

## Healthy Communities Partnership (HCP)

**A group of people connecting around common goals.** Most of our community's greatest accomplishments start at this grassroots level. But we know we could do so much more. Too often, people feel disconnected and powerless to effect change, even though many are willing to devote countless hours to community projects.

The Healthy Communities Partnership (HCP) program works with central Minnesota communities to inspire citizens and engage them in creating a shared vision and action plan that enhances the place they live, work and play. HCP helps communities determine their assets, challenges, and goals and then, trains citizens to mobilize local resources and achieve results.

### PROGRAM >

HCP's 18-month program focuses on the importance of involving all segments of a community in the planning and development process. The program results in communities that are connected to surrounding communities, able to leverage local, state and national resources, and equipped to drive positive, lasting change.

Some recent results in just one community include:

- Developed a downtown streetscape.
- Purchased and remodeled old railroad depot.
- Opened a cybercafé.
- Started a countywide transit program.
- Formed a business enterprise team.

### PROCESS >

Selected communities receive an initial grant of \$10,000, as well as training, technical assistance, and referrals to additional resources. Participants evaluate their opportunities, create a shared vision and execute a community-supported action plan.

Through this program, participants learn to:

- *Prepare the community for success by learning development trends and principles.*
- *Engage citizens and ensure a solid volunteer base.*
- *Increase community resources by identifying and mobilizing local resources.*
- *Complete action plans, achieve goals and measure results.*
- *Celebrate success and re-energize the community for the next set of action plans. (Each team is then eligible for \$5,000-\$10,000 in additional grant funds annually.)*

### PARTICIPATE >

Selection to HCP is a competitive process with the foundation only offering training to 4-5 communities each year. Communities interested in the program can start the application process by contacting the program manager for community development.



Members of the Long Prairie HCP Team



INITIATIVE  
FOUNDATION

For more info, contact:  
Dan Frank,  
Program Manager for Community Development  
(877) 632-9255 | [dfrank@ifound.org](mailto:dfrank@ifound.org)