Broadband Technology Opportunities Program
Public Computer Centers Program – Sustainable Adoption Program

Submitted Date: **Easygrants ID: 557**	
Funding Opportunity: Public Computer Centers and Sustainable Broadband Adoption	**Applicant Organization:** C. K. Blandin Foundation
Task: Submit Application - Non-Infrastructure Programs	**Applicant Name:** Ms. Bernadine Joselyn

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A. General Application Information

1. Applicant Information	
1-A. Name, Address, and Federal ID for Applicant	
i. Legal Name:	C. K. Blandin Foundation
ii. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN):	416038619
Street 1:	100 N Pokegama Ave
Street 2:	
City:	Grand Rapids
County:	Itasca
State:	MN
Country	United States
Zip/Postal Code:	557442739

1-B. Name and Contact Information of Person to be Contacted on Matters Involving this Application:	
Prefix:	Ms.
First Name:	Bernadine
Middle Name:	
Last Name:	Joselyn
Suffix:	
Telephone Number:	218-327-8728
Fax Number:	
Email:	brjoselyn@blandinfoundation.org
Title:	

1-C. Other Required Identification Numbers

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i. Organizational DUNS:	828185087
ii. CCR # (CAGE):	56QS4
iii. Funding Opportunity Number:	2
iv. Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number:	**BTOP CFDA Number:** 11.557 **BTOP CFDA Title:** Broadband Technology Opportunities Program

1-D. Organization Classification

Non-Profit Foundation

1-E. Applicant Federal Debt Delinquency Explanation

Is the **Applicant** Delinquent On Any Federal Debt?
No

Federal debt delinquency Explanation:

1-F. Congressional Districts of:

Applicant: Minnesota - 8

Program/Project
Minnesota - 1
Minnesota - 2
Minnesota - 6
Minnesota - 7
Minnesota - 8

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2. Project Title and Project Description

2-A. Project Title : Minnesota Intelligent Rural Communities

2-B. Project Description: The Minnesota Intelligent Rural Communities (MIRC) initiative is a comprehensive, multi-sector approach to sustainable broadband adoption. Through education, training, technical assistance and barrier removal, an array of market development strategies will provide opportunity to residents, small businesses, local governments, and critical needs providers in rural Minnesota.

3. Project Type

Classify the particular project type for which you are seeking federal funding.

Project Type: Sustainable Broadband Adoption

Project ID: 2

4. Application ID for Multiple Submissions for Identified Service Areas

5. Estimated Funding ($):

Estimated Funding ($):	
Federal	4,858,219
Applicant	787,425
State	451,600
Local	251,000
Other	35,750
Program Income	
Total	6,383,994

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B. Eligibility Factors

6. Eligibility Factors.

The application must be completed fully, and all required supplemental documentation must be attached.
Applicants must commit to substantially completing their Project (as defined in the NOFA) within two years of the award date, and completing the Project within three years of the award date.
Applicants must credibly demonstrate that their Project advances at least one of the five statutory purposes for BTOP.
Applicants must demonstrate that but for Federal funding they would not have been able to complete their project during the grant period.
The budget for the project must be reasonable and all costs must be eligible.

6-d. Applicant is providing matching funds of at least 20 percent towards to the total eligible project costs or is requesting a waiver of the matching requirments.
Yes

Matching Fund Waiver Request Explanation

C. Executive Summary

7. Executive Summary of Overall Proposal:

Like communities across the globe and throughout the country, rural Minnesota communities are facing economic stress. While unemployment rates for the state have

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remained about 1% less than the national average (recently, for the first time ever, Minnesota exceeded the national unemployment average), counties outside the twin cities metro area are experiencing more dramatic impacts. MN rural counties whose economies are service sector based are being hit hard now, and there is an emerging crisis within the agricultural-based economies.

There is a significant (20%) gap between rural and urban home broadband adoption rates. This gap is often compounded by common demographic characteristics of rural MN communities, including an aging population, lower per capita income, and lower educational attainment. Recent data also illustrates an alarming gap in broadband adoption for small, rural businesses within the retail, food/accommodation/tourism and other small sectors; the lifeblood of rural economies.

While the Foundation will not lay fiber, it will work toward the sustainability of broadband infrastructure investments in rural Minnesota communities. The foundation will engage partners within a framework developed by the Intelligent Community Forum (ICF). Minnesota Intelligent Rural Communities (MIRC) goal is to help create technologically and economically vital communities competing and thriving in the broadband economy with sustainable broadband adoption, job growth and wealth creation. MIRC strategies match the complexity of daily life applied and measured within an existing framework for community vitality and competitiveness. MIRC will increase broadband subscribership, create jobs and economic opportunity in rural Minnesota communities by:
• Provide education and training compelling broadband applications for their health, education, and economic livelihood to a widely dispersed population in rural Minnesota, including:
   o   Increased access and digital literacy and technology-based employment seeking skills at the state's workforce centers;
   o   education on the knowledge workforce, educational pathways and online opportunities;
   o   service information and data sharing for consumers of mental and behavioral health services and online training for service providers in 80 rural Minnesota counties;
• Provide e-commerce and Internet education, training and technical assistance to small businesses in critical industries for rural Minnesota; and
• Lead communities and critical institutions in the promotion and implementation of valued broadband applications in health care, education, government and business.

Targeted populations are rural MN residents who are unemployed and seeking employment.

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Collaboration with the state's workforce centers and post-secondary institutions target nearly 60% of residents without any post-secondary credentialing. Collaboration with the counties target individuals and families seeking help with mental health and behavioral issues. Collaboration with MN's Extension Service and renewable energy businesses targets small businesses that need to employ broadband strategies to remain vital. Finally, work with demonstration communities targets diverse demographics around the state including those affected by recent sector-based economic restructuring, those experiencing an influx of new populations and an emerging workforce, and at least one American Indian reservation.

MIRC leadership comes from the Blandin Foundation, a private foundation based in Grand Rapids, MN and the state's largest rural-based and rural-focused foundation. The Blandin Foundation mission is to strengthen communities in rural Minnesota. Blandin has been operating a successful broadband initiative to improve the economic vitality of Minnesota's rural communities by encouraging the development of rural telecommunications markets and infrastructure since 2003. The Blandin Foundation has an experienced and highly qualified staff and management team and has gathered an effective coalition of individuals and organizations to implement this project. Gaps on data gathering, content, outreach, and technology were filled by its partners including; Association of MN Counties, National Association of Counties, University of Minnesota Extension, MN Learning Commons (Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, MN Dept of Education, University of MN), Minnesota Renewable Energy Marketplace – Alliance for Talent Development, PCs for People, University of Minnesota Crookston Campus, Minnesota Dept of Employment and Economic Development, regional Workforce Centers, and many of the state's regional development commissions.

