

News You Can Use for Communities June 2008



INITIATIVE
FOUNDATION

Running for Public Office Workshop

8:30 am – 3:45 pm

Thursday, July 31st, 2008

Initiative Foundation office, Little Falls

Are you thinking about or planning on running for public office this coming fall? If so, please join us for our Running for Public Office workshop. Independent candidates as well as those from all political parties and levels of office are invited to attend this nonpartisan event. Presentation topics will range from grassroots campaigning and public speaking to media relations, legal reporting & servant leadership.

Cost is \$40 per person, \$30 for foundation program participants (lunch included).
Registration deadline: July 25, 2008.

> [Registration Form](#)

> [Driving Directions](#)

Questions? Contact Dan at dfrank@ifound.org, 1-877-632-9255.

Conference Scholarships Available

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota (Blue Cross) is offering a limited number of scholarships for Minnesota-based professionals or citizen volunteers/advocates to support attendance at Pro-Walk/Pro-Bike 2008 in Seattle, Wash., on September 2-4, 2008.

The scholarships will be given to a diverse group of participants that are geographically distributed across the state and represent varied disciplines. Pro-Walk/Pro-Bike is a biennial conference hosted by the National Center for Bicycling and Walking. The event brings together land-use planners, safe routes to school coordinators, grassroots advocates, transportation experts, elected officials, public health officials, and many more working to create safe places to bike and walk in their communities. The conference provides a diverse look at projects happening all across the country and shares useful tools that communities can use back home.

To learn more about the conference please visit:
<http://www.bikewalk.org/2008conference/index.html>.

Through its contract with the conference host, Blue Cross will cover the cost of one conference registration and a single-occupancy hotel room for up to three nights (September 2, 3, 4, 2008) – an estimated total value of \$1,100 – for each participant. Selected participants are expected to cover their airfare, meals, all incidentals, and travel to and from the airport. Organizations participating within Active Living Minnesota funded partnerships (as listed in the original ALM proposal) are not eligible for this scholarship opportunity. The attached application is due **July 9**, and **may only be submitted electronically**. All submissions and questions about this opportunity should

be directed to Menaka Mohan at Menaka_Mohan@bluecrossmn.com. Selected participants will be notified by July 16.

2009 Technical Assistance SCDP Sessions

The Small Cities Development Program staff will be holding technical assistance workshops in the month of July. This invitation reaches out to representatives from cities, counties, townships, housing authorities, community action agencies, consultants, along with other housing/economic providers around the state. The principal focus of these sessions is to provide answers to questions applicants might have when completing an application for 2009 funding. SCDP staff will be addressing questions within the pre/short/full application packet such as new changes, activity requirements, administrative capacity, and submission dates.

Please contact Gloria Stiehl via email @ Gloria.stiehl@state.mn.us to make reservations. If you have any questions regarding the sessions listed below, please call Gloria Stiehl directly @ 651-259-7462.

Date	City	Location Information and Directions	Start – End Time
July 23, 2008	Little Falls	Country Suites By Carlson 209 16 th Street NE Little Falls, MN 56345 http://www.countryinns.com/littlefallsmn	12:30 – 3:30
July 24, 2008	Detroit Lakes	Holiday Inn Detroit Lakes (Lakeside) Hwy 10 East Detroit Lakes, MN 56501 http://www.ichotelsgroup.com/h/d/hi/1/en/hotel/dtlmn?&firstpoint=dcb1&cm_mmc=mdpr- -GoogleMaps- -hi- -dtlmn	8:30 to 11:30

Seminar on Masterful Facilitation of Excellent Meeting and Effective Groups

Work with national experts in the areas of facilitation and group management skills. Facilitate with ease, transform a difficult group and gain skill and confidence in working with others! Seminars will be July 23, Brainerd; July 24, St. Cloud; and July 25, Willmar. The cost is \$75 with a \$10 registration discount provided for non-profit organizations for St. Cloud participants by Bremer Banks. For more seminar information, please view at www.communitygiving.org and click on the line: Register for an Event.

