

Keynotes for Communities July 2009



**INITIATIVE
FOUNDATION**

Workshops & Conferences

Small Cities Development Program (SCDP) Grant Program Workshops

July 22, 2009, 9:00a.m. to 12:00pm, Holiday Inn Express, Bemidji

July 23, 2009, 9:00a.m. to 12:00pm, Holiday Inn, Alexandria

Workshops are being held this month to share information on the 2010 round of the SCDP grants through Minnesota's Department of Employment & Economic Development (DEED) office. The program's primary objective is to "develop viable communities by providing decent affordable housing and a suitable living environment by expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low-and-moderate income". Applications for the grant are due by Thursday, September 3. All Workshops are free and open to the public. If you have any questions, please contact Gloria Stiehl at 651-259-7462 or gloria.stiehl@state.mn.us or visit: <http://www.deed.state.mn.us/SCDP/>.

Broadband USA – Funding Workshop

July 21, 2009

Crowne Plaza, St. Paul

The Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and the Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service (RUS) have announced the first series of public workshops about the application process for \$4 billion in broadband grants and loans under the Recovery Act. For more information [download the flyer](#) or visit: <http://broadbandusa.sc.egov.usda.gov/workshop.htm>.

Midwest Rural Assembly

August 10-11, 2009

Sioux Falls Convention Center, Sioux Falls, SD

At the Midwest Rural Assembly you will:

- Share resources and strategies for rural economic and community development opportunities.
- Hear from and talk with local to national policymakers about your rural policy priorities.
- Meet other rural leaders and welcome new voices.
- Begin building a regional network to advance policies and initiatives that can help revitalize rural communities.

For more information about the Midwest Rural Assembly, including registration and speakers, visit www.midwestruralassembly.org or email midwestruralassembly@iatp.org.

Department of Employment and Economic Development is going on the road again this summer and we're hoping to see you – our partners in prosperity for Minnesota!

August 17, 2009, 1-4:00pm, St. Cloud Public Library

August 27, 2009, 1-4:00pm, Central Lakes College

DEED Commissioner Dan McElroy and other agency leaders are planning to visit 10 cities over a five-week span. We are reaching out to our core audience: economic developers, workforce development professionals, educators, local governments, business leaders and legislators.

Our theme is "Advancing Economic Prosperity: Partnering to Shape our Future." We will be discussing the economy, how the recent legislative session affects workforce and economic development, and how federal stimulus dollars will be spent in Minnesota. We are also planning breakout sessions and a resource fair so you can talk to other state and federal partners about what matters to you. For more information visit: http://www.deed.state.mn.us/events/DEEDRoadShow_2009.htm.

Grant Research & Writing Workshop

August 21, 2009

Initiative Foundation, Little Falls

10:00 a.m. – 2:30 pm; Cost: \$55.00

Who Should Attend - Those who have little or no grant writing experience and wish to develop practical skills related to funder research and proposal writing and those who want to refresh their grant writing skills. Workshop topics include *Reviewing Your Expectations; Types of Funding; Funders and Funding Research; Developing the Grant Proposal; Goals, Objectives & Evaluation; The Budget; Sustainability; and Submitting the Proposal.*

[Download brochure here](#). For phone or fax reservations using a credit card, call Jolene at 877/632-9255 or fax to 320/632-9258. Further questions? Email jhoward@ifound.org.

Recession-Year Financial Leadership

September 10, 2009

St. Paul, MN

Illuminate the key decisions, choices and strategies that you should consider in key areas such as recession-preparedness, budgeting approaches for uncertain times, fundraising expectations and priorities, communications and community, [and more](#). Recession-Year Financial Leadership will provide you with analytical tools, templates and talking points to lead your organization, and join forces with partner organizations, in this most difficult year.

This workshop will be presented by Kate Barr (Executive Director, [Nonprofits Assistance Fund](#)) and Jon Pratt (Executive Director, [Minnesota Council of Nonprofits](#)). For workshop details including content, pricing, and registration information, visit http://www.mncn.org/event_leadership.htm#recession.

Recession-Year Financial Leadership is coming to you on: MCN members save \$20 on your registration. Not a member? [Join now!](#)

Save-the-Date for Future Nonprofit Workshops!