MIRC anticipates impact on many measures of economic vitality with the Intelligent Community framework. Some of those include:
• Increased residential broadband subscribers 2% of normal growth (over 38,000 households)
• Increased small business subscribers 240
• Jobs created or retained 13.5
• Small business reached (6,000), trained (2,000), provided extensive technical assistance (200)
• Individuals reached (45,000), trained (2,500).

The overall cost of the project is just over $6M ($6,383,994). The Blandin Foundation and its

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partners are providing over $1.5M in matching costs, including $500,000 in cash directly for the project. At a cost of approximately $165 per new household and business subscriber, MIRC will provided nearly 60,000 hours of training to over 3,600 individuals and businesses.

D. Project Purpose

Project Purpose: Recovery Act & BTOP Objectives

8. Project Purpose
Problem

Rural MN communities are used to competing. Within traditional economic development methods, they compete with one another for the big box retailer, manufacturing plant, or distribution center. In today's global economy, or as the folks at the Intelligent Community Forum (ICF) call it, the broadband economy, rural communities in Minnesota live, work and compete along side the people in Beijing or Calcutta. They need to act strategically on the "live anywhere, do anything" opportunities available through the proliferation of broadband access. Rural communities must aggressively pursue economic viability offered through creativity and innovation, information and knowledge, digital inclusion, and marketing and advocacy.

Like communities across the globe, rural Minnesota communities are facing economic stress. While unemployment rates for the state have remained about 1% less than the national average, counties outside the twin cities metro area are seeing more dramatic impacts. MN rural counties whose economies are service sector based are being hit hard now. Agricultural-based economies along the western border of the state have not felt as strong an impact. The agriculture economy has carried the state economy to some degree. Experts predict that will change as agriculture faces the repercussions of falling commodity prices, swine flu, and drought conditions. Measures of impact will begin to show up in the coming months.

According to a June 2009 report by the Pew Internet and American Life Project, there is a significant (20%) gap between rural and urban home broadband adoption rates. While the rates of adoption have been increasing over time, this 20% gap has remained consistent since 2006. Results from a study conducted by the Minnesota Center for Rural Policy and Development in 2007 paint a less gloomy picture with the broadband adoption gap between rural and metro

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areas being closer to 11%. The gap exists; often compounded by demographic characteristics of rural MN communities, including an aging population, lower per capita income, and lower educational attainment. In fact, the Pew study lists factors that negatively correlate with home broadband adoption to be (in order of importance): Having less than a high school degree, Age 65 or over, living in rural America, and having a high school degree. Analysis of the Pew study by Patchwork Nation (patchworknation.com) illustrates that 3 of the 5 community types with the lowest broadband adoption rates (Emptying Nests, Service Worker Centers, Tractor Country) comprise a majority Minnesota's rural counties.

In a 2009 statewide study conducted by the University of Minnesota Crookston, a sample of Minnesota businesses found that in Minnesota, 10.3% of rural Minnesota businesses are not connected to the Internet. An additional 4.3% are still using dial-up speeds. Eighty-two percent (82%) of those offline businesses operate within the retail, food/accommodation/tourism and other small sectors. Eighty-four percent (84%) of those offline businesses have 9 or fewer employees. Large percentages of the offline businesses are located in 3 economic development regions: southwest/south central, north central/west central, and northeast. Most of them (80%) have market areas within 100 miles of their location. These small businesses are the heart of the rural Minnesota economy. The viability of their businesses requires a move to online practices. Technical assistance and training is highly desired by rural Minnesota businesses. In the same study, 53.2% said that they would use more Internet in their business with the availability of technical assistance.

Solution
The Minnesota Intelligent Rural Communities initiative will engender an attitude that broadband technology can be a critical element of problem solving. Through education, training, technical assistance and barrier removal, an array of market development strategies will be implemented throughout rural Minnesota communities. By creating a culture of broadband technology adoption and use, MIRC will spur vital rural communities competing and thriving in the broadband economy with sustainable broadband adoption, job growth, and wealth creation.

This project will be available to the communities, people and businesses across the rural regions of Minnesota. MIRC will provide special focus in 10 demonstration communities with intensive assistance to empower best practices across economic sectors, creating real change and opportunity. With the framework provided by the Intelligent Community Forum, the

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Blandin Foundation and its partners will:
•Develop new and promote awareness and use of existing online educational tools and resources;
•Provide education and training that enables its rural and underserved residents and local governments the opportunity to effectively use the Internet;
•Spur innovation and entrepreneurship through training and application of digital solutions to produce efficiencies and growth in key rural economic sectors;
•Assist communities and providers promote compelling and valued uses of broadband.

Communities, states or regions may easily replicate this initiative for three reasons: (1) The Intelligent Community framework exists for public adoption at www.intelligentcommunity.org; (2) Strategies employ non-proprietary networks and applications that are dispersed across a wide variety of community and consumer needs; and (3) Clearly defined measure of outputs and outcomes will guide best practices.

Statutory Purpose
MIRC advances two BTOP statutory purposes by:
•Providing broadband education, awareness, training, access, equipment, and support to community anchor institutions, job creating strategic facilities, and vulnerable populations; and
•Stimulating demand for broadband.
Within several of these strategies, the initiative also includes opportunity to impact a third statutory purpose, that being to improve the use of broadba

9. Recovery Act and Other Governmental Collaboration.
    MIRC is working closely with partners and leveraging investments from multiple sources. Community and economic development and workforce investments are being leveraged from:

State of MN programs
• Minnesota Learning Commons (MLC), a collaboration of the MN State Colleges and Universities system, the University of MN and the MN Department of Education. MLC is building shared learning objects and repository for online education resources and tools. The objective is cost effective, widely used online education.
• Fast Trac, a statewide collaborative of MN Dept of Employment and Economic Development, its workforce centers, Adult Basic Education and MnSCU, targets the 60% of adult Minnesotans who do not possess any post secondary credentialing. The effort will ease return

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to learning through supported education and training.

Federal programs
• Minnesota Renewable Energy Marketplace, funded through DOL's WIRED initiative, is a partnership focused on workforce development and growth within the renewable energy sector and its emerging prominence in rural Minnesota's economy.
• WIA funding will be leveraged through involvement of MN's WFCs to support those just developing digital literacy skills and new online learners.