Follow the Dollars St. Cloud

In the 2009 Legislative Session, the Minnesota Legislature will pass the state's biennial budget, which funds everything from environmental protection to public safety to health care. But the process for crafting that budget begins in the summer of 2008 – be ready! In this workshop, you will gain an understanding of: the basics of the Minnesota state budget; the timeline for the state's budget process; how the Governor's budget proposal

is developed; how the budget travels through the Legislature; and opportunities for input and advocacy in the budget process. The workshop is August 14th from 9:30 to noon at the Stearns History Museum. Free to members of the St. Cloud Area Human Services Council and \$10 for nonmembers. For registration information, please contact Betty Schnettler, United Way of Central Minnesota, 320-229-3507.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The Mutual Service Cooperative Fund

The fund supports programs that enhance the quality of life for seniors living in rural America. Grants of \$500 to \$100,000 have been awarded. The application deadline is July 25. For more information, visit http://www.cdf.coop/msc_fund/index.htm.

Canine Service Programs

The goal of the [Planet Dog Foundation](#) is to fund effective initiatives that bring people and pets together for mutual benefit. The Foundation currently supports nonprofit organizations nationwide that provide service-oriented canine programs, with the majority of grants provided to organizations with budgets under \$1,000,000. Funded programs can focus on service and therapy dogs; search and rescue dogs; police, fire, and military dogs; or other innovative canine service projects. Grants of up to \$10,000 are awarded two times per year. Letters of intent for the fall funding cycle must be received by August 1, 2008. Application guidelines can be downloaded from the website listed above

Financial Markets Literacy

[Nasdaq Stock Market Educational Foundation](#) promotes learning about capital formation, financial markets, and entrepreneurship through innovative educational programs. Through the Educational Projects or Programs grant category, the Foundation supports classroom and extracurricular financial markets literacy programs at the high school, college, and university levels. Programs targeting teacher training and professional development for adults are also eligible for support. In addition to the Educational Projects or Programs category, grants are provided for research, fellowships, and curriculum development at the university level. The next application deadline for letters of inquiry is August 1, 2008. Application guidelines are available on the Foundation's website listed above.

Environment and Arts & Culture

In 2007 over \$4 million was contributed to non-profit organizations across Xcel Energy's service territory. Letters of Intent are accepted for **Environment on August 8, 2008 and Arts & Culture on August 8, 2008**. The Environmental grants focus on environmental

education and partnership projects. Grants range up to \$30,000. For more information go to: <http://www.xcelenergy.com>

Healthcare/Arts Collaborations in the U.S. and Canada

[Johnson & Johnson/Society for the Arts in Healthcare Partnership to Promote Arts and Healing](#) The Society for the Arts in Healthcare (SAH) promotes the use of the arts to enhance the healthcare experience for patients, their families, and caregivers. The Johnson & Johnson/SAH Partnership to Promote Arts and Healing provides grants averaging \$75,000 over three years to collaborations of healthcare organizations and arts agencies in the U.S. and Canada that have established models of high quality healthcare through the use of arts. Funded programs must have been in existence for a minimum of three years and have demonstrated a high potential for replication. Programs may be located in a variety of settings, including clinics, hospitals, hospices, medical schools, and public health services. At least one member of the partnership must be a current member of SAH. The deadline for letters of inquiry is August 8, 2008. Visit the SAH website for program details and application guidelines.

Foot Trails

[American Hiking Society: National Trails Fund](#), sponsored by the American Hiking Society, provides support to grassroots nonprofit organizations working toward establishing, protecting, and maintaining foot trails in America. Grants help give local organizations the resources they need to secure access, volunteers, tools, and materials to protect America's public trails. Support is provided for projects that increase trail lands, including the cost associated with the acquisition of trails, trail corridors, and conservation easements. In addition, projects that will result in visible and substantial ease of access, improved hiker safety, and/or avoidance of environmental damage are considered. Higher preference is often given to projects with volunteer labor. The application deadline is August 15, 2008. Visit the American Hiking Society website to download the grant guidelines and submit an online application.

