

News You Can Use for Communities May 2008

Initiative Foundation Grant Research & Writing Workshop June 19, 2008

Two half-day sessions: 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. OR 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

This is a valuable opportunity to hear professional writers and reviewers present techniques for researching funders and creating effective grant proposals.

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 will include:

- reviewing your expectations
- types of funding
- funders and funding research
- developing the grant proposal
- goals, objectives & evaluation
- the budget
- submitting the proposal

Register early: seating is limited and this event nearly always fills up!

To register contact Jolene Howard at jhoward@ifound.org, (877) 632-9255.

A \$40 program fee includes refreshments and program materials. Confirmation will be sent by e-mail; checks will be returned if the workshop is sold out.

Minnesotans Can Help Shape the Future of the State's Environment

Should Minnesota improve the water quality of our lakes and rivers? Promote alternative energy strategies that increase environmental quality? Improve community planning to protect natural resources? Integrate conservation goals with transportation goals? These are just a few recommendations contained in the Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan.

Learn more and let your voice be heard at a series of public forums sponsored across the state by the University of Minnesota's Institute on the Environment as it gathers public input on this groundbreaking effort funded by the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund.

Our expert teams have developed a great set of draft recommendations, based on what we know about Minnesota's natural resources" said project director Deb Swackhamer. "Now we'd like to share our results with the public and invite feedback to help us improve them, so they can be put to use to conserve and protect our natural resources."

For more information on the Minnesota Statewide Conservation and Preservation Plan or to provide input online, go to www.mnconservationplan.net. To reserve your spot at a forum, contact Jean Coleman, event coordinator (jcoleman@crplanning.com or 612-588-4904), with the date and location of the forum you plan to attend.

Forum dates and locations:

Thursday, May 29, 5-8 pm

Continuing Education and Conference Center University of Minnesota 1890 Buford Avenue St. Paul, MN 55108 Directions (parking in the lot adjacent to the CECC will be free to participants)

Thursday, June 5, 5-8 pm

Best Western North Mankato
111 Range Street
Mankato, MN 56003-2214

**2008 Minnesota KIDS COUNT Data Book Released;
Chronicles Costly Rise in State's Child Poverty
*"KIDS COUNT Coffees" Being Set Across the State***

Children's Defense Fund Minnesota has released the 2008 KIDS COUNT Data Book and is currently setting a schedule of Meetings, known as "KIDS COUNT Coffees," in communities across the state to let people know how children in each of Minnesota's 87 counties are faring.

This year's Data Book finds that there are 152,000 Minnesota children living in poverty - the highest level of the decade - costing the state an estimated \$5.7 billion each year. The costly problem diminishes the state's long-term productivity and economic output, and increases the public cost of health care and crime across the state, according to the report.

To download the entire KIDS COUNT Data book, go to www.cdf-mn.org.

KIDS COUNT Coffees Being Set

Each year, CDF Minnesota holds dozens of KIDS COUNT Coffees in communities across the state to allow people to hear how children in their area and across the state are doing. The first several meetings in May and June have been set and many more will be added in the coming weeks and months.

Here is the current schedule of events with more to be added soon.

St. Paul: Thursday, May 29 at 1:30 p.m.

Rondo Community Outreach Library
461 N. Dale St.

Willmar: Thursday, June 5th at 1:30 p.m.

Willmar Public Library
410 5th St SW

For more information on the KIDS COUNT Coffees, go to www.cdf-mn.org.