Other federal and private investments will be leveraged in working with MIRC's 10 demonstration communities. Several communities will be accessing BIP or BTOP funding. More likely is leveraging of funding in areas of healthcare, education and housing as communities implement service enhancing applications. Many communities have recent private investments to build capacity and some are applying for ARRA funding. Nine communities have committed:
• City of Grand Rapids / Itasca County is increasingly served by broadband, including extensive FTTH in the rural areas.
• Kandiyohi County has a competitive marketplace for services in its county seat.
• Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe: The reservation is served by many providers creating a hodgepodge of services. Residential DSL is widely available, but tribal members do not have adequate incomes to purchase services. They are submitting BIP/BTOP applications for a Tribal Wide Area Network and Community Technology Centers.
• City of Morris/Stevens County has significant FTTH deployment.
• The City of Winona has a competitive broadband network with 3 wired networks, including FTTH by one provider.
• Cook County: Broadband access is generally a weakness in Cook County. They have broadband service in key areas. They are served by a local ISP cooperative with plans for countywide access. They are submitting a BIP/BTOP application for countywide FTTP network.
• The City of Worthington is served by two wired broadband providers.
• Upper MN Valley Region has mixed access across the region with areas of FTTP and areas of no access. There are several applications for BIP/BTOP being submitted.
• The City of Thief River Falls has a strong, locally-owned telecommunications provider.

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10. Enhanced Services for Health Care Delivery, Education, and Children

MIRC will enhance service delivery for its partner organizations across multiple sectors; some at very basic levels, some with very specific purposes.

The knowledge workforce strategies include Minnesota Learning Common's first demonstration. MLC is a commitment by MnSCU, U of M, and MN Dept. of Education to create and share learning objects for the enhancement of online education. The MIRC initiative will accomplish three things: (1) Target persons not traditionally motivated by or familiar with online learning options, delivering online education in a classroom setting and providing a comfortable entrance point; (2) Build awareness of knowledge worker occupations as well as pathways and online options across all public systems for obtaining necessary skills and knowledge; and (3) permit demonstration of MLC, advancing its objective of effective and collaborative online education in MN.

The digital inclusion strategies include the enhancement of digital literacy education through an employment seeking construct. Partnership with the MN Workforce Centers to expand their capacity for computer and broadband access while improving job seekers technology skills is vital to persons seeking employment and their families.

MIRC will also provide critical links for persons and families in need of or receiving mental health services in rural Minnesota. A dispersed population and sparse mental health service resources make delivery of those services a challenge in rural communities. MIRC's partnership with Association of MN Counties and their national counterpart -NACo, will blanket rural MN with a mental health Network of Care; an interactive source of information for consumers, community-based organizations and government workers. A vital e-government application, the Network of Care provides options for sharing information with family and providers. This application provides a scalable platform to implement portals in other key areas of county government. It also provides online continuing education for county mental health and human service workers.

Finally, in innovation, broadband connectivity and advocacy strategies, MIRC anticipates building a culture of broadband use; providing solutions for vital communities. During this planning process, Blandin has conversed with communities, schools, local governments, telecommunications providers, health and human service providers, small business owners and others. MIRC will enhance delivery of service through applications of specific broadband-

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based technology in demonstration communities, including but not limited to:
• School to home video conferencing;
• Public safety connectivity to schools for emergency response;
• Biometric monitoring of patients in-home in partnership with the Mayo Clinic;
• Telehealth visits and home monitoring for seniors in partnership with local providers; and
• Interactive and collaborative video consultations between area health providers.

11. Small and Disadvantaged Business Involvement

There are no SDB identified as sub-awardees, contractors, subcontractors or vendors at the time of submission. However, it is anticipated that a number of SDBs will benefit through two of MIRC's major strategies:
• Training and technical assistance provided by the University of Minnesota Extension (MNE). The target audience is small (under 10 employees), rural businesses. MNE estimates reaching out to over 6,000 late adopter businesses, providing training to 2,000 and strategic technical assistance to more than 100 businesses.
• Demonstration Communities. The demographic characteristics of the demonstration communities, including several with large immigrant, new resident, and American Indian populations, will permit a focus on applications that include socially and economically disadvantaged entrepreneurs.

E. Project Benefits
E-1 – Expanding Broadband Public Computer Center Capacity
Public Computer Center Capacity, Including Areas and Populations Served

12. Public Computer Centers Availability

13. Restrictions on Public Computer Center Use

14. Public Computer Centers Accessibility

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15. PCC - Center Locations, PCC - Center Capacity, PCC - Size and Scope of Target Audience.

PCC - Center Locations & Center Capacity & Size and Scope of Target Audience.

16. PCC- SBA Population Demographics

Age Distribution
Age Distribution: 5-19
Age Distribution: 20-29
Age Distribution: 30-39
Age Distribution: 40-49
Age Distribution: 50-59
Age Distribution: 60-69
Age Distribution: 70 and above

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Ethnicity or ethnicities
Ethnicity: Hispanic
Ethnicity: Non-Hispanic White
Ethnicity: Non-Hispanic American Indian

Gender
Gender: Female
Gender: Male

Median Household Income
Median Household Income: Less than $9,999
Median Household Income: $10,000 - $14,999
Median Household Income: $15,000 - $24,999
Median Household Income: $25,000 - $34,999
Median Household Income: $35,000 - $49,999

Educational Levels
Educational Levels: None

Disabilities status
Disabilities status : Not Applicable

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Unemployment Rate

Unemployment Rate: 9.60

Language

Language : English - Primary

17. **Public Computer Centers Outreach**

Public Computer Center Capacity: Training and Educational Programs

18. **Public Computer Centers Peripherals and Equipment**

19. **Public Computer Centers Workstation Software**

20. **Public Computer Centers Training and Education Programs**

E-2- Project Benefits – Sustainable BroadBand Adoption

21. **Innovative Approach to Sustainable Broadband Adoption**
    The Minnesota Intelligent Rural Communities (MIRC) initiative is a comprehensive, multi-sector approach to sustainable broadband adoption. It builds upon Blandin's vision of healthy communities grounded in strong rural economies. Its broadband initiatives have complemented that vision.

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While the Foundation will not lay fiber, it will work toward the sustainability of broadband infrastructure investments in rural Minnesota. The foundation will engage partners within a framework developed by Intelligent Community Forum (ICF). Within the framework, ICF has developed 5 indicators that determine community competitiveness in a broadband economy; economic transformation now underway.
• Broadband connectivity: Policies and programs that facilitate deployment and adoption;
• Knowledge workforce: A labor force that creates value through the use of information;
• Digital inclusion: Policies and programs to provide access to "have-nots;"
• Innovation: Strategies to build innovation in companies and governments;
• Marketing/advocacy: Strategies that build quality of life and present that message.