Bereavement Programs for Youth

[A Little HOPE](#) - the National Foundation for Grieving Children, Teens, and Families, provides grants to nonprofit organizations nationwide that provide services to children and teens who have experienced the loss of a parent or loved one. A Little HOPE funds bereavement programs and camps that provide grieving youth opportunities for sharing and self-expression in healthy and positive ways. The focus is on grief counseling and peer support groups that offer a wide variety of activities using art, writing, music, and physical play to help children and teens cope with the loss of a family member. In addition, support is provided to efforts that develop the confidence and skills needed in order to experience future success, in spite of the loss of their loved one. Letters of inquiry will be accepted in the months of July and August and are due by August 31, 2008. Visit the website listed above for more information.

Protection of Local Habitats

[Patagonia Environmental Grant Program](#) provides support to small, grassroots activist organizations with provocative direct-action agendas, working on multi-pronged campaigns to protect the environment. Patagonia primarily 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 for program details and application information.

Grassroots Support for Women's and Children's Programs

[WHO Foundation: Women Helping Others](#) The 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 funding for critical health 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, annually. Visit the website listed above to download the Foundation's application form.

Alleviate Hunger, Prevent Disease and Youth Programs

The Burger King Foundation provides support to nonprofit organizations that have long-term positive impact on the U.S. communities served by the company. The Foundation focuses the majority of its support on organizations that alleviate hunger, prevent disease, and provide youth programs. Additionally, the Foundation funds the BURGER KING Scholars Program, and, on a limited basis, supports the efforts of nonprofit institutions that seek to improve scholastic opportunities. **The deadline is September 15.** For more information, go to <http://www.bk.com/companyinfo/community/hiwffoundation.aspx>

Housing Impact

The Home Depot has funding available in its Housing Impact Grants Program. Grants range between \$500 and \$3,000 each. The program supports affordable housing projects built or preserved with environmentally friendly, efficient, and durable materials that increase energy and water efficiency, improve indoor air quality, and reduce

maintenance costs. **The deadlines are September 15 and December 15.** For more information, visit <http://corporate.homedepot.com/wps/portal>

Capital Challenge Grant Program

The Kresge Foundation accepts letters of intent year-round in the Capital Challenge Grant Program. The Foundation's six major areas of interest are health, environment, arts and culture, education, human services, and community development. Through, the Foundation supports organizations' immediate capital needs, such as building construction or renovation, the purchase of real estate, and the purchase of major equipment. Grants are awarded on a challenge basis, usually one-third to one-fifth of the amount an organization has to raise to complete its campaign goal. **There are no deadlines for online letters of intent.** Visit <http://www.kresge.org> for more information.

Community Grant Program

The Wal-Mart Community Grant Program allows local nonprofit organizations, such as schools, youth programs, fire departments, and libraries, to hold fundraisers at their local Wal-Mart or SAM'S CLUB. Through the Matching Grant Program, the store/club can elect to match a portion of the funds raised up to \$1,000. Events held off the premises are also eligible for funding when a company associate is actively involved. Additionally, once each Wal-Mart or SAM'S CLUB has met certain criteria in the Matching Grant Program each year, a second source of funding is awarded to the store/club to use in the community. These funds do not require a fundraiser to be held, instead the funds can be awarded directly to deserving organizations. To learn more about the program visit the website at: <http://walmartstores.com/CommunityGiving/> or contact the Community Involvement Coordinator at the local Wal-Mart or SAM'S CLUB.

Affordable Housing

The U.S. Bancorp Foundation has grants of \$5,000 and up for organizations that provide affordable housing, encourage self-sufficiency, and assist economic development. Applications are accepted throughout the year. For more information go to: http://www.usbank.com/cgi_w/cfm/about/community_relations/grant_guidelines.cfm

Enhance Music Education

[Guitar Center Music Foundation](#) – the mission 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 that teach people of any age who would not otherwise have the opportunity to make music. Online applications may be submitted at any time and are reviewed three times per year. Visit the website

listed above to review program restrictions and to access the online grant application form.

Social Responsibility Program

[FedEx Social Responsibility Program](#) is to support the communities the company serves, including international locations, through financial contributions, in-kind shipping services, and volunteer services of employees. The company's core giving areas include: Emergency and Disaster Relief, Pedestrian and Child Safety, Education, and Health and Human Services. FedEx is especially interested in supporting organizations that request 5% or less of the total project budget, contingency grants, or seed monies with the thought that other sources will contribute matching amounts. The company also weighs the involvement of employees in groups that seek financial support. U.S. nonprofit organizations may submit requests through the company's website throughout the year. International organizations must submit requests via mail. Visit the website listed above for complete contribution guidelines.

