



2018 Grantee-Partners:

Through our grantmaking, we fund systems change. We fund programs, research, policy and advocacy, and strategic communications that result in shifts in individual, cultural, and community attitudes and behaviors, and shifts in institutions and policies that serve as barriers to gender and racial equity.

In fiscal year 2019 (April 1, 2018 – March 31, 2019) has awarded \$2,571,362 in grants to community-based organizations leading solutions across Minnesota to create a world of equal opportunity for and with women and girls.

girls Building Economic Success Together (girlsBEST):

The Women's Foundation of Minnesota has awarded 19 multi-year grants and two planning grants totaling \$300,000 to nonprofit organizations through its girlsBEST (girls Building Economic Success Together) Fund. The grant period is June 15, 2018, to June 14, 2019. This is the second-year renewal of a multi-year grant from girlsBEST. Multi-year grants will be renewed for up to three years, based on an annual grant review and approval of progress towards goals. Planning grants are limited to one year.

Launched in 2002, girlsBEST awards grants to programs that build the opportunity and future economic success of Minnesota's girls, ages 12-18. Priority is given to programs that include outreach to underserved, underrepresented populations around the state, including low-income girls, girls of color and American Indian girls, and girls from Greater Minnesota.

Multi-Year Grantee-Partners:

Bagosendaan (Mahnommen) | \$14,000 — To support talking circles in the White Earth area that will teach financial literacy through a book/learning materials business.

The Best Academy (Minneapolis) | \$18,000 — To support SISTER Academy, an all-girls education and enrichment program for grades 5-8 designed to build, nurture, and strengthen academic, moral, and social development in preparation for a successful transition into high school, college, and career.

Centro Tyrone Guzman (Minneapolis) | \$14,000 — To support Jóvenes Latinas al Poder, a Latina leadership training program to advocate for justice, inclusion, and equity in the Twin Cities.

Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio, Inc. (St. Paul) | \$14,000 — To support Jóvenes en Acción - ¡YA! Program (Youth in Action), a holistic, culturally appropriate leadership development and college access preparation program.

Dakota Wicohan (Morton) | \$14,000 — To support the year-round Dakota Youth Leadership Program, which connects Dakota youth to their community and helps prepare them to contribute academically, economically, socially, and culturally.

Girl Scouts - Dakota Horizons (Sioux Falls) | \$18,000 — To support hands-on learning with a focus on life skills, STEM (science, technology, science, and engineering), the outdoors, and financial literacy.

Hmong American Partnership (HAP) (St. Paul) | \$14,000 — To support the needs of a new generation of Hmong girls and women with group mentoring, and an internship program that includes stipends, financial literacy training, and career exploration.

Isuroon (Minneapolis) | \$14,000 — To support culturally appropriate employment preparation, sexuality and AIDS education, mentoring, and academic achievement training for African immigrant girls in programming that includes family and other caring adults.

Kwanzaa Community Church, PCUSA (Minneapolis) | \$18,000 — To support the 21st Century Academy, which provides quality learning and mentoring, developmentally appropriate activities, and leadership development for girls. The program emphasizes reading, writing, math, and technology.

The Link (Minneapolis) | \$14,000 — To support the career and leadership development program to increase girls' leadership skills, provide mentoring partnerships, and prepare them for paid internship opportunities.



Men as Peacemakers (Duluth) | **\$18,000** — To support the Girls Restorative Program (GRP) in expanding leadership opportunities and skill-building through education and career preparation.

Neighborhood House (St. Paul) | **\$14,000** — To support the Gang Reduction and Intervention Program (GRIP) and the Girls Realizing Our Worth 2.0 (GROW 2.0) group in preparing young women for economic readiness and financial stability through training in confidence, cultural awareness, critical thinking, and life skills.

OutFront Minnesota (Minneapolis) | **\$18,000** — To support a youth-led, statewide Gender and Sexuality Alliance (GSA) network, which will support adult advisors of GSAs and LGBTQ+ youth; train and support Minnesota educators to create inclusive school environments; and advocate for public policies and practices that affirm and support LGBTQ+ students.

Peacemaker Resources (Bemidji) | **\$18,000** — To support the Girls Lead on the Go program, which includes community-based leadership development to build community and advocate for change.

Project FINE (Winona) | **\$14,000** — To support economic development and education for youth from refugee and immigrant families through the Girls Reaching Above and Beyond (GRAB) program.

