

Keynotes for Communities March 2009



INITIATIVE
FOUNDATION

Workshops & Conferences

Government Training Services releases 2009 training schedule:

New to the planning commission or board of adjustment? Long time member eager to keep up with new laws and regulations? Want to gain insight on how to most constructive prepare comments on proposals pending before your city or county's Planning and Zoning departments?

Government Training Services (GTS) is a statewide training organization that focuses on planning and zoning issues. Their "faculty" includes current and past local officials, attorneys, developers, and advocates to provide fact based, court tested, field implemented examples of how to encourage the type of growth you want and learn from others past mistakes.

This year's schedule includes:

- Basics of Planning and Zoning (St. Paul, March 4 and Little Falls, April 8)
- Your Role as Planning Commission Member (Bloomington, March 8)
- Beyond the Basics of Planning and Zoning (St. Paul, April 8 and April 30, Little Falls)
- Your role as Planning Commission Member Videoconference, broadcast to Fergus Falls, Mankato and Duluth, June 4
- A Fresh Look: Rethinking Local Land Use Planning (Hastings, March 10 and Collegetown, April 16)
- Redefining the Development Process: Choosing Collaboration over Contention to protect natural resources and maximize the public value of private development (Hastings, April 2 and Collegetown, May 6)
- Basic Traffic Impacts of Land Use (Andover, April 1 and Little Falls, May 14)
- Home Occupations: A Growing Concern (Little Falls, March 5)
- Your Comprehensive Plan is Done – Now What? (St. Paul, May 20)

For detailed descriptions or registration information visit:

http://www.mnqts.org/LandUse/Land_Use_Workshops_2009.pdf

Recession-Year Financial Leadership will 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](#)).

Wednesday, March 11, Brainerd

Thursday, March 19, Duluth

Tuesday, March 24, North Mankato
Tuesday, March 31, Webinar
Thursday, April 2, St. Paul
Thursday, September 10, St. Paul

MCN members save \$20 on your registration. Not a member? [Join now!](#)

For workshop details including content, pricing, and registration information, visit http://www.mncn.org/event_leadership.htm#recession.

Seventh Annual Symposium on Small Towns

Communities 2050: Building and Livable, Renewable and Responsible Future

June 2-3 – *SAVE THE DATE!*

Please join us June 2-3, 2009 for an action-oriented Symposium focused on rebuilding local economies, educating and motivating our communities, capitalizing on political change, and celebrating rural living. For more information visit: www.centerforsmalltowns.org or download [this flyer](#).

Funding Opportunities

Student Interns Available for Community-Based Research Programs

The University of Minnesota's Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA) considers applications for applied research assistance three times a year. Proposals are due by the following dates for assistance during the time periods indicated:

March 15 (for Summer Semester assistance—early June through August)

June 30 (for Fall Semester assistance—early September to mid-January)

October 30 (for Spring Semester assistance—mid-January through May)

The available programs provide graduate or undergraduate student assistance for applied research projects, program planning and development, program evaluation, and other short-term projects. Student assistantships are generally 10–20 hours per week for three to four months. Please review the application information at <http://www.cura.umn.edu/Programs/ApplicationProcess.php> for more information and online application.

Grants Encourage Traditional American Values

[Castle Rock Foundation](#)

The mission of the Castle Rock Foundation is to promote a better understanding of the free enterprise system, help ensure a limited role for government and the protection of individual rights as provided for in the Constitution, encourage personal responsibility and leadership, and uphold traditional American values. The Foundation provides general operating support and special project grants to nonprofit organizations throughout the United States whose goals and purposes address the mission of the Foundation. The upcoming application deadline is March 15, 2009. Guidelines for submitting proposals are available on the Foundation's website listed above.

Support for Math and Science Education Programs

[HP Innovations in Education](#)

The 2009 HP Innovations in Education grant program provides support to educational institutions in the United States through two initiatives. Grants for Secondary School Districts help eligible districts launch

innovative pilot programs that support the administrators and teachers responsible for student success in math and science in middle schools and/or high schools. HP plans to award approximately 25 grants valued at more than \$270,000 each in HP technology, cash, and professional development to public or qualified private school districts. Grants for Colleges and Universities are targeted at administrators and faculty who are enhancing undergraduate degree programs in engineering, computer science, information systems, and information technology. HP plans to award approximately ten grants valued at more than \$240,000 each in HP technology, cash, and professional development to public or qualified private colleges or universities. The online web-based proposal submission system will open in early March 2009. Proposals must be submitted by 5 p.m. Pacific Time on March 30, 2009. Visit the HP website listed above for detailed program guidelines.

