



# The Sheltering Arms Foundation

## Fact Sheet — 2024-2025 Grantees

### What Is a Sheltering Arms Foundation Grantee?

In fiscal year 2024-2025, 56 nonprofit organizations across the state of Minnesota will use a total of \$542,500 in grant money awarded by the Sheltering Arms Foundation (SAF) for programs benefiting children and their families in Minnesota who are most vulnerable, have least access to resources, and are least likely to have a wide array of choices about their future. Funding priority areas are early childhood, youth development, and advocacy. For more, visit <https://sheltering-arms.org/>.

### Counties Served by Sheltering Arms Grantees in 2024-2025

Aitkin	Itasca	Rice	* 9 grantees work on projects benefiting every county in MN * 1 grantee works in 32 counties in MN
Carlton	Koochiching	St. Louis	
Cook	Lake	Washington	
Dakota	Lake of the Woods	Winona	
Goodhue	Olmsted		
Hennepin	Ramsey		

### Towns/Reservation Served by or Headquartering Sheltering Arms Grantees in 2024-2025

Aurora	Eveleth	Minneapolis	Rochester
Babbitt	Fond du Lac Reservation	Minnertonka	St. Louis Park
Brooklyn Center	Grand Rapids	Moorhead	St. Paul
Brooklyn Park	Greenway	Mountain Iron	Stillwater
Chisholm	International Falls	Nashwauk	Virginia
Cimarron	Keewatin	Northfield	Winona
Deer River	Landfall	Red Wing	
Duluth	Maplewood	Richfield	

### Ethnic Populations Served by 2024-2025 Programs

African American	Dakota	Latine/Latinx
Black	East African	Ojibwe
Chippewa	Indigenous	Somali

## The grantees and the programs supported by SAF

### 826 MSP (<http://www.826msp.org>)—\$10,000 grant (youth development)

- Located in Minneapolis. Founded in 2009, 826 MSP empowers underserved K-12 students to think creatively, write effectively, and succeed academically with the help of volunteer coaches. 826 MSP offers 5 free in-school and out-of-school writing programs: after-school writing lab through the school year, storytelling and bookmaking field trips for 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grade classes, the Writers' Room satellite space located at South High School, the annual Young Authors' Book Project that results in a professionally published anthology, and creative writing workshops on weekends and in the summer.

(more)

- Grant supports 826 MSP's After-School Writing Lab, in which trained volunteers and 826 MSP staff provide academic support and creative writing leading to publication for youth in grades K-12. Funding will focus on the younger youth, serving 40 mostly Somali youth. They are incorporating a Writing & Music theme in response to student feedback, and they are planning an East African symphonic fairytale in collaboration with guest artists.

#### **A Chance To Grow ([www.actg.org](http://www.actg.org))—\$10,000 grant (early childhood)**

- Based in Minneapolis, serves 11-county metro region. Established in 1983, ACTG provides brain-centered programs and services that help children and adults, from those with developmental and learning difficulties to those who experience common learning struggles, reach their highest potential.
- Grant supports expanding SMART Steps, the latest version of ACTG's SMART program, a child-centered, trauma-informed wrap-around environment, currently being used in hundreds of schools throughout the Twin Cities and beyond. It is an innovative learning readiness program, and the training for it is a self-paced virtual system that teaches providers about brain development and how to integrate SMART Steps activities into their daily routines. Currently, providers from 31 of Minnesota's 87 counties are enrolled, and the goal is to train 150 more this year. The funding secured for SMART Steps means that FCC (Family Child Care) providers can receive this training at no cost.

#### **ACES (<https://aces4kids.org/>)—\$10,000 grant (youth development)**

- Based in Minneapolis, serves statewide. Founded in 1994, ACES (Athletes Committed to Educating Students) has been working to reduce Minnesota's academic opportunity gap and improve the chance of success for students in underserved communities by providing exceptional math and social-emotional education through the lens of sports. More than 10,000 4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders have participated in ACES programming at schools and community centers across the state. It has the direct support of every major Minnesota professional sports team, as well as the U of MN's Athletic Department.
- Grant supports two ACES sites, Northeast College Prep and Hennepin Schools, serving 100 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> grade students throughout the school year. Programming takes place onsite at these 2 partner schools, after school for 2 hours per day, 4 days per week. ACES provides robust curriculum, experienced and diverse staff, individual mentorship, field trips, and an innovative program model focusing on the intersection of math and social-emotional learning. Sports content is woven throughout programming as a hook to inspire student interest and as a valuable basis for subject and concept learning.

#### **Baby's Space (<http://www.babyspace.org>)—\$10,000 grant (early childhood)**

- Located in Minneapolis. Baby's Space is a nationally accredited, 4-Star Parent Aware-rated child development center for families living in poverty. Founded in 2000 as an age 0-3 childcare facility for families in the Little Earth of United Tribes development and surrounding Phillips neighborhood of south Minneapolis. The majority of staff are Native American, and the program is highly culturally responsive. It offers child and family services from pregnancy to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, including year-round, full-day childcare and public K-3 education through Tatanka Academy.
- Grant supports the program Building Parent and Caregiver Capacity, which builds parents' capacity to recognize the traumatic impact of persistent community violence and poverty on their child's brain development, social-emotional growth, and academic achievement, as well as their emotional awareness of historical trauma. Through intensive practice, parents learn specific skills for how to take care of themselves emotionally, which enables them to parent differently than the way they may have been parented.

#### **Big Brothers Big Sisters Twin Cities (<http://www.bigstwincities.org>)—\$10,000 grant (youth devel.)**

- Based in St. Paul, serves the Twin Cities area. BBBS matches youth facing adversity with positive volunteer mentors to positively impact the youths' lives. After Free Arts MN dissolved in 2017, BBBS adopted its curriculum and hired three of its staff. Free Arts of BBBS uses arts as a tool to support social-emotional development, providing arts education and mentoring for youth facing homelessness, mental health treatment, and therapy for abuse and extreme poverty.

- Grant supports implementing the Free Arts program with more than 18 partner organizations, adding an additional Free Arts staff member, and recruiting and training more than 100 volunteer mentors. The program will have 3 sessions per year, each lasting 12 weeks. High-quality teaching artists and disciplines will be identified that reflect the interests of youth and partner sites.