All the workshops are free of charge, but preregistration is needed. The ones held at the Kelly Inn will have only a meal cost of \$10 if people wish to have lunch while they learn. More information will be on our website under nonprofits/news and notes as dates get closer.

- Leadership Transitions - September 17 - 11:45 - 1:15, Kelly Inn, St. Cloud
Panel presentation; Session Summary: the board's role in time of transition.
- Technology - December 10 - 11:45 - 1:15; Kelly Inn, St. Cloud
Session Summary: a look at fundraising, database and accounting software for small and medium sized organizations.

Please email, mail, or fax your RSVP to: LarsonAllen LLP, Attn: Janelle Steil, PO Box 1067, St. Cloud, MN 56302, jsteil@larsonallen.com, 320-203-5617, Fax: 320-253-7696

Funding Opportunities

Grants Promote Cooperative Programs for Rural Seniors *(Deadline 7/24/09)*

[Cooperative Development Foundation: Mutual Service Cooperative Fund](#)

The Mutual Service Cooperative Fund, administered by the Cooperative Development Foundation, focuses on cooperative development programs that enhance the quality of life for seniors living in rural America. (For the definition of cooperatives, visit www.ncba.coop/abcoop.cfm.) The Fund supports programs that contribute to the development of systemic approaches to replicate successful cooperative models that already serve seniors in rural areas, provide technical assistance to aid in the development of co-op ventures that will serve rural seniors, or provide a better understanding of lessons learned from co-ops that have served or are currently serving seniors living in rural areas. Any cooperative or cooperative-related organization, as well as other nonprofit organizations that address the Fund's priorities, may apply for a grant. The application deadline is July 24, 2009. Visit the Cooperative Development Foundation's website to download the application forms.

Support for Children's Health Services *(Deadline 7/31/09)*

[American Academy of Pediatrics: Community Access to Child Health Program Planning Funds](#)

The Community Access to Child Health (CATCH) Program, a national program of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), is designed to improve access to health care by supporting pediatricians and communities that are involved in community-based efforts for children. The CATCH Planning Funds program provides grants from \$2,500 to \$12,000 for pediatricians in the U.S. and its territories to develop community-based initiatives that increase children's access to medical homes or to specific health services not otherwise available. Planning project activities must lead to sustainable, community-based child health initiatives that increase access to care, especially for underserved children, and address health disparities among children. (Grants are also available for pediatric residents, but limited to a maximum of \$3,000.) The application deadline is July 31, 2009. Visit the AAP website to submit an online application.

Grants Encourage Community Enhancements *(Deadline 8/30/09)*

[Tom's of Maine Community Sponsorships](#)

Tom's of Maine Community Sponsorships offer support to nonprofit organizations throughout the United States working to do good in their communities. The program will provide grants of \$20,000 each to five nonprofit organizations in order to enhance their community projects. A wide range of community projects are eligible for support, including environmental initiatives, health and human service programs, community events, etc. Applications must be submitted by August 30, 2009. A review panel will narrow down the applications to 50 finalists, which will then be posted on the Tom's of Maine website so that the public can vote for which five projects should be awarded funding. Visit the website listed above to learn more about the program.

Request for Assistance *(Deadline 8/31/09)*

The EDA Center's new "Request for Assistance" for projects beginning in 2010 is now online at www.umcedacenter.org. This Request for Assistance (RFA) is designed to solicit requests from community, county and regional economic development agencies seeking direct technical assistance to support their economic development activities.

The EDA Center does not specifically define the types of assistance that economic development agencies may need. Accordingly, the EDA Center will accept and review all requests for assistance from eligible applicants. However, there are some core competencies of the University that may help guide such requests. These include: market research; technology studies; workforce development studies & support; economic impact analysis; student-supported projects and internships; product development assistance; strategic planning services; statistical studies; technology deployment planning; and support of entrepreneurial program development. Due to the constraints of EDA funding, project time lines should be 1-year or less.

Please remember that eligible applicants must be municipal, county, tribal or regional economic development agencies.

Please contact Jack Geller at University of Minnesota, Crookston for more information. Phone: (218) 281-8248. Email: geller@umn.edu.

