



UMVRDC

Community Development Planner Scholarship

The UMVRDC is happy to announce a scholarship opportunity for residents from Big Stone, Chippewa, Swift, Lac qui Parle, and Yellow Medicine Counties who graduated from a high school located in one of these counties.

Scholarship Requirements

The UMVRDC will offer two **\$2500** scholarships annually for students who have designated one of the following degrees as their undergraduate or advanced degree.

- Urban & Regional Studies/Planning
- Urban Planning
- Planning & Community Development
- Community Development

- The scholarship will be paid upon satisfactory completion of a full year of full-time enrollment. School transcripts will be required as proof of satisfactory completion and enrollment.
- Students are eligible to apply for a scholarship for consecutive years while pursuing their degree.
- Students will be contacted about paid internships at the UMVRDC throughout their college career and will have the opportunity to work with the UMVRDC for classroom projects.

Students will receive notification and consideration for future job availability at the UMVRDC upon graduation.

Application Process

1. Submit a completed application found on the www.umvrdc.org website.
2. Applications will be considered throughout the year until all designated scholarship funds are awarded.
3. Application finalists will be invited to a personal interview with the scholarship committee.
4. Applications will be announced within 30 days of the interview.

UMVRDC Community Development Planner Scholarship Application

Application Process

1. Submit the application materials as requested below.
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Name:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Phone:

Email:

High School Attended:

College/University Enrolled In:

Expected Major:

Expected Graduation Date:

Attach an essay (2-page maximum single spaced) explaining why you are interested in the planning field and what you hope to do with your degree after college graduation. Attach a letter of recommendation from a teacher or counselor.

For questions contact UMVRDC's Executive Director, Dawn Hegland at 320.289.1981 x 101.

Completed applications should be sent via mail or email to :

Dawn Hegland
UMVRDC Executive Director
323 West Schlieman Ave
Appleton MN 56208
dawn.hegland@umvrdc.org.

What is a community development planner?

Are you interested in work that makes a difference in rural Minnesota? Candidates that are passionate about their work, who are curious to find options and solutions for locally identified issues, and who relish in the idea of working on a diverse portfolio of work are ideal for this career field. Planners influence roads, parks, internet access, buildings, public policy, natural resources and many other aspects in the cities and counties around us. If so, YOU might want to consider a career as a community development planner!

Want to learn more about our agency or the region? Check out our [agency hiring video](#); the [UMVRDC](#) or [Western Minnesota Prairie Waters](#) websites; or search for [UMVRDC](#), [Prairie Waters](#), or [Get Rural MN](#) on Facebook; or review our most recent [annual report](#). Check out this short video about what a planner does <https://youtu.be/5ot1tbQX8>. The American Planning Association and the MN Chapter have some wonderful resources about the role and job responsibilities of a planner. <https://www.planning.org/choosingplanning/> <http://www.planningmn.org/>

UMVRDC planners have the following core skill areas:

1. Strong oral and written communications skills.
2. Ability to work independently and as a team.
3. Ability to research, compile and analyze data and present results clearly and effectively.
4. Strong grant writing and administration ability or experience.
5. Strong computer based skills with: MS Office, Adobe Creative Suite, GIS.
6. Passion for providing excellent customer service.
7. Ability to coordinate and facilitate meetings by setting agendas, public notifications, etc.
8. Ability to multi-task and balance multiple projects at once.
9. Ability to create professional documents.

Variety of projects include:

- Grant writing & administration
- GIS mapping and analysis
- Facilitating meetings
- Strategic planning
- Capital improvement planning
- Environmental reviews
- Comprehensive plan development
- Telecommunication/broadband planning
- Business retention and expansion processes
- Researching and implementing community finance methods
- Survey development and analysis
- Renewable energy project development
- Transportation planning
- Development of County Hazard Mitigation Plans
- Safe Routes to School Plans
- Park & recreation planning
- Zoning ordinances

UMVRDC planners make \$43,000- \$94,000 per year depending on their experience and responsibilities.

Sample Colleges and Universities in the Midwest with Planning Degrees

University of Minnesota-Twin Cities
University of Minnesota-Duluth
Minnesota State University-Mankato
St Cloud State University
University of Iowa – Iowa City
Iowa State University – Ames

University of Nebraska-Lincoln
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
University of Wisconsin-Madison
University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Ball State University – Muncie, IN