



## **Minnesota Intelligent Rural Communities (MIRC) Program**

### **REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

#### **Background**

C. K. Blandin Foundation included our region in its Minnesota Intelligent Rural Communities (MIRC) Program funded through the US Department of Commerce's NTIA Broadband Technology Opportunities Program.

#### **Funding Available**

Our region has allocated up to \$75,000 for projects that promote the use of broadband technology and that can show measureable outcomes by March 2012. Project proponents can request between \$5,000 and \$25,000 in funding. The review committee reserves the right to fund projects in smaller or larger increments based on the merit of the individual project.

#### **Eligible Projects**

We are seeking proposals that implement the Intelligent Community elements:

- **Broadband** – ensuring wired and/or wireless broadband availability
- **Knowledge Workers** – ensuring that workers have the skills necessary for good jobs
- **Digital Inclusion** – ensuring that all have broadband access and necessary skills
- **Innovation** – providing new or more efficient government and business services
- **Marketing/Advocacy** – attracting investment and talent to your community

We must implement at least four projects in the above framework that increase broadband use in the region; at least one of these projects must address digital inclusion. More information about Intelligent Communities can be found at [www.intelligentcommunity.org](http://www.intelligentcommunity.org).

Based on a regional stakeholder meeting, a list of regional priorities was developed (see attached). Projects that fall within these areas will receive additional points when scored.

#### **Eligible Recipients**

We are seeking project proposals from community organizations (local units of government and not-for-profit organizations, including health care facilities and schools). Private, for-profit entities can participate in partnership with eligible organizations.

#### **Timeline**

Proposal should be submitted via email by 4:30pm, November 22, 2010 to [dawn.hegland@umvrdc.org](mailto:dawn.hegland@umvrdc.org).

#### **Match Requirements**

Projects that provide widespread community benefits and that are open to large numbers of community members are not required to provide matching funds. Examples of these types of projects would include computer and Internet training, community organization web site development and/or training, e-commerce training, etc. Projects that primarily benefit individual organizations are required to provide 1:1 cash match. This would include technology development or network improvements, including proposals to launch a tele-health application for the local hospital, a web server for a unit of government or new e-commerce capable web site for the chamber of commerce.

**For more information, contact Dawn Hegland or Jacki Anderson at 320-289-1981.**



Upper Minnesota Valley  
**REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**  
Helping Communities Prosper

323 W. Schlieman Ave. Appleton, MN 56208 320.289.1981 www.umvrdc.org

Please provide the following information and submit via email by  
4:30pm, November 22, 2010 to [dawn.hegland@umvrdc.org](mailto:dawn.hegland@umvrdc.org).

**PROJECT NAME:**

**Name of Submitting Organization:**

**Contact Name:**

**Address:**

**Telephone:**

**Email:**

**Website:**

**DESCRIBE THE GOAL OF THIS PROJECT:**

**PROVIDE AN OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECT START TO FINISH (2 PAGE MAXIMUM)**

<b>PROJECT BUDGET</b>	<b>Grant Funds Requested</b>	<b>Match</b>	<b>Total</b>
Equipment			
Software			
Training			
Personnel			
Other ( please define and itemize)			
<b>Total</b>			

**PLEASE PROVIDE DETAILED ANSWERS TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS**

- 1. Define which Intelligent Community Elements your project supports Score- up to 10 points**

Broadband Availability

Knowledge Workers

Digital Inclusion

Innovation

Marketing/Advocacy

- 2. Describe how the project supports the region's intelligent community priorities Score- up to 10 points**

- 3. Project Partners Score- up to 10 points**

- 4. Describe how this project will increase use of broadband Score- up to 10 points**

- 5. In detail, please describe the source of all match as shown in the budget Score- up to 10 points**

Are all other funds committed?

If no, what is the status of these funds?

- 6. Describe what project results will be demonstrated by March 2012 Score- up to 10 points**

- 7. Define the area impacted by this project Score- up to 10 points**

- 8. Describe how the project will be sustained and/or what the long term impact will be Score- up to 10 points**