

News You Can Use for Communities
October 2008



**INITIATIVE
FOUNDATION**

Workshops

A Business Retention and Expansion Techniques Workshop from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. including lunch. Thursday, November 13th 2008 at Region 5 D.C. Headquarters, 403 Prairie Ave NE, Staples, Minnesota

A workshop for economic development professionals, volunteers & other community leaders to learn how to conduct effective firm visits and learn about BR&E resources from University of Minnesota Extension.

Cost: \$25 per person or \$50 per community team (2 to 4 people)

In order to pre-schedule business visits, the registration deadline is Friday, November 7th. Call: 888-241-4591 or 320-203-6109

Register online at: <http://www.extension.umn.edu/workshops/>

And search for item P030184

The Blandin Foundation is hosting their annual Broadband Conference - *Connected Communities: Making the Net Work for Minnesota.*

This year the Blandin Foundation will also be hosting a Minnesota Intelligent Communities Award. The Blandin Foundation along with DEED will be partnering with the national [Intelligent Community Forum](#) (ICF) to recognize the top Intelligent Communities in Minnesota. Watch for more information on how your communities can participate.

Event Information

Connected Communities: Making the Net Work for Minnesota

December 3 - 4, 2008

Eden Prairie, Minnesota, MN

Conference Highlights

Pre-Conference Webinars: Fiber to the Home - Wireless Technology - Interactive Policy Session

Minnesota Intelligent Communities Award Competition

Pre-Conference Workshops Design Nine: Andrew Cohill, Intelligent Community Forum: Robert Bell

Keynote Speaker: Robert Bell, Intelligent Community Forum

Funding Opportunities

Health Care Delivery Systems

Rural Health Care Services Outreach Grant Program applications are due October 16. This program encourages public and nonprofit entities to develop new and innovative health care delivery systems in rural communities that lack essential care services. The program emphasizes service delivery through collaboration, requiring the grantee to form a consortium with at least two additional partners.

K-12 School-Community Programs Funded

[Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation: Toolbox for Education Grant Program](#)

The Toolbox for Education Grant Program, offered by Lowe 's Charitable and Educational Foundation, provides grants of up to \$5,000 to K-12 public schools and 501(c)(3) school parent-teacher groups associated with public schools that develop projects that encourage parent involvement and build stronger community spirit. Lowe's will donate \$5 million at more than 1,000 different schools throughout the U.S. during the 2008-2009 school year. Preference is given to funding requests which have a permanent impact such as facility enhancement as well as landscaping/clean-up projects. The upcoming application deadlines are October 17, 2008, and February 13, 2009. Visit the website listed above to take the eligibility test and submit an online application.

Costa Rica Study Program for Secondary Teachers

[Toyota International Teacher Program](#)

The Toyota International Teacher Program, administered by the Institute of International Education, offers U.S. secondary school educators the opportunity to travel to Costa Rica from April 18 through May 2, 2009. While in Costa Rica, program participants will meet with environmental and cultural preservation experts, tour museums, and visit rural primary and secondary schools. One of the primary goals of the program is to encourage the participants to develop creative teaching strategies for all subject areas, using their experiences in Costa Rica. Full-time grade 6-12 teachers and teacher librarians from all 50 states and the District of Columbia are eligible to apply. The application deadline is October 20, 2008. Application guidelines and forms are available on the website listed above.

U of M CAP Student Opportunity for Communities

The University of Minnesota Community Assistantship Program is pleased to announce a spring 2009 grant program. The grant will allow rural communities to hire a student to work on a project defined by those communities. The deadline for project proposals is October 30th, 2008. Approved projects will run from January 8th, 2009 to May 24th, 2009. Winning communities will review job applications and select the student who best meets their needs. For details on how to apply see the attachment or apply on line (preferred): <http://www.cura.umn.edu/Programs/ApplicationProcess.php>

Awards for Student Volunteers

[Prudential Spirit of Community Awards](#)

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards, sponsored by Prudential Financial and administered by the National Association of Secondary School Principals; recognize middle and high school students for volunteer community service. Eligible applicants include any young person in the United States who is in grades 5-12 and has engaged in a volunteer activity that occurred at least partly during the 12 months prior to the date of application. Local honorees are selected in November, and from these winners two state honorees are chosen in each state and the District of Columbia. Out of the state honorees, ten national honorees are selected and announced at a ceremony in Washington, DC, in May of 2009. State Honorees receive an award of \$1,000 and an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, DC, for national recognition events. National Honorees receive an additional award of \$5,000. The application deadline is October 31, 2008. Visit the website listed above for program details.