Renewal Opportunity for North American Christian Leaders *(Deadline 8/31/09)*

[Louisville Institute: Sabbatical Grants for Pastoral Leaders Program](#) - provides support for pastors and other Christian religious leaders in the United States and Canada who are seeking a time for study, reflection, and rest for the renewal of their vocations. The program requires pastoral leaders to center on a theme of concern, topic of study, or focus of reflection designed to nourish vocational identity and commitment, refresh body and spirit while renewing relationships, and rekindle habits of heart and mind that sustain one for and in ministry. The Institute will award up to forty grants for eight-week (\$10,000) and twelve-week (\$15,000) sabbaticals. The program is open to Christian clergy, church staff members, denominational staff, and others regularly employed in positions of Christian pastoral leadership, ordained and lay. The application deadline is August 31, 2009. Visit the website listed above to review the program guidelines and access the application form.

Support for Grassroots Environmental Organizations *(Deadline 8/31/09)*

[Patagonia Environmental Grants Program](#) - provides support to small, grassroots activist organizations with provocative direct-action agendas, working on multi-pronged campaigns to protect the environment. Patagonia funds local groups working to protect local habitats in the United States, as well as in Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. Proposals are accepted through the Patagonia website during the months of April and August each year, and must be submitted by April 30 or August 31. (Applications are accepted year-round at local retail Patagonia stores.) Visit the website listed above to take the eligibility quiz and review the program's application guidelines.

Community Renewable Energy Projects *(Deadline 9/3/09)*

[U.S. Department of Energy](#)

This funding opportunity supports projects that implement a combination of renewable energy technologies into one integrated solution in order for a community to reduce its carbon footprint. Eligible renewable energy technologies include but are not limited to, electric or thermal energy generated from solar, wind, biomass, landfill gas, ocean (including tidal, wave, current, and thermal), geothermal, or new hydroelectric generation capacity.

Eligibility for award is restricted to state and local governments, Indian Tribes and Tribal Energy Resource Development Organizations or Groups. The full Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) is posted in FedConnect, and is found by going to <https://www.fedconnect.net> and clicking on Search Public Opportunities. Under Search Criteria, select Issuing Office, enter Golden Field Office, then click on Search. Once the screen comes up, locate the appropriate Announcement. (Reference Number: DE-FOA-0000122)

Support for Women's and Children's Programs *(Deadline 9/8/09)*

[WHO Foundation: Women Helping Others](#) - supports grassroots organizations throughout the United States and Puerto Rico that serve the overlooked needs of women and children. The Foundation provides grants of \$5,000 to \$30,000 for critical health programs, social services, and education projects that give women and children the knowledge and tools they need to improve their lives. Examples of funded programs include food and shelter for the homeless, healthcare for the poor, after-school programs, career training for under-employed women, and domestic violence prevention programs. Applications must be submitted by the second Tuesday of September of each year. Visit the website listed above to download the Foundation's application form.

Family Literacy Projects Funded *(deadline 9/13/09)*

[Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy: National Grant Program](#)

The Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy's National Grant Program seeks to develop or expand projects designed to support the development of literacy skills for adult primary caregivers and their children. The program provides grants for instructional literacy programs throughout the United States that have been in existence at least two years. Funded projects must include the following components: reading instruction for parents or primary caregivers, literacy or pre-literacy instruction for children, and intergenerational activities in which the parents/primary caregivers and children read and learn together. A total of \$650,000 will be awarded for grants of up to \$65,000. The application deadline is September 14, 2009. Application guidelines and forms are available on the Foundation's website.

Preservation Grants for Libraries and Museums *(Deadline 9/15/09)*

[Institute of Museum and Library Services: American Heritage Preservation Program](#)

The purpose of the American Heritage Preservation Program, an initiative of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) in partnership with Bank of America, is to fund the preservation of treasures held in small and mid-sized museums, libraries, and archives throughout the U.S. Grants of up to \$3,000 are available for the purpose of preserving specific items, including works of art, artifacts, and historical documents that are in need of conservation. Projects in the following areas are eligible for funding: treatment of library, museum, and archival collections; improvement of collections storage; and environmental improvement of collections. The application deadline is September 15, 2009. Visit the IMLS website to download the grant guidelines.

Grants Address Rural Issues *(Deadline 9/30/09)*

[CHS Foundation](#)

The CHS Foundation is committed to investing in the future of rural America, agriculture, and cooperative business through education and leadership development. The Foundation supports national efforts related to its mission as well as programs within the CHS trade territory for regional, multi-state, or statewide projects. The Foundation's funding focuses on the following program areas: Cooperative Education, Rural Youth and Leadership Development, Farm and Agricultural Safety, Returning Value to Rural Communities, and University Partnerships. All applications are accepted on an ongoing basis, with the exception of Cooperative Education applications, which are due September 30, annually. Visit the Foundation's website for a description of each grant category and online application instructions.

