

LOANS AND GRANTS

City of St. Cloud Revolving Loan Fund [City of St. Cloud](#)

Up to \$100,000 low interest loan focused on industrial, manufacturing, and technology related industries that increase tax base, increase employment, and pay livable wages. Funds can be used for acquisition of land, construction, demolition or rehabilitation of facilities, site improvements, utilities or infrastructure, machinery and equipment. Other requirements and job and wage goals apply.

Direct Business Loan Fund [Initiative Foundation](#)

Up to \$500,000 for value added agriculture and manufacturing companies that bring new revenue to communities.

Initiative Foundation Gap Loans [Gap Loans — Initiative Foundation \(ifound.org\)](#)

Gap lending at the Initiative Foundation is a partnership between the borrower, a lead lender and our lending team. Gap loans “fill the gap” between what a bank can provide and what the borrower needs to remain solvent on a business-investment project.

Initiative Foundation Micro Loan [Microloans Initiative Foundation \(ifound.org\)](#)

Microloans can range from a few hundred dollars up to tens of thousands of dollars. The goal of the Initiative Foundation’s microlending program is to support entrepreneurship, foster economic self-sufficiency, and creating opportunities for individuals and small businesses.

Minnesota Investment Fund [City of St. Cloud/State of Minnesota](#)

Offers a maximum of \$500,000 per grant. Focuses on industrial, manufacturing and technology related industries that increase the local and state tax base and improve economic vitality statewide. Grants are awarded to local units of government, which use the money to provide below market rate loans to help companies expand. Funding may be used to purchase land, machinery, and equipment.

Minnesota Job Creation Fund [State of Minnesota](#)

Provides up to \$1 million in grants to approved industrial, manufacturing, and technology related businesses after specified job creation and capital investment goals are achieved. Minimum requirements: 10 jobs created and \$500,000 capital investment.

Business Expansion Loan Program [Great River Energy](#)

Facilitates new commercial and industrial investment in areas served by cooperative member-owners of Great River Energy. Loans from \$100,000 up to \$500,000 will be considered for large, high-impact projects and may be used for most business expansion or start-up costs. The maximum maturity is 10 years, and the interest rate could be as low as 0%, based on the scope of the project. Limited to 50% of the total project costs.

E3 Loan Program [Great River Energy](#)

Provides a low-interest loan to cover the costs of acquisition and installation of energy efficient equipment and beneficial electrification projects. Loans from \$50,000 up to \$350,000 will be considered with an interest rate determined by energy savings achieved. The maximum maturity is 10 years based upon the useful life of the equipment. Limited to 80% of the total project costs. Funding is available to end use consumers of Great River Energy’s electric distribution cooperatives, and the loans are structured as a pass-through loan to the member co-op.

Native American Business Loan Program

[Minnesota Native American Business Loan Program / Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development \(mn.gov\)](#)

Supports the development of Indian-owned and operated businesses and promotes economic opportunities for Indian people in Minnesota. Loans may be up to 75% of costs and feature favorable interest rates.

MN Reservist and Veteran Business Loan Program [State of Minnesota](#)

Provides interest free, business loans of up to \$20,000 to businesses that are adversely affected when certain employees are called to active military duty and to individual veterans who have returned from active duty and want to start their own business.

LOANS AND GRANTS CONTINUED

C-Pace [St. Paul Port Authority](#)

Property Assessed Clean Energy- An innovative way to finance energy efficiency and renewable energy upgrades to buildings. 100% financing, repaid as a property tax assessment for up to 20 years.

Launch MN Grants [Launch MN](#)

Businesses are eligible to receive one of each grant for the next two years. Increased consideration to startups located in Greater Minnesota, as well as businesses owned by women, veterans, or people of color.

- Business Operations: Grants up to \$35,000 for business operations including research and development, direct business expenses, and technical assistance.
- SBIR Match: Grants provide up to \$50,000 for business awarded a first time Phase 2 SBIR or STTR award.

Minnesota Loan Guarantee Program

[Minnesota Loan Guarantee Program / Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development \(mn.gov\)](#)

The Minnesota Loan Guarantee Program (MNLGP) is part of the State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) funding from the U.S. Department of the Treasury and is subject to SSBCI rules. MNLGP provides guarantees to enrolled lenders for up to 80% of principal on loans to eligible businesses. The program helps enrolled lenders mitigate risk so they can increase capital to small businesses located across Minnesota.

Growth Loan Fund

[Growth Loan Fund / Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development \(mn.gov\)](#)

GLF supports entrepreneurial growth throughout Minnesota by offering low-interest loans to early-stage businesses that are seeking to raise equity investments. Businesses seeking funding through this program need to be engaged in, or be committed to engage in, technological innovation in Minnesota.

Redevelopment and Site Clean-Up [State of Minnesota](#)

Grant and loan funds available to assist in the redevelopment of sites for business expansions or relocation. Public funds can pay for up to 50% of eligible redevelopment costs or 75% of contamination clean-up costs.

SBA 504 Loans [MN Business Finance Corp](#)

Provides start-up and existing businesses loans to create new jobs with long term, low down payment, fixed-rate financing of major fixed assets, such as land and buildings.