2008 Symposium on Small Towns: *Powering Small Towns*

Whereas, the previous symposiums viewed small towns in light of the past, present, and future, the 2008 Symposium on Small Towns will focus on "The Power of Small: Building Solutions for Energy Self-Reliance." Topics include "Measuring your Carbon Footprint," "Local Foods 101," and "What is Community-Based Energy?" Peter Hutchinson, Bush Foundation president, will give

the keynote address. The sixth annual symposium will take place June 3 and 4 on the Morris campus. Early-bird registration is \$65; after May 17, the price is \$80 (10 percent discount for MPR members). Space is limited. To register or learn more, visit:

<http://www.morris.umn.edu/services/cst/symposium/2008/index.php>

Live Online Event

Green Communities: Indoor and Outdoor Water Conservation

Tuesday, June 3, 2008

90 minutes beginning 2:00 PM EDT / 11:00 AM PDT

Numerous cost-effective strategies and technologies exist to improve water efficiency of interior fixtures and fittings, re-use water for plumbing applications and landscaping, and manage stormwater on-site. And in the affordable housing sector, this can also mean significant cost savings for residents in the form of lower water and sewer bills. This presentation will include a high-level overview of water as a critical resource and how green building strategies are one way to address the issue of water conservation. Participants will also learn practical strategies for indoor and outdoor water efficiency, illustrated through case studies of affordable housing projects.

Registration takes place 20 minutes prior to the event. A detailed description of this event and information on how to participate can be found at <http://webinars.enterprisecommunity.org/>

Shoreland Planting

This workshop provides hands-on experience on how to install a shoreland buffer, including site preparation, planting and maintenance.

Location: Menahga, MN

Date: June 4, 8:30 am - 3:00 pm

For more information or to register contact: Kari Tomperi, 218-631-3195, Kari.tomperi@mn.nacdnet.net

Fee: free, registration required

Sponsored by the Wadena Soil and Water Conservation District and Spirit Lake Association

FREE FORECLOSURE PREVENTION INFORMATION & REFERRAL TRAINING

How to help homeowners facing foreclosure in Isanti, Chisago, Kanabec, Pine & Mille Lacs Counties

As the foreclosure crisis sweeps across the state, organizations that encounter distressed homeowners are getting more and more questions about mortgage foreclosure. To help provide answers to these questions, Minnesota Home Ownership Center is offering a series of free training workshops on how to help distressed homeowners. This training will provide an overview of the foreclosure process, where to refer homeowners and prepare them to talk with a housing counselor or loan servicer.

This training is specifically designed for staff from public, private, governmental and non-profit organizations that come in contact with distressed homeowners. This may include social workers, real-estate agents, librarians, clergy, etc.

Tuesday, June 10th
9:30 – 11:30am
Anoka-Ramsey Community College (Cambridge Campus)
Room G202 (Theater)
300 Spirit River Drive South, Cambridge MN
PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED: <http://5countytrainingworkshop>.

GrantStation Offers Webinar in June
[Writing a Letter of Inquiry](#)

GrantStation CEO Cynthia Adams is offering a 90-minute webinar on how to write a powerful letter of inquiry on Wednesday, June 11, 2008, at 1 p.m. CST. If you are new to grant writing, this session will help you understand the different components of a letter of inquiry and how to create a sense of urgency so your LOI generates a request for a full proposal. Ms. Adams uses the GrantStation website as her training tool, so participants will also get an inside look at the GrantStation resources. The registration fee is \$89 per person. Visit the website listed above to sign up for the webinar. For more information visit:
<http://www.grantstation.com/partners/webinarjune.html>

Government Training Services Releases Spring Schedule

Government Training Services, an organization that offers workshops for staff and appointed officials from all levels of government, is offering educational workshops to share information on trends, tools, and processes that help local units of government.

Registration is now open, go to <http://www.mngts.org/LandUse/LandUse2008.html>

Upcoming workshops include:

- Advanced Zoning Applications, June 11, Little Falls, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
 - Conservation Design in Shorelands, June 18, Walker, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
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Shoreland Essentials for Lake Leaders

In this workshop you'll receive practical solutions and technical information about ways to help keep you lake healthy. This workshop covers what everyone should know about lakes - how they work, how our activities affect them, and how to get your community involved. There will be breakout sessions on invasive species, onsite septic compliance, working with local officials and how to deal with difficult issues through effective communications. This workshop includes a Lake Leader Notebook filled with useful information and resource links.