MIRC's goal is help create technologically and economically vital communities competing and thriving in the broadband economy with sustainable broadband adoption, job growth and wealth creation. The innovation is comprehensiveness and implementation of applications that have value for consumers, communities, and key institutions in healthcare, education, and government. The innovation is strategies to match the complexity of daily life applied and measured within an existing framework for community vitality and competitiveness. The innovation is collaboration among communities and organizations throughout the state.
MIRC's innovation is to increase broadband subscribership, create jobs and economic opportunity in rural Minnesota communities by:
• Providing education and training compelling broadband applications for their health, education, and economic livelihood to a widely dispersed population in rural Minnesota;
• Providing education, training and technical assistance to small businesses in critical industries for rural Minnesota; and
• Leading communities and critical institutions in the promotion and implementation of valued broadband applications through education, training and technical assistance.

MIRC provides market development strategies needed to accompany existing and proposed infrastructure investments. It provides skills and knowledge around applications that add value to the rural residents it will serve; skills and knowledge not tied to broadband provider-specific applications. It will help eliminate barriers to broadband and application development and deployment. MIRC will reduce the gap between rural MN and metro broadband adoption, accelerating adoption by 2% over its statistically anticipated growth; increasing subscribers by 38,416 more than could otherwise be expected. MIRC is also projected to create or maintain

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13.5 jobs.

22. Sustainable Broadband Adoption Household Subscribers.

How many total new home subscribers (household accounts) to   broadband do you expect to generate through use of BTOP funds over the entire life of the program funded? **38,416**

23. Sustainable Broadband Adoption Institutional Subscribers.

How many total new business and/or institutional subscribers to broadband do you expect to generate through use of BTOP funds over the entire life of the program funded? **155**

24. Sustainable Broadband Adoption Users of Public Access Facilities.

How many total **users** of broadband in public computer centers or **users** of broadband **outside the home** (e.g., in a community college) do you expect to generate through use of BTOP funds over the entire life of the program funded? **3,500**

25. Sustainable Broadband Adoption Population Demographics.

Please refer to PCC – SBA Demographics section (Section E1- Question 17)

26. Sustainable Broadband Adoption People Trained/Educated.

If you intend to provide training or education, how many people **in total** will your program(s) reach? **3,640**

27. Sustainable Broadband Adoption - Scope of Training/Education Programs.

How many hours of training do you expect to provide *per person on average* for each participant in your training program(s), through completion of training for that individual? If you will offer multiple programs, provide estimates for each program. **16**

28. Sustainable Broadband Adoption Instructor Qualifications.

How many (FTE) instructors/facilitators will you employ for broadband and digital literacy training purposes, and what are their qualifications (training and experience)?

   We estimate the equivalent of 4-5 FTE instructors will be utilized throughout the duration of this grant. Because of the broad geographic scope of MIRC (80 rural MN counties), many of the instructors will be engaged for a small portion of their overall hours of employment. Therefore, it is difficult to identify all of them. Training and experience will vary, but examples of the qualifications are illustrated by those identified working within University of Minnesota Extension (See question #29). All of the other instructors are likely to be brokered through the Minnesota Colleges and Universities system, through customized training departments located throughout rural Minnesota. Training and experience varies, but customized training personnel are primarily sought through adjunct faculty relationships.

29. Sustainable Broadband Adoption Equipment Purchased.

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How many broadband-related equipment units (e.g. computers, wireless devices) do you intend to purchase overall? **1,000**

30. Sustainable Broadband Adoption Cost of Devices.

What is the total up-front cost of this equipment?   **45,000**

31. Sustainable Broadband Adoption Loan Program Participants.

If you are providing an equipment purchase or loan program, for how many households, businesses and/or institutions do you expect to provide equipment or computers?

Number of Households: 1,000
Number of Businesses:
Number of Institutions:

32. Sustainable Broadband Adoption Loan Cost to Borrower.

If you are employing a loan program for purchases of service or equipment, what will be the total cost to the typical customer you assist over the life of the loan, including all interest and fees?

33. Sustainable Broadband Adoption Target Population, Awareness Campaign.

If you are conducting an awareness campaign, how many people do you expect your campaign will reach?
160,000

34. Sustainable Broadband Adoption Awareness Campaign Methods

As described previously, MIRC is a comprehensive effort involving many and diverse partners. Within the framework of Intelligent Communities, MIRC will apply broadband demand building strategies at two levels throughout rural Minnesota; (1) statewide, (2) demonstration community. Tactics for building awareness of the strategies, target populations and anticipated impact vary and are described below.

Statewide strategies:
•   MLC Knowledge Workforce education, Digital literacy and computer access: Partners in outreach and awareness building include rural MN MnSCU institutions, WFCs. Notices and contact directions will be placed on individual institution websites and hard copies at institution bulletin boards and in registrars' offices. Additionally, links to project information will be added to the state job seeking and post secondary education pathways and careers websites. Personnel at MnSCU institutions, WFCs, ABE locations, and K-12 guidance offices will be instructed on initiative specifics and directed to distribute information in virtually all client or student contacts. Anticipated number to participate in knowledge workforce education and training: 500. Anticipated impact on subscription rates: 300. Anticipated number to participate in WFC education, training and access components: 600. Anticipated impact on subscription rates: 400. Anticipated number of persons with new home personal computer access and subscription: 400.

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• Network of Care: Partners in this initiative include the Association of MN Counties, the National Assn of Counties, and 80 rural MN counties, organized into mental health planning regions. Outreach and awareness will be conducted through local counties in newsletters, Internet, service pamphlets and public announcements, and office interactions. Working closely with PCs for People to ensure access to this vulnerable population, subscriber impact is estimated at 6,700. Anticipated number of persons with new home personal computer access and subscription: 600.

• Renewable Energy Sector broadband capacity development: The MN Renewable Energy Marketplace (MNREM) will conduct outreach through its regularly scheduled events and communications including meetings, the Internet and training. This industry-led organization and its many MnSCU partners throughout the state is the perfect venue to bolster late adopter renewable energy businesses, including those in renewable electric power, biofuels, energy efficiency assessment serving residential, commercial or industrial sectors, and manufacturers that produce sustainable products using environmentally sustainable processes and materials. Anticipated number to participate in education and training: 40 businesses. Anticipated impact on subscription rates: 40 businesses.

• Small business broadband capacity development: Blandin Foundation partner, University of Minnesota Extension, will Conduct outreach to target audiences across three areas of the state (South Central and Southwest, North Central and Northwest /West Central, recognizing how widely dispersed our target audiences are. The outreach, through media, direct communication and face-to-face introductions, will feature opportunities of technology, pose a challenge, and offer help to businesses left behind. Anticipated number to participate in education, training and access components: 2,000. Anticipated impact on subscription rates: 200 small businesses.

