regional offices.</p>	Ramsey County MN	\$500
Minnesota State College Southeast	<p>Minnesota State College Southeast is a public, non-profit community and technical college that currently has a Practical Nursing program and is opening a new Associate of Science in Nursing program with the first nursing cohort starting in the fall semester 2021. Currently the Minnesota State College Southeast Red Wing campus has a nursing wing with a large open room that serves as both the skills lab and simulation area.</p> <p>A new simulation lab in a rural portion of the district will serve multiple entities and benefit a broad array of students and incumbent healthcare providers. The lab will favorably impact the quality of healthcare by providing local access for continuing education in a state-of-the art facility.</p> <p>Economic Development Region 10 (EDR-10), the Southeast Region of Minnesota, shows high demand for both Licensed Practical Nurses and Registered Nurses and over the next 10 years. The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development shows "High" growth in both areas with the following expected openings over the next ten years: - LPN - 1,284 openings, or 128 new LPN's needed annually - RN - 8,840 openings; or 884 new RN's needed annually</p> <p>Our college is committed to increasing academic programming to contribute in filling the workforce needs of the Southeast Region, including having simulation capacity to augment traditional clinical hours in training the future healthcare workforce. Healthcare employers throughout our region continue to rely on our college to graduate highly qualified nurses.</p>	Red Wing MN	\$817
C.A.R.E. Clinic	<p>C.A.R.E. Clinic requests support to provide linguistically and culturally competent affordable access to medical, dental, mental health, legal and social services to under/uninsured, low-income, Goodhue County residents. The Goodhue County Community Health Assessment ranked income/poverty, mental health/wellbeing, access to mental health services, under/uninsured, and chronic conditions in its top ten identified health disparities within the county. C.A.R.E. Clinic directly addresses these issues in an effort to decrease health disparities experienced by community members, and move towards health equity for all. C.A.R.E. Clinic increases access to health care, and health education for local community members, moving the future of health care towards equity. C.A.R.E. Clinic is a grantee of the Minnesota Office of Higher Education's Dual-training Pipeline grant. This program allows C.A.R.E. Clinic to assist college students with their college tuition, while cross-training them in their chosen health care profession within the clinic. C.A.R.E. Clinic currently has three students in the program, and applied on behalf of eight for the upcoming school year, six of these students are local Hispanic community members, and bilingual for English and Spanish, and assist the clinic in providing linguistically and culturally competent care. Federal Funds would increase C.A.R.E. Clinic's capacity to operate in light of our mission, which is to contribute to the community by increasing health care access, connecting people to resources, and promoting health education.</p>	Red Wing MN	\$50
Community Dental Care	<p>Community Dental Care (CDC) requests a grant of \$63,000 to repair/replace key components of our heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system for our Robbinsdale clinic. Our current HVAC system is not able to heat and cool the building properly such that we periodically have to close the clinic when the outside temperature is above 75 degrees or below 50 degrees.</p>	Robbinsdale MN	\$63

North Memorial Health Hospital	<p>North Memorial Health Care emergency department at the Robbinsdale Hospital requests \$1,000,000 to provide seven negative air pressure rooms to contain and isolate COVID-19 or other infectious diseases.</p> <p>North Memorial Health Hospital-Robbinsdale has a Level I Trauma Center and handles some of the most difficult and tragic cases in all of Minnesota. In 2020, ambulance EMS runs to Robbinsdale totaled nearly 18,000. Those patients were seen in the Emergency Department all while COVID-19 protocols applied immense stress on the operation.</p> <p>The North Memorial request for federal help is made to prepare for the next pandemic. By now, we have all heard of the need for a different approach to air handling in all manner of buildings. Bringing the Emergency Department to state-of-the-art air quality standards is vitally important.</p> <p>As you well know, planning for life after COVID-19 subsidies will require many changes. Including negative air handling in the Emergency Department will be important to prevent future airborne viruses—especially in a place of such concentrated activity. It is the type of addition to the project that the First Responded community support.</p>	Robbinsdale MN	\$1,000
City of Rochester	<p>Rochester is engaged in a \$6 billion Destination Medical Center (DMC) economic development initiative that is expected to generate up to 2,700 new construction jobs annually over the next two decades. However, all members of the community aren't prepared to take advantage of these good-wage employment opportunities (average annual salary \$80,000 plus benefits), particularly Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) women. BIPOC women, who represent 13% of Rochester's population, filled less than 1% of DMC construction jobs in 2020. Equitable economic recovery in Rochester will require addressing barriers to entrance and advancement for BIPOC women within construction and related fields. women within construction and related fields.</p>	Rochester MN	\$750
ExercisAbilities	<p>The project aims to expand a physical rehabilitation program for survivors of spinal cord injury, stroke, developmental disabilities, and other chronic conditions, through acquisition of new capital equipment and necessary facility roof renovation required for some equipment, helping patients walk again with advanced health technology. It would serve children, adults and seniors in a non-profit community clinic located in Rochester. The project will address inequities in access to critical healthcare services, as these rehabilitation services in a community setting currently only exist outside Rochester, Olmsted County, and even Southern Minnesota. Such advanced treatment is typically reserved for patients at research hospitals or healthcare systems with large capital budgets and large donor networks. Outcomes will include paralysis survivors' health and mobility improvements, greater independence, and less dependences on care providers thanks to effective treatment close to their homes.</p>	Rochester MN	\$605