Location: Ideal Corners Township Hall, 35458 Butternut Point Road, Pequot Lakes, MN

Date: June 14, 8:30 am - 3:00 pm

For more information or to register contact: The Pine River Watershed Alliance at 218-692-1020, prwatershed@crosslake.net.

Fee: free, registration required

Sponsored by the Pine River Watershed Alliance

DNR “Open House” Meetings Invite Input for Shoreland Rules Revision

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is going to hold a series of open houses to provide information about the shoreland rules revision process. Draft rule revisions have not been developed, but these meetings will provide information on the rule revision process, potential areas that could be included in the revision, and provide an opportunity to give input into the rule revision process.

All open houses will take place in the evening from 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM. The locations and dates of the open houses are as follows:

Detroit Lakes	MN State Comm. & Tech. College	Wednesday	June 11
Alexandria	Alexandria Tech. College	Thursday	June 12
Duluth	EPA Gitchee Gumees Conf. Center	Monday	June 16
Brainerd	Northland Arboretum	Tuesday	June 17
Hibbing	Hibbing Community College	Monday	June 23
Bemidji	Bemidji High School	Tuesday	June 24
International Falls	Holiday Inn	Wednesday	June 25

Additional information and details about these meetings will be available later in May. If you want more information about the shoreland rules update project go to the DNR shoreland rules update web page at <http://mndnr.gov/waters/shoreland.html>.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Rural Housing and Economic Development, Notice of Funding Available (NOFA) coming out, deadline May 30

This is a fantastic funding source for tribes and Native nonprofits to building their capacity to deliver housing, economic development and financial education services.

The FY 2008 NOFA for HUD's Rural Housing and Economic Development Program will be published in the Federal Register but is accessible online at:
<http://www.ruralhome.org/manager/uploads/2008RHEDNOFA.pdf>

Awards Empower Women in the U.S.

[Avon Hello Tomorrow Fund](#)

The goal of the Avon Hello Tomorrow Fund, an initiative of Avon Products, Inc., is to help strengthen the position of women and girls in society. The Fund provides individuals in the United States with cash awards that will allow them to pursue a project that targets the needs of women in the United States. Each week the Fund will offer one \$5,000 award to an individual who has submitted a compelling application that both advances the interests of women and ultimately improves society. Applicants must be 18 years of age or older and legal residents of the United States or its territories. Men are also eligible to apply as long as the program benefits women. The remaining application deadlines for 2008 are June 2, September 1, and December 1. Visit: <http://shop.avon.com/HelloTomorrowFund/> to submit an online application.

Support for Affordable Housing Projects in the U.S. and Canada
[Home Depot Housing Impact Grants Program](#)

The Home Depot Housing Impact Grants Program supports affordable housing projects in the U.S. and Canada built or preserved with environmentally friendly, efficient, and durable materials that increase energy and water efficiency, improve indoor air quality, and reduce maintenance costs. Grants range between \$500 and \$3,000. Preference will be given to requests that engage community stakeholders and result in building or rebuilding houses and/or apartments that are affordable for individuals/families earning a modest income. Online applications must be submitted by June 15, 2008. Visit: <http://corporate.homedepot.com/wps/portal/Grants> to review program guidelines and take the eligibility quiz.

**Compassion Capital Fund Project
Community Grant and Training Opportunities
Request for Proposals**

The Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches in partnership with the Initiative Foundation, Fairview Health Systems, and the Minnesota Council of Churches is requesting proposals for capacity building sub-awards to assist groups addressing a variety of critical human needs. The focus is on programs serving low income persons including at-risk youth, senior services, ex-offender community re-entry, parent education, addiction services, homeless persons and services to immigrants to name some of the issues. Five capacity building areas are supported by the award: leadership, program design and development, financial sustainability, infrastructure, and community engagement.