Programs Serving Disabled Veterans Funded *(Deadline 10/20/09)*

[Disabled American Veterans Charitable Service Trust](#)

The Disabled American Veterans Charitable Service Trust supports nonprofit organizations located in the United States that provide long-term programs offering direct assistance to disabled veterans and their families. The Trust's grant making interests include ensuring quality health care for veterans, assistance to veterans suffering Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and substance abuse, programs that meet the special needs of veterans with specific disabilities such as amputation or blindness, and shelters for homeless veterans. Requests are reviewed quarterly; the remaining application deadlines

for 2009 are July 20 and October 20. Eligibility information and application forms may be downloaded from the Trust's website listed above.

Support for Community-Controlled Anti-Poverty Programs *(deadline 11/1/09)*

[Catholic Campaign for Human Development: Community Organizing Grants](#)

The mission of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) is to address the root causes of poverty in the United States through the support of community-controlled, self-help organizations and through transformative education. CCHD's Community Organizing Grants support projects in which poor and marginalized people join together to seek solutions to local problems and find ways to improve their lives and neighborhoods. Applying organizations must demonstrate a change from traditional approaches to poverty by attacking the basic causes of poverty and by effecting institutional change. Eligible projects should directly benefit a poverty group who, in turn, should have the dominant voice in the project. The Pre-application Eligibility Quiz, available on the CCHD website, may be submitted between September 1 and November 1, 2009. (Organizations are strongly encouraged to submit their quiz prior to the November 1st deadline.) Online applications for new applicants are due December 15, 2009. Visit the CCHD website for details on the Community Organizing Grants program.

Alcoholism Prevention & Education Programs Funded *(Applications accepted throughout year)*

[Christopher D. Smithers Foundation](#) - The mission of the Christopher D. Smithers Foundation is to inform the public that alcoholism is a respectable, treatable disease from which people can and do recover; to encourage prevention programs and activities, with an emphasis on high risk populations; and to continually fight to reduce and eliminate the stigma that is associated with the disease of alcoholism. The Foundation focuses its grant making on a wide range of issues related to alcoholism, including prevention, treatment, research, public education, and creating awareness of alcoholism problems in the nation's work world. While a number of grants go to national organizations, regional and local organizations across the country may also receive funds. Grant proposals are reviewed throughout the year. Guidelines for submitting requests are available on the Foundation's website.

Programs Enhancing Children's Success Funded *(Applications accepted throughout year)*

[W.K. Kellogg Foundation](#) - provides grants to nonprofit organizations in the U.S. and internationally that support communities as they create conditions that propel children to achieve success as individuals and as contributors to the larger society. The Foundation is committed to helping to strengthen the following four dimensions of community life: Family Income and Assets; Education and Learning; Food, Health, and Well-Being; and Family and Economic Security. Key approaches to working in communities are efforts to promote racial equity, as well as civic and philanthropic engagement. The Foundation's geographic priority areas in the U.S. include Michigan, Mississippi, and New Mexico; however, promising programs throughout the United States are also supported. International grants, which have distinct funding priorities, are currently concentrated in selected regions of Latin America and the Caribbean. Requests for both national and international grants are reviewed throughout the year. Online application information is available on the Foundation's website.

Instrument Donations for Music Programs Nationwide *(Applications accepted throughout year)*

[Fender Music Foundation](#)

The mission of the Fender Music Foundation, formerly the Guitar Center Music Foundation, is to support nonprofit music programs across America that offer instruction so that more people can experience the joys of making music. The Foundation accepts grant applications from music academies, schools, local music programs, and national music programs throughout the country that teach people of any age who would not otherwise have the opportunity to make music. Almost all of the grants provided are comprised of traditional instruments and the equipment necessary to play them. Online applications may be submitted at any time and are reviewed three times per year. Visit the Foundation's website to access program guidelines and the online grant application form.

