



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Foundation Awards \$150,000 in girlsBEST Fund Planning Grants to Support Future Economic Prosperity of MN Girls

(December 2, Minneapolis) — 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 include:

Bagosendaan (Mahnomen) | **\$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 programming for low-income girls of color.

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About the Women’s Foundation of Minnesota | 2016

The Women’s Foundation of Minnesota is a statewide community foundation investing in innovation to drive gender equity. The Foundation envisions a world of equal opportunity where women and girls – *and all people* – hold the power to create and lead safe, prosperous lives. Through grantmaking, research, and public policy, the Foundation is building pathways to prosperity for girls and women in Minnesota with the greatest disparities in outcome. Founded in 1983, it is the first and largest statewide women’s foundation in the country. More at WFMN.ORG.