Minnesota State HealthForce Center of Excellence	<p>Three of the top 10 most in-demand professions in Minnesota are Registered Nurses, Licensed Practical Nurses, and Nursing Assistants. The vacancies in these career fields are stark, with the issue expected to worsen as demand for healthcare services increase, and healthcare workers exit the profession. The COVID-19 pandemic has placed incredible stress on the nursing workforce around the world, and Minnesota is no exception. The International Council of Nurses and the American Nurses Foundation report that nurses are retiring and leaving the workforce in greater numbers due to the stresses of the pandemic. Only 52% of registered nurses intending to leave the profession are doing so via retirement. Despite the heightened need for healthcare in the region due to long term effects of COVID-19, the nursing workforce is poised to be smaller, with the potential for ongoing burnout for overworked, understaffed, nursing professionals. According to MN DEED data, Minnesota is expected to have a deficit of almost 10,000 registered nurses and 4,000 licensed practical nurses by 2025. Minnesota healthcare employers are increasingly concerned about the nursing workforce.</p>	Rochester MN	\$3,250
GRUAC	<p>The goal of the GRAUC Simulation Collaborative is to enhance, diversify, and expand Rochester area healthcare workforce by providing access to relevant, effective, and flexible simulation technology. Expanding simulation capacity ensures our regional colleges, universities, and healthcare institutions will educate providers for now and the future.</p> <p>In Southeast Minnesota, the current and future direct care provider shortage is critical, presently over 18,000 openings. These providers care for the growing diverse population in SE MN. Rochester is a destination for health and wellness, this community is experienced in bringing solutions to healthcare and diversity and equity challenges.</p> <p>In early 2020 the Greater Rochester Advocates for Universities and Colleges, GRAUC, met to discuss the limited availability for simulation resources for healthcare students and employees. Education partners confirmed that without more access to simulation space, it will be challenging for their programs to grow to the sizes needed to tackle the increasing demand for direct patient care professionals. Employer partners confirmed that without access to more simulation space it will be difficult for their current employees to receive much-needed ongoing training.</p> <p>Representatives from Olmsted Medical Center, WSU and Hawthorne outlined their challenges. Their narratives regarding the need for simulation technology follow.</p> <p>OMC: To assure a safe and reliable system that can help the patients achieve the best outcomes, the healthcare providers must be current, competent, and confident in their ability to deliver care. Assuring professional development and competency is a top priority as the healthcare environment continually changes. Critical thinking and decision-making skills coupled with the technical expertise are essential to meet the health needs in a constantly adapting environment. As new skills are required, nurses sharpen skills before caring for patients in an experiential learning environment. Access to a state-of-the-art simulation lab is paramount to ensure critical thinking, decision-making, competency for skills and professional development in the future.</p> <p>WSU: WSU-Rochester has admitted additional cohort of pre-licensure, undergraduate nursing students to the Rochester campus. WSU is doubling the number of pre-licensure nursing students on that campus from 50 to 100 admitted juniors annually for a total number of juniors and seniors to over 200 pre-licensure students. The program has unmet space needs due to changing rental space available to the program for skills training, lack of enough equipment and simulation space for education, lack of consistent and reliable access to key clinical areas for student training, and increased expectations of "pre-entry to the clinical site" education of our students by clinical partners. Simulation scenarios conducted will allow for expanded hands-on learning in a safe environment. Nursing students who take part in educational program involving simulation perform fewer healthcare errors in clinical settings and develop their critical thinking and clinical decision-making skills.</p> <p>Hawthorne: Each year, 70+ adult learners in Hawthorne's Bridges to Careers program prepare for employment in the healthcare field. These diverse and low-income students have no access to simulation technology. Through the efforts of the Simulation Collaborative and the work of an Integrator, it is our goal that this deficiency will be lessened or eliminated. Bridges to Careers is a collaborative effort between Hawthorne, RCTC, Workforce Development, Inc., and area employers who are dedicated to a mission that meets the needs of Rochester Minnesota's diverse community and the employment market.</p>	Rochester, Olmsted, and the surrounding counties MN	\$9,058
Minnesota State HealthForce Center of Excellence	<p>The need for increased Mental Health First Aid trainings and mental health education content is unquestionable. This need was great prior to the pandemic and has only increased over the past 14 months as we have, collectively, gone through an incredibly stressful time. In Minnesota, the stress has also increased due to racial protests and unrest. This initiative will focus on improving Minnesota State's colleges and universities in responding to mental health crises through the use of Mental Health First Aid trainings for staff and students.</p>	Rochester/Southern MN MN	\$1,250