• Statewide rural broadband outreach: Ten Regional Development Commissions will conduct outreach initiatives to regional and community leaders across the state. RDCs will host in each region a regional broadband event that includes appropriate stakeholders. RDCs will increase awareness and provide referrals about MIRC through their existing communication and technical assistance vehicles to community leadership, business community and others. Anticipated impact on subscription rates: 1,000.

• Feasibility Fund and LightSpeed Programs: Fund a total of 10 projects averaging $30,000. Feasibility studies leading to high performance broadband networks will drive increases in subscription rates by 10% in affected communities; funded projects will be required to commit to extensive market development and digital inclusion initiatives. Funded LightSpeed projects will benefit key community institutions like health care, education, public

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safely and government in providing online services to targeted audiences of the elderly and poor. Targeted audience users will receive training and assistance to enable them to make use of these new services. Anticipated impact on subscription rates: 10,000.

Demonstration community strategies will include implementation of at least 4 projects in each of 10 communities. Each project will focus on at least one of the BTOP Sustainable Broadband Adoption purposes and address ARRA broadband statutory purposes. Each application will focus on improving community measures within at least 3 of the 5 IC indicators. Community committees will select applications and receive $100,000 for implementation ($20,000 in match required).

The Demonstration Communities will enable Blandin and partners to work intensively with committed broadband leadership teams. Within the IC framework and BTOP statutory purposes, teams will identify and implement projects that increase broadband subscriptions, increase public access, increase technological sophistication of community institutions to create a culture of technology use. Community teams will be informed of best practices from previous Blandin, project partner and international broadband initiatives. Existing web 2.0 and online tools will be used to highlight successes and challenges. Unique community geography and demography precipitate unique strategies, making specific outcomes difficult to predict. Communities will be required to develop a set of anticipated outcomes on numbers reached and new subscribers. Anticipated impact on broadband subscription rates: 20,000.

35. Measuring Campaign Impact for Sustainable Broadband Adoption

Measuring program impact and outcomes will be a key feature of this comprehensive campaign addressing the needs throughout rural Minnesota. However, due to the comprehensiveness of the interventions will require a variety of strategies and associated metrics. Our approach will be 3-fold:

Community-level Interventions associated with the 10 demonstration communities, as well as an additional 10 communities that will focus on access to broadband through current Blandin Foundation programs will require specific community measures and metrics. Accordingly, after the participating communities have been identified but prior to the intervention, we will conduct a comprehensive community assessment associated with the 5 core elements of the Intelligent Community Forum approach. We will focus on metrics that address access, adoption rates, sustainability and existing local policies and programs. This data will create a

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solid baseline from which program impact and outcomes can be accurately assessed. After 18 months of programmatic intervention, we will conduct a post-intervention assessment in these communities to accurately assessment programmatic impacts and outcomes.

Statewide Outreach and Educational Strategies conducted by partnering organizations will need to be assessed at a broader statewide level. These activities are designed to impact individuals and not necessarily communities. Therefore, for these activities we will design an evaluation form each partner to administer to participants of their respective outreach or educational activities. These assessment metrics will focus on the specific learning objectives tied directly to their specific outreach, training or educational component. Data at this level will assist us in assessing the impact of these activities at the individual level among rural residents.

Assessing the impact on Broadband Adoption Rates throughout rural Minnesota will be addressed by administering two statewide household surveys; the first at the start of the programmatic activities, and the second toward the end of 2011. Our evaluator has conducted such scientific studies of broadband adoption among rural Minnesota households and businesses since 2001. These broader household surveys throughout rural Minnesota will assess whether our activities have made a direct impact on broadband adoption rates above what statistically could be expected if such interventions never occurred. As noted earlier in this proposal, we have projected a direct impact of more than 38,000 additional broadband subscriptions as a consequence of this comprehensive approach.

36. Sustainable Broadband Adoption Total Cost Per New Subscriber.

What is the total cost of your project per new subscriber (household, individual, or institutional) or new end-user? **165**

F. Project Viability

Technical Viability

37. Technology Strategy
37 - A. Public Computer Center Technology Strategy

37 - B. Sustainable Broadband Adoption Technology Strategy

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The work falls within the framework of ICF's five indicators (see #12). Strategies crafted provide opportunity to residents, small businesses, local governments, and critical needs providers in rural Minnesota. Strategies address an array of needs for rural communities in health, education, and employment. The goal is Intelligent Rural Minnesota Communities - communities competing and thriving in the broadband economy with sustainable broadband adoption, job growth, and wealth creation.

Knowledge Workforce
Obj 1: Develop new and promote awareness and use of existing educational tools and resources in over 30 counties permitting rural Minnesota residents and business owners to acquire skills for and build awareness of opportunities in a knowledge-based economy.
•Strategy: Blandin will collaborate with MN Learning Commons, a formal partnership between University of MN, MN State Colleges and Universities, and MN Dept of Education, to develop and deliver an online, course to over 500 persons throughout the state. The course will provide information on knowledge-based occupations and the pathways to pursue the necessary education and training for those occupations via online offerings of MN institutions. The delivery of the course, while online but in a classroom, will involve some non-traditional partners including Workforce Centers. Local partners will recruit participants and facilitate learning. Collaboration with MN Dept of Employment and Economic Development will permit participants to fulfill job seeking requirements, learn about opportunities for continuing education, and become familiar with online learning. The course will be offered 16/yr in WFC and community college locations.

Digital Inclusion
Obj 2: Provide education and training in over 30 counties that enables its rural and underserved residents and local governments to effectively use internet to ensure a high quality of life and a globally competitive future through health, employment and distance education applications.
•Strategy 2.1: Collaborate with 30 MN Workforce Centers (WFC) to provide 8 additional hours per week of computer access and an additional 8 hours of digital literacy training per month.
•Strategy 2.2: Collaborate with PCs for People, a MN based non-profit, to provide reliable computers to persons without the means to purchase them. Relying on donations and repair, it is a cost effective way to reach those without means. Distribution will include other partners such as county governments and WFCs. Blandin will facilitate lowered subscription rates with local provider partners for persons receiving a computer.
•Strategy 2.3: Collaborate with the National Assn of Counties, Association of MN Counties, and 10 regions to provide a Network of Care (NoC) tool for mental health resources and services.

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Nationally acclaimed and endorsed by the National Alliance on Mental Illness, NoC is a highly interactive place for consumers, community-based organizations, and government workers. It provides information and resources to all, personalization, including health records storage to consumers, and online continuing education to workers.

