

# Cass Lake-Bena Public Schools (Cass Lake, MN)

In partnership with Region Five Development Commission

This project aims to implement needed high-impact upgrades at three different school buildings within the district, on the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Reservation in northern Minnesota. Proposed improvements include: boiler replacements, HVAC system replacements, electrical switchboard replacements, envelope upgrades, LEDs, insulation for piping, and replacement of emergency battery fixtures. Native students comprise over 90% of the student body. The schools serve as critical community assets, located in an extremely cold weather zone with associated high energy costs, exacerbated by virtue of remote location in Cass Lake, which is the largest city on the Reservation. The team has secured matching funds through a variety of innovative financing options, and all partners are committed that any creative financing mechanism returns investment resources directly to the community.

## Community Benefits

The Cass Lake-Bena Schools will provide preference for contractors that offer paid apprenticeships for local youth and that work with the Cass Lake Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance office to create jobs for local American Indians. The RFP will also include special selection criteria for Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs), Minority Business Enterprises (MBEs), Women-Owned Businesses (WOBs), and Veteran-owned Businesses (VOBs), as well as preferences for contractors that partner with workforce training organizations serving underrepresented communities. The Region Five Development Commission and the school district (which employs many members of the Minnesota School Employees Association) will track the delivery of Justice40 benefits by monitoring project outcomes, including reductions in electricity and natural gas use. Technical assistance for this project is being provided by the Christian Labor Association, a small independent labor union that represents workers across several industries.

Team Members	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Sourcewell</li><li>Franklin Energy; Beltrami Electric Cooperative</li><li>Otter Tail Power Company</li><li>Clean Energy Resource Teams</li><li>Minnkota Power Cooperative</li><li>InGensa, Inc.</li></ul>	
Total Funds Requested	\$ 8,859,110
Proposed Cost Share (%)	\$ 675,500 (7%)
Number of Buildings	3

