

Mission Statement

Adopted in 2011

The NEIFN is a regional network of funders committed to growing healthy communities by:

Encouraging Partnerships

We will be a model for counties coming together to work as a region; and funders coming together to collaborate and create strategic impact.

Promoting Local Community Foundation Endowment Funds

We will be a leading voice and advocate for local Community Foundation work; inspiring donors, professional advisors, community leaders and other partners to work with their local Community Foundation to build permanent endowment funds and promote healthy communities across the region.

Raising and Pooling Project Funds

We will make grants which leverage state, federal, and private dollars, creating larger impact across our region.

County Representatives

Allamakee - Matt Erickson

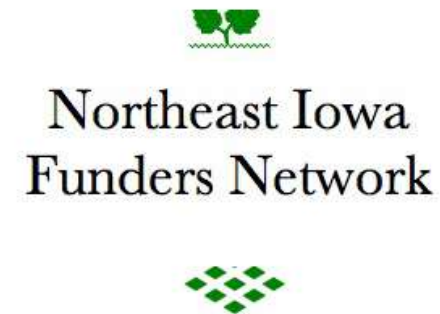
Chickasaw - John Andersen

Clayton - Roger Halvorson

Fayette - Bill Ziegler & Kelly Beacom

Howard - Elaine Govern

Winneshiek - Lorraine Borrowski, Craig Mosher, & Brenda Luzum



2013 Full Members

Allamakee County
Community Foundation

Clayton County
Foundation for the Future

Fayette County
Community Foundation

Winneshiek County
Community Foundation

Chickasaw County
Community Foundation

Howard County
Community Foundation

CO-CONVENERS

Community Foundation
Of Greater Dubuque

Community Foundation
Of Northeast Iowa

PROJECT MEMBERS

Northeast Iowa
Food and Fitness Initiative

CONTACT

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History

The NEI Food and Fitness Initiative convened Community Foundation leaders from Allamakee, Winneshiek, Clayton, Fayette, Howard, and Chickasaw Counties in 2008; and provided financial support for the emerging network. County Representatives have met quarterly since 2009 to build a regional network of funders to address issues and leverage funding to benefit all participating counties.

Six member counties pay dues and provide representation and leadership to build the network.

2013 Philanthropic Advisor Grants

In 2013, \$6K in grants supported philanthropic advisor visits by Betty Steege and Jim Anderson to attorneys, bankers, wealth managers, and tax advisors in Allamakee, Clayton, Fayette, and Winneshiek Counties.

These grants are matched by the host foundations, leveraging \$6K in 2013. The impact has been increased awareness of community foundations, grants, Endow Iowa 25% state tax credit and endowment growth. Through leadership provided by the Winneshiek County Community Foundation, the Philanthropic Advisors helped convene a regional conference for attorneys, wealth managers, tax advisors, and community members at NICC.



Betty Steege, of Harpers Ferry, is a retired stockbroker and investment counselor & serves as a Philanthropic Advisor for the NEIFN.

2013 NEI Food Hub Grant

A \$6K grant in 2013, and another \$6K grant approved for 2014 has supported the start-up of the NEI Food Hub. Goals accomplished include:



- Start a blue collar workplace CSA
- Develop a business plan for the Northeast Iowa Food Hub
- Online CSA program established
- Pilot distribution strategy for local healthy foods in retail establishments
- Establish a 501c3 non-profit structure
- Establish a board for the 501c3
- Explore programming that gets local healthy food to vulnerable populations.

The NEIFN has supported the work of Food Hub Manager Nick McCann and has leveraged more than \$105K in investment from USDA, Convergence Partnership, the Leopold Center and others.

Past Grants

Cross-Age Teaching Folios – a classroom project linking local food lessons to 1400 students, leveraging \$18K from partner funders

Food Value Gain Coordinator – a \$9.7K grant to support technical assistance and marketing expertise for local growers and producers.