Dakota County Technical College (DCTC)	<p>The Minnesota State Commercial Driving Skills Center (CDSC) Project will address the severe shortage of commercial drivers in Minnesota by updating and enhancing the Minnesota State Commercial Driving Skills Center and Decision Driving Range at Dakota County Technical College (DCTC). In Dakota and Scott Counties, over 2100 jobs are currently posted for Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers. This is four times more than the next highest position posting. Over the next 5 years, opportunities in Commercial Truck Driving are anticipated to grow by an additional 2,783 jobs. Over 61,000 professionals will be needed to fill new demand, retirements and job changes. Drivers are needed across multiple sectors from manufacturing to online retail; without enough drivers, post-pandemic recovery of the state and region will be impaired.</p> <p>To address this need, DCTC needs to update and enhance our current driving labs. This includes replacing crumbling asphalt on the CDSC with a more durable concrete pad, adding additional trucks for Class A and B Commercial Driver's License training, and resurfacing and repairing the Decision Driving Range (DDR). The DDR is a 2-8 mile track and wet skid pad used for both CDL training and safety training for more than 250 agencies, including police departments, paramedics, and state and local transportation departments. The updated labs will host the new Minnesota State Commercial Driver Training Academy, a public-private partnership the planning of which was recently funded by a Minnesota Job Skills Partnership (MJSP) Grant. This project would support economic recovery efforts in the region and make the Southeast corridor a leading area for transportation recruitment and training.</p>	Rosemount MN	\$2,175

International Institute of Minnesota	The International Institute of Minnesota ("the Institute") was founded in 1919 to address the unmet needs of immigrant families. The Institute has made "full membership in American life" accessible to immigrants and refugees and serving their changing needs. Clients regularly describe the Institute as their first "home" in the United States. In 2021, demand for Institute programs and services remains high despite a decline in immigration over the past four years. Many programs, including the Institute's Medical Careers Pathway, operate a waiting list for eligible students. As we plan for more immigration and refugee resettlement as soon as FY2022, the only impediment to the Institute expanding its capacity ever more to bring motivated, hard-working New Americans into our community and workforce is a one-time investment of resources. For that reason, the Institute seeks general operating support to provide one-time investment to the Institute following the 2021 comprehensive renovation and expansion of its facility. This facility expansion provides the capacity to serve an additional 500 New Americans each year in its education and career pathway programs, but not the resources to fund the expanded program costs. The support will help the Institute keep its core programs and services strong while they invest in growing the program capacity of education and workforce programs. It will also expand the tax base and train workers in industries with critical workforce shortages, including healthcare and long-term care.	Saint Paul MN	\$719
Saint Paul College	The Four Directions Pathway program at Saint Paul College is designed to provide academic and social supports to promote college access and success of American Indian students. The term "Four Directions" refers to the American Indian Medicine Wheel, which consists of four directions: East (Study Skill Strategies), South (College Orientation), West (Internships), and North (Cultural Integration). The pathway framework utilizes the Medicine Wheel as a developmental map to lead students to prepare mentally, emotionally, spiritually, and physically for college. Currently, the Four Directions Pathway program exists as a summer bridge program. Saint Paul College seeks to expand the program to create a culturally supported secondary-postsecondary ecosystem that claims healthy space for Indigenous communities and provides support from the beginning of high school through college completion.	Saint Paul MN	\$500
The Sannah Foundation	Dreamline is an academic support and culturally responsive mentorship program serving low-income, under-performing students in public elementary, middle, and high schools. Dreamline Coaches partner with students throughout St. Paul and St. Cloud to provide services on-site to students identified as most in need of assistance, those whom teachers and administrators have identified as failing or near failing, and whose academic futures are in the greatest jeopardy. Dreamline's goal is to help students increase their academic performance, improve their connectedness to school and community, and develop leadership and relationship skills in order to become positive contributors to their school and community.	Saint Paul MN	\$500
Ujamaa Place	For over ten years, Ujamaa Place, a nonprofit organization in St. Paul, MN, has trained and prepared African American males ages 18-30, many of whom have been involved in the criminal justice system, including those who are currently on probation or parole, for a career path and gainful employment. Ujamaa's main goal is to assist these men with career focused workforce training, maintaining their employment, and advancing within their careers. Currently, the unemployment rate for Black Minnesotans, especially young males, is highest of all groups at 9.5 percent. Ujamaa's Workforce Training Program seeks to address this disparity by providing employment training and services that include in-demand employer partnerships and industries, plus Ujamaa's wrap around services (housing, education, mental/chemical wellness, probation support, family relationships), as well as industry approved Workforce Assessments which determine the young men's preparedness for gainful and sustainable employment. Ujamaa Place serves 350 men annually, but the need is much greater. Program participants do not pay for their services; however, program cost for an Ujamaa Man is approximately \$7,000 per man per year of Ujamaa Place enrollment. This request for federal funding is to supplement Ujamaa's current and future budget that will allow us to provide services to more men while growing the capacity of Ujamaa's Workforce Training Program.	Saint Paul MN	\$975
The Zero Abuse Project	A significant and growing body of research documents the poor undergraduate and graduate training of child protection professionals and paraprofessionals. The United States Attorney General's National Task Force on Children Exposed to Violence recommends the inclusion of "curricula in all university undergraduate and graduate programs to ensure that every child and family-serving professional receives training in multiple evidence-based methods for identifying and screening children for exposure to violence." Child Advocacy Studies (CAST) is an interdisciplinary academic program for students entering the fields of criminal justice, social work, nursing, psychology, law, medical school, or seminary that teaches students the skills necessary to work effectively as part of a multidisciplinary team to identify and address situations involving child abuse and neglect. Early indications demonstrate that CAST graduates perform significantly better than their peers in identifying psychological and emotional abuse. Funding to further expand CAST and similar programs will ensure a more prepared workforce and have a significant impact on child welfare. CAST programs and facilities not only benefit future child protection professionals, but also to improve the education and services provided by child protection professionals already in the field.	Saint Paul MN	\$1,000