Innovation
Obj 3: Spur innovation and entrepreneurship in over 60 counties through training and application of digital solutions to increase broadband adoption and produce efficiencies and growth in key rural economic sectors.
•Strategy 3.1: Led by the MN Renewable Energy Marketplace-Alliance for Talent Development (MNREM), MIRC will provide training and technical assistance for at least 40 renewable energy businesses in rural Minnesota. The training and technical assistance will focus on industry-specific, customer relationship management, and e-commerce applications designed to produce efficiencies and growth for these small businesses.
•Strategy 3.2: Led by University of MN Extension, MIRC will provide training and technical assistance to at least 2,000 small businesses to increase broadband adoption. Outreach will extend to over 7,000 and specific technical assistance and technology support networks for at least 60. Extension will reach into 3 areas of the state where data illustrates a significant percentage of offline businesses (Southwest/South Central, North Central/West Central, Northeast). Extension will target late adopters; retail and food/accommodation / tourism businesses with fewer than ten employees and close proximity to their market area.

Broadband Connectivity/Advocacy
Obj 4: Assist a minimum of 20 communities and providers promote compelling and valued uses of broadband.
•Strategy 4.1: Ten communities will serve as demonstration communities for application of the Intelligent Community framework, an attempt to show progress on the 5 indicators. Blandin and organizing consultants will facilitate community-led implementation of at least 4 broadband projects in each of 10 communities. Each project will focus on at least one of the BTOP Sustainable Broadband Adoption purposes and address ARRA broadband statutory purposes. Each application will focus on improving community measures within at least 3 of the 5 indicators. Community committees will select applications and receive $100,000 for implementation ($20k match required).
•Strategy 4.2. Within a minimum of 10 communities, improve access to broadband and its sustainable adoption through expansion of Blandin's flagship strategies; Feasibility and

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LightSpeed programs. Blandin and RDCs will reach out to communities throughout rural MN providing training and technical assistance to create a culture of use and innovation with broadband strategies.

Communities, states or regions may easily replicate for 3 major reasons: (1) Intelligent Community framework exists for public adoption; (2) Strategies employ non-proprietary networks and applications dispersed across a wide variety of community and consumer needs; and (3) Clearly defined measure of outputs and outcomes will guide practices.

Organizational Capability

38. Management Team Resumes.
Please refer to upload section at the end of document.

39. Organizational Readiness

Blandin Foundation is a private foundation based in Grand Rapids, MN and is the state's largest rural-based and rural-focused foundation. The Blandin Foundation mission is to strengthen communities in rural Minnesota, especially the Grand Rapids area, with the vision of healthy rural communities grounded in strong economies where the burdens and benefits are widely shared. To do this, the Blandin Foundation engages in three types of work: grant-making, community leadership development and public policy programs.

In 2003 Blandin Foundation launched a Broadband Initiative to improve the economic vitality of Minnesota's rural communities by encouraging the development of rural telecommunications markets and infrastructure. The foundation believes that broadband technology holds potential for rural communities to overcome the disadvantages of a smaller labor force, fewer capital resources, reduced access to research institutions and greater distance from markets and suppliers. Since its inception the Blandin Broadband Initiative has:
• Published the Community Guide to Broadband Development to help local leaders across Minnesota learn more about broadband and explore options for increasing local availability and use;
• Created and hosted a range of information resources and support, including the Blandin on Broadband blog, a monthly e-news letter and an internet-based toolkit of resources and best practices;
• Designed and implemented a number of community grant and technical assistance

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programs to promote broadband utilization, including Get Broadband, Light Speed, Robust Networks Feasibility Fund, and Community Broadband Resources; and
• Hosted annual state-wide conferences to advance policies and practices, share knowledge and encourage progress toward the vision statement.

MIRC will engage the Broadband Initiative Strategy Board in and advisory capacity. The Strategy Board includes representatives from communities, providers, consumers, local government and the Governor's cabinet. The Strategy Board currently makes funding and programmatic recommendations to the Blandin Foundation. MIRC will also engage its local, regional, state and national partners as a guiding coalition and facilitate meetings on a quarterly basis to oversee progress, share information and best practices, as well as offer solutions to unexpected challenges.

For over 45 years, the Blandin Foundation has been a leader in rural Minnesota. As described in the response to question 29, the Blandin Foundation has an experienced and highly qualified staff and management team and has gathered an effective coalition of individuals and organizations to implement this project. The Blandin staff has the administrative and financial capacity. Gaps on data gathering, content, outreach, and technology were filled be its partners.

40. Organizational Chart.
Please refer to upload section at the end of document.

Community Involvement

41. Key Partners
Detailed contact information and roles are included in separate upload.
Association of Minnesota Counties
Jim Mulder, Executive Director

Minnesota Workforce Council Association
Anne Olson, Executive Director

Intelligent Community Forum

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Robert Bell

Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, and Workforce Centers
Kathy Sweeney, Strategic Partnerships Director

Minnesota Learning Commons: Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, University of Minnesota, Minnesota Department of Education
Gary Langer, MnSCU AVC Academic Innovations

Minnesota Renewable Energy Marketplace
Teresa Kittridge

National Association of Counties
Jim Sawyer

PCs for People
Andy Elofson

Regional Development Commissions
http://www.mrdo.org/ This web site provides links to each of the regional development commissions.

University of Minnesota, Crookston Campus
Jack Geller, Department Head, Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences Dept

University of Minnesota Extension
Dick Senese, Associate Dean, Community Vitality and Public Engagement

COMMUNITY PARTNERS
Each of the following communities (community is self-defined with geography ranging from single communities to a five county region and an Indian reservation) is committed to serving as a MIRC demonstration community.
• City of Grand Rapids / Itasca County
• Kandiyohi County
• Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe

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- City of Morris/Stevens County
- City of Winona
- Cook County
- City of Worthington
- Upper MN Valley Region
- City of Thief River Falls

42. Partnering with Disadvantaged Businesses

Ability to Start Promptly & Timeline

43. Project Timeline and Challenges

Over the last 6 years, the Blandin Foundation has been laying the groundwork for MIRC and successfully implementing first its Get Broadband program and more recently the three flagship broadband programs (Community Broadband Resources, LightSpeed, Feasibility Fund). The Foundation, its staff and partners have gained valuable insight into effective strategies for building broadband demand. With MIRC, Blandin and its partners have aligned their priorities and leveraged resources from many sources. During the planning process leading up to this application, commitments have been received by all the partners and 8 demonstration communities. A shared vision and defined roles will make it very easy to get started on this initiative.