Range Engineering Council (Hibbing) | **\$14,000** — To support #EngineerLikeAGirl, a girl-led, overnight awareness and mentorship program with a series of outreach events, including job shadowing and Engineering Mentor Night.

uCodeGirl (Fargo, N.D.) | **\$14,000** — To support Crack the Code: Summer Technology Camp and Shape the Future: Inspire and Nurture Her. Both programs provide girls in northeastern Minnesota with one-on-one mentoring and technology education from industry professionals.

United Community Action Partnership (Marshall) | **\$14,000** — To support Generation Next program, with a focus on building the economic stability of girls through leadership, mentorship, skill-building, and financial literacy.

YWCA of Duluth (Duluth) | **\$14,000** — To support the Girl Power! program, which helps girls build self-esteem with the support of positive adult role models.

One-Year Planning Grants:

The ANIKA Foundation (Minneapolis) | **\$5,000** — To support the organization's cosmetology program that offers technical skills including leadership development and access to resources and tools that increase the knowledge base of participants

B.R.A.V.E Foundation (St. Paul) | **\$5,000** — To support young Somali women in college preparation and peer mentorship through Shaax iyo Sheeko (Tea and Talk), a space to connect and talk about career planning, healthy relationships, wellness, and healing.

MN Girls Are Not For Sale:

The Women's Foundation of Minnesota (WFMN) has awarded nine grants totaling \$250,000 through its MN Girls Are Not For Sale fund. The grants are a one-time investment to strengthen systems and the infrastructure of organizations working to end sex trafficking in the state. The grant cycle runs November 2018 through October 2019.

In its final year of funding the MN Girls Are Not for Sale campaign, WFMN was responsive to community input as partners requested funding focused on strengthening systems and infrastructure of the field. Additionally, partners called for investments to increase the leadership of underrepresented cultural communities in the field.

As WFMN transforms its role from a central leader to a partner in the movement to end sex trafficking, WFMN will continue to invest in women's safety and work with communities broadly to end gender-based violence, a continuum that includes sexual harassment, assault, domestic violence, rape, and sex trafficking.

By funding strong business and operations models and supporting existing and emerging programming by and for underrepresented cultural communities, WFMN is investing in the continued progress of the movement to end sex trafficking statewide.



Grantee-Partners:

Breaking Free (St. Paul) | **\$20,000** — To support the development and implementation of a statewide conference on the topic of sex trafficking for service providers, professionals, community members, and direct-service organizations.

Casa de Esperanza (St. Paul) | **\$35,000** — To build the expertise and leadership capacity of Family Advocacy staff and collaborating partners in the field by building cultural competency about trafficking in the Latin@ community and supporting community-driven solutions.

HAP (Hmong American Partnership) (St. Paul) | **\$35,000** — To strengthen existing programming by and for underrepresented cultural communities, which will increase organizational capacity to have a stronger leadership role in the movement to end sex trafficking.

Kwanzaa Community Church, PCUSA (Minneapolis) | **\$35,000** — To expand the Northside Healing Space, formerly the Northside Women's Space. The space was founded as a place for women to heal from commercial sexual exploitation. As expansion is considered, the community is encouraged to help heal trauma in the community at large.

Men As Peacemakers (Duluth) | **\$20,000** — To build upon the Don't Buy It Project (DBIP) to create and pilot curricula specifically designed for and with Native communities, in partnership with the Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Assault Coalition, the leading national experts in tribal technical assistance. Men As Peacemakers will support tribal communities through the DBIP curricula as they build leadership in preventing sex trafficking and other forms of commercial sexual exploitation.

Minnesota Indian Women's Resource Center (Minneapolis) | **\$35,000** — To support street outreach to youth with additional staff, and to provide technical assistance and community education about urban Native American sexually exploited youth to services providers and other audiences throughout Minnesota.

The Advocates for Human Rights (Minneapolis & Greater Minnesota) | **\$10,000** — General operating support to update the 2008 Sex Trafficking Needs Assessment in order to develop legislative and policy recommendations in line with updates to Minnesota's anti-trafficking systems, including a focus on the overlap of labor trafficking of women and girls.