Land Acquisition Projects Supported

[National Fish and Wildlife Foundation: Acres for America](#)

Acres for America, a partnership between Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, was established to provide funding for projects that conserve important habitat for fish, wildlife, and plants through acquisition of interest in real property. The goal of the Acres for America program is to offset the footprint of Wal-Mart's domestic facilities on at least an acre by acre basis through these acquisitions. All grant awards require a minimum 1:1 match of cash or contributed goods and services. Preference will be given to acquisitions that are part of published conservation plans (North American Waterfowl Management Plan, Partners in Flight, etc.), State Wildlife Action Plans, or Endangered Species Act Recovery Plans. Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the [National Fish and Wildlife Foundation regional director](#) in their area to discuss project ideas prior to applying. Pre-proposals are due April 1, 2009; invited full proposals must be submitted by June 1, 2009. Visit the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation website listed above for program details.

Grants Promote Secondary School Newspapers

[Newspaper Association of America Foundation: Student/Newspaper Partnership Grant Program](#)

The Newspaper Association of America Foundation was established to advance informed and intelligent media use by all citizens, especially young people, and to encourage them to value the people's right to know and their right to a free and unfettered press. The Foundation's Student/Newspaper Partnership Grant Program provides support to collaborative proposals between middle and high schools and their local newspapers to start, relaunch, or revitalize student newspapers, whether online or in print. Schools are also encouraged to seek a university or a college as an additional partner. Applications from minority-majority, urban, and rural schools and their local newspapers are of special interest. Each partnership may receive up to \$5,000 in Year One, plus an additional \$2,500 in Year Two. Applications must be submitted by April 15, 2009. Visit the Foundation's website to review the funding guidelines.

Funds for Local Nonprofit Housing Organizations

[Wells Fargo Housing Foundation: Homeownership Grant Program](#)

The Wells Fargo Housing Foundation is committed to increasing homeownership through the development of affordable housing throughout the United States. The Foundation's Homeownership Grant Program supports local nonprofit housing organizations that help create homeownership opportunities for low- to moderate-income families. Grants are provided for the construction or rehab of owner-occupied homes, homebuyer education programs, or subsidies that help struggling families purchase or retain their homes. In addition, support is provided to organizations that help low- to moderate-income homeowners make necessary repairs and upgrades. The next round of online applications will be accepted from March 1 through May 1, 2009. Visit the website listed above for application instructions.

Awards Recognize Programs for Military Families

[Newman's Own Awards](#)

The purpose of the Newman's Own Awards is to recognize volunteer and nonprofit organizations supporting our nation's military families. Eligible organizations must be comprised primarily of volunteers and support Active Duty, National Guard, or Reserve units or installations. Organizations will be evaluated on their innovative plans for improving the quality of life for members of the military and their families. The submission judged to be the most outstanding will receive a \$15,000 grant, with the remaining \$60,000 apportioned to other competing organizations. The application deadline is May 1, 2009. Visit the website listed above to download the application.

The Bowerman Track Renovation Program, administered by Nike's Corporate Responsibility Department, provides matching cash grants to community-based, youth-oriented organizations that seek to refurbish or construct running tracks anywhere in the world. Matching grants of up to \$50,000 are provided to nonprofit organizations, NGOs, government agencies, schools, and school districts.

Requests are reviewed quarterly, and will be accepted on an ongoing basis through May 31, 2009. Application guidelines may be downloaded from:

http://www.nikebiz.com/responsibility/community_programs/bowerman_track_program/

Grants Encourage Teen Driver Safety Program

[Project Ignition](#)

Project Ignition, sponsored by State Farm and coordinated by the National Youth Leadership Council, is a chance for students and teachers to work together to address the issue of teen driver safety. Support is provided for innovative public awareness, service-learning projects based on teen driver safety developed by students, with the support of a teacher or advisor, enrolled in grades 9-12 at U.S. public schools. Twenty-five semi-finalists will receive \$2,000 to help put their plan into action in the fall of 2009. Ten finalists will then receive a stipend of up to \$5,000 for travel to the National Service-Learning Conference. At the conference, the projects will be presented and a panel of judges will select the Best of the Best award, with the winning school or organization receiving a grant of \$10,000. The application deadline is June 30, 2009. Visit the website for online application guidelines.