Grants Promote Environmental Conservation Programs *(Applications accepted throughout year)*

[Wallace Genetic Foundation](#) - provides grants to nonprofit organizations nationwide that believe in the long-term conservation of the soil and of the environment, rather than exploitation of natural resources for temporary profits. Specific areas of interest include: sustainable agriculture, protection of farmland near cities, plant genetic research, biodiversity protection, and environmental education and media. Requests may be submitted throughout the year. Application guidelines and forms are available on the Foundation's website.

Grants Enhance Comprehensive Capital Campaigns *(Applications accepted throughout year)*

[Kresge Foundation: Capital Challenge Grant Program](#) - supports communities in the United States and around the world by strengthening the nonprofit organizations that serve them. The Foundation's six major areas of interest are health, environment, arts and culture, education, human services, and community development. Through the Capital Challenge Grant Program, the Foundation supports nonprofit organizations that are engaged in comprehensive campaigns designed to support institutional growth through the construction of new facilities as well as the acquisition or renovation of existing facilities, the purchase of real property, and the purchase of major integrated equipment systems. Because environmental conservation is one of the Foundation's values, challenge grant applicants are encouraged to consider green construction issues. The Foundation accepts online letters of intent for this program throughout the year. Visit the website listed above to review the Capital Challenge Grant Program guidelines.

Fire Control Projects Supported Worldwide *(Applications accepted throughout year)*

[FM Global Fire Prevention Grant Program](#) - supports a wide array of fire prevention, preparedness, and control efforts throughout the U.S. and internationally. Funded projects include pre-fire planning for commercial, industrial, and institutional facilities; fire and arson prevention and investigation; and fire prevention education and training programs. Fire departments and brigades, as well as national, state, regional, local, and community organizations are eligible to apply. Requests may be submitted at any time and are reviewed quarterly. Visit the website listed above to review the frequently asked questions and request a grant application.

Grants Target Rural Communities *(Applications accepted throughout year)*

[Pioneer Hi-Bred International: Community Investment Program](#) – supports efforts to improve the quality of life in the communities where the company's customers and employees live and work. The company focuses its grant making in the following areas: education, with an emphasis on science; agriculture; and farm safety. Priority is given to nonprofit organizations located in Pioneer facility communities or rural agricultural regions. Organizations with active Pioneer management/employee participation receive priority consideration. Requests may be submitted at any time and are reviewed quarterly. Visit the website listed above to learn more about the program; click on [U.S. Grant Guidelines](#) to access the grant application.

Community Watershed Protection Projects Funded *(Applications accepted throughout year)*

[RBC Blue Water Project: Community Action Grants](#) - The RBC Blue Water Project, an initiative of the Royal Bank of Canada (RBC), will provide \$50 million in grants through 2017 to support programs that foster a culture of water stewardship. The initiative's funding focus is Watershed Protection and Access to Safe Drinking Water. Launched in 2008, the RBC Blue Water Project Community Action Grants are provided to local grassroots organizations in Canada, the United States, and the Caribbean for projects devoted to informing, educating, and mobilizing people about watershed protection at the community level. Requests for grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000 may be submitted throughout the year. Visit the Blue Water Project's website listed above for more information.

Support for Community Collaborations Promoting Pet Adoptions *(Applications accepted throughout year)*

[Maddie's Fund](#) - The goal of Maddie's Fund is to help build a no-kill nation where all healthy and treatable shelter dogs and cats find loving new homes. Through the Fund's Community Collaborative

Project Grants, support is provided to community-wide collaborations of adoption guarantee organizations, animal control and traditional shelters, and private practice veterinarians working together to provide adoptions for all their treatable shelter dogs and cats within ten years. In order to prepare communities to be eligible for a Community Collaborative Project Grant, Maddie's Fund also provides Starter Grants, which offer support for the development of the various components of community collaborations. Applications for these grants, as well as several other programs offered by the Fund, are accepted throughout the year. Details on each of the Fund's distinct grant programs are available on the website listed above.

Early Child Care Programs Funded *(Applications accepted throughout year)*

[Rosie's For All Kids Foundation](#) - awards grants to nonprofit organizations dedicated to helping disadvantaged children and low-income families. The majority of the Foundation's grants are made through the Early Childhood Care and Education program. Priority is given to experienced, community-based programs serving children in low-income areas where many families struggle to find affordable, high-quality early education and care. Types of support include tuition subsidies; small renovations, supplies, and equipment upgrades; playground construction; and staff development opportunities. Grants typically range from \$5,000 to \$15,000. Letters of intent may be submitted throughout the year. Visit the website listed above to take the online eligibility quiz and submit an online application.