City of Saint Paul	Libraries play a critical role in digital access and equity. Technology within library spaces must evolve to keep pace with the needs of community members. Through this proposal, all 13 Saint Paul Public Library locations will upgrade our well-used community rooms to have a consistent base of technology tools that patrons can rely on. Patron technology needs will vary by the demographic of the populations served at each library branch. The base services will create a foundation for each library to build upon and allow individual branches to tailor their technology offerings to the unique needs of each community. Meeting rooms will be enabled with technology to facilitate work and collaboration via outlets, projectors, video capability and more. Additionally, upgrades such as expanded electrical outlets and charging stations that will enable libraries to function as community "co-working" spaces. This proposal will ensure that libraries provide public access to the technology-rich community meeting and work spaces that residents want and need in our digital age.	Saint Paul MN	\$1,500
Minnesota State Colleges and Universities	Opening Opportunities for Teacher Education places open educational resources that are free, culturally fluent, and culturally responsive in the hands of teacher education candidates in the Minnesota State system. This project serves to: 1. Increase the rate of black, indigenous and persons of color (BIPOC) teacher candidates attaining a course grade of C or better by situating more of their cultural and lived experiences within the curriculum content, 2. Increase the cultural fluency of teacher candidates using culturally responsive texts that better prepare them to teach in diverse and multi-ethnic communities, and 3. Increase the enrollment and retention of teacher candidates (and teacher candidates of color in particular) by lowering the financial burden of attaining a teacher education degree using zero-cost open educational resources (OER).	Saint Paul MN	\$1,242
Elpis Enterprises	Elpis Enterprises, a not-for-profit organization, is one of only a few career pathway building programs in the metro Twin Cities area designed to meet the unique needs of young people experiencing homelessness or unstable housing. Of trainees participating in our program, each year 80% to 95% identify as Black, Indigenous, or people of color (BIPOC). We operate social enterprises to provide a paid work experience, as trainees build skills, experiences, and connections needed to enter the workforce and launch a career pathway leading to family sustaining wages. Funds are requested to purchase a van that will replace our 20 year old van. The van fosters efficiency in the operations of our social enterprises and assists us in transporting our trainees to events in the community. During COVID 19, the van allowed us to pick up and drop off trainees who were hesitant to use public transportation. See Description of Proposal response. On any given night in the metro Twin Cities, there are an estimated 875 young people (24 years of age or younger) on their own who are experiencing homelessness. This does not include those who are in households with their parents (Source: Wilder Research 2018 Homeless Fact Sheet). Young people experiencing homelessness and unstable housing have limited opportunities to enter the workforce and build a career pathway leading to family-sustaining wages and benefits due to structural and systemic barriers. These barriers include: -Access to Workforce Development Programs: Among young people experiencing homelessness, only 28% report receiving employment assistance despite only 42% of adults experiencing homelessness are employed with most working part-time. (Source: Wilder Research, 2015, pgs. 20-23). -Cultural Bias: While showing grit and resilience, the skills used to survive homelessness (e.g., being focused on today, not trusting others) are often seen as 'unreliable' by others. Additionally, while recognizing the challenges faced by young people experiencing homelessness, many employers do not see themselves as having resources or expertise to support them and are hesitant to 'take a chance'. -Racism: According to the Metropolitan Council, disparities in unemployment between BIPOC individuals in the metro Twin Cities and whites have grown since COVID 19 began. People of color (especially young people) are often employed in leisure, hospitality, and foodservice with many projecting that job recovery in these sectors may take longer. Also impacting job recovery is increased automation in warehouses that is altering the job	Saint Paul MN	\$25

	<p>descriptions of some traditional entry-level warehouse positions.</p> <p>-Privilege and Connections: Young people experiencing homelessness lack connections (e.g., school and family) that offer career exploration opportunities or connections that can help obtain that first job. This has also contributed to young people experiencing homelessness and unstable housing having limited awareness of the diverse careers that build on their unique interests and talents. The LEAP project in the Twin Cities (coordinated by Project for Pride in Living) estimates that the percentage of youth disconnected from school and employment has increased from 7% to 17% due to the pandemic.</p> <p>Addressing Barriers: Elpis Enterprises program design is intentional in addressing the barriers that young people experiencing homelessness face in launching a career pathway.</p>		
Change Inc.	<p>Change Inc. serves historically disinvested communities in Saint Paul and Minneapolis, primarily Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC), many of whom are recent immigrants, refugees, and English Language Learners. We work to provide youth and families with culturally-attuned services that help them develop the tools to thrive. We offer school-based mental health services, alternative high school, adult basic education, career and vocational training, mentoring, and wraparound social-emotional supports to help participants build a sustainable network of support.</p> <p>To best achieve our mission and serve the community, we have identified a need to renovate our GAP School building located in the West Side neighborhood of Saint Paul. Necessary updates fall into three categories: deferred maintenance, COVID safety response, and space to meet programming needs. Renovation plans include the expansion of an outpatient mental health clinic and more physical space to support our employment and training programs. Bringing the renovation to reality will best serve Minnesota and our local community through increased access to mental health services, expanded workforce development programs, and improved opportunities for community-building.</p>	Saint Paul MN	\$5,000
