



MINNESOTA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

Building Stronger Minnesota Communities

IMPACT REPORT 2025

The Minnesota Economic Development Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening Minnesota communities. As a 501(c)(3) private entity, it focuses on advancing economic development through outreach, education, training, and research initiatives.

Serving all
Minnesota

2025 BASIC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COURSE

The 2025 Basic Economic Development Course (BEDC), held September 22–26 in Duluth, MN, delivered comprehensive training in the core principles and practices of local economic development. Coordinated by the MNEDF and accredited by the International Economic Development Council (IEDC), the course fulfills a prerequisite toward the Certified Economic Developer (CEcD) designation. Participants gained practical, real-world instruction in areas including business retention and expansion, finance, workforce development, marketing, strategic planning, entrepreneurship, and ethics.



2025 BEDC Cohort

The week combined classroom instruction with experiential learning, highlighted by a full-day Iron Range tour featuring U.S. Steel's MinnTac Mine and Redhead Mountain Bike Park.



2025

IEDC COURSE SCHOLARSHIPS

Professional advancement remains central to the Foundation's mission. In addition to supporting IEDC-accredited training opportunities, the MNEDF awarded two professional development scholarships in 2025, providing \$642 in support to Minnesota economic development professionals pursuing continued education and credential advancement. These scholarships help ensure practitioners across the state have access to high-quality training that strengthens local leadership capacity and supports long-term community growth.



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2025 COMMUNITY INTERNSHIPS

The Community Internship Program continued strengthening local economic development capacity while cultivating the next generation of professionals. With support from the MNEDF, six communities across Minnesota—representing a mix of urban and outstate communities—each received \$2,000 internship grants.

Interns contributed directly to high-impact economic development initiatives, including business retention and expansion, workforce development, research and data analysis, marketing, and community planning. Through structured supervision and mentorship, the program delivered meaningful, hands-on experience while expanding capacity for participating communities.

2025 LINK PROGRAM

In addition to their local internship experience, all six interns participated in the MNEDF's Leading Interns Network Knowledge (LINK) program.

This three-session series, beginning in June, is designed to broaden interns' exposure to the economic development profession and connect them with peers and seasoned practitioners. Across the three sessions, 14 economic development professionals from around Minnesota engaged directly with the cohort, providing insight, mentorship, and real-world perspective. The program culminated in a final session hosted by the City of Hutchinson and the Southwest Initiative Foundation, which included a tour of Hutchinson's Enterprise Center—offering interns firsthand exposure to a successful regional economic development model in action.

Thank you

Sponsors

"Strong communities begin with strong leadership. Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, we are equipping economic development professionals — and the Minnesota communities they serve — with the tools and training needed to create lasting impact across our state. We sincerely appreciate your commitment to advancing this important work."

Rebecca Kurtz
2025 MNEDF Board Chair



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