Innovative Community News Ideas Funded

[Knight News Challenge](#)

Through the Knight News Challenge, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation will award \$5 million for innovative ideas that develop platforms, tools, and services to transform community news, conversations, and information distribution and visualization. Grants will be provided for initiatives that will improve local online news, deepen community engagement, bring Web 2.0 tools to local neighborhoods, and develop publishing platforms and standards to support local conversations. Nonprofit organizations, for-profit companies, and individuals worldwide are eligible to submit proposals that use

digital news and information in a new way to create a sense of community for people in a given geographic area. This year's competition will set aside \$500,000 specifically for people 25 and under. Applications will be accepted from September 2 to November 1, 2008, through the website listed above.

Nationwide Support for Boating Education Programs

[Boat U.S. Foundation: Boating Safety Grants](#)

The Boat U.S. Foundation, established by the Boat Owners Association of the U.S., is dedicated to promoting safe and environmentally sensitive boating. The Foundation's Boating Safety Grants program is designed to fund projects that educate the public about actions they can take to be safer while boating. Grants of up to \$4,000 are provided to local volunteer organizations throughout the United States for projects that reflect a unique and replicable way to reach boaters with upbeat safe boating messages. Topics can range from literature on the effects of boating under the influence to signage promoting life jacket usage. The application deadline is November 1, 2008. Visit the Foundation's website to download the application guidelines and forms.

Literacy, Preventing Domestic Abuse, Healthcare, Internet Safety Granting Programs

[Verizon Foundation](#)

The mission of the Verizon Foundation is to improve lives through literacy, knowledge, and a readiness for the 21st Century. The Foundation's funding priorities include: supporting literacy and K-12 education for children and adults, preventing domestic violence and helping victims gain independence, improving healthcare through technology, and educating parents and children about Internet safety. Grants generally range from \$5,000 to \$10,000. Online applications may be submitted from January 1 through November 1, annually. Visit the website listed above to learn more about the Foundation's grant guidelines and application process.

Support for K-12 Extracurricular Activities

[Target Field Trip Grants](#)

The Target Field Trip Grants program provides funds for K-12 field trips in order to give students the opportunity to explore more of the world outside the classroom. Examples of eligible field trips include: art, science, and cultural museum visits; community service and civic projects; and career enrichment opportunities. In the current funding cycle, grants of up to \$800 each will be awarded to 5,000 educators throughout the United States. Funds may be used to cover trip-related costs such as transportation, ticket fees, resource materials, and supplies. Education professionals who are employed by accredited U.S. K-12 public, private, or charter schools are eligible to apply. Applications must be submitted online through the website listed above by November 1, 2008.

Grants Help Interpret Historic Sites

[National Wildlife Refuge System "Preserve America" Grant Program](#)

The National Wildlife Refuge System Preserve America Grant Program, an initiative of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, provides grants to help foster interpretive, education, and visitor initiatives that incorporate history and historic sites into the Refuge System's mission. This program seeks to protect historic sites, integrate history into refuge interpretive and education programs, and build partnerships with communities and organizations interested in supporting refuge programs. Collaborative projects between local refuges and schools are also encouraged. Grants range from \$10,000 to \$15,000 and require matching funds. Proposals must be postmarked no later than November 1, 2008. Visit the website listed above to review the Requests for Proposals.

Grants Encourage Collaborative Rural Efforts

[Laura Jane Musser Fund: Rural Initiative](#)

The Rural Initiative component of the Laura Jane Musser Fund supports collaborative and participatory efforts among citizens in rural communities in Colorado, Hawaii, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, and

Wyoming. Grants are provided for programs that will help to strengthen rural towns and regions in the targeted states in a number of civic areas, including economic development, business preservation, arts and humanities, public space improvements, and education. The applicant community must have a population of 10,000 or fewer and must be able to demonstrate the rural characteristics of its location. Planning grants of up to \$5,000 and implementation grants of up to \$25,000 are provided. The application deadline is November 5, 2008. Complete funding guidelines are available on the Laura Jane Musser Fund's website.