Minnesota Community Care	<p>Access to affordable care is imperative in supporting communities and leads to improved health outcomes. Health care delivery initiatives for children continue to be a challenge due to access barriers, compounded by the fact that as minors, and with few exceptions, children and youth are dependent upon adults to connect to primary health care services on their behalf, inclusive of mental health care. Barriers to access are affected by one's social determinants, often accruing over generations and cemented to disproportionately impact marginalized and historically oppressed populations. Improving health care access for uninsured and underinsured children requires systematic reform at the community level by establishing health resources targeting populations affected by social determinants.</p> <p>A known evidence-based intervention to improve health care access and health outcomes for children is through the implementation of school-based health centers (SBHC). Research evaluating SBHCs demonstrates that school-based initiatives support health outcomes in children regardless of their entwined social determinants. Positioned strategically where children spend most of their weekday hours, SBHCs interrupt social structural inequities like access barriers because of their unique location and affordability (no-cost, low-cost, or sliding-scale fees). Children, especially adolescents, are more likely to seek care in trusted, familiar settings. Research suggests that adolescents report greater satisfaction with care delivered at SBHCs compared to community or private clinics. Compared to community-based clinics and private clinics, SBHCs users are more likely to utilize preventative care and mental health care, have higher immunization rates, and fewer emergency department visits.</p> <p>School-based health centers contribute to socioeconomic development by bypassing larger social structural conditions that present barriers to care. Adolescents become more actively engaged in and knowledgeable about health and navigating care, improving their future socioeconomic future. To address childhood health care disparities, health system policy change must focus on SBHC expansion to improve community health.</p>	Saint Paul MN	\$600
Minnesota Department of Health	<p>Shutting Off the Tap to Teens (SOTT) is a statewide initiative through the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) to address underage drinking and binge drinking. In conducting this project, MDH hopes to help communities implement programs and measures to combat excessive drinking.</p>	Saint Paul MN	\$665
Minnesota Department of Health	<p>Obstetric services are a core health care service, and rural communities are finding it increasingly challenging to offer them. Between 2003 and 2018, nine Minnesota counties have lost hospital birth services. Moreover, maternal morbidity, including complications in childbirth, has increased dramatically in the United States in the past decade.</p> <p>With these facts in mind, rural hospitals with obstetric services need more opportunities for providers to maintain their skills and improve the viability of keeping obstetric services open. In Cloquet, Minnesota, the Community Memorial Hospital Association has worked to acquire the necessary equipment to provide opportunities for rural clinical teams to use advanced simulation training techniques to experience the range of normal to emergency obstetrics events and to practice skills needed to ensure a positive birth outcome for mothers and babies. This training program is located onsite and open to all interested rural providers. However, they now seek to create a mobile option and take the advanced simulation training on the road. Offering a mobile opportunity will bring the training to remotely located communities where travel or staffing limitations is a barrier to accessing a training over several days in Cloquet. A mobile training option also provides additional opportunities to attend the training when the Cloquet location is booked by another hospital team. There is a strong need for training in the pre-hospital to emergency room setting. A mobile unit would give the opportunity for additional providers such as emergency medical services (EMS), emergency room physicians and nurses to have access to a full offering of training or topic-specific workshops.</p>	Saint Paul MN	\$693
M Health Fairview	<p>Substance abuse and overdose rates are rising across the state during the COVID-19 pandemic. This project provides access to care for individuals struggling with substance abuse by bringing peer-support specialists and other clinical staff to the patient. The project has proven to be an effective way to engage people struggling with substance use disorders, but program's current funding is expected to expire this summer. It is critical for the program to find alternate funding streams to ensure the Mobile Substance Use Disorder staff can continue to provide life-saving services.</p>	Saint Paul MN	\$1,000
M Health Fairview	<p>Many Minnesota patients experience a lack of access to mental health and addiction services across the state. This project would help increase access to transition services for individuals who are waiting for stepped down levels of mental health and addiction services after a hospital or emergency department discharge. Mental health and addiction patients are especially vulnerable during this period of time and the M Health Fairview Mental Health &amp; Addiction Transition Clinic (Transition Clinic) ensures a smooth "hand off" to the next level of care. The requested funding would enable M Health Fairview to expand the availability of these services in order to meet growing demand.</p>	Saint Paul MN	\$1,000