Small Grants Assist Domestic Violence Survivors *(Applications accepted throughout year)*

[Allstate Foundation Education and Job Training Fund](#) - established by the Foundation in partnership with National Network to End Domestic Violence, provides small grants to survivors of domestic violence to help them achieve their educational and job related goals. Eligible expenses include books and tuition for school, job skills training, temporary child care, public transportation, etc. Any survivor of domestic violence is eligible to apply; however, the application must be completed by a local domestic violence program or coalition to be accepted. Applications may be submitted at any time. Details about the program are available on the National Network to End Domestic Violence website.

Grants Promote Land Protection *(Applications accepted throughout year)*

[Norcross Wildlife Foundation](#)

The Norcross Wildlife Foundation provides support to local grassroots organizations throughout the United States that work to protect wild land. Priority is given to organizations that have difficulty raising the modest funds they need to do their critical work in the trenches of environmental conservation. Grants averaging \$5,000 are primarily provided for program-related office and field equipment, and public education and outreach materials. The Foundation also provides no-interest loans to local organizations to help them acquire land they have prioritized for conservation. Applications for both grants and loans may be submitted at any time. Visit the Foundation's website to review the application guidelines.

Grants Enhance Health and Wellness in Company Communities *(Applications accepted throughout year)*

[Walgreens Corporate Contribution Program](#)

The Walgreens Corporate Contribution Program supports nonprofit organizations in local Walgreens communities throughout the United States. (Walgreens stores are located in 49 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.) The company provides grants to organizations that focus on the following issues: access to health and wellness in their communities, pharmacy education programs and mentoring initiatives, civic and community outreach, and emergency and disaster relief. The largest share of the company's annual grants budget is allocated to programs that address the health needs of community residents. Online applications may be submitted throughout the year. Visit the Walgreens website to download the contribution guidelines.

Water/Wastewater Funding Programs *(Applications accepted throughout year)*

USDA Rural Development provides a number of community facility and water/wastewater funding programs for eligible applicants including public bodies, non-profits, and Indian Tribes in rural Minnesota. If you have a project in mind, we encourage you to file an application at your local USDA Rural Development office to begin the application process.

Roger Clapp - Area Specialist
Baxter Office - 7118 Clearwater Road, Baxter, MN 56425
218-829-5965, ext. 155
roger.clapp@mn.usda.gov

Kathy Luepke - Area Specialist
Bemidji Office - 3217 Bemidji Avenue North, Bemidji, MN 56601
218-751-2689, ext. 152
kathy.luepke@mn.usda.gov

Rural Development has invested about \$418 million since 2001 through its Water/Environmental and Community Facility Programs to upgrade water, sewer, storm water systems and essential community facility projects throughout Minnesota. Rural Development accepts applications for these programs at any time and is asking all rural communities, non-profits and Indian Tribes with potential projects to get in touch with their local Rural Development office for more information.

For further information on these funding programs, please visit the Minnesota Rural Development web site at www.rurdev.usda.gov/mn. Once you are at the web site, click on the community programs banner for information on water/wastewater or community facilities programs. You can also learn about opportunities for housing and business programs at this site.

Resources

Pew Charitable Trust's Report on the Green Economy in Minnesota

Minnesota has a large and growing piece of America's clean energy economy. Growth of jobs in the clean energy economic sector significantly outpaced that of total jobs between 1998 and 2007. [Read more...](#)

Center for Rural Policy & Development

This is a great website that you can go to see how your community or area compares to others around the state. Easy to use, comprehensive and have comparative data on over 100 indicators. www.ruralmn.org and click on "Atlas Online".

Small Towns, Big Ideas

The School of Government at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has just released a new publication, "Small Towns, Big Ideas: Case Studies in Small Town Community Economic Development" online at <http://www.sog.unc.edu/programs/cednc/stbi/>. The website includes a searchable database of case studies on small town community and economic development. This is a valuable resource for small town leaders across the country. Go to the website and check out this great resource!

25th Anniversary Minnesota Community Pride Competition this summer!

All communities recognized and winners to be announced at the 2009 Minnesota State Fair!

