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**NEWS RELEASE**  
**For Immediate Release**

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**Nonprofits Receive Nearly \$390,000 in Third-Quarter Grants**

The Initiative Foundation and its Partner Funds are pleased to announce that 100 grants totaling nearly \$390,000 were awarded during the third quarter of 2019.

"As always, we are proud to support organizations throughout our region that benefit our youngest to our most senior community members," said Matt Varilek, Initiative Foundation president. "Grants from our Innovation Fund and Partner Funds during the third quarter supported workforce hiring initiatives, a study on

the restoration of historic buildings, a work plan for the city of Becker's energy transition and so much more."

Find the full third-quarter 2019 grants listing on [ifound.org](https://ifound.org).

## Innovation Fund Awards

The following organizations were among those that received grant funding during the months of July, August and September 2019:

- **Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose School District—College and Career Exploration Fair:** \$2,000 to help Buffalo High School create a college and career exploration expo during parent-teacher conferences. Area businesses and organizations had the opportunity to present displays and hands-on activities to promote local workforce development through community connections.
- **Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota—Technical Assistance for Communities:** \$7,000 to provide technical assistance and direct service to communities, businesses and schools for adapting practices and receiving certification as a Bicycle Friendly Community. The communities of Walker, Chisago Lakes, North Branch, Big Lake, St. Cloud and Little Falls will all benefit from this grant.
- **Staples Economic Development Authority—Historic Batcher Block Opera House Bond Preparation:** \$5,000 to complete an economic impact analysis, develop architectural drawings and create a programming and business plan to support fundraising for the total restoration project.
- **St. Cloud State University—Needs and Feasibility Analysis for a Co-Located School of Education and Campus Child Care Center:** \$5,000 to identify first steps to create a sustainable, high-quality child care center for St. Cloud State University and the community. St. Cloud State University will explore opportunities to unite public and private stakeholders to invest in the future of using St. Cloud State University as a central site for early childhood workforce development.

[See the full list of grant recipients ...](#)

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## Partner Fund Awards

The Initiative Foundation hosts a variety of **Partner Funds** for families, businesses, nonprofit organizations and volunteer-led groups. The following organizations were among those that received grant funding during the months of July, August and September 2019:

- **Morrison County Area Foundation:** \$1,000 to the Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls to provide financial aid for families in need or with special circumstances.
- **Cambridge Memorial Hospital Fund:** \$5,000 to the Braham Elementary Parent Organization for a playground at the high school.
- **John and Bonnie Schlagel Endowment:** \$2,000 to Family Pathways for their food shelf.
- **Three Rivers Community Foundation:** \$5,000 to Rivers of Hope for domestic violence intervention and prevention services for youth.

[See the full list of Partner Fund grant recipients ...](#)

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