Minnesota Department of Health	<p>The cost of education and training to become a dentist or dental therapist is high; dental school is the most expensive graduate degree program in the United States.</p> <p>The National Center for Health Statistics reports that in 2019, 65.3% of Americans age 18 or older had a dental exam or cleaning within the previous 12 months.</p> <p>The global SARS-CoV2 pandemic has spotlighted oral health disparities and barriers to care. In the recently released State of Oral Health Equity in America 2021 Research Report #1 by the CareQuest Institute, an estimated 6 million American adults have lost their dental insurance because of a job loss or benefits change that was caused by COVID-19. 28 million American adults delayed getting dental care due to: cost of care, lack of insurance, and fear of contracting Covid-19.</p> <p>46 million Americans (15% of total population) live in rural areas. Rural residents have higher rates of unhealthy behaviors, less access to health / dental care, may not have fluoridated drinking water, and have less access to healthy foods.</p> <p>These and other factors taken together result in poor dental health for individuals with low-incomes, especially if they live in an underserved area. To increase the availability and geographic proximity of dental professionals who supply care to people most in need, it is essential that the financial needs of those professionals be offset. Many dental professionals want to provide services to everyone who walks through their doors, however the "bottom line" is usually the decision maker. Academic debt burden is the single biggest driver of whether a given dentist or dental therapist can offer care delivery to all. By taking care of these professionals, the professionals will in turn take care of more Minnesotans who need it the most. This model is replicable nationally.</p>	Saint Paul MN	\$1,592

City of Saint Paul	<p>The City of Saint Paul is addressing an environmental crisis with more than 11,000 ash trees on public boulevards that are dead/dying due to the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) infestation. There is also an identified need in our community for young people who are interested in securing a living wage job after high school.</p> <p>In alignment with existing youth jobs goals in the City of Saint Paul, this proposal would provide \$1M in resources to develop a training and jobs program to support the planting and maintenance needs of the overall EAB management program. The goal would be to create pathways to green industry careers for young people in Saint Paul. Young people are regularly seeking connections to careers in the trades. This jobs program would provide the experience and personal support to help put them on the path to good paying labor jobs and green industry careers, while helping the City of Saint Paul address the EAB environmental crisis.</p> <p>Additionally, leveraging \$2.5M in resources from this proposal, the City of Saint Paul would align contracting opportunities for stump removal with existing City of Saint Paul supplier diversity goals, and prioritize opportunities for small, women and minority owned businesses.</p>	Saint Paul MN	\$3,500
American Indian Family Center	<p>The American Indian Community Center Collaborative emerged from the tireless work of community-based organizations dedicated to strengthening and supporting American Indian children, youth, and their families. The Collaborative represents a robust network of agencies that serve and benefit generations of American Indian children, youth, parents, Elders, and families, leveraging resources to optimize collective impacts for their shared clients. To continue this work, the Collaborative seeks to build a new community center to house these vital programs, creating a centralized location to facilitate access and increase participation among community members. The project will also create a community-owned and managed physical asset, anchoring the organizations in the East Metro area and increasing their long-term sustainability. Overall, the community center will serve as a culturally rooted healing site offering safe and welcoming green space and play areas where American Indians and the broader community can engage in cultural practices, physical exercise, and social experiences.</p>	Saint Paul/Metro Area MN	\$2,000
Minnesota Association of Community Mental Health	<p>Today's Healthcare Silos and Medical Records Technologies Prevent Effective Whole-Person Care, Population Health Management, and Mitigation of Social Determinants of Health. This proposal creates a care management registry that integrates clinical information from clinics (physical health and mental health), hospitals, pharmacies, insurers, State agencies and other social service organizations. This automation makes population health care management feasible, targets people in greatest need of services before their cost of care becomes uncontrolled and coordinates the provision of physical and behavioral health care.</p>	Saint Paul/Statewide MN	\$900
St. Francis Regional Medical Center	<p>St. Francis Emergency Department Renovation and Expansion Project is a multi-year project making essential upgrades and modernizations that will enable the Emergency Department to better meet the changing needs of the community. St. Francis Regional Medical Center was last remodeled twenty years ago and since then we have seen our patient volumes nearly double. Through the majority of the pandemic, the entire project was put on hold. In late 2020, the project was reviewed and a new Phase 1A was planned to address the most pressing need to increase capacity for providing mental health emergency care. Currently, St. Francis Regional Medical Center's Emergency Department has two mental health rooms, which is insufficient for meeting the increasing need for mental health emergency care. Under Phase 1A, four dedicated mental health rooms, and two swing rooms that can be used for mental health will be added in the Emergency Department. The total cost of Phase 1A is \$6 million and is being partially funded by a \$1 million donation from Shakopee Mdwakanton Sioux Community. St. Francis Regional Medical Center is conducting a \$5 million Capital Campaign in an effort to secure the remaining funds.</p>	Shakopee MN	\$1,000