Contest Begins: June 2, 2009 Entry Deadline: July 17, 2009

Enter at: <http://www.ReinventingMinnesota.org>

Why enter the Minnesota Community Pride contest?

1. To spotlight the good things happening in your community. (Hey ya get to be recognized at the State

Fair, for gosh sakes!)

2. Because you can inspire others.
3. Connecting people and ingenuity helps us all thrive.

Minnesota Community Pride is part of the Reinventing Minnesota initiative, to identify communities statewide for their efforts to move beyond the current economic crisis with creative and proactive community and economic development initiatives, and to share those best practices with their neighbors across the state.

In 1984, during a similar economic crisis, the State of Minnesota with public and private partners began the Minnesota Community Pride program. This year's 25th anniversary contest is co-sponsored by the Minnesota State Fair, MinnPost.com, and Minnesota Rural Partners, Inc.

The competition, which begins June 2, will lift up and publicly recognize the energy and ingenuity of Minnesota's communities in both overall community and economic development achievement, and innovations in specific disciplines, such as education, broadband deployment and application, health care, entrepreneurship support, arts & culture, and public finance and more. [Click here to enter your community and/or project today!](#)

First EPA Grants to Develop Climate Change Showcase Communities - due July 22

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 15, 2009

\$10 Million in First EPA Grants to Develop Climate Change Showcase Communities

WASHINGTON - EPA is announcing the availability of up to \$10 million in first of its kind, "Climate Showcase Communities" grants to local and tribal governments to establish and implement climate change initiatives that will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The agency expects to award approximately 30 cooperative agreements, each one ranging from \$100,000 to \$500,000. Approximately 5 percent of the funds (\$500,000) are set-asides for tribal governments.

"Ending climate change and moving to a sustainable, clean energy future begins on the ground in our communities," said EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson. "We're offering a helping hand to local areas that are leading the way in confronting climate change, and a call to action for anyone concerned about making a difference where they live. We can cut energy costs and reduce harmful emissions at the local level, and build a model for fighting climate change in every community."

EPA requests proposals from local governments, federally-recognized Indian tribal governments, and inter-tribal consortia to create replicable models of sustainable community action, generate cost-effective greenhouse gas reductions, and improve the environmental, economic, public health, and social conditions in a community. A 50 percent cost-share is required for recipients, with the exception of tribal governments and intertribal consortia which are exempt from matching requirements under this grant.

This grant program is administered by EPA's Local Climate and Energy Program, an initiative to assist local and tribal governments to identify, implement, and track policies and programs that reduce greenhouse gas emissions within their operations and surrounding communities. Over the course of the grant program, EPA will offer training and technical support to grant recipients, and share lessons learned with communities across the nation.

Proposals are due by July 22, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. EDT. Grants are expected to be awarded in January 2010.

Additional grant information:

<http://epa.gov/cleanenergy/energy-programs/state-and-local/showcase.html>

Shop Local Campaigns for Small Towns

Shop local and buy local campaigns can significantly impact your hometown economy, but the instructions available online assume you are a big city. That's why I decided to create a step by step guide to starting a shop local campaign in a small town.

It includes solid research that shows whether buy local campaigns actually work. If you have to convince others to back your project, this could make your job easier.

Next it goes through six steps to building a truly effective campaign:

1. Get some help
2. Pick a theme
3. Promote your most powerful benefits
4. Create just the right promotional materials
5. Kick off with events and media coverage
6. Measure Success

Each step is focused on the actions that work the best for small town volunteer efforts. The seventh step shows you 4 ways to multiply the effect of your campaign and get more out of your efforts.

As a bonus, I included a list of reasons to shop local that you can use in your town, and I linked you to two of the best lists available online.

"A must read for small towns."

Jeanne Cole, author of [OkieJ on the Road](#), local chamber of commerce volunteer

If this 12 page booklet sounds like it's a perfect match for what you need, then get started now. The booklet costs \$9, so just about any small town chamber of commerce or merchants association can afford to purchase a copy.

Posted online by Becky McCray 5/25/09.

This newsletter is designed to share funding opportunities, resources, and conferences or training events of common interest for program participants and supporters of the Initiative Foundation. For more information about these and other training opportunities, contact (Dan Frank, dfrank@ifound.org).

If you wish to be removed, update your email address or change your subscription preferences please contact Jolene at jhoward@ifound.org.