The Women's Foundation of Minnesota has awarded $77,500 in planning grants to 16 groups through its girlsBEST (girls Building Economic Success Together) Fund. The grant period is January 1, 2013 to April 30, 2013.

Established in 2002, the girlsBEST Fund awards multi-year grants to programs that build the future economic success of Minnesota's girls. Priority is given to programs that include outreach to underserved, underrepresented populations of girls around the state. Grantees are funded in one of five program tracks: Academic; Entrepreneurial; Employment Development & High-Paying/High-Skill Careers; Public Education & Advocacy; and Sports & Arts.

Grantees:

Bagosendaan (Mahnomen) | $4,600 – Planning the integration of new partnerships and collaboration with tribal, county and other nonprofit organizations to increase the effectiveness of the current program. (*Program Track: Academic*.)

Boys and Girls Clubs of the Leech Lake Area (Leech Lake) | $4,800 – Planning the development of a girls leadership council that includes SMART programs, peer mentoring, community service and in-depth economic focus. (*Program Track: Academic*.)

Casa de Esperanza (St. Paul) | $5,000 – Planning the expansion of the Latina Youth Peer Educator program to include college and career planning. plus a mentoring component. (*Program Track: Public Education & Advocacy*
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Hmong American Partnership (St. Paul) | $5,000 – Planning the development of a mentoring program that will link Hmong women mentors with current Girls Runaway Intervention and Prevention Program participants. (*Program Track: Academic*.)

La Oportunidad (Minneapolis) | $5,000 – Planning the expansion of the Chicas Fuertes program to include a focus on girls' economic development. (*Program Track: Academic.*)

Men as Peacemakers (Duluth) | $5,000 – Planning the expansion of the Girls Restorative Program to area middle schools and high schools. *(Program Track: Academic.*)

Minneapolis Community and Technical College Foundation (Minneapolis) | $4,500 – Planning the development of a program to provide opportunities for girls from underrepresented communities to develop interests and career awareness in STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) areas. (Program Track: Academic.)

Minneapolis Public Schools – Broadway High School (Minneapolis) | $5,000 – Planning the expansion of a newly created school store that will include new management systems and products. (*Program Track: Entrepreneurial*.)

Pillsbury United Communities – Brian Coyle Community Center (Minneapolis) | $5,000 –

Planning the development of a girl-run resale shop. (*Program Track: Entrepreneurial.*)

Project FINE (Winona) | $5,000 – Planning the development of a new immigrant girls program focused on building identity and strengths and creating a roadmap to pursue dreams. (*Program Track: Academic*
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Redeemer Center for Life (Minneapolis) | $5,000 – Planning the development of a girls STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics)-focused program, Pedal Power. (Program Track: Employment Development & High-Paying/High-Skill Careers.)

SELF International (Minneapolis) | $5,000 – Planning the development of a girls STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics)-focused program, in partnership with Sabathani Community Center. (Program Track: Academic.)

St. Cloud State University – Native Skywatchers (St. Cloud) | $5,000 – Planning the development for an American Indian, girl-focused program connected to STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) and cultural knowledge. *(Program Track: Employment Development & High-Paying/High-Skill Careers*
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Western Community Action, Inc. (Marshall) | $5,000 – Planning the development of Generation Next II: Building Young Women of Excellence, which will encourage junior and senior high school girls to pursue post-secondary education. (Program Track: Academic.)

Willmar Community Education & Recreation (Willmar) | $5,000 – Planning the development of an immigrant girls group in Willmar middle and high schools. (*Program Track: Academic.*)