Sub-awards will be made to:

- Emerging human services groups and organizations
- Faith based organizations
- Worshipping communities serving the community and
- Community based organizations.

The Compassion Capital Fund Project is administered through a grant made to the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (DHHS) Administration for Children and Families (ACF). The Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches is the intermediary organization working with local partners to provide capacity building assistance to applicants and community participants. Approximately 10-12 sub-awards will be made this summer for an average sub-award ranging from \$7,000 to \$7,500.

For a detailed RFP covering the eligibility guidelines, application process, and timeline, please visit: www.ifound.org.

Or contact:
Initiative Foundation
Cathy Hartle
Senior Program Manager
320-632-9255
chartle@ifound.org

Grants Promote Financial Services on Reservations
[First Nations Development Institute: Little Eagle Staff Fund](#)

First Nations Development Institute works to restore Native control and culturally-compatible stewardship of the assets they own and to establish new assets for ensuring the long-term vitality of Native communities. First Nations' Little Eagle Staff Fund provides Reservation-Based

Nonprofit Development Organizations (RNDOs) with early stage investment and capitalization so that they can increase organizational capacity and enhance their development of new financial products and services. Grants will be provided to new and emerging RNDOs that serve as “one-stop shopping” for educating future consumers of financial services and products. First Nations expects to award approximately four to six grants ranging from \$15,000 to \$45,000 under this initiative in 2008. The deadline for letters of intent is June 23, 2008; full proposals will be due August 15, 2008. Visit <http://www.firstnations.org/gLittleEagle.asp> to download the application guidelines.

Support for Water Stewardship Programs in the U.S., Canada, and the U.K.
[RBC Blue Water Project](#)

The RBC Blue Water Project, an initiative of the Royal Bank of Canada, will provide \$50 million in grants over ten years to support programs that foster a culture of water stewardship in the United States, Canada, the Caribbean, and the United Kingdom. The initiative’s specific grantmaking priorities are Watershed Protection and Access to Safe Drinking Water. Applications are currently being accepted for Leadership Grants, ranging from \$25,000 to \$500,000, that support local, regional, national, and trans-border organizations for projects that address the initiative’s priorities. The application deadline is June 30, 2008. Community Action Grants, smaller awards which focus on local programs, will be accepted throughout the year beginning in June 2008. Visit <http://www.rbc.com/community/donations/blue-water.html> for detailed information about the initiative and Leadership Grant application guidelines.

Grassroots Programs for Children Funded
[United Methodist Church: A Brighter Future for Children and Youth](#)

A Brighter Future for Children and Youth, a grant program of the United Methodist Church, supports projects which help children ages 5 to 18 handle one or more of the following issues: abuse, relationship violence, bullying of any type, or gang violence. Funded projects should involve women and youth at the grassroots level as well as promote respect for and appreciation of racial/ethnic diversity. Grants of up to \$4,000 are provided for small-scale, community and church-based projects. Groups affiliated with national organizations, hospitals, and organizations with budgets totaling more than \$3,000,000 are not normally funded. The 2008 application deadline is July 1. Application guidelines and forms are available at <http://new.gbqm-umc.org/umw/money/grants/a-brighter-future-for-children-and-youth-2005-2008/>.

Support for Children in Need
[Mattel Children’s Foundation: Domestic Grantmaking Program](#)

The Mattel Children’s Foundation’s mission is to better the lives of children in need. Through the Domestic Grantmaking Program, support is provided to nonprofit organizations throughout the United States that directly serve children. Grants are available to local organizations that use creative methods to address the needs of children from birth to 12 years of age. Funded programs must address one of the following issues: the health and well-being of children, with emphasis on promoting healthy, active lifestyles; increased access to education for underserved children, in particular, innovative strategies to promote literacy; and the self-esteem of girls up to age 12. Online applications must be submitted by July 15, 2008. Visit http://www.mattel.com/About_Us/Philanthropy/ci_mcf_philanthropy_grantmaking.asp to take the eligibility quiz.