**Boys & Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities (<https://boysandgirls.org/>)—\$7,500 grant (youth devel.)**

- Based in St. Paul, serves Twin Cities metro. With 13 metro locations serving kids ages 5-18, BGCTC works in under-resourced communities in the Twin Cities to provide kids and teens with out-of-school time academic, career-focused, and life skills programming. They provide a K-5 literacy program that takes a holistic approach incorporating positive youth development and social-emotional methods with literacy instruction.
- Grant supports BGCTC's literacy programming for the Little Earth community in Minneapolis. This program offers a high-impact small group model with a maximum staff-youth ratio of 1:20, daily check-in circle time using Zones of Regulation exercises, and a sensory room available to all students. All kindergarten through grade 5 children attending the Little Earth Club will participate in hands-on, multi-sensory literacy enrichment activities.

**Boys & Girls Club of Rochester (<http://www.bgclubroch.org/>)—\$8,000 grant (youth development)**

- Located in Rochester. BGCR serves youth ages 5-18 at two locations, one in the southeast of Rochester and a smaller one in the nearby community of Blooming Prairie. It also operates outreach programs at a middle school and at a local mobile home community.
- Grant supports continuing BGCR's Healthy Lifestyles curriculum called Triple Play: A Game Plan for Mind, Body and Soul. The program includes: Healthy Habits (mind) that addresses how health behaviors are influenced by personal beliefs; Daily Challenges (body) focused on physical literacy in the areas of ability, confidence, and motivation; and Social Recreation (soul) that emphasizes social-emotional development. The program also includes a healthy eating component, and it engages youth with master gardeners in the Club garden, where youth will grow vegetables and learn about nutrition.

**Centro Tyrone Guzman (<http://www.centromn.org/>)—\$10,000 grant (early childhood)**

- Located in south Minneapolis. Begun in 1974, Centro is the oldest and largest multi-service Latine organization in Minneapolis and provides services to low-income Latine families in the Twin Cities. Centro's services include health, wellness, and education, including Siembra, a dual-language 4-Star Parent Aware-rated Montessori early childhood program that incorporates elements of Latine culture.
- Grant supports a new series of monthly parent education workshops for the school year, intended to support the current student population, which is experiencing an increased presence of developmental delays. The workshops will address the additional challenges that children ages 1-3 faced during the pandemic and provide support to help address any developmental delays that may arise.

**Change, Inc. (<https://www.thechangeinc.org/>)—\$7,500 grant (early childhood)**

- Based in Minneapolis, serves the Twin Cities area and southern Minnesota. Change Inc is the product of a merger in 2019 of two community-based organizations that had been collaborating for more than a decade: Guadalupe Alternative Programs and Change Inc., both originally founded to serve underserved individuals and address the challenges of systemic poverty and racism that prevent Twin Cities families from achieving their full potential. More than 60% of Change's staff represent communities of color, come from many different cultures, and speak more than 10 languages.
- Grant supports expanding to southern Minnesota the Family, Friends, and Neighbor (FFN) program, which provides training and support for Latinx providers of home-based childcare and parents of children in FFN childcare. The program will recruit FFN providers in southern Minnesota counties to join a Latinx support network; train providers to improve and promote children's health, safety, and development; connect providers and families to community resources; and more.

**Child Care Aware of MN (<http://www.childcareawaremn.org>)—\$10,000 grant (advocacy, early ch.)**

- Based in St. Paul, serves statewide. Established in 1992 to raise the standards in care for children and childcare providers, Child Care Aware provides technical assistance to 14 childcare resource and referral agencies around Minnesota, collects data regarding the supply and demand for childcare, and creates and manages statewide projects. It has been integral in the piloting and expansion of Parent Aware, the state's quality improvement framework for early care and education programs.
- Grant supports advocacy efforts that support the goals of the Transforming Minnesota's Early Childhood Workforce project, which primarily focuses on creating a diverse, qualified, supported, and equitably compensated early childhood work force that can support the economy and build future academic and life success for Minnesota's youngest children. The overall goals for the 2025 legislative session include creating a system in which family costs for early care and education are affordable, ensuring that a child's access to high-quality care and education is not determined by their race, family income, or zip code, and ensuring that Minnesota's early childhood educators are qualified, diverse, supported, and equitably compensated regardless of setting.

**CHUM (<http://www.chumduluth.org>)—\$10,000 grant (early childhood)**

- Located in Duluth. CHUM is a coalition of 40 congregations that offers emergency food, shelter, advocacy, support, and outreach throughout Duluth to those who are homeless or very low income. CHUM is a service provider for the Steve O'Neil Apartments, which offers permanent supportive housing for families with children who were previously unhoused.
- Grant supports the Steve O'Neil Apartments' licensed Early Childhood program, which provides extra support to children ages 0-4 to promote social-emotional, physical, and cognitive development. Their services are unique in that they incorporate intensive case management and therapeutic early childhood programming, making their model a leader in permanent supportive housing practices.

**COMPAS, Inc (<http://www.compas.org>)—\$8,000 grant (youth development)**

- Based in St. Paul, serves statewide. Incorporated in 1974, COMPAS (Community Programs in the Arts) brings a variety of arts into schools: poetry, theatre, music, drama, visual art, spoken word among others. The program has become a model for teaching artist residencies nationwide. COMPAS's professional teaching artists come from more than 40 countries and have extensive experience reaching students of all ages and abilities.
- Grant supports an arts residency program for 20-30 youth ages 5-12 in the family intensive outpatient program at Avivo, a supportive housing program in south Minneapolis for families dealing with homelessness and addiction. The 30 families served remain in Avivo for a year, and during which the mothers receive treatment services while the youth, most of whom have experience extreme trauma, are supported with various programs. This grant will support four 5-week arts residencies. Youth will work with COMPAS artists and will build creative and social-emotional skills and increase social connections with other children and family members. Both COMPAS and Avivo staff are trained in trauma issues, and the curriculum for the youth group is specifically for families in recovery.

**createMPLS (<http://www.creatempls.org>)—\$9,000 grant (youth development)**

- Located in Minneapolis. CreateMpls brings quality, hands-on STEM programming to underserved inner-city Minneapolis students, helping these students gain experience in coding, robotics, and app development and preparing them to become successful leaders in Minnesota's technology-driven workforce. It particularly focuses on economically vulnerable and underrepresented students in tech, especially females and BIPOC students. It works in a variety of charter and private schools and connects with afterschool programs in churches and community programs.
- Grant supports createMpls's learning labs for K-5<sup>th</sup> graders conducted before and after school and during summer enrichment programs. Students learn to read and write code, design and program robots, build mobile applications, 3D print, and build, code, and fly drones. createMpls's tech learning opportunities build on one another, establishing a foundation of knowledge and confidence that empowers young people to succeed.

