



## FY17 Grantee-Partners:

### [girls Building Economic Success Together \(girlsBEST\) Fund:](#)

The Women's Foundation of Minnesota has awarded \$150,000 in planning grants to 28 nonprofit organizations through its girlsBEST (girls Building Economic Success Together) Fund. The grant period is October 15, 2016 to April 14, 2017. Established in 2001, girlsBEST is a girl-led, girl-driven grantmaking program to increase the readiness of low-income girls, girls of color, and girls from Greater Minnesota (ages 12-18) to achieve future economic prosperity.

#### GRANTEES:

**Bagosendaan** (Mahnommen) | **\$5,700** — To support financial literacy through creation of a book/learning materials business.

**The Brainerd Baxter Youth Center** (Brainerd) | **\$6,000** — To support The Shop program in creating a healthy youth development program for middle to high school girls.

**Casa de Esperanza** (St. Paul) | **\$6,000** — To support a program for young Latinas in developing plans for healthy interpersonal relationships.

**Centro Tyrone Guzman** (Minneapolis) | **\$6,000** — To support a Latina leadership training program for positive cultural identity and community engagement.

**Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio, Inc.** (St. Paul) | **\$6,000** — To support Youth in Action, a leadership development and college access preparation program.

**Dakota Wicohan** (Morton) | **\$6,000** — To expand Wiciyanna, Wikoska, and W2, a three-tier girl's leadership curriculum.

**El Colegio** (Minneapolis) | **\$4,000** — To develop a mentorship program for Latina girls in collaboration with school and community leaders.

**Girl Scouts of MN & WI River Valleys** (Austin) | **\$4,100** — To support Austin ConnectZ, a program to develop knowledge and skills for post-secondary and life success for girls from diverse and low-income communities.

**Girl Scouts of MN & WI River Valleys** (Rochester) | **\$4,100** — To support Rochester ConnectZ, a program to develop knowledge and skills for post-secondary and life success for girls from diverse and low-income communities.

**Girl Scouts of MN & WI River Valleys** (Worthington) | **\$4,100** — To support Worthington Girls Scouts ConnectZ, a program to develop knowledge and skills for post-secondary and life success for girls from diverse and low-income communities.

**Hnub Tshiab: Hmong Women Achieving Together** (St. Paul) | **\$4,000** — To support girls programming to increase recent immigrant Hmong girl's leadership skills to shift Hmong gender norms.

**Hope Community** (Minneapolis) | **\$6,000** — To support GEMS (Girls EMpowerment) program for girls of color to increase their leadership and conduct youth participatory action research on economic prosperity.

**Isuroon** (Minneapolis) | **\$4,000** — To support culturally appropriate teen pregnancy prevention and employment preparation program for African immigrant girls.



**The Link** (Minneapolis) | **\$4,000** — To support a leadership and career mentoring program for girls who have been involved in the juvenile justice system.

**Men as Peacemakers** (Duluth) | **\$6,000** — To support Girls Restorative Program (GRIP) in expanding leadership opportunities and skill building for girls.

**Minnesota African Women's Association, MAWA** (Brooklyn Center) | **\$4,000** — To support expanding STEM tutoring program for African immigrant girls.

**Outfront Minnesota** (Statewide) | **\$6,000** — To support Youth and Schools program across the state for LGBTQ youth to increase academic success.

**Peacemaker Resources** (Bemidji) | **\$6,000** — To expand the GirlsLEAD program through partnerships with the Leech Lake Bank of Ojibwa, Red Lake Nation Band of Chippewa, and White Earth Nation.

**Pillsbury United Communities** (Minneapolis) | **\$6,000** — To support Sisterhood Boutique, a youth social-entrepreneurial venture in skill-building, program evaluation, and marketing for East African young women.

**Project Diva** (Minneapolis) | **\$6,000** — To support skill building and coaching for African American girls to develop positive life goals.

**Project FINE** (Winona) | **\$6,000** — To support the Girls Reaching Above and Beyond (GRAB) program refinement to best reflect the current needs of girls in the community.

**Region 9 Development Commission, SURGE Program** (Mankato) | **\$6,000** — To support the SURGE program in enhancing financial literacy and career development for girls.