Support for Capital Projects Nationwide
[Kresge Foundation: Capital Challenge Grant Program](#)

The mission of the Kresge Foundation is to strengthen nonprofit organizations throughout the United States that advance the well-being of humanity. 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 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. The Foundation accepts online letters of intent for this program throughout the year. Visit <http://www.kresge.org/> to review the Capital Challenge Grant Program guidelines.

Companion Animal Welfare Coalitions Supported [Maddie's Fund Community Grant Program](#)

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 Grant Program, support is provided to collaborations of rescue organizations working together with animal control shelters, traditional shelters, and private veterinarians to end the killing of healthy and treatable dogs and cats in ten years. Once the healthy animals in a community are guaranteed a home, the Fund directs its resources to programs that rehabilitate sick, injured, and poorly behaved animals, knowing that there will be a loving home waiting for them. Applications for this program are accepted throughout the year. In addition to the Community Grant Program, the Fund offers targeted grant opportunities for spay/neuter programs, Colleges of Veterinary Medicine, and private practice veterinarians. Details on each of the Fund's grant programs are available at <http://www.maddiesfund.org/>.

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

Driven to the Brink: Gas Prices Depress Housing <http://www.ceosforcities.org>

"Housing in cities and neighborhoods that require lengthy commutes and provide few transportation alternatives to the private vehicle are falling in value more precipitously than in more central, compact and accessible places," begins a May 2008 study by CEOS for Cities. The full 27-page study, available without charge at the web site above, looks at housing values in five cities with housing both close to and far from the city core. The well-documented report gathers data from dozens of other cities and concludes with five policy implications:

- The relative decline in prices in sprawling suburbs is likely to persist because of the continued high price of gas, and governments should plan accordingly.
- The market for higher density and redevelopment in close-in neighborhoods is likely to grow stronger, and local land use plans should accommodate this shift.
- Government can help families save money by making it easy and convenient to live in mixed-use, close-in neighborhoods served by transit.
- Reducing vehicle miles traveled reduces oil consumption, cuts greenhouse gases and the trade deficit, and saves families money that can be spent on other things that better stimulate the local economy.

- Many distant exurban developments may no longer be economical, and propping up building and homeownership in these areas encourages unsustainable settlement that makes families even more vulnerable to future gas price increases.

Founded in 2001, CEOs for Cities is a national network of mayors, corporate CEOs, university presidents, foundation officials and business and civic leaders who are urging cities to make the most of their assets by building new leadership partnerships around urban innovations

National Resource Library

Central Minnesota nonprofit organizations and other grant seekers looking for funding sources now have access to a valuable new collection of resources at the Central Minnesota Community Foundation (CMCF).

CMCF was chosen to become a part of the national network of the Foundation Center of New York's Cooperating Collections. As one of the premiere library locations, CMCF offers free access to local individuals and nonprofit organizations to the center's detailed information on grant makers and how to apply for grants. The national center's core collection profiles more than 80,000 U.S. grant makers, online and print directories and proposal writing guides.

"This valuable collection not only gives central Minnesotans access to a superior database of potential funding sources, but it also equips them with the skills to develop strategies to effectively evaluate grant opportunities, write proposals and create fundraising plans for lasting success," says Susan Lorenz, program officer for the Community Foundation.

The CMCF library aims to provide under-resourced and underserved populations in need of vital information and training with tools they need to explore and secure grant opportunities. CMCF is the only organization to offer access to the national library in Central Minnesota and the only foundation in the state selected as a new location for 2008.

"We truly are fortunate to have this asset in our community," Lorenz says. "It will help our nonprofit sector continue to meet the growing needs of our region." To learn more or access this resource, contact CMCF at (320) 253-4380.