**East Side Neighborhood Service, Inc. (<https://www.esns.org/>)—\$10,000 grant (youth development)**

- Located in Minneapolis. ESNS has been providing youth programming in Northeast and Southeast Minneapolis for 100 years and is a hub in those communities for a wide range of services to children and families. The goal of ESNS's Youth Department is creating places that educate and empower all youth to thrive. ESNS provides out-of-school time programming at 2 community-based sites in NE and SE Minneapolis – Mulberry Junction and Luxton Learners.
- Grant supports out-of-school-time programming at ESNS's Luxton location, which primarily serves K-5<sup>th</sup> grade children from Glendale Townhomes, a low-income public housing complex located adjacent to Luxton. The program focuses on fostering personal agency and interdependence, academic and emotional support, and activities that reflect the culture of the youth in the program, such as gardening, cooking, and celebrating with time-honored recipes and rituals.

**Emma Norton Services (<http://www.emmanorton.org>)—\$10,000 grant (early childhood)**

- Based in St. Paul, serves St. Paul and Maplewood. ENS supports women and their families who are recovering from homelessness and experiencing the challenges of mental and/or chemical disabilities at two housing facilities: Emma's Place in Maplewood, and the new Restoring Waters in the Highland Bridge neighborhood of St. Paul. Most of the clients at Emma's Place are women with large families in which at least one member has some kind of disability.
- Grant supports expanding early childhood education and parent support/education at its supportive housing sites. ENS will hire a consultant to develop this program for both sites. Emma's Place currently offers an after-school youth program, so this new programming will cover the other members of the families. Emma's place serves up to 13 large families at any given time. Restoring Waters will serve 60 women and some small families – it is Minnesota's first trauma-informed supportive housing development.

**FamilyMeans (<https://www.familymeans.org/>)—\$8,500 grant (youth development)**

- Based in Stillwater, serves the Twin Cities metro area, southeastern Minnesota and western Wisconsin. FamilyMeans provides the only out-of-school-time opportunities for a high-poverty group of children in the two manufactured homes communities that it serves in St. Croix County, Landfall and Cimarron.
- Grant supports daily programming at both the Cimarron and Landfall locations, giving underserved youth access to academic support, health and wellness education and activities, and social-emotional support. This programming, provided through a lens of cultural, diverse, and equitable competency, will help prepare youth between the ages of 5-11 for success in their middle and high school years.

**FamilyWise (<https://familywiseservices.org/>)—\$10,000 grant (advocacy in early childhood)**

- Based in Minneapolis, serves statewide. Begun in 1976 as Genesis II for Families, the organization merged with Minnesota Communities Caring for Children in 2020, adding a statewide focus for its services supporting families through culturally competent services. FamilyWise is now developing an advocacy initiative to its direct service programs, drawing on the experiences of parents and helping them to find their advocacy voice on issues that reflect their lived experience.
- Grant supports building the Parent Leadership Program, which is a program that empowers parents and caregivers to develop advocacy skills, share their stories in public settings, and positively influence policy and system decisions that affect their families. FamilyWise is creating a statewide network of parent leaders and hosting a convening of the network in February 2025. These efforts will help engage and empower leaders at local and state levels, provide resources to parent leaders, connect organizations and agencies in dialogue about the importance of parent voices, parent mentorship, and parent leadership in communities, and more.

**First Children's Finance (<https://www.firstchildrensfinance.org/>)—\$10,000 grant (advocacy in early childhood)**

- Located in Minneapolis, serves statewide. FCF is a nonprofit Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) that lends capital exclusively to childcare businesses. With their national headquarters Minnesota, they work on initiatives and projects across the country. They provide financial and business assistance to high-quality childcare businesses serving low- and moderate-income families.
- Grant supports continuing an initiative to provide advocacy training to Black, Indigenous, and providers of color in the state. FCF's long-term goal is to ensure BIPOC childcare providers are heard by policymakers regarding systemic barriers to successful business ownership. The advocacy program is a critical component of this effort, with 2 groups of providers already finished and the 3<sup>rd</sup> group being prepared for participation. The program includes 2 in-depth trainings on policy, legislative tracking, and messaging; a "Day on the Hill" with facilitated meetings with elected officials; and a follow-up workshop, to discuss post-legislative-session communication.

**Friends of the Children Fargo-Moorhead (<https://friendsfm.org/>)—\$7,500 grant (youth develop.)**

- Based in Fargo, serves the Fargo-Moorhead region. Friends of the Children is a national organization that is the country's first and only long-term professional mentoring program, working with children from as early as age 4 to high school graduation. Their work is grounded in evidence-based research on child development and mitigating the impacts of toxic stress on a child's brain development. The professional mentors at Friends are often former teachers, social workers, and youth leaders, with vast experience with youth and families facing the challenges of intergenerational poverty.
- Grant supports professional mentoring for youth in Moorhead, Minnesota, with high-quality, culturally appropriate youth development activities. The Friends' model works within each child's home, school, and community, applying trauma-informed, culturally aligned practices to allow their youth to cultivate the resilience needed to overcome barriers.

**Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches (<https://gmcc.org/>)—\$10,000 grant (youth development)**

- Located in Minneapolis, serves metro area. Founded in 1905, GMCC is an interfaith and intercultural organization that provides services and advocacy around equity and poverty, volunteerism and service learning, mentoring and youth development and food security.
- Grant supports GMCC's LakeStreet Youth Labs Summer Camp, a no-cost, out-of-school academic and recreational program for underserved elementary and middle schoolers with a focus on the families who live, go to school, and play in the Phillips neighborhood of south Minneapolis. It is a 5-week, full-day (9 am to 5 pm) summer program that supports school readiness, well-being, and academic enrichment to curb summer learning loss and decrease educational disparities. Daily breakfast and lunch are served. The youth served are underserved BIPOC youth in grades 1-8 who continue to face systemic inequities in education, health, and wellness.

**Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies (<http://www.gtcys.org>)—\$10,000 grant (youth develop.)**

- Located in St. Paul. Founded in 1972, GTCYS is a youth orchestra serving over 1,000 students in the Twin Cities. In 2016, in response to a request from parents in St. Paul's West Side, GTCYS launched the Harmony program to serve youth with music opportunities not otherwise available to them. Harmony is offered as a before-school program in partnership with Riverview Elementary School – 77% of Riverview students qualify for free/reduced lunch, and 93% are students of color.
- Grant supports expansion of the Harmony program, which offers high quality violin and cello instruction for 65 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders. During the school year, students meet 3 days a week before school, learning with talented teaching artists in small and large groups. They perform in various concerts throughout the year, including at Orchestra Hall in Minneapolis and in collaboration with GTCYS' orchestras. The program is expanding to a new program site in the east Metro. The grant also supports a week-long Harmony orchestra camp and a week-long Mariachi camp for all Harmony students.