The Link (Minneapolis) | **\$50,000** — To provide leadership and development training to existing and emerging leaders within The Link, including staff survivors and youth survivors. The Link will increase its leadership by convening organizations in the anti-trafficking movement.

unPrison Project (Minneapolis & Greater Minnesota) | **\$10,000** — To support a comprehensive plan that spans three focus areas: policy work, implementing a mentorship program that creates leadership opportunities for women in prison, and strengthening unPrison's organizational infrastructure.

Young Women's Initiative of Minnesota (YWI MN):

The Women's Foundation of Minnesota (WFMN) announced an investment of \$414,000 in one-time, general operating grants to 16 organizations serving girls and young women, ages 12-24. In addition, WFMN awarded a \$100,000 grant to YWCA St. Paul to provide leadership development and support to the Young Women's Cabinet and \$15/hour payment to all 25 members for participation on the Cabinet. The total awards equal \$514,000.

Awarded through the Foundation's Young Women's Initiative of Minnesota (YWI MN), the grants support front-line organizations working in the intersecting areas of economic opportunity, safety, and leadership with and on behalf of young women and girls to advance key YWI MN Blueprint for Action recommendations.

Launched in 2016, YWI MN is a multi-year, multi-million-dollar investment and public-private partnership with the Governor's Office of the State of Minnesota to achieve equity in opportunities with and for young women of color, American Indian young women, young women from Greater Minnesota, LGBTQ+ youth, and young women with disabilities. The goal of YWI MN is to create a Minnesota where every girl thrives and is the champion of her own life.

The Foundation announced \$55,000 in grants to elevate the leadership of individual young women through one-time microgrants of \$2,500 directly to 22 young women, ages 14-24, who represent the first cohort of WFMN Innovators.



“The Young Women’s Initiative of Minnesota has a bold and necessary vision to create a Minnesota where young women of color and from all marginalized communities thrive. Our grantmaking is one part of making that vision a reality,” said Lulete Mola, director of community impact.

In total, the awards represent an investment of \$514,000 through YWI MN.

Casa de Esperanza (St. Paul) | **\$25,000** — To build capacity for Casa’s primary initiative for girls and young women, Fuerza Unida Amig@s, which celebrates the cultural identity and develops the leadership skills of young Latinas. Casa trains new cohorts of girls to become Amig@s (peer leaders) through an intensive two-week culturally based leadership training curriculum that teaches participants to identify and create healthy relationships and live free from violence. After the training, Amig@s meet weekly throughout the school year to expand learning and discuss topics important to their wellbeing. Participants plan and implement community action projects to share their knowledge with peers, families, and communities, incorporating financial literacy education and career exploration.

Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valleys (Minneapolis and Southeastern Minnesota) | **\$25,000** — To build capacity and new components of the Connect Z program in Minneapolis, Rochester, Worthington, and Austin. ConnectZ’s culturally-responsive leadership program engages 2,700 girls a year in diverse and low-income communities in the Twin Cities area and southern Minnesota. ConnectZ programming encompasses health and wellness, citizenship and advocacy, financial education and entrepreneurship, STEM, leadership and mentorship, and college and career readiness.

Honor the Earth (Callaway, White Earth Nation) | **\$25,000** — To work with young women on projects to reindigenize the local economy and to develop needed financial and political resources for the survival of sustainable Native communities. Project paths to empowerment and self-sufficiency include redevelopment of Native arts, such as a training and hiring local artists to paint several murals throughout the Pine Point community and beyond; harvesting, processing, and selling indigenous foods, such as wild rice and maple syrup; and working to build community energy independence through weatherization, solarization, and long-range energy planning in order to provide family-sustaining local jobs, while addressing extreme energy poverty.

MIGIZI Communications, Inc. (Minneapolis) | **\$25,000** — To increase the number of young women served by programming, creating access for young women to participate in paid internships in living wage jobs and careers. The Native Visions programming trains youth in the indigenized version of mind/body medicine that uses the power of thoughts and emotions to influence physical health and help people of all ages cope with historical and current trauma through the integration of Native healing medicines and practices. Youth women also participate and lead First Person Productions, MIGIZI's social media enterprise that provides new media training and production that builds pathways to career in media production.

MN Urban Debate League, Augsburg University (Minneapolis) | **\$25,000** — To build capacity for current and new programming to work with young women through Minnesota debate and advocacy workshops and Spanish language and Somali cultural debate programs. New activities for MN Urban Debate League include presenting post-secondary education opportunities to undocumented or DACA recipients and piloting financial literacy debates with girls and gender nonconforming students.