**WE WIN Institute** (Minneapolis) | **\$4,000** — To support Women of Distinction in developing an entrepreneurial track for African American young women.

**Western Community Action, Inc.** (Jackson and Marshall) | **\$6,000** — To support the Big Buddies mentoring program that builds skills of girls to pursue post-secondary education.

**Women's Initiative for Self Empowerment** (St. Paul) | **\$6,000** — To support a program that develops awareness of broad career opportunities for immigrant and refugee girls.

**YouthCARE** (Minneapolis) | **\$6,000** — To support Young Women's Mentoring program with new training for American Indian and Asian youth program leaders.

**YWCA of Duluth** (Duluth) | **\$6,000** — To support the Girl Power! program where girls will serve as community researchers to guide program development and implementation.

**YWCA of St. Paul** (St. Paul) | **\$6,000** — To support creating a plan to enhance employment development programing for low-income girls of color.

## Innovation:

The Women's Foundation of Minnesota has awarded a total of \$100,000 in grants to three organizations through its Innovation Fund. Through the Innovation Fund, the Women's Foundation awards grants to organizations and programs in alignment with the Foundation's goals of driving gender equity throughout the state. Because gender inequality looks different in every community, the Foundation uses an intersectional frame to look at how gender, race, place (geography), and equity (class, age, ability, LGBTQ, immigration status) intersect to help identify the most innovative solutions to build greater equity. Priority is given to organizations that ensure women's safe and healthy lives.



#### GRANTEES:

**The Advocates for Human Rights** (Statewide) | **\$20,000** — To provide general operating support to the organization to implement international human rights standards to promote civil society and reinforce the rule of law. By involving volunteers in research, education, and advocacy, Advocates for Human Rights builds broad constituencies in the United States and select global communities.

**Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota** (Statewide) | **\$20,000** — To provide general operating support to the organization to support legal assistance to low-income immigrants and refugees in Minnesota. ILCM also works to educate Minnesota communities and professionals about immigration matters, and advocates for state and federal policies which respect the universal human rights of immigrants.

**Planned Parenthood MN, ND, SD Action Fund** (Statewide) | **\$60,000** — To provide general operating support to the organization as a leading provider of reproductive health care, sexuality education, and advocate of reproductive health.

#### [MN Girls Are Not For Sale:](#)

The Women's Foundation of Minnesota has awarded a total of \$312,500 in grants to eight organizations through its MN Girls Are Not For Sale Fund. Through MN Girls Are Not For Sale, the Foundation has awarded 109 grants for a total of \$2,716,252 and invested more than \$6 million to end sex trafficking in Minnesota through grantmaking, research, and public education to date.

Over the next year, grantees will focus on the following priorities:

1. Research and advocacy efforts to increase resources for shelter, housing, and services for victims of sex trafficking and training for law enforcement. *Due to these efforts, the State adopted a \$3 million funding increase (for a total investment of \$11 million) for the Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Youth Act for fiscal year 2018-19, raised the upper age limit to 24 years old, and provided additional training dollars for law enforcement.*
2. Decrease demand by educating and mobilizing public support and activism through strategies aimed at youth, men and boys, and the broader community to prevent sex trafficking in Minnesota.

#### GRANTEES

**Amherst H. Wilder Foundation** (St. Paul) | **\$10,000** – To produce a report that shows better understanding of the impact, strengths, and opportunities for improvement of the Safe Harbor model and law through a statewide web survey. The survey will be the largest and most comprehensive data collection activity for the program evaluation to date, and focus will be on underserved communities.

**County of Nicollet** (Southwestern MN) | **\$50,000** – To support the continuation of sting operations throughout three counties; focus more on investigations involving the supply side of sex trafficking; continue to expand training opportunities in this area for local law enforcement; and continue community education efforts through public education talks and through a protracted multi-media campaign.

**The Family Partnership** (Statewide) | **\$50,000** – To continue legislative advocacy efforts towards the \$13.3 million statewide funding goal of Minnesota's Safe Harbor No Wrong Door model and put in place a legislatively mandated



strategic planning process to develop a Safe Harbor for All response that includes trauma-informed culturally-specific services, statewide outreach, and law enforcement training.

