

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

OUR MISSION

To empower people throughout Central Minnesota to build a **thriving economy**, **vibrant communities** and a lasting **culture of generosity**.

OUR VISION



Economy:

We have an abundance of talented people and job-creating enterprises that contribute to economic growth and vitality.



Community:

We are a region of robust, highly engaged communities where people choose to live, work, give and play.



Generosity:

People across our region give generously of their time, talent and resources.

OUR ROLE

- **Convene and connect** people and organizations to elevate and advance emerging issues and move toward concrete action.
- Provide access to **strategic funding** in the form of grants, loans, scholarships and fellowships.
- Deliver **expertise** and **build capacity** through technical assistance, training opportunities and partner referrals.
- Promote **philanthropy** and **leverage resources** through funding tools and volunteer opportunities.

OUR VALUES

- **Civility:** Civility across perspectives and interests is essential to our shared future.
- **Localism:** Our primary resources are local people who invest their time, talent and assets.
- **Diversity:** Advancing equity and inclusion honors the rich diversity of our region.
- **Partnership:** A shared vision among many partners is the best way to achieve lasting change.

OUR COMMITMENT

- We embrace our responsibility to introduce, promote and defend **pioneering ideas**—even when they incur risk.
- We will remain **responsive**, nimble and ready to adapt to emerging needs and opportunities.
- We pay particular attention to **resource gaps** that prevent those we serve from contributing to their full ability.
- We **communicate our mission** through the programs and resources we provide to the region, through our many partnerships, through high-quality media, and by the example we set in our daily interactions.



INITIATIVE FOUNDATION STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



THRIVING ECONOMY

ENTREPRENEURSHIP SUPPORT:

Foster growth of businesses by providing training, financing and technical assistance, with an emphasis on underserved communities and social enterprise ventures.

WORKFORCE AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT:

Tap under-utilized pools of talent and support career exploration and skill development in high-demand fields.

CHILDCARE AVAILABILITY:

Catalyze innovation within the region and coordinate with partners in support of economically sustainable, quality child care.

VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

NONPROFIT CAPACITY BUILDING:

Provide training to anti-poverty organizations, other nonprofits aligned with our values, and Foundation Partner Fund volunteers and board members to enhance their impact throughout our region.

NONPROFIT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT INNOVATION:

Use training, technical assistance and grant funding to support innovative early-stage projects that foster inclusive engagement and development of emerging leaders.

WORKPLACE BEST PRACTICES:

Model best practices through a holistic approach to diversity, equity and inclusion; workplace wellbeing; organizational culture; and other operational activities.

LASTING CULTURE OF GENEROSITY

ENDOWMENTS:

Grow endowments and secure major gifts by cultivating donor relationships and making direct asks across multiple forms of media.

LEGACY GIVING:

Preserve and grow the region's wealth by encouraging bequests and maintaining and initiating region-wide relationships with priority stakeholders.

INTEGRATED IMPACT:

Multiply impact by seeking opportunities for coordination across Innovation Fund grantmaking, Foundation programming and Partner Funds, and by connecting to external grant-makers.