TAX CREDITS

Data Center Tax Credit [State of Minnesota](#)

Companies that build data or network operation centers of at least 25,000 square feet and invest \$30 million qualify for sales tax exemptions for 20 years on computers and servers, cooling and energy equipment, energy use and software, and they pay no personal property tax. Companies have 48 months to complete the project.

Angel Tax Credit [State of Minnesota](#)

Businesses headquartered in Minnesota with fewer than 25 employees and engaged in research and development of qualifying high-technology can qualify for up to \$1 million in angel tax credit.

Direct Investment Venture Capital Program

[Direct Investment Venture Capital Program / Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development \(mn.gov\)](#)

The program will invest in Minnesota-based seed and early-stage startups. This program is expected to target key sectors such as advanced manufacturing, agtech/foodtech, climate tech, life sciences, software, and technology.

TAX CREDITS CONTINUED

Greater Minnesota Job Expansion Program [State of Minnesota](#)

Provides sales tax exemptions of up to 12 years to eligible existing businesses located in Greater Minnesota that meet eligibility requirements including specified job creation and wage level.

Capital Equipment Exemption [State of Minnesota](#)

Effective July 1, 2015, Minnesota law allows a sales and use tax exemption at the time of purchase on qualified capital equipment; previously a purchaser was required to file a refund claim for any tax paid at time of purchase. Available to people who purchase or lease capital equipment for use in Minnesota.

Research and Development Tax Credit [State of Minnesota](#)

The tax credit for R&D expenditures is 10%, up to the first \$2 million in eligible expenses. The credit is 2.5% for eligible expenses above \$2 million. Individuals involved in partnerships, S-corporations and limited liability companies can claim the credit against their individual income taxes.

New Market Tax Credit [City of St. Cloud](#)

A financial tool available for commercial real estate development projects in designated economically distressed areas of the City. Contact the St. Cloud EDA for designated areas and details.

MN Historic Structure Rehabilitation Tax Credit [State of Minnesota](#)

Offers a 20% state tax credit for qualified historic rehabilitation and parallels the existing federal rehabilitation tax credit. It also offers investors an option of a grant in lieu of a credit. This tax credit/grant is funded by the State of Minnesota; funds are awarded to eligible applicants who meet the program requirements. The building must be listed in the National Register of Historic Places or be certified as contributing to the significance of a "registered historic district."

Opportunity Zones [City of St. Cloud](#)

Uses federal tax incentives in low-income urban and rural communities nationwide to draw long-term investment to areas that are in the most economic need by creating a fund for these investments. Additional Information can be found at MN DEED.

Tax Increment Financing (TIF) and Tax Abatement [City of St. Cloud](#)

Tools the City may use to help finance project costs. These tools are used to encourage private development and pay for public improvement costs such as streets, sidewalks, sewer and water and similar public infrastructure improvements. The eligibility parameters are defined by state statutes and are generally targeted to new developments that increase the tax base, provide employment opportunities, or redevelop blighted areas. Tax Increment or tax abatement are the proceeds derived from the difference between the base property tax value of parcels and the increase property value of the parcels as a result of new development. The total amount of tax increment or tax abatement is calculated for the projected term of the district. A developer can then obtain a loan based on the projected tax increment revenues in order to use the funds upfront for public improvements.

BUSINESS COUNSELING AND TECHNICAL RESOURCES

Integrated Science and Engineering Laboratory (ISELF) [St. Cloud State University](#)

The ISELF has been used by global leaders to develop new prototypes and products and is a collaborative space for the University, its students, and area industry. Business gain access to resources, state-of-the-art laboratory facilities, and a strong pool of faculty and student talent, while retaining their intellectual property rights.

Minnesota High Technology Association [mntech.org](#)

A membership group that offers workshops, networking events, and support services.

BUSINESS COUNSELING AND TECHNICAL RESOURCES CONTINUED

Data Center Site Assessment Program [Great River Energy](#)

Designed to determine the suitability of a particular site for a data center development through a multi-level review of the available infrastructure, surrounding uses, local government, and demographic information relevant to the proposed site.

MN Cup [University of Minnesota](#)

The largest startup business competition in the country, offering \$500,000 in prize money each year to entrepreneurs with promising business ideas in technology and other sectors.

Minneanalytics [minneanalytics.org](#)

A large non-profit supporting Minnesota's IoT analytics community through industry specific conferences, national and local university data analysis competitions, and other events.

IoTfuse [Explore the Power of IoT Technology with - iot-fuse.com](#)

A non-profit that connects Minnesota's IoT technical community, including makers and innovators. Organizes monthly meetups, hackathons, and annual conferences.

Huskies Hack [St. Cloud State University](#)

A 24-hour non-stop hackathon held at SCSU. Students work in teams of 4 to develop web, mobile, desktop applications to solve a real-world challenging problem provided by leading business sponsors.

African Development Center of Minnesota [admcmnnesota.org](#)

Provides business training, commercial financing and technical assistance to assist African immigrants and refugees in Minnesota.