AgCentric	<p>The Minnesota State Northern Agricultural Center of Excellence (AgCentric) is an educational leader in connecting industry and education to meet the regions' needs. AgCentric is housed at Central Lakes College and is one of eight Centers within Minnesota State.</p> <p>According to needs studies, the Meat Cutting &amp; Butchery program is vital for ensuring a more diverse network of meat cutters and local outlets for processing. The hands-on and entrepreneurial program design, short-term format and business ownership orientation will make sure that the program serves as a driver for economic growth within the District. While the meat processing "bottleneck" has long been recognized as a regional issue, the pandemic exacerbated the issue and clearly demonstrated both the negative economic impact and risk that the bottleneck poses to the industry and the region. The farmers experienced financial losses when animals could not be slaughtered in a timely manner, and in some cases were required to be desiccated all together.</p> <p>Furthermore, Central Lakes College has the capacity to launch these programs within their existing menu of related coursework and degree offerings. Central Lakes has the capacity to allocate space for the proposed renovation without adding more buildings to their inventory. Their geographic locations provide outstanding opportunities for partnership and wide coverage of the District to meet the common objective of economic growth.</p> <p>AgCentric has engaged multiple industry partners to ascertain the initial confirmation of need and the interest to support both the program at the college level and the mobile slaughter unit.</p>	Staples MN	\$3,000
Stearns County	<p>There is a substantial gap in supervised visitation and safe exchange services in Stearns County. Anna Marie's Alliance staff of trauma-informed, domestic violence behavior trained counselors, secured by the Stearns County Sheriff's Office and housed in the Stearns County Administration Center, will provide Stearns County District Court ordered supervised visitation and safe exchange services, further supported by the Stearns County Attorney's Office, Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid, and Stearns County Human Services (Community Corrections, Children's Mental Health, and Child Protection). Additionally, this appropriation could make Legal Aid services available to all victims of domestic violence in Stearns County.</p> <p>This grant will fund the program for three years. In kind contributions of staff time and space will provide support and match.</p>	Stearns County MN	\$750
Valley Friendship Club	<p>Valley Friendship Club is a non-profit organization that provides kids, teens, and adults social and educational opportunities. This summer, our older teens and adult members have been invited to work at an outdoor coffee cart called, Traintrax and owned by the Zephyr Theatre. This is an amazing opportunity for our members to learn job skills, gain confidence in working with others, and to be a part of the community. Traintrax is a converted open-air train car that is located along the Gateway - Brown's Creek State (Bike) Trail in Stillwater, MN. This is a great location with lots of potential to interact with the community.</p> <p>This is an opportunity to employ 10-15 people with disabilities this summer. It will also be a good start to bridge the employment gap for people living with disabilities. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, in 2020 only 17.9% of people with disabilities were employed in the United States down from 19.3% employed in 2019. COVID has been exponentially difficult on those with disabilities, loss of jobs and socialization, this opportunity would hit both marks.</p>	Stillwater MN	\$3
Appetite For Change, Inc	<p>Food is a human right. Actualizing that sentiment is a perennial human challenge fraught with complexity and based on systems and practices that damage the environment, exploit people of color, and concentrate power in the hands of a few. Black, Indigenous, and other communities of color have been harmed and continue to pay a profound toll in service to a food system that privileges efficiency, productivity, profitability, and convenience. The cost of a food system based on these principles manifests in numerous racial inequities, from higher rates of diet-related chronic disease; disproportionate impact of agricultural-related environmental problems; lack of reliable access to safe, affordable, healthy food; and no real say, influence, or meaningful resources in the current food system.</p> <p>Research shows that nationally, more than half of local produce sales were farms selling directly through intermediated marketing channels such as grocery and restaurants (Low and Vogel, USDA-Economic Research Service, 2011). More common direct to consumer marketing channels for local foods (community supported agriculture shares, farmers markets) are often too expensive for low-income families to purchase, with average price of CSA share ranging from \$400 - 700 ("Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Resource Guide for Farmers." NC State Extension, 2014, <a href="http://growingsmallfarms.ces.ncsu.edu/growingsmallfarms-csaguide/">growingsmallfarms.ces.ncsu.edu/growingsmallfarms-csaguide.</a>).</p> <p>The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted cracks in many of the systems the public has taken for granted as impervious to disruption, arguably most notably the food system. Marginalized populations have always seen and felt these cracks and this situation offers an opportunity to focus on strategies to mend them to equitably serve all communities.</p> <p>Especially for those from underserved backgrounds, lack of time, lack of transportation, access to affordable foods, and cooking/food skills may make low-cost, calorie dense, low-nutrient foods appealing and lead to increase consumption of food with less healthy nutrient profiles such as pre-packaged processed meals and away-from-home meals. Because research has linked these barriers to poor dietary and health outcomes ("Time Spent on Home Food Preparation and Indicators of Healthy Eating." Am. J. Prev. Med., vol. 47, 2014, pp. 796-802.) working to increase food access and skills to prepare home-cooked meals within the constraints of busy at-risk families is a vital way to address this important social determinant of health.</p> <p>The average yearly family income for small and midsized farmers is under \$20,000, and new sustainable markets are desperately needed. The food service environment during the COVID-19 pandemic has left an unknown future for small and midsized farmers to re engage those markets, thus small farmers and food hubs are looking for</p>	Twin Cities Metro MN	\$1,000

alternative outlets for potential crop overages. This program offers a steady market for locally grown produce from small and mid-sized farmers who don't traditionally sell to larger food distributors. Partner organization, The Good Acre, emphasizes engagement with local farmer who identify as BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color), activating an important market that can incentivize more growers of color to scale up their farming operations.

