



Northwest  
Minnesota  
FOUNDATION

201 3rd Street NW  
Bemidji, MN 56601  
218.759.2057  
800.659.7859  
[www.nwmf.org](http://www.nwmf.org)

March 2, 2026

Attn: Representative Dave Baker  
Via Spencer Johnson  
Workforce, Labor, and Economic Development Finance Committee

Dear Representative Baker:

The Northwest Minnesota Foundation (NMF) is one of the PROMISE Act intermediary partners. We manage the PROMISE Act grant and loan programs in our region of northwest Minnesota, covering two Tribal Nations and twelve counties.

We conducted the first round of the PROMISE Act Grant program in the spring of 2023. We received approximately 200 unique and individual applications. We identified approximately 50 applications that were not eligible (out of region, gross revenues too high or too low, etc). The remaining applications were vetted for full eligibility, and then run through a random selection process. We were able to fund 50 PROMISE Act grants, totaling \$1,145,000.

Grant amount breakdown:

- 17 grants for \$10,000 each (the statute requires that we reserve at least \$100,000 for the smallest grant amounts, which we achieved)
- 27 grants for \$25,000 each
- 6 grants for \$50,000 each

We are processing applications at this time for the second round. We have received approximately 350 unique applications. We will finalize reviews and contact all applicants regarding their status this month. We anticipate running a random selection process again, as top-scoring applications will outnumber funds available.

Our PROMISE Act Loan program has been going very well. The loan program focuses on real estate-based projects, and in 2025 the legislature was amended to include equipment purchases as eligible use of funds. To-date, we've funded four loans totaling \$674,000. Two of those loans were made to nonprofit organizations

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in our region; the low interest rate made this financing very accessible and allowed them to expand their physical space for the benefit of their clients.

Thank you for the opportunity to share some information about the PROMISE Act grants and loans in northwest Minnesota.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah Linda".

Sarah Linda  
Community Revitalization Senior Program Manager

Cc: Cory Boushee, Director of Programs, Northwest Minnesota Foundation  
Karen White, President/CEO, Northwest Minnesota Foundation