Navigate MN (Minneapolis) | **\$25,000** — To build capacity of the Poder (Power) Fellowship, a paid leadership development program that provides organizing tools for individuals challenged by the immigration and education system. Participants of the program receive community organizing training in different disciplines and ideologies, including systems change and decentralized movement building. Participants will develop critical thinking and analytical skills in the areas of race, class, and gender so they may develop campaigns and community- based, women-led solutions.

OutFront Minnesota (Minneapolis) | **\$25,000** — To grow the capacity for the Gay Straight Alliance Network, which includes 150 middle and high schools, and the Anti-Violence Program to end violence and harassment against and within LGBTQ communities in the metro and across the state. In the effort to make Minnesota a place where all people are valued, OutFront engages in community education, direct service, organizing, and policy advocacy and provides a 24-hour crisis line for survivors of violence.

PACER Center (Bloomington) | **\$25,000** — To empower middle school girls with disabilities in the fields of math, science, and engineering through hands-on learning led by community partners in the EX.I.T.E. (EXploring Interests in Technology and Engineering) program, a division of PACER's Simon Technology Center.

Power of the People Leadership Institute (Minneapolis) | **\$25,000** — To build capacity for career coaching, workplace tours, and college preparation for Girls in Action – an academic, leadership, and behavioral intervention program for low-performing students in Minneapolis, St. Paul, Chaska, Fridley, Robbinsdale, and Brooklyn Center. The Power of People



Leadership Institute (POPLI) is a grassroots, community-based organization that was created to respond to two critical needs in communities of color.

St. Paul Youth Services (St. Paul) | \$25,000 — To grow the capacity for St. Paul Youth Services and its YouthPower initiative. As a youth-led organizing and advocacy hub, YouthPower is a space where Black girls are centered and participate in a curriculum focused on identity, culture, healing, history, personal power, and goal setting. The content enhances their personal growth and identity, shapes their narratives, and informs their strategies for political and community change.

The SEAD (Southeast Asian Diaspora Development) Project (Minneapolis) | \$25,000 — To build capacity as an accessible community hub that provides streamlined cross-cultural workshops, exchanges, and knowledge-sharing for the Khmer, Hmong, Lao, and Vietnamese diaspora communities. The SEAD Project engages young women in storytelling workshops and mentorship with the belief that understanding of identity, roots, and language increases overall economic wellbeing.

uCodeGirl (Fargo-Moorhead) | \$25,000 — To support year-round, skills-based programs for middle and high school young women designed to inspire, engage, and equip young women in their communities with leadership traits, computational thinking skills, and an entrepreneurial mindset. The program provides opportunities for young women to learn from female professionals through coding, design, web development, and robotics projects. The program engages young women through a leadership council, and will increase capacity through mentoring, leadership opportunities, and out-of-school tutoring.

Violence Intervention Project, Inc. (Thief River Falls) | \$5,000 — This planning grant supports young women's engagement in program development. Violence Intervention Project's mission is to support community members impacted by sexual and domestic violence, ensuring clients' safety, and personal goal-setting to achieve self-reliance and independence.

Women Organizing Women Network (Minneapolis) | \$25,000 — To address Somali women's underrepresentation in public and leadership, grow the Dumar (Women) Leadership Model and engage younger generations of first- and second-generation East African immigrant women as civic and political leaders in their communities through leadership training.

YWCA of Minneapolis (Minneapolis) | \$25,000 — To support EUREKA!, a 5-year program for students in grades 8 to 12 focused on STEM activities, leadership development through internships, and connecting young women to female STEM professionals. Topics include STEM activities, leadership development, economic literacy, and comprehensive sexual health, including healthy relationships, and positive decision-making and communication skills.

YWCA of St. Paul (St. Paul) | \$100,000 — To build on the strength of the Young Women's Initiative of Minnesota (YWI MN), YWCA St. Paul provides leadership development support and programming facilitation to Young Women's Cabinet members and \$15/hour payment to all 25 Cabinet members to compensate them for their participation.

WFMN Innovators (Minneapolis) | \$55,000 — To support the leadership, ideas, and solutions of young women of color, American Indian young women, young women from Greater Minnesota, LGBTQ+ youth, and young women with disabilities to advance key recommendations in the Young Women's Initiative of Minnesota (YWI MN) *Blueprint for Action*.