**Hispanic Outreach of Goodhue County ([www.hispanicoutreach.org](http://www.hispanicoutreach.org))—\$12,000 grant (youth devel.)**

- Based in Red Wing, serves Goodhue County. Created in 2006 to target the needs of the county’s rapidly growing Hispanic population, HOGC serves the Latinx community through support services including mental health, advocacy, and education to ease their integration into the community while preserving their culture. HOGC operates the Youth and Family Services after-school and mentoring program at two Red Wing schools for Latinx students in grades 5-12. HOGC is the only organization serving the Latinx population in this part of the state.
- Grant supports HOGC’s Youth & Family Program for grades 5-7, an after-school program for Hispanic students at Twin Bluff Middle School in Red Wing. The program offers individual and group mentoring for social, emotional, and academic development. It serves as an intervention and development tool for the students, helping them acquire and utilize the necessary skills and strategies to reach their full potential.

**Indigenous Lacrosse Alliance (<https://www.homegrownlacrosse.org/hgii>)—\$10,000 grant (youth d.)**

- Located in Minneapolis. The Indigenous Lacrosse Alliance (ILA) works alongside Indigenous peoples and organizations to revitalize lacrosse in tribal and urban Indian communities. Developed in 2022 as an outgrowth of a strategic planning committee of Native community leaders, coaches, and players, ILA’s mission is to expand access and opportunity for Indigenous communities to play lacrosse and improve the health and well-being of Indigenous youth.
- Grant supports a partnership between the Fond du Lac band of Lake Superior Chippewa (in northeastern Minnesota), Homegrown Lacrosse, Anishinabe Academy, and ILA to provide after-school programming. The program is led by trained Indigenous youth leaders, coaches, and administrators who are skilled in teaching lacrosse. It focuses on youth development through culturally relevant sports, how to live a healthy and active lifestyle, and provides a safe atmosphere for learning life skills such as problem-solving, conflict management, teamwork, and other trauma-informed sports practices. New this year is the expansion to Anishinabe Academy in Minneapolis.

**Interfaith Action of Greater St. Paul (<https://interfaithaction.org/>)—\$12,000 grant (youth devel.)**

- Located in St. Paul. Interfaith Action uses an interfaith, multi-racial, inter-generational approach to relieve the effects of poverty, address its causes, and build a more just, safe, and livable East Metro for all. With thousands of volunteers from faith communities, it focuses on increasing economic mobility in the East Metro, activating and educating members of faith communities, and equipping faith communities with pathways for their congregants to engage in effective social justice work.
- Grant supports Interfaith’s American Indian Youth Enrichment program (AIYE), the only year-round program serving Indigenous youth in St. Paul. It operates out of the American Indian Magnet School on the east side of the city. The grant supports hands-on reading and literacy skills as part of a holistic and culturally specific program developed and taught by Indigenous educators; learning and engaging in cultural lessons and activities that explore Indigenous history, language, ceremonies, communities, arts, drumming, dance, humor, and tribally specific identity exploration; and, participating in activities that increase cultural awareness, social-emotional learning skills, and self-esteem.

**Itasca Area Schools Collaborative (<https://www.iasc.k12.mn.us/>)—\$10,000 grant (early childhood)**

- Based in Grand Rapids, serves the 7 area school districts plus Itasca Community College. The Itasca Area Schools Collaborative was formed in August 2005 to bring new focus to a partnership of area school districts seeking increased educational opportunities for students.
- Grant supports the Invest Early collaborative early childhood education program, which was created in partnership with IASC, District Special Education, Kootasca Head Start, and Minnesota North-Itasca College. With locations in Grand Rapids, Nashwauk-Keewatin, Greenway, and Deer River, the program serves children ages 3-5 who are at risk of entering kindergarten without the necessary skills for success. Invest Early requires all education staff to have Conscious Discipline training (a trauma-informed approach to social-emotional learning and classroom management) in order to implement the methodology system-wide effectively. Grant funding will support providing this training to staff.

**Keystone Community Services (<https://keystoneservices.org/>)—\$10,000 grant (youth development)**

- Located in St. Paul. Founded in 1939, Keystone provides services for youth and families, seniors, and those needing food services or crisis support. Programming and services are delivered out of their West 7th Community Center, three food shelves, and Youth Express sites. Keystone provides year-round programming for youth ages 5-12 at both its McDonough and West 7th sites, offering tutoring in math, reading, and SEL skills, as well as culturally based programming.
- Grant supports expanding opportunities for culturally responsive family engagement in its Community Kids program at the West 7<sup>th</sup> site and the Teen Tutor program at the McDonough site. They will establish a quarterly Parent Advisory Council at Teen Tutor, plan and implement quarterly family engagement activities at each site, and provide individual consultations to help families advocate for their children both within Keystone programs and at school. Additional hours of interpreter services will also help facilitate family engagement.

**Liberty Community Church (<https://libertychurchmpls.org/>)—\$12,000 grant (youth development)**

- Located in north Minneapolis. Liberty (formerly Kwanzaa Community Church) opened as the first African American led Presbyterian congregation in Minnesota in 2002. Its mission promotes community, justice, social change and empowerment for the children and families of north Minneapolis. The church operates the 21st Century Academy, a year-round afterschool program for grades K-12. In 2019, Liberty created a structured program for the younger children, ages 5-12, with a new program element called Shared Experiences, which focuses on relationships between youth participants and caring adults.
- Grant supports continuing to expand Liberty's program for the younger children, using a math curriculum called Prodigy Math Game. The curriculum is aligned with Minnesota Academic Standards in Mathematics. The staff of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Academy are trained in the curriculum and reinforce math concepts through experiential and culturally appropriate learning. Other quality core programming in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century includes STEM, arts, mindfulness, and community service.

**Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota (<http://lssmn.org>)—\$10,000 grant (early childhood)**

- Based in St. Paul, serves statewide. Begun in 1865, LSS is one of Minnesota's largest nonprofit social service organizations, providing a comprehensive range of innovative services in all 87 counties. It recently merged with Lifetrack (a previous SAF grantee), incorporating that agency's programs into its offerings. One of these programs is the Families Together Therapeutic Preschool in St. Paul, serving very low-income families in the Frogtown and East Side neighborhoods.
- Grant supports therapeutic interventions within the preschool. This includes classroom interventions from teachers trained in the Developmental Repair Model, in close consultation with the program's mental health, occupational, and speech therapists. When therapies are integrated into the classroom, children can learn the skills they need in the places they need them to address their most immediate skill needs.