Seed Money for Fire Control Efforts Worldwide

[FM Global Fire Prevention Grant Program](#) offers seed money to fire departments and related international, national, state, regional, and local organizations for a wide array of fire prevention, preparedness, and control efforts. Grants of up to \$5,000 are available for pre-fire planning for commercial, industrial, and institutional facilities; fire and arson prevention and investigation; and fire prevention education and training programs. Examples of funded projects include: preventive juvenile firesetter programs, continuing education courses, digital and specialized cameras, and community outreach initiatives and workshops. Requests may be submitted throughout the year and are reviewed quarterly. Visit the website above for additional information.

Rural Feasibility Studies

AgStar Fund for Rural America is now offering grants up to \$5,000 for feasibility studies resulting in economic development for rural areas. These funds are designed to provide funding to determine the feasibility of a project or to plan for a project located in rural areas of AgStar's service area.

Projects eligible for funding will need to meet an economic development or sustainability objective and, if implemented, will create new permanent jobs that result in the economic development of a rural area.

The AgStar Fund for Rural America was created to demonstrate our support for agriculture and the rural communities within our service area. The trustees established the fund's mission as "Committed to enhancing the quality of life and future opportunities for rural residents and their communities." This special program underscores AgStar's

dedication to rural communities and helps address one of the issues facing rural America.

Through this grant program and the other programs of the AgStar Fund, we are helping to ensure a strong future in rural America.

More details on the [Rural Feasibility Study Grant Program](#). For questions, contact Jody Bloemke via email at jody.bloemke@agstar.com or call 507-345-5656.

Community Conservation Assistance Grant Program

DNR's Metro Greenways Program is pleased to announce its new Community Conservation Assistance grant program to help local governments with what is called GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE. Green Infrastructure is a way of planning for and implementing conservation and development projects that adopts a 'bigger picture' systemic and proactive approach. It helps communities visualize remaining natural areas as an interconnected green network rather than as patches of open space isolated by development. In this context, DNR's new Community Conservation Assistance program is especially interested in supporting efforts by local units of government that seek to resolve the challenges associated with the conservation of remaining natural habitats in the face of projected increases in population, households, and impervious surfaces. Eligible applicants for the grant program include cities, townships, and counties, soil/water conservation districts, and watershed districts/management organizations in the 12-county region (7-county metro core and **Chisago, Isanti, Sherburne, Wright, and Goodhue counties**). For further information on evaluation criteria, examples of fundable projects, and the application/budget forms, please visit <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/index.html>.

Assistance for Economically Distressed Communities

The U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration has \$249 million available to assist economically distressed communities. The funds are designed to promote comprehensive, entrepreneurial and innovation-based economic development efforts to enhance the competitiveness of regions experiencing substantial and persistent economic distress. Proposals are evaluated as submitted and funds will be awarded until exhausted. The full announcement is available at http://www.eda.gov/ImageCache/EDAPublic/documents/pdfdocs2008/fy08edapffofinal_2epdf/v1/fy08edapffofinal.pdf or contact Jamie Lipsey, 202-482-3467 jlipsey@eda.doc.gov .

Profile of America's Children Available Online

[KIDS COUNT 2008 Data Book](#)

The Annie E. Casey Foundation's 19th annual *KIDS COUNT* Data Book is a national

and state-by-state profile of the well-being of America's children that provides data on the economic, health, education, and social conditions of America's children and families. Information from the Data Book is now available in an easy-to-use online database, which allows users to generate custom graphs, maps, ranked lists, and state-by-state profiles, or download the entire data set as delimited text files. Visit the website listed above to review the *Data Book* online.

A series of articles of articles and presentations on the foreclosure crisis in Minnesota.

http://www.gmhf.com/programs/fpp/summitII_resources.htm

"The Power of Technological Innovation in Rural America" is available at

<http://www.KansasCityFed.org/SpeechBio/RegionalSpeeches.htm?ealert=SPCH0418>