APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN FOR
MAIN STREET REVITALIZATION PROGRAM

October 17, 2022  (Bemidji, MN) – The Northwest Minnesota Foundation is now accepting
grant applications for projects that address economic development in specific areas of Bemidji,
East Grand Forks, and the Highway 59 corridor. Eligible projects must be located within specific
boundaries specified below.

NMF has been awarded nearly $2,188,000 in funding from the Minnesota Department of
Employment and Economic Development through its Main Street Revitalization Economic
Program to fund eligible projects designed to address the greatest economic development and
redevelopment needs that have arisen since March 15, 2020.

The award from DEED funds projects in three corridors in the Northwest Minnesota region.

For the Bemidji corridor, there is $1,177,391 available. This specific Bemidji corridor is defined
as the area south of 20th Street NW and north of Roosevelt Road, with a west boundary of
Highway 71, and east boundary of Lake Bemidji/Lake Avenue. Eligible projects must be located
within these boundaries.

For the East Grand Forks corridor, there is $421,218 available. This specific East Grand Forks
corridor has a northern boundary of 23rd Street/150th Street, western boundary of the Red
River, southern boundary of Red Lake River, and eastern boundary of Section Line Road/U.S.
Highway 2. Eligible projects must be located within these boundaries.

For the Highway 59 corridor, there is $505,237 available. This specific Highway 59 corridor
spans the White Earth Nation boundary, from Calloway at the south to the northern boundary of
White Earth Nation north of Bejou. Eligible projects must be located within these boundaries.

Eligible projects include: the repair or renovation of property, building construction, landscaping,
streetscaping, demolition and site preparation, pre-design, design, engineering, non-publicly
owned infrastructure, and related site amenities.

Grants cannot be used for the purchase of real estate, purchase of business operations or
business operating expenses (such as inventory, wages and working capital).

Applicants may be businesses, nonprofits, and/or economic development professionals.

Renovations or construction must begin by January 5, 2024, and must be complete by June 30,
2026.

Grants can cover up to 30 percent of the project costs.
The maximum grant allowed, per Main Street Revitalization Economic Program guidelines, is $750,000. While NMF has not placed a cap on the grant amount that could be awarded, high interest in the program may result in grant requests only being partially funded.

Proof of matching funds is required. Matching funds cannot include state or federal funds, or existing equity in buildings. Examples of matching funds include: a bank commitment letter, bank statement or balance sheet showing cash on hand, or commitment letter from donor etc.

To apply, visit www.nwmf.org and click on “Open Grant Rounds”.

The applications deadline for the first round of funding is December 20, 2022. Applications will be reviewed after January 1, 2023. All applicants will be notified of a decision after the review process has been completed.

Applications received after December 20 will be reviewed thereafter on a monthly basis or until all funds are committed.

NMF believes Northwest Minnesota offers boundless opportunities.
Our strength is connecting people, places, and possibilities.

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