**Minnesota Coalition for Family Home Visiting (fiscal agent St. David's Center for Child & Family Development) (<http://www.stdavidscenter.org/>)—\$10,000 grant (advocacy in early childhood)**

- Minnesota Coalition for Family Home Visiting represents a statewide, diverse group of practitioners and leaders of targeted home visiting programs, services, and systems. It advocates to secure statewide funding for targeted, intensive home visiting, increase political support for home visiting as a core early childhood service, and collaborate to improve the quality of home visiting services. St. David's, based in Minnetonka and serving the Twin Cities metro area, is the fiscal sponsor for MCFHV; it is a long-established children's mental health organization serving more than 2,500 children, adults, and families each year.
- Grant supports advocacy work for the upcoming 2024-25 legislative session, prioritizing 2 issues: 1) Increasing the types of providers who can provide and bill Medical Assistance for family home visiting services, and 2) increasing access to maternal and infant/early childhood mental health services.



**Morning Glory Montessori (<https://morningglory.org>)—\$10,000 grant (early childhood)**

- Located in Minneapolis. Morning Glory Montessori is an all-boys, Afrocentric, Christian, Montessori school for 3 years-3rd grade. MGM provides a safe, nurturing, and empowering environment that affirms, inspires, and supports Black boys to develop freely, excel academically, and become who God designed them to be.
- Grant supports the establishment of Morning Glory Montessori preschool, which has been in development for five years and will open its doors in fall 2024. With an Afrocentric curriculum grounded in Christian liberation theology, the school will prioritize young Black boys, who face major challenges of discrimination in both early childhood programs and later in the K-12 system. MGM will begin by serving boys 3-6 years old and plans to expand programming to ultimately serve toddlers through 3rd grade, including girls. MGM recruited two Black women and trained them at the Montessori Center of Minnesota. They have completed their training as Primary Guides (teachers for the 3- to 6-year-olds) and are now MGM's Founding Classroom Staff.

**Neighborhood House (<https://neighborhoodhousemn.org/>)—\$10,000 grant (early childhood)**

- Based in St. Paul, serving St. Paul's West Side and West 7<sup>th</sup> neighborhoods. Serving families since 1897, Neighborhood House is a multi-location human service center that over the years has supported new immigrants from many different countries and cultural groups. It provides basic needs services, adult education, gang reduction and intervention programs and early childhood programs.
- Grant supports the home visiting component of Neighborhood House's parent and early childhood education program, which provides 2 home visits per month to address the barriers that mostly Hmong and Latinx families face in preparing their children for school. The program incorporates many social-emotional elements, and families needing additional mental health services are connected through Help Me Grow to trauma specialists. The program is increasing staffing and increasing the number of families receiving home visits.

**Northfield Healthy Community Initiative (<http://northfieldhci.org/>)—\$10,000 grant (early child.)**

- Located in Northfield. Established in 1992, HCI builds partnerships and encourages community collaborations that support children, youth, and families in Northfield and the broader Rice County. HCI provides behind-the-scenes support to more than 30 initiatives in Rice County, helping them further leverage resources for programs that benefit youth and families.
- Grant supports HCI's early childhood programs Growing Up Healthy and Early Childhood Navigators. Growing Up Healthy supports Latinx families with programs such as early childhood navigation, home visiting, family engagement, and caregiver organizing. Early Childhood Navigators connects Rice County families who have preschool children to early learning experiences, preschool, FFN care, ParentChild+ home visiting, and early childhood screenings. Navigators are Latine women who are longtime residents in the communities they serve; all are bilingual. They receive training through HCI, although a key asset is their lived experience.

**Northland Foundation (<http://www.northlandfdn.org/>)—\$12,000 grant (early childhood)**

- Based in Duluth, serves northeastern Minnesota. Northland is the Minnesota Initiative Fund serving the northeast corner of the state – it is a funder but also runs its own programs. Northland launched the Parent Aware Pathways Initiative to increase the number of Parent-Aware-rated childcare providers serving the counties of Aitkin, Carlton, Cook, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, and St. Louis.
- Grant supports building on the work of the Comprehensive Young Children and Families Mental Health Education Program. This program increases access across the region to high-quality trainings that support the healthy social-emotional health of young children, using a trauma-informed, healing-centered lens. It also helps develop community networks to support early childhood mental health, including supports for family, friend, and neighbor providers.

**Northside Achievement Zone (<http://www.the-naz.org/>)—\$8,000 grant (early childhood)**

- Located in north Minneapolis. NAZ is a collaboration of organizations and schools partnering with families in north Minneapolis to prepare children to graduate from high school ready for college and to end multigenerational poverty. Each enrolled family moves through a cradle to career system that provides comprehensive support at each stage.
- Grant supports NAZ’s early childhood program to do home visiting in partnership with the Family Partnership and Way to Grow, both key partners within the NAZ collaborative. Home visitors use the evidence-based curriculum “Parents As Teachers” as their primary curriculum for prenatal to 5 years. The home visitors answer questions, provide resources, and connect families with the tools they need to provide a healthy, stable environment at home. All the families involved are recruited and supported by NAZ. NAZ has been a highly successful effort for families in north Minneapolis because of the combination of incorporating local residents as staff to build trust with families.

**Nurse-Family Partnership (<https://www.nursefamilypartnership.org/>)—\$7,500 grant (early child.)**

- Based in Denver, CO, serves nationwide; in Minnesota serves in 32 counties and 2 tribal nations. NFP is a national community health program that works with first-time families who face major barriers to accessing the resources and supports needed to achieve the greatest health and wellness outcomes. Its home-visiting curriculum is evidence based and is a valuable part of many states’ early childhood systems. Using specially trained nurses as home visitors, it serves first-time mothers and their children affected by social and economic inequality, beginning early in pregnancy and continuing until the child is 2.
- Grant supports expanding the program in a new initiative to now enroll mothers who have had one or more births and enroll clients after their 28<sup>th</sup> week of pregnancy. This request will also continue to offer ongoing specialized nurse education, including the “Nursing Care Pathway on Cultural Consciousness” and “Facilitating Attuned Interactions.”