Advertising Funds for Environmental Organizations

[Temper of the Times Foundation](#)

The Temper of the Times Foundation promotes the use of standard marketing concepts to increase environmental awareness. Recognizing that organizations working to protect the environment often have limited access to paid media, the Foundation provides funds to underwrite advertising designed to promote the conservation and restoration of native wildlife, plants, and ecosystems in the United States. Projects which are likely to have measurable effects on wildland ecosystem conservation will be prioritized over those that are purely educational in nature. Grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$15,000 may be used to fund the production of print, radio, or television ads; to pay for advertising space or airtime; or to produce or distribute pamphlets, books, videos, or press packets. The next application deadline is November 8, 2008. Funding guidelines are available on the Foundation's website listed above.

Outstanding Young Leaders Honored

[Nestle Very Best In Youth Program](#)

The Nestle Very Best In Youth Program, sponsored by Nestle USA, honors young people throughout the United States who have excelled in school and who are making their community and the world a better place. Twenty-five young people between 13 and 18 years of age, selected from nominations from volunteers, parents, and teachers, will be featured in a special publication and honored at a ceremony in Los Angeles, CA, in the summer of 2009. Nestle will also donate \$1,000 in the name of each winner to the charity of his or her choice. Nominees should have strong backgrounds in citizenship, school, community involvement, and reading. The nomination deadline is November 20, 2008. Visit the website listed above to download the nomination guidelines and forms.

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>

Funds for Alcoholism Prevention Programs Funded

[Christopher D. Smithers Foundation](#)

The mission of the Christopher D. Smithers Foundation is to educate the public that alcoholism is a respectable, treatable disease from which people can and do recover; encourage prevention programs and activities, with an emphasis on high risk populations; and continually fight to reduce and eliminate the stigma that is associated with the disease of alcoholism. The Foundation focuses its grantmaking on the issues of alcoholism, including prevention, treatment, research, public education, and creating awareness of these problems in the nation's work world. While a number of grants go to national organizations, regional and local organizations across the country also receive funds. Applications are accepted throughout the year. Application guidelines are available on the website listed above.

Community Improvement Programs in the U.S. and Canada Supported

[Build-A-Bear Workshop Foundation](#)

The Build-A-Bear Workshop Foundation provides support to nonprofit organizations throughout the United States and Canada that improve communities and positively impact lives. The grantmaking emphasis is on programs that help children and families, animals, or the environment. The Foundation's grants range between \$1,000 and \$10,000 with an average grant of approximately \$2,500. Requests are accepted throughout the year and are reviewed quarterly. Online applications may be submitted through the website listed above.

Grants Help Pets and Families Stay Together

[PETCO Foundation: "We Are Family Too" Fund](#)

The PETCO Foundation's "We Are Family Too" Fund supports local nonprofit programs nationwide that address the country's looming difficult financial climate. Grants are provided to shelters that have seen an increase in surrendered animals due to the rise in foreclosures and evictions, as well as to organizations that have programs that help families in their communities stay with their companion animals during these hard economic times. Examples of eligible programs include resources for pet-friendly rentals, spay and neuter services, short term foster homes, etc. Applications may be submitted at any time and generally take up to eight weeks to process. Visit the website listed above to download the application guidelines and form.

Public and School Libraries Invited to Apply for We the People Bookshelf Grant Opportunity

The [National Endowment for the Humanities](#) and the [American Library Association's Public Programs Office](#) have announced that applications are now being accepted for the sixth annual We the People Bookshelf project. Part of the NEH's We the People program, the bookshelf program encourages young

people to read and understand great literature while exploring themes in American history.

This year's theme, "Picturing America," explores the premise that a nation's literature, as well as its visual art, can be a window into its character, ideals, and aspirations. The We the People Bookshelf on Picturing America will be a literary complement to the NEH's [Picturing America](#) program — a free education resource that provides reproductions of forty pieces of great American art to schools and public libraries to help educators teach American history and culture.

