

BOARD RECRUITMENT BRIEF | 2026

SHAPE THE FUTURE OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN OUR REGION

Help guide EFund's next chapter and create lasting impact through small business growth, job creation, and economic opportunity.



The Entrepreneur Fund (EFund) is seeking three new Board Directors to help advance our vision of **communities created and sustained by entrepreneurs**. As a leading resource for small business growth across our region, EFund provides trusted guidance and tailored financing to local business owners, helping build a stronger regional economy through entrepreneurship, quality employment, and economic diversity.

We welcome applications from individuals who are passionate about entrepreneurship and committed to investing their time and expertise in support of our mission.

Join us at this pivotal moment as we shape our next strategic plan and help guide the future of small business growth and entrepreneurship across the communities we serve.

What We Look for in Board Members:

- Passion for EFund's mission, region, and communities.
- A strategic mindset and commitment to strong governance.
- Willingness to serve as an ambassador and open doors through personal and professional networks.
- Relevant skills, expertise, and perspectives that strengthen the organization.
- Active engagement through board meeting attendance, preparation, and committee service.

MISSION

We actively partner with entrepreneurs to create:

- growing businesses,
- thriving communities, and
- a diverse regional economy.

TIMELINE

- **July 15, 2026:**
 - Application opens
- **August 1-31:**
 - Rolling interviews
- **Week of September 1:**
 - Executive Committee makes final recommendations
 - Onboarding scheduled
- **September 15-17:**
 - Board retreat
 - Start of board service

*All applicants are asked to save the dates of 9/15-9/17 for annual board retreat.

If you have any questions about EFund or the Board of Directors, please reach out to CEO Shawn Wellnitz at shawnw@efund.org

PROCESS

If you or someone you know meets these criteria and is interested in applying, please complete the application form:



[Click here to apply or scan the QR code](#)



ELIGIBILITY & REPRESENTATION

The Entrepreneur Fund values diverse perspectives and experiences that strengthen our board and reflect the communities we serve.

We are seeking individuals with expertise in the following areas:

- **Strategic Marketing** – C-suite-level marketing experience that can provide perspectives as we seek to expand thought leadership, brand evolution, and serve new segments while strengthening our core business.
- **Wisconsin Economic Development Leadership & Influence** – A relationship-oriented leader with strong Madison-area connections who can champion our mission, expand our network, and strengthen support for entrepreneurship and small business development in rural, northern Wisconsin.
- **CDFI Industry & National Perspective** – An experienced CDFI professional who can bring national industry perspective, key relationships, and insight into emerging trends that will help guide our future growth and impact.

CDFI Certification

As a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI), EFund is accountable to the communities it serves. **We are seeking 1-2 of our 3 new board members** who meet at least one of the following target market criteria:

- **Low-Income Targeted Population (LITP):** Works for an organization that serves low-income individuals or has a community development mission.
- **Low-Income Investment Area:** Lives, owns a business, or serves as an elected official in a CDFI-qualified area.



BOARD SERVICE EXPECTATIONS & CAPACITY REQUIREMENTS

The EFund Board of Directors is a board that seeks to operate as a strategic board that provides external insights, meets with the CEO on a strategy level, and provides leadership in the form of thought leadership, networks, insights and governance approaches to support strategic implementation. The EFund Board of Directors is not an operational working board, where the board does the work of the organization.

EFund Board of Directors is a voluntary, unpaid Board of Directors. A laptop and technology assistance is provided to support board governance along with hotel accommodations, mileage stipend, and meals for board service.

Board Meeting Attendance

Board meets 4-6 times annually from 8:30 AM–1:00 PM. A fall session is a full-day or 2-day session, in person, annually for annual goal setting or strategy planning.

- Attendance for in-person is preferred, but accommodations are made for remote if needed.
- Most meetings are in Duluth, as it is centrally located for board members, but we do rotate locations to different communities within EFund's service area that may require shorter or longer travel.