**Pillsbury United Communities (<https://pillsburyhouseandtheatre.org/>)—\$10,000 grant (early child.)**

- Located in Minneapolis. Established in 1879, PUC operates 4 neighborhood centers, including Pillsbury House in the Powderhorn neighborhood, which includes a childcare program (the oldest in Minneapolis) and a theater program. Pillsbury House operates in south Minneapolis only blocks from George Floyd Square. This area has experienced a great deal of upheaval and violence since the murder of George Floyd, as well as the ongoing challenges it has faced due to poverty and racism. Pillsbury House believes that the arts are an important antidote to trauma for the children and families it serves. All Pillsbury House employees, including the early learning teachers and teaching artists, receive trauma and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) training.
- Grant supports bringing resident teaching artists together with PUC’s childcare program to deliver weekly classes in multiple arts disciplines that enhance social/emotional, cognitive, and physical developmental miles as well as develop creative expression in children ages 16 months to 6 years. PUC is expanding the number of arts disciplines taught as well as the number of classes offered per week.

**Project FINE (<http://www.projectfine.org>)—\$10,000 grant (early childhood)**

- Based in Winona, serves Winona and surrounding area. Established in 1990, Project FINE serves refugee and immigrant families, with a focus of helping the newcomers overcome barriers so they can begin building a new life and easing the integration of these ethnically diverse families into the local community. Its mission is achieved through a series of language and acculturation services, as well as referrals to existing services in the community.
- Grant supports a weekly home visiting model focused on cognitive and social-emotional learning, mental health, and parent engagement. Activities will be organized by a program coordinator and carried out by bilingual staff. In some of the cultures served, the idea that specific learning happens in early childhood is a new concept, so the home visitors will introduce basic developmental training as well as connect families to other resources. Project FINE will develop its own curriculum for the program based on the needs of its families.

**Project for Pride in Living (<http://www.ppl-inc.org/>)—\$12,000 grant (youth development)**

- Based in Minneapolis, serves inner-city neighborhoods of Minneapolis, St. Paul, and first-ring suburbs. PPL is a large social service agency working with low-income people in 4 core areas: affordable housing, employment and job training, family support services, and youth development and education.
- Grant supports continuing the afterschool tutor and mentor program with additional art therapy offerings, deepening the academic and social emotional learning of children ages 5-12 who face multiple barriers to achieving key academic and developmental milestones. Grant will help increase the number of art therapy sessions offered at all 4 PPL afterschool program sites in Minneapolis and St. Paul. Art therapy is a part of the social-emotional learning portion of programming and has proven effective at helping children and families process trauma and build towards recovery.

**Project Friendship (<http://www.projectfriendshipmentoring.org/>)—\$7,500 grant (youth development)**

- Located in Northfield. Originating in 1965, PF provides mentoring relationships with college students from St. Olaf and Carleton Colleges, serving children in 2<sup>nd</sup>-7th grade from the Northfield School District identified as needing a mentor. Half the children served are eligible for free or reduced lunch, and 15% are Latino or African American in a community where the total population is 3.8% Latino and .8% African American. Youth are matched with mentors from similar backgrounds or with similar interests, with a focus on building confidence, inspiring character, and creating connections.
- Grant supports continuation of a new CARES (promoting Compassion, Awareness, Respect, Empowerment, and Support) team to help create a bridge to post-Covid functioning. A key focus of this effort is the emotional wellness of both mentees and mentors including additional trauma-informed training for mentors. The program enlists the aid of school social workers at the middle schools attended by many of the youth. Families will also be engaged through group activities.

**Relentless Academy (<https://www.relentlessacademy.org/>)—\$10,000 grant (youth development)**

- Located in Brooklyn Center. Founded in 2019, Relentless Academy provides affordable and accessible S.M.A.R.T. (Science, Math, Art, Reading, Technology) programming that includes music and financial literacy instruction for underserved youth. This Black-led organization collaborates with partners, many of whom are Black-owned organizations in the community, to provide various experiences to engage students. Their mission is to close the academic achievement and wealth gap among families in underserved communities.
- Grant supports the SMART summer program, which launched in 2021 with 25 kids in grades 1-8 and this year will serve 80 students with a waitlist. The program runs five days a week, 8 am to 5 pm, for 8 weeks from mid-June to early August, and takes place at Brookdale Covenant Church. This summer program is designed to curb the learning loss that happens over the summer break. To make this high-quality academic program accessible to families in communities where poverty is a challenge, tuition is free, and only a one-time registration fee is required at the beginning.

**Rise Early Learning Center (<https://www.riseearlylearningcenter.org/>)—\$10,000 grant (early child.)**

- Located in St. Louis Park. Rise Early is an innovative high-quality childcare center in the Rise on 7 affordable housing development in St. Louis Park, which was built by CommonBond Communities. Rise Early has joined with CommonBond and Way to Grow to support child development and provide housing, wellness, and education resources for the families served. Scholarships and childcare slots are prioritized for children from families with fewer resources and who are residents.
- Grant supports the Rise Early childhood program, which aims to provide holistic and equitable support to young children from families of varying incomes, races, ethnicities, religions, and cultures. Rise Early has developed a robust professional development program for its staff, with the goal of reducing staff turnover and increasing staff diversity through ongoing coaching and training opportunities. The program recognizes the importance of having racially and ethnically diverse staff and uses an array of workforce development strategies to attract and retain diverse talent.

**ServeMinnesota (<http://www.serveminnesota.org>)—\$10,000 grant (early childhood)**

- Based in Minneapolis, serves statewide. Launched in 1994 as the Minnesota Commission on National and Community service, ServeMinnesota oversees Minnesota’s AmeriCorps programs and is involved in several initiatives focused on closing the achievement gap in Minneapolis and St. Paul. ServeMN was the first in the nation to develop the Reading Corps program, which has since expanded to 13 other states. Its Early Learning Corps provides high-quality Pre-K education and literacy- and math-rich learning environments to young children who otherwise couldn’t access it.
- Grant supports expanding support for children birth to 5 in the Northside Achievement Zone in Minneapolis and the Promise Neighborhood in St. Paul. Reading Corps uses a curriculum called “Talk, Read, Write, Count,” which includes a strategy to engage families by sending home a bag filled with supplies to implement the curriculum. Materials are specific to a child’s age, and childcare programs also take a family’s interests into account. The tutors receive training in both social-emotional learning (SEL) and trauma-informed practices.