Public and school (K-12) libraries are invited to apply for the program. In spring 2009, NEH and ALA will select four thousand libraries to receive seventeen books for young readers, plus three works in Spanish translation, as well as bonus materials for readers of all ages. Libraries selected will be required to use the bookshelf selections in programs for young readers in their communities. **Contact:** [Link to Complete RFP](#)

Support for Local Watershed Organizations

[Center for Watershed Protection: Technical Capacity Mini-Grant Program](#)

The Center for Watershed Protection (CWP) works to protect, restore, and enhance the nation's streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands, and bays. CWP's Technical Capacity Mini-Grant Program will provide support to small watershed organizations throughout the United States. The goal of the mini-grant program is to strengthen the technical capacity of these organizations in the areas of stormwater and watershed management. Up to ten grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$15,000 will be awarded. These grants may be in the form of direct assistance from CWP staff or cash awards. Requests may be submitted at any time, and decisions are made on a rolling basis. Visit the website listed above to download the RFP. Please direct questions about the Mini-Grant Program to Lisa Fraley-McNeal at lfm@cwp.org. (No phone calls please.)

Federal Deadlines

Safe Routes to School Program

Safe Routes to School is a new program in the federal transportation bill, SAFETEA –LU, designed to improve the conditions and quality of bicycling and walking to school. The goal of the program is to

reverse the 30 year decline in the numbers of children walking to school and reintroduce opportunities for regular physical activity.

At present fewer than 15% of children K-8 walk or bike to school and nearly 50% of school aged children are regularly driven to school by their parents. Coinciding with the declining numbers of children walking and biking to school is an increase in childhood obesity and Type II diabetes. Using a multidisciplinary approach Safe Routes programs works with schools, students, and parents, at a grass roots level, to identify improvements that will make biking and walking to and from school a routine part of Minnesota's students' experience.

You can find more information about the SRTS grant application process at Mn/DOT's SRTS web site: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/saferoutes/index.html>

Department of Justice: Weed and Seed Communities Competitive Program

This program seeks to prevent, control, and reduce violent crime, criminal drug-related activity, and gang activity through a community-based multi-agency approach.

National Science Foundation: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Talent Expansion Program

This program seeks to increase the number of students receiving associate or baccalaureate degrees in established or emerging fields within science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Fish and Wildlife Service: Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program

This program provides direct technical and financial assistance to landowners interested in restoring, enhancing, and managing fish and wildlife habitats on their own lands.

NASA: Global Climate Change Education

This program is designed to improve the quality of global climate change and Earth system science education at the elementary, secondary, and undergraduate levels.

Other News

Website Promotes Sustainable Cities

Liveable Streets Network

The Liveable Streets Network is an online community for people working to create sustainable cities through sensible urban planning, design, and transportation policy. The Network provides free, open source, web-based resources to citizens interested in developing a greener economy, addressing climate change, reducing oil dependence, alleviating traffic congestion, and providing better access to good jobs in healthy communities. Visit the Livable Streets website for more information.

Microsoft NGO Connection

The Microsoft NGO Connection website has been launched to provide nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) a place to go to learn how to use technology more effectively and to access the resources Microsoft and its partners offer. The website provides free or discounted software applications, training and certification information, and NGO discussion forums. The goal of the website is to help NGOs achieve their organizational goals more efficiently. Visit the website listed above to learn more about this new online resource.

School Administration Resource

Over the past couple of years the Initiative Foundation has shared information with you about our Healthy Schools Partnership program, a two-year pilot program that provided training and assistance to K-12 school board members and administrators to help them assess and improve effectiveness and strengthen linkages within their communities. As we end this program we have placed a number of resource documents on our website. These tools are available at no charge to any interested party. Special thanks to consultant, Bruce Miles of big River Consulting Group for his assistance with this project. If interested, here's the link:

http://www.ifound.org/event_information.php?EventsCalendarID=74

Public Libraries and Community Economic Development: Partnering for Success

In the past decade, economic development experts have moved away from traditional approaches to economic development that have relied upon recruiting or attracting large businesses with offers of tax breaks, financial incentives, and other subsidies. Increasingly, communities are focusing their economic development resources on supporting the growth of existing businesses and creating a nurturing and information-rich environment where new entrepreneurs can flourish.

by Christine Hamilton-Pennell, MLIS, MAR1

Full Story: [http://www.iira.org/pubsnew/publicat ... RRR_688.pdf](http://www.iira.org/pubsnew/publicat...RRR_688.pdf)

Fieldstone Alliance – Communicating Clearly—It’s Not What You, It’s How Others Hear You,
click on this link for more information http://www.fieldstonealliance.org/client/tools_you_can_use/08-20-08_create_shared_meaning.cfm