If funded, MIRC could begin immediately. Cash is on hand, matching commitment are made and all the partners are in place. In anticipation of BTOP funding, MIRC partners have laid out the following timeline and milestones. Based on information from the NTIA, MIRC expects to get started no later than January 1, 2010.

TIMELINE
Project Management, Evaluation, Reporting Strategies
•Guiding Coalition meetings held quarterly
•Jan - February '10: All staff and contracts in place, including compliance, evaluation and reporting requirements
•Statewide broadband adoption measure in first quarter and last quart

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•Community assessments in first 5 months and last 4 months
•Jan '12 - final evaluation
•Partner and community ICF training in 3rd month and 13th month

Knowledge Workforce Strategy
•Jan'10: Begin course development, complete within first quarter
•April '10: First knowledge worker course held
•Knowledge worker training, cumulative persons served: Qtr, 40 by 2nd Qtr, 100 3rd Qtr, 160 4th Qtr, 220 5th Qtr, 300 6th Qtr, 400 7th Qtr, 500 8th Qtr

Digital Inclusion Strategies
•Strategy 2.1: Workforce Centers
•Jan'10: Begin extended hours for computer access within the first month of project start
•Feb '10: First digital literacy training held
•Digital literacy training, cumulative persons served: 20 by 1st Qtr, 80 by 2nd Qtr, 140 3rd Qtr, 200 4th Qtr, 300 5th Qtr, 400 6th Qtr, 500 7th Qtr, 600 8th Qtr
•Strategy 2.2: PCs and Broadband Access
•January '10 – Coordination with WFC and Counties begins, outreach to workforce and human service clients
•Feb '10 – Discussions with providers for reduced rates begins
•Mar '10 First computer delivered
•Computers delivered, cumulative persons served: 20 by 1st Qtr, 80 by 2nd Qtr, 200 3rd Qtr, 300 4th Qtr, 400 5th Qtr, 600 6th Qtr, 800 7th Qtr, 1,000 8th Qtr
•Strategy 2.3: Network of Care
•January '10 - Site development across all regions begins
•April '10 Site launch
•April '10 – June '10 – Intensified outreach and training held, organized by AMC and member counties
•May '1 – first county workers take online training
•   Ongoing outreach and training

Innovation Strategies
•Strategy 3.1: Renewable Energy Business Training and Technical Assistance
•Jan – May '10 – Outreach to renewable energy businesses and assessment of broadband strategies

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•Jun '10 – Aug '10 – 10 businesses engaged in training
•Aug '10 – Dec '10 – 10 businesses engaged in training, 10 additional in each Jan – April '11 and May – Aug '11

Strategy 3.2: Offline Business Training and Technical Assistance
•Jan '10 – June '10 – Identify business sector networks in regions, begin one-on-one consultation and technical assistance and assess training needs, determine informal helping systems
•July '10 – Aug '10 - Identify designated networks key local helpers/champions for each designated network. (Through events, competitions and other means), Conduct one educational event for three business network configurations in each area of the state, Continue one-on-one consultation and hands-on help, Begin to organize helping systems; identify incentives for them to work together (e.g., new on-line GPS marketing strategies projects)
•Sept '10 – Dec '10 - Convene and train all local champions, Conduct one educational event for three business network configurations in each area of the state, Continue one-on-one consultation and hands-on help, Attach off-line businesses to helping systems, Provide report about vendors and customers to off-line businesses through workshops, consultation and written materials, Develop and test on-line and hard copy curriculum drafts
•Jan '11 – Dec '11 - Conduct regular meetings with champions, Continue to assess needs of each network, Conduct one educational event for three business network configurations in each area of the state, Continue one-on-one consultation and hands-on help, Attach off-line businesses to helping systems in and out of their network, Provide report about vendors and customers to off-line businesses through workshops, consultation and written materials

Broadband Connectivity/Advocacy Strategies
•Strategy 4.1: Demonstration Communities.
oJanuary '10 – Meeting with Demonstration Communities to inform community teams
oFebruary – April '10 – Year 1 Needs Assessment, priority setting, project development in all communities
oApril – June – Budget and outcomes development and approval
oMay – July – BB leadership training
oJuly – December '10 – Project implementation
oJanuary '11 – Year 1 Assessment, Year 2 priority setting and project development
oFebruary – Budget and outcomes development
oMarch – December '11 project implementation

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oJanuary '12 – Final program evaluation

•Strategy4.2. Feasibility Fund and LightSpeed Programs
oJanuary '10, Program announcement
oQuarterly application, review and approval
oQuarterly funding distribution
oOngoing project monitoring
oJanuary '12 Final program evaluation

44. Non-Infrastructure Projects - Licenses and Regulatory Approvals

45. Legal Opinion.
Please refer to upload section at the end of document.

G. Project Budget & Sustainability

Project Profile: Budget and Budget Narrative

46. Budget Narrative
Personnel=$213,921, BTOP=$48,900, Match=$165,021
•Bernadine Joselyn, Dir of Public Policy and Engagement, Project Principal, oversight, partner engagement - .33FTE at $112,000/Yr. $75,029, BTOP=$11,500, Match=$63,529
•Jean Lane, Finance Dir, financial mgmnt/compliance, .11FTE @ $103,000. $23,000, BTOP=$0, Match=$23,000
•Wade Fauth, Grants Dir, oversight of grants process, .11FTE @ $113,000. $25,233, BTOP = $0, Match = $25,233
•Valerie Shangreaux, Dir of Leadership, customized leadership training, .12FTE @ $103,000. $25,091, BTOP=$0, Match=$25,091
•Mary Magnuson, Program Asst, Community/ partner coordination, .4FTE @ $42,000. $34,104, BTOP=$18,400, Match=$15,704
•Becky LaPlant, Program Asst, Community/partner engagement, training/TA, .2FTE @ $45,000. $18,270, BTOP=$13,000, Match=$5,270
•Alana Hughes, Admin Asst, .1FTE @ $27,000. $10,962, BTOP=$6,000, Match=$4,962