St. David's Center for Child & Family Development	For the past 30 years, St. David's Center for Child & Family Development has worked to increase access to critical childcare, early intervention, and mental health needs in the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan area. In providing these services, St. David's Center reaches Minnesotan families who represent a diverse cross section of the population, including communities oftentimes bound by generations of poverty and historical trauma, and those struggling with the challenges of having a child with unique developmental needs, often compounded by stigma and other barriers. With the challenges of the last few years, including the pandemic and climate of social unrest and racialized violence, St. David's is experiencing a greater need for their services. To meet these needs, they seek to address the various components needed to fully support the infrastructure of their main location including comprehensive investments in information technology; capital improvements consisting of solar energy planning, preparation and implementation, and ADA-related renovations; an office redesign to expand workforce on-site; and regional site expansion planning to expand our footprint to provide access to services for those residing in children's mental health service "deserts" in Minnesota.	Twin Cities Metro MN	\$3,410
Best Buddies International, Inc.	Best Buddies is an international 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to establishing a global volunteer movement that creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment, leadership development, and inclusive living for people with intellectual or developmental disabilities (IDD). A critical part of education for children and youth with IDD is the development of social skills which are essential to success in the community and the workplace following school. Best Buddies provides youth with IDD the opportunity to have a friend and to be one, thereby learning how to successfully interact with peers. The Best Buddies in Minnesota Inclusion Project for Students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities seeks to establish and deliver community-based inclusion services at 29 middle, and high schools that will serve at least 700 students who will take part in a minimum of 232 inclusive activities and leadership training opportunities in Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington counties.	Twin Cities Metro Area MN	\$449
BeKind2People	BeKind2People's free mental health therapy services offer healing to Minnesotans who are struggling - including people recovering from addiction and families grappling with the pandemic's long-term consequences. Our organization and therapists provided relief throughout the pandemic despite logistical challenges. Today, the need for our services is climbing dramatically as more people reach out for help after suffering prolonged isolation and intense uncertainty. This federal funding will enable us to hire an additional therapist while also increasing our current therapy staffing to full-time work hours.	Twin Cities Metro Area MN	\$80
Hiawatha Valley Mental Health Center	Hiawatha Valley Mental Health Center is working through the process to become a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) with the goal of becoming Minnesota State Certified in early 2022. As a CCBHC, we will be able to increase access to community based mental health and substance use disorder services (particularly to under-served communities) and advance integration of behavioral health with physical health care. Integrated care requires our organization to have established collaborative relationships with other providers and health care systems to ensure care coordination for consumers utilizing services at Hiawatha Valley Mental Health Center. In order to provide quality care coordination, we need to construct a portion of our Winona Clinic into six group rooms for coordinated care meetings. The rooms will allow anywhere from six to 16 individuals to meet and together improve communication between behavioral health and primary care which will result in overall improvement in the consumer's outcomes and satisfaction. Beyond space needs for CCBHC use, Hiawatha Valley Mental Health Center also is in need of additional space to grow and expand group treatment services for those who need a supportive group treatment setting to help in recovery from substance use and abuse. Even though the care coordination rooms will be within our Winona Clinic, each space will allow for the consumer and their care team to connect with team members throughout the region using telehealth. Currently, Hiawatha Valley Mental Health Center only has one space where large group meetings can take place. The enhanced utilization of telehealth within this new space will improve our ability to coordinate care and engage all of those involved with a consumer's overall health.	Winona MN	\$136
Minnesota State College Southeast	Minnesota State College Southeast is a public, non-profit community and technical college that currently has a Practical Nursing program and is opening a new Associate of Science in Nursing program with the first nursing cohort starting in the fall semester 2021. Currently the Minnesota State College Southeast Winona campus has a nursing wing with a large open room that serves as both the skills lab and simulation area. An upgraded and renovated simulation lab in a rural portion of the district will serve multiple entities and benefit a broad array of students and incumbent healthcare providers. The lab will favorably impact the quality of healthcare by providing local access for continuing education in a state-of-the-art facility.  Economic Development Region 10 (EDR-10), the Southeast Region of Minnesota, shows high demand for both Licensed Practical Nurses and Registered Nurses and over the next 10 years. The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development shows "High" growth in both areas with the following expected openings over the next ten years: - LPN - 1,284 openings, or 128 new LPN's needed annually. - RN - 8,840 openings; or 884 new RN's needed annually.  Our college is committed to increasing academic programming to contribute in filling the workforce needs of the Southeast Region, including having simulation capacity to augment traditional clinical hours in training the future healthcare workforce. Healthcare employers throughout our region continue to rely on our college to graduate highly qualified nurses.	Winona MN	\$817