Grants Promote Active Lifestyles

[Women's Sports Foundation: GoGirlGo! Ambassador Team Awards](#)

The Women's Sports Foundation's GoGirlGo! Ambassador Team Awards recognize high school teams that demonstrate leadership in their communities by inspiring girls to get involved in sports and physical activities. School, amateur, community, and nonprofit affiliated teams whose members are female; enrolled in grades 9-12; and residents of the United States, its territories, or protectorates are eligible to apply. A total of 20 grants of \$2,500 each will be awarded in recognition of the outstanding efforts of teams throughout the country. The first step in the application process is to sign up the team at the GoGirlGo! Ambassador [website](#). Final entry forms must be submitted by July 17, 2009. Complete program guidelines are available on the website listed above.

Programs for Special-Needs Children Funded

[Innovating Worthy Projects Foundation](#)

The mission of the Innovating Worthy Projects Foundation is to provide support for quality special-needs children's programs throughout the United States. The Foundation's focus is on nonprofit organizations dedicated to developing innovative programs, disseminating ideas, or providing direct care or services for children with special needs, acute illnesses, or chronic disabilities. Grant requests of up to \$5,000 are considered. Preference is given to small organizations that might not otherwise be

helped. Requests are accepted from January 1 through August 31 of each year. Visit the Foundation's website for application guidelines.

Programs for People Living with Paralysis Supported

[Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation: Quality of Life Grant Program](#)

The Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation is dedicated to curing spinal cord injury by funding innovative research, and improving the quality of life for people living with paralysis. The Foundation's Quality of Life Grant Program supports nonprofit organizations in the United States that work to improve the daily lives of people living with paralysis, particularly spinal cord injuries. The Foundation provides grants to larger organizations that represent individuals with disabilities on a national level as well as to local groups that have an immediate impact on individual lives. Funding is awarded twice each year to programs in three broad categories: Actively Achieving, Bridging Barriers, and Caring and Coping. The Foundation gives special consideration to organizations that serve returning wounded military and their families, and to those that provide targeted services to diverse cultural communities. The application deadlines are March 1 and October 1, annually. Visit the Foundation's website for detailed funding guidelines.

Funds for PreK-12 Educational Programs

[Qwest Foundation](#)

The Qwest Foundation supports nonprofit organizations located in the communities served by the company in the states of Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. The Foundation's primary initiative, Qwest for Education, focuses on enriching the lives of children by supporting solid preK-12 educational programs. Grants are provided for programs that promote innovative models to strengthen K-12 public school education, effectively use technology, improve skills and leadership of educators and parents, and promote innovative early childhood education programs. Requests may be submitted at any time. The application guidelines and forms are available on the Qwest website listed above.

Travel Grants for Native Artists

[New England Foundation for the Arts: National Native Artist Exchange](#)

The National Native Artist Exchange, a program of the New England Foundation for the Arts, provides travel grants for Native artists residing in any of the 50 United States to visit different regions of the country so that they may exchange artistic knowledge and skills. This fund is designed to assist American Indian, Alaskan Native, and Native Hawaiian artists, and provides an opportunity for Native artists to teach, learn, and collaborate in traditional and/or contemporary Native art forms through travel from one region to another across the nation. Travel grants of up to \$1,500 will be awarded based on budgets appropriate to the scope of travel. Requests must be received no later than two calendar months prior to the departure date of the proposed trip. Visit the website listed above to review the program guidelines.

Nationwide Support for Health Care Issues

[Robert Wood Johnson Foundation](#)

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation focuses on the pressing health and health care issues facing our country. As the nation's largest philanthropy devoted exclusively to improving the health and health care of all Americans, the Foundation works with a diverse group of organizations and individuals to identify solutions and achieve comprehensive, meaningful, and timely change. The Foundation awards grants for projects in the United States and U.S. territories through Calls for Proposals that target specific health issues as well as by funding unsolicited proposals that address the Foundation's Building Human Capital, Pioneer, and Vulnerable Populations program areas. The Building Human

Capital program area focuses on assuring that the nation has a well-trained workforce in health care. The Pioneer program area supports innovative ideas that may have far-reaching impact on people's health care. The emphasis of the Vulnerable Populations program area is the critical connections between health and social circumstances. Unsolicited proposals are reviewed throughout the year; Calls for Proposals have specific deadlines. Visit the website listed above for a list of current Calls for Proposals and detailed information on submitting unsolicited proposals.