**Independent School District #625 - Saint Paul Public Schools** (Saint Paul) | **\$50,000** – To continue implementation of semester-long coursework at two high schools for healthy adolescent male development that will reduce objectification of women and demand for sexual exploitation.

**The Link** (Minneapolis/St. Paul) | **\$50,000** – To create and launch a prevention marketing campaign targeted to at-risk youth and the general public about the manipulative, violent, and harmful nature of sex trafficking. The outcome of the project will be to prevent youth from being recruited, exploited, and trafficked, and to help them realize positive life options. This grant supports collaboration between the Link and the creative agency KNOCK, inc.

**Men As Peacemakers** (Northeastern MN) | **\$50,000** – To complete the creation of resources and support the kickoff and dissemination of the *Don't Buy It Project*, a project to engage, educate, and mobilize men and boys to reduce the commercial sexual exploitation of young women and girls across the state. MAP successfully launched the first phase of its project in January, and grant funds will support the testing of an online training module and publication of a program guide and outreach campaign.

**Regents of the University of Minnesota – Urban Research & Outreach-Engagement Center (UROC)** (Statewide) | **\$37,500** – To support UROC in conducting research focused on documenting the workplace experiences of entertainers within strip clubs in Minneapolis from a lens of workplace health and safety and improving working conditions. The report was commissioned on behalf of the City of Minneapolis and will guide their related policy recommendations.

**State of Minnesota** (Statewide) | **\$15,000** – To support a training program for criminal justice professionals from across Minnesota focused on how the courts system can better serve victims of sexual exploitation and improve our state's response to sex trafficking.

### [Pathways to Prosperity \(P2P\) Fund:](#)

The Women's Foundation of Minnesota has awarded \$309,000 in grants to five organizations through its Pathways to Prosperity (P2P) Fund. Through P2P, the Women's Foundation aims to create unrestricted pathways to economic security and prosperity for low-income women, women of color, and women in greater Minnesota.

Through P2P, the Foundation awards grants to innovative programs at nonprofit organizations or community/technical colleges that focus on workforce development, wealth building, or entrepreneurship. Funded programs also focus on providing wrap-around support services including childcare, financial literacy, and transportation.

### **GRANTEES:**

**Dunwoody College of Technology** (Minneapolis/St. Paul) | **\$50,000** — To support the Women in Technical Careers program, a cohort of underrepresented, low-income female students entering one of four programs offering degrees in high-paying, high-demand fields: Construction Sciences and Building Technology, Computer Technology, Automotive Technology, or Robotics and Manufacturing Technology. Through the cohort, students are provided need-based scholarships to cover tuition and/or childcare, individual mentoring by female professionals in their future field, additional academic support services, and professional development.



**Friends of Saint Paul College** (Saint Paul) | **\$29,500** – To support 60 low-income women of color to persist through pathways leading to middle-skilled trades employment. The Women in Trade Careers program cohort receives comprehensive support through scholarships, financial assistance, Certified Production Technologist courses, and peer/mentor networking. Faculty and employers will also receive training on increasing gender equity.

**Minnesota State Colleges & Universities – Northwest Technical College Central MN** (Bemidji) | **\$29,500** –To support Coding the Path from Poverty to Hope, a program offered in partnership with Leech Lake Tribal College and Red Lake Tribal College to help women enter the medical coding field. The program includes classroom and online courses, culturally grounded advising and mentoring, career counseling, daycare/eldercare support, transportation support, and up to \$3,000 of past higher-education debt forgiveness. Program participants must be living below the federal poverty level, be a caretaker of a child or an elder, or a woman of color.

**Minnesota State Colleges & Universities – Hibbing Community College** (Hibbing) | **\$100,000** – To connect underrepresented women from the Iron Range region to employment opportunities in high-wage, high-demand careers. The EMPOWER program provides students with academic and employment bridge support services, as well as tuition, childcare, and transportation assistance.

**Minnesota State Community & Technical College** (Moorhead) | **\$100,000** – To support Minnesota women of color and low-income women in engineering and technology programs at the Moorhead campus with strategic recruiting, mentoring, advising, support services, and study tables.