Committee Participation

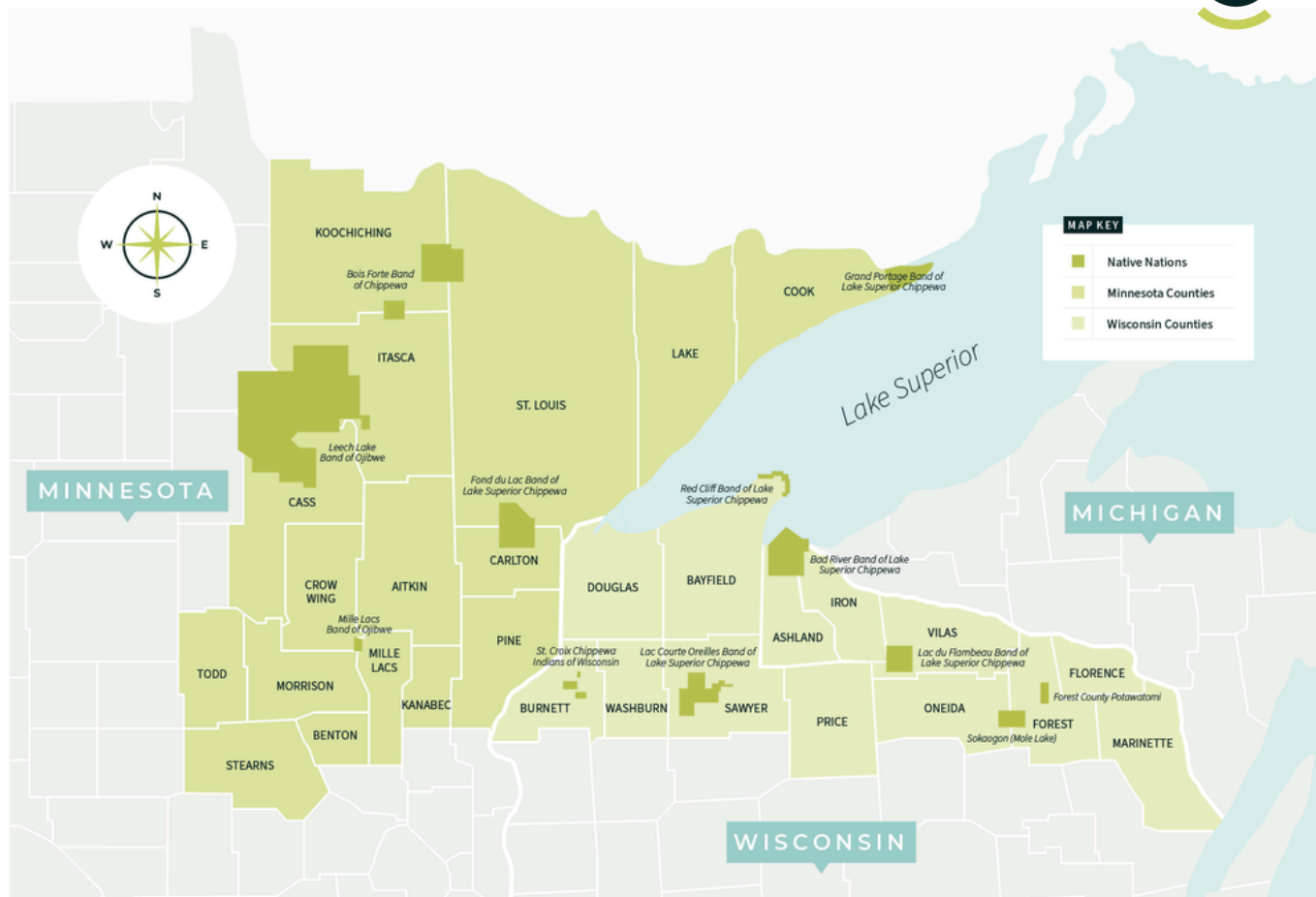
Board membership includes requirements of serving on at least one committee: Loan, Finance, and/or Executive.

- Committees meet 4-6x annually for 90-minute meetings. All committee meetings are via videoconference.
- Loan Committee meets more frequently for approvals, but membership and quorum requirements account for the schedules of busy professionals.

Ambassador & Fundraising Roles

- All board members play key roles at EFund annual events, such as Distinction Awards.
- Some board members play roles in fundraising requests or campaigns.

SERVICE REGION



Minnesota

Counties

- Aitkin
- Benton
- Carlton
- Cass
- Cook
- Crow Wing
- Itasca
- Kanabec
- Koochiching
- Lake
- Mille Lacs
- Morrison
- Pine
- Stearns
- St. Louis
- Todd

Native Nations

- Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
- Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe
- Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
- Bois Forte Band of Chippewa
- Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

Wisconsin

Counties

- Ashland
- Bayfield
- Burnett
- Douglas
- Florence
- Forest
- Iron
- Marinette
- Oneida
- Price
- Sawyer
- Vilas
- Washburn

Native Nations

- Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa
- Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
- St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin
- Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
- Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
- Sokaogon Chippewa Community
- Forest County Potawatomi Community