**Southside Family Nurturing Center (<http://www.ssfnc.org>)—\$9,500 grant (early childhood)**

- Located in the Phillips neighborhood of south Minneapolis. SFNC has been providing services to families in south Minneapolis experiencing trauma for the past 45 years. It offers therapeutic early childhood education, including play therapy and music therapy, home visiting services and family support services. In 2018, it identified a need for a culturally relevant home visiting program and identified the Family Spirit model as appropriate.
- Grant supports Group and Individual Music Therapy services and will ensure that the children in the ECE program receive weekly group music therapy in their classrooms. The center currently has three classrooms for preschool, toddler and pre-K age groupings. Additionally, 5-10 children with a specific identified developmental concern receive individual music therapy. Music therapy has been found to be incredibly beneficial for children’s psychological, social-emotional, physical, and cognitive development and can make a significant difference in their lives.

**St. David’s Center (<http://www.stdavidscenter.org/>)—\$12,000 grant (early childhood)**

- Based in Minnetonka, serves the Twin Cities metro area. St. David’s is a long-established children’s mental health organization serving more than 2,500 children, adults, and families each year. Several years ago, St. David’s launched the Family Place program in St. David’s Harmon Center in downtown Minneapolis. The center especially reaches out to East African families as an expansion of work around autism in that community. The Family Place works in both classroom and home settings with children who either have a mental health diagnosis or are in a high stress environment to help cultivate critical skills that are the foundation of early learning and kindergarten success.
- Grant supports improving child readiness by book-ending the day treatment classroom and home-based interventions with pre- and post-family engagement. Afterward, it will provide weekly skill development or outpatient psychotherapy as children transition out of the classroom and into kindergarten. Providers in this program are culturally diverse and are part of the different cultural communities that they serve.

**Think Small (<http://www.thinksmall.org>)—\$10,000 grant (advocacy in early childhood)**

- Based in St. Paul, serves statewide. Think Small is a leading early education organization that supports families in accessing quality care and education, helps to build quality within the field, and improves the early learning system. It operates the Small Talk series, educating community and professionals about early childhood policy issues.
- Grant supports educating parents to increase the number of parents aware of Minnesota’s “7% solution” law, because when parents understand this law, they are more likely to advocate for the necessary investments to reach the goal. (This law’s goal is for no family would have to pay more than 7% of their income to access quality childcare.) Think Small plans to: develop a social media advertising plan; pilot-test various platforms, messages, and calls to action to determine the most effective ways to accelerate the number of parents using the tools; and form a parent advisory group.

**United Way of Northeastern Minnesota (<https://www.unitedwaynemn.org/>)—\$5,000 grant (youth)**

- Based in Chisholm, serves the Iron Range, Koochiching County, and Lake of the Woods County. Established in 1966, UWNEMN is a volunteer-based organization serving individuals and families in the northeastern region of Minnesota. The organization supports more than 30 nonprofit partner agencies as well as its own initiatives.
- Grant supports expansion of the Lunch Buddies mentoring program, a trauma-informed youth program that matches local elementary school children who need additional positive adult role models with screened, trained, caring adults from the community. They meet one-on-one once a week during lunch throughout the school year. The program was designed with guidance from MENTOR Minnesota to ensure a culturally sensitive, responsive, and equitable program, and staff and mentors receive regular training. The program is now operating in 11 schools in Mountain Iron, Babbitt, Aurora, Eveleth, Virginia, Chisholm, and International Falls.

**Urban Strategies, Inc. (<http://www.urbanstrategiesinc.org/>)—\$10,000 grant (youth development)**

- Based in St. Louis, MO, serving the Heritage Park affordable housing in north Minneapolis. Urban Strategies Inc, a national community development organization, supports a local youth program in the Heritage Park neighborhood in north Minneapolis, serving mainly African and African American youth. Under the umbrella of the Heritage Park Eco-STEM Youth Incubator, it engages 5-12-year-olds in hands-on, experiential learning around environmental science, technology, engineering, and math through urban agriculture, culinary arts, entrepreneurship, and design activities.
- Grant supports youth mental health and social-emotional well-being with an emphasis on the outdoors by special request of the youth participants. Working with the Cultural Wellness Center, a nonprofit that provides culturally relevant leadership and training, USI provides all-season cultural activities, such as mountain biking, swimming, canoeing, snowboarding, and time spent in nearby Theodore Wirth Park led by BIPOC guides and enthusiasts. The youth served have experienced considerable trauma, and time outdoors is a proven way to counter the impact of trauma and support mental health.

**Urban Ventures Leadership Foundation (<https://urbanventures.org/>)—\$10,000 grant (early child.)**

- Located in South Minneapolis. Established in 1993, UV addresses opportunity gaps in academics, nutrition, physical activity, parenting resources, and more—all with the overarching goal to prepare and send every youth in their neighborhood to college or postsecondary education. It operates a youth center south of Lake Street with opportunities in STEM and music production as well as parenting and family support programs. In 2021, UV established the Cornwell Early Learning Center (CELC) early learning program to give a strong start to children from the Phillips and Central neighborhoods. CELC received a 4-star Parent Aware rating in 2022. The children served are primarily Spanish speaking and the CELC staff reflects this community.
- Grant supports expanding 2 new preschool classrooms for children ages 31-48 months and adding a summer classroom for children in kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade.

**Walker West Music Academy ([www.walkerwest.org](http://www.walkerwest.org))—\$7,500 grant (early childhood)**

- Based in St. Paul, serves St. Paul and Minneapolis. Established in 1988, Walker West may be the oldest community music school in the nation founded by African American musicians. It is an out-of-school-time, nonprofit music school based in the African American community in St. Paul that teaches instrumental and vocal music to students ages 5 to adult. It teaches all styles of music, but is especially well-known for jazz, gospel, and other styles of improvisational music. It provides affordable, quality music instruction inspired by the African American cultural experience. Many of its students have gone on to study at top music conservatories and perform professionally.
- Grant supports a new Afrocentric early childhood music program, created by Walker West, piloted at the Mary T. Wellcome Center in north Minneapolis, and expanded last year to the Hallie Q. Brown Center in St. Paul. Through songs, playing instruments, creative movement, visual arts, and literature, children learn about musical concepts and boost their social-emotional development. The curriculum is trauma-informed. Classes are 30 minutes weekly and held in 5 classrooms between the 2 schools.