Resources

Micro-Energy and Conservation Home Improvement Loans.

This month \$10 million became available through 2008 state legislation to homeowners (whose annual income is under \$93,100) for energy conservation and solar, wind and other renewable energy project loans to help cut energy costs. Loans of up to \$35,000, for terms of up to 20 years, will be made by the Fix-Up Fund, a statewide program that offers low-interest loans through Minnesota Housing Agency's large network of lending partners across the state, listed at

<http://www.mnhousing.gov/consumers/lender/>

For more information visit: <http://tinyurl.com/4ktdd6>.

Massachusetts towns finding ways to save by sharing

By Rachel Lebeaux

Boston Globe Correspondent / January 29, 2009

Franklin plans to start sharing recreation resources with neighboring Medway this spring, an attempt at regionalization that officials hope will serve as a model for future collaborations.

The Franklin Recreation Department intends to run at least two of its most popular programs in Medway starting in the spring. Flag football will be offered for boys and girls ages 6 to 14, as well as six weeklong summer program sessions at Choate Park, said Sean Murphy, chairman of Medway's Parks Commission.

"It's finally coming to fruition," Murphy said, noting that he and the director of Franklin's Recreation Department, Ryan Jette, have been discussing such a collaboration for quite some time.

The effort is an example of how communities, spurred by the tight economy, are seeking to save money and maintain services by regionalizing activities.

Selectmen in Sudbury and Wayland have met recently to discuss additional opportunities for regionalization, especially in the areas of recreation, transfer stations for solid waste, developing clean energy sources, and library services, said Sudbury Town Manager Maureen Valente. The towns have a framework for cooperation in the sewage-treatment facility they have shared over the past two decades.

Officials in the two towns are trying to determine whether existing resources could work better in tandem. For instance, "could the two libraries coordinate hours for the maximum number of hours available" to patrons, Valente said. In addition, a Sudbury budget review task force last month recommended that the town consider consolidating its K-8 school system and Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School under a single superintendent, Valente said.

"We're looking at being able to provide the same level of service with fewer resources, and seeing if there are ways to break through some of the barriers separating towns," she said.

In Medway, meanwhile, selectmen enthusiastically endorsed the recreation proposal last week and instructed officials to draw up an intermunicipal agreement. They also encouraged Medway Town Administrator Suzanne Kennedy and Franklin Town Administrator Jeffrey Nutting to meet with officials in other area communities to examine additional resource-sharing opportunities.

"We've been looking for quite some time to find ways to regionalize services and work with other towns," said Glenn Trindade, chairman of Medway's Board of Selectmen. "The financial crisis, on one hand, is a nightmare, because of the cuts it's going to force on us, but it's also going to drive more of this - and this is the right way to go."

"Not only will we will able to bring Medway adolescents a full range of services and recreation options, but I think it will serve as precursor to regionalization efforts we can look at, both with Franklin and other communities," Kennedy said.

Medway has already taken "baby steps" toward regionalization: the town shares a dog officer with Millis and is discussing sharing a conservation agent with other towns, Trindade said.

Medway does not operate its own recreation department, although there are not-for-profit athletic and adult education programs in town. Franklin's offerings are not intended to supplant these programs, but to enhance the options available to residents, Kennedy said. "We are really excited about this," she said. "Medway has a paucity of resources, and we are going to hook up with a very well-managed and well-run recreation program sponsored by Franklin."

The move is not expected to cost taxpayers in either town. Jette, Franklin's recreation chief, said his department's funding each year is based on the expectation that the money will be repaid to the town's coffers through user fees. Last year, the town allocated his department \$405,000, Jette said.

Running programs in Medway and accepting Medway children into Franklin programs will provide a boost in user fees without increasing his department's expenses, Jette said.

"We can collect fees to pay for our expenses, and at the same time allow Medway kids into Franklin programs if they're not sold out to get greater participation," Nutting said.

"There are no tax dollars involved, and if we can bring in a few thousand dollars in extra fees to help our overhead, it seems like a win-win."

Many of the programs that sell out in Franklin will offer additional sessions in Medway, and residents of both communities can sign up for programs in the other town, Jette said. Franklin already has an online registration system that Medway residents can use. ■

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 from this mailing list or if you have other names/e-mails to add please contact Leah Posterick, lposterick@ifound.org.