

CONNECTING PEOPLE
INVESTING IN IDEAS
BUILDING COMMUNITIES



SOUTHWEST INITIATIVE
FOUNDATION

swifoundation.org

Photo by Gregory Harp

CFNS

ACCREDITED
FOUNDATION

Confirmed in Compliance with National
Standards for U.S. Community Foundations
An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

Our southwest Minnesota region



- 18 counties and 2 Native nations
 - Grey dots are our tribal communities
- 4 communities with 10,000+ population
- Of the 7.9 million acres that make up our region, 6.2 million or 78% is tillable farmland

Our history



Minnesota Initiative Foundations

MCKNIGHT FOUNDATION



**MINNESOTA
INITIATIVE
FOUNDATIONS**

Our unique role: Rural Development Hubs

- Think and work “Region”
- Trusted in the region
- Take the long view.
- Bridge across issues and siloes
- Systems-level approach
- Collaboration is essential
- Flex, innovate and take and tolerate risk
- Accountable to the whole community

Aspen Institute Community Strategies Group. (May 2019). “Rural Development Hubs: Strengthening America’s Rural Innovation Structure.”

Our work today



Questions?



Let's stay connected!



SOUTHWEST INITIATIVE
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