**Washburn Center for Children (<http://www.washburn.org/>)—\$12,000 grant (early childhood)**

- Based in Minneapolis, serves Twin Cities metro area. Washburn Center for Children provides mental health services to children and their families at three locations throughout the metro area, including a new facility in north Minneapolis. It focuses on treating severely traumatized children using the model of Child Parent Psychotherapy, a therapeutic intervention for children from birth to age five who have experienced at least one traumatic event and as a result are experiencing behavior, attachment and/or mental health problems.
- Grant supports expanding the Family Focused program, serving children ages 0 to kindergarten with social, emotional, or behavioral difficulties. It offers intensive in-home family therapy in addition to a therapeutic preschool classroom focused on repairing a child's sense of safety and attachment. Early intervention for children who have experienced trauma is critical to attaining developmental milestones. Expansion will help reach some of the community's most vulnerable children.

**Watercourse Counseling (<http://www.watercoursecounseling.org/>)—\$10,000 grant (youth develop.)**

- Located in south Minneapolis. Founded in 1999, Watercourse is a nonprofit organization serving the mental health needs of people of all ages from diverse communities in Minneapolis. Watercourse is committed to ensuring the staff, agency leaders, and board reflect the diversity of the community, ensuring that no BIPOC school-based clients are turned away from receiving services, and ensuring their training focus will include that from BIPOC professionals who understand and acknowledge the systems of racial oppression that impact Watercourse's clients.
- Grant supports expanding the CIRCLE (Collaborative for Immigrant & Refugee Children's Leadership & Experience), a program dedicated to healing from cultural trauma and resettlement stress among East African and Latine children and their families in Minneapolis. It is carried out in partnership with 6 Minneapolis public schools with the help of "cultural brokers" who assist with family engagement, promote self-advocacy, and help improve understanding of the family's specific situation, needs, cultural factors, societal pressures, and injustices. With increased Latine students in the community, the program is adding another full-time Spanish-speaking cultural broker to its team.

**Way to Grow (<http://www.waytogrow.org/>)—\$10,000 grant (early childhood)**

- Based in Minneapolis, serves Twin Cities metro area. Way to Grow is a collaborative home-visiting-based program whose goal is to help very vulnerable families get their children ready for school. Working closely with parents and communities, Way to Grow ensures that children within the most isolated families are born healthy, stay healthy, and are prepared for school.
- Grant supports multi-generational family engagement programs for families with children ages 0-8 in Minneapolis, Brooklyn Park, Brooklyn Center, St. Louis Park, and Richfield. The programs promote healthy child development, strengthen parent-child social-emotional bonds, improve cognitive development, build school readiness skills, enhance parenting skills, and develop parent advocacy.

**Wilder Foundation (<http://www.wilder.org/>)—\$10,000 grant (early childhood)**

- Based in St. Paul, serves the east metro. Founded in 1906, Wilder helps children, families and older adults through direct service programs, research, leadership development and community building. It operates a 4-star Parent Aware certified childcare program that takes a whole-family approach to the families it serves. Wilder is part of the Promise Neighborhood, an educational partnership focused on the Frogtown, Rondo, and Summit-University neighborhoods that works to facilitate a long-term cradle-to-career initiative supporting a child's life and family in meaningful, measurable ways. The Promise Neighborhood represents one of the most diverse areas in the state and is home to some of the state's most significant disparities related to housing, income, education, and opportunity.
- Grant supports the Promise Neighborhood's newest initiative, Thrive by Five, which aims to improve early childhood development and kindergarten readiness outcomes for children. It helps parents and caregivers through one-on-one coaching, home visits, navigating early childhood education options and resources, and building social capital through group connections with other parents and caregivers.

**YMCA of the North (<https://www.ymcanorth.org/>)—\$10,000 grant (youth development)**

- Based in Minneapolis, serves Twin Cities metro area. The YMCA Beacons after-school program engages youth as leaders and learners transforming schools into active youth centers after school and in the summer, providing free educational, recreational and leadership activities for youth and their families. The Beacons network is a public-private partnership that includes the YMCA, YWCA, Boys & Girls Club, and Minneapolis Community Education.
- Grant supports Beacons' recent launch of a program focusing on culinary arts and nutrition at Nellie Stone Johnson in north Minneapolis and at Anne Sullivan/Anishinaabe Academy in south Minneapolis. Both programs are paired with nearby high schools, allowing older students to mentor the elementary students. Older mentors are paid. As with all of Beacons' expansions, this one was driven by youth interest. This program embeds STEM learning within a fun, culturally relevant cooking program. Beacons is very conscious of the need for trauma-informed training for all its youth workers, who receive continuous training through the YMCA. The program also makes use of the school social workers in the schools, when needed, in which the programs are located.

**Youth Farm (<http://youthfarmmn.org/>)—\$7,500 grant (youth development)**

- Based in Minneapolis, serves Lyndale and Powderhorn neighborhoods in Minneapolis, and Frogtown and the West Side in St. Paul. Begun in 1995 in south Minneapolis, Youth Farm is a seed-to-plate youth development organization serving hundreds of youth ages 9-24. It now includes school and community partnerships in St. Paul's Frogtown and west side neighborhoods and north Minneapolis' Hawthorne, Harrison, and Webber-Camden neighborhoods. Staff are residents of the neighborhoods they work in and/or their identities and lived experiences align with the youth they serve.
- Grant supports younger participants, ages 9-13, who access Youth Farm primarily through school partnerships, as well as a few community-based sites. Youth Farm's progressive developmental model offers the opportunity for the younger youth to focus on skill-building and relations, and it gradually adds leadership opportunities as the youth grow in the program. The youth focus on understanding food systems and building food skills like cooking, growing food, and STEM skills, as well as interpersonal skills such as teamwork, role-modeling, SEL, and cultural responsiveness.

**YWCA of Minneapolis ([www.ywcampls.org](http://www.ywcampls.org/))—\$10,000 grant (youth development)**

- Located in Minneapolis. A leader in early childhood advocacy, the YWCA of Minneapolis helps develop early childhood educators and the parents/caregivers of young children into advocates. The Y also does public policy work in the area of youth development. The Y offers the Beacons afterschool program for youth, transforming schools into active youth centers after school and in the summer, providing free educational, recreational, and leadership activities for youth and their families.
- Grant supports the social-emotional elements a new program based on the Beacons afterschool program through the YWCA Minneapolis at the Hmong International Academy in north Minneapolis. The school and the Beacons program focus on Hmong culture and programming. Families are attracted to the tight community spirit and high academic standards, and the program honors other cultural experiences as well. The staff is trained in SEL and trauma-informed learning and teaching practices, and they develop long-term relationships with the youth, who stay in the program for a long time, progressing through the elementary programming to become teen leaders.