Benefits @ 30%=$63,507, BTOP=$14,670, Match=$48,837

	Year1			Year 2			Project Total		
	Total	BTOP	Match	Total	BTOP	Match	Total	BTOP	Match
1. Personnel	$104,280	$21,000	$83,280	$107,408	$27,900	$79,508	$211,688	$48,900	$162,788
2. Fringe Benefits	$31,284	$6,300	$24,984	$32,223	$8,370	$23,853	$63,507	$14,670	$48,837
3. Travel	$29,450	$24,500	$4,950	$33,850	$24,500	$9,350	$63,300	$49,000	$14,300
4. Equipment	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0
5. Supplies	$4,700	$4,700	$0	$4,700	$4,700	$0	$9,400	$9,400	$0
6. Contractual	$2,991,300	$2,407,000	$584,300	$2,687,199	$2,171,649	$515,550	$5,678,499	$4,578,649	$1,099,850
7. Other	$179,900	$79,900	$100,000	$177,700	$77,700	$100,000	$357,600	$157,600	$200,000
11. Total Funds Re	$3,340,914	$2,543,400	$797,514	$3,043,080	$2,314,819	$728,261	$6,383,994	$4,858,219	$1,525,775

	Total	% of Project
Matching Investments	$1,525,775	23.9%
Cash Match	$506,500	7.9%
Inkind Match	$1,019,275	16.0%

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Match=$200,000
•Design/print program lit. $4,600, BTOP=$4,600, Match=$0
•Annual - Single Audit. $46,000, BTOP=$46,000, Match=$0
•Demo community training meeting; 1 of 10 communities/yr, est min 5/community (200+ persons) food, space, communications/presentations. $7,000, BTOP=$7,000, Match=$0

Total=$6,383,994, BTOP=$4,858,219, Match=$1,525,775

47. Non-Infrastructure Projects - Budget Reasonableness

The budget plan for this project is reasonable. We have provided significant match and this commitment of our own funds illustrates our intention to spend these funds prudently.

With our partners, we are building from a base of programs carried out by Blandin Foundation, the University of Minnesota, MnSCU and other partners. These partners are experienced in budgeting and project management for projects of significant size. We are certain of the people and resource requirements necessary to achieve the outcomes that we have outlined and have budgeted accordingly. Primary project partners are experienced in working with federal funding, procurement procedures and compliance ensuring smooth project management and expenditure of funds.

We have read and understand the rules regarding eligible expenses. All items budgeted fall within the specified budget categories and are eligible under the program rules. As a large, sophisticated 501(c)3 foundation, the Blandin Foundation is subject to strict rules of operation. In addition, with public reputation as a key value, the Foundation strives to eliminate any chance of inappropriate use of funds; this extends to avoiding even the appearance of inappropriate use of funds.

By partnering with established organizations that are already working with broadband projects or the targeted audience for our programs, Blandin Foundation and our partners eliminate the need for costly start-up expenditures. We have the organizational and outreach capacities in place to move forward quickly and efficiently. The primary partners have worked together in various capacities and organizational relationships are well established.

Salaries and expenses are within sector and regional norms for similar work. The key staff are

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proven performers with track records of achievement in broadband, economic development, community development, and workforce.

There are no large, new equipment purchases eating up large chunks of the grant. Personal computers will be furnished for 1,000 rural residents through a program that refurbishes donated computers, assuring reliability and proper software licensing. At just an estimated $45 per computer, it is a very good value.

48. Demonstration of Financial Need

The resources of the Blandin Foundation, along with many other charitable foundations, were diminished by the recent financial crisis. The Foundation trust faced losses similar in percentage to those faced by homeowners in hard hit regions of the country and 401k owners everywhere. Existing Foundation commitments are severely restricting its ability to implement new programs. In fact, without the funding received from the Minnesota Attorney General's office from an Alltel settlement, the Blandin Foundation broadband strategies would be severely diminished.

Even more significantly, our project partners – University of Minnesota Extension, the State of Minnesota Workforce Centers, MN Counties and Regional Development Commissions – are all facing significant budget shortfalls due to cuts in state revenue and funding, local property tax collections and other funding sources. We all know that it is impossible to launch new initiatives when core functions are being denied traditional levels of funding. Many project partners are able to offer only in-kind contributions to this project as a result of their current budget situation.

Without the BTOP funding, the proposed strategies would not be implemented at the scale proposed, if at all. There would be no online education, no technology service and information delivery to mental health clients, no training and technical assistance to small, offline businesses, no digital literacy training for the unemployed, fewer hours of access for job seekers, and no computers for the 1,000 rural residents who cannot afford them.

BTOP funding will allow the Foundation to build upon its years of sustainable broadband adoption work and continue to work throughout the state. Without BTOP funding, our efforts to build a unified and coordinated effort with our project partners would not be in anyway

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possible. Blandin Foundation broadband efforts would be restricted to a much more limited set of activities and primarily limited to the 28 counties that were affected by the Alltel purchase (and subsequent settlement) of regional carrier, Midwest Wireless.

49. Historical Financial Statements.
Please refer to upload section at the end of document.

Project Profile: Long Term Sustainability

50. Sustainability.
51 - A. Public Computer Center Sustainability
   na

51 - B. Sustainable Broadband Adoption Sustainability
   Initiative sustainability is often the most difficult challenge. With MIRC however, it is believed that the value provided and the mechanisms created will encourage continued investment of human and financial capital.
•   MN Learning Commons will be able to demonstrate the effectiveness of its shared repository and open up the possibilities for online learning for thousands more rural residents. The new online learners will enter into a path of credentialing without having to leave their rural homes.
•   Workforce Centers will weigh the value of digital literacy training for its clients. Its clients will have technology-based job-seeking skills to carry with them for the rest of their lives.
•   Collaboratively counties will be able to effectively serve their residents with mental or behavioral health issues at a very reasonable cost. The Association of Minnesota Counties will negotiate regional sustainability strategies.
•   Demonstration communities will have built leadership around broadband adoption, particularly as it impacts late adapting socially and economically disadvantaged individuals and businesses.
•   Small rural businesses in the food, tourism, retail and renewable energy industries will have the skills and supportive knowledge networks to adopt broadband applications that will sustain and grow their businesses.

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Project Profile: Outside Leverage

51. Matching Funds.
Please refer to upload section at the end of document.

52. Unjust Enrichment
The Blandin Foundation is not applying for any other federal sources for the activities of this grant.

53. Disclosure of Federal and/or State Funding Sources
The Blandin Foundation is not applying for any other public sources for the activities of this project. Matching funds include:

The Blandin Foundation and its partners have secured matching funds of $1,525,775, which is 24% of the total project cost of $6,383,994.`Letters of commitment have been submitted with this application.

$506,500 or 8% of the total project cost is a cash match. Sources include:
• Blandin Foundation; $506,500 ($449,000 Alltel settlement funds, $50,000 BF funds) to be directed toward demonstration community applications, Community Broadband Resources, LightSpeed, and Feasibility initiatives and $7,500 in consultant costs.

$1,019,275 or 16% of the total project cost is in-kind match. Sources include:
•Blandin Foundation; $280,925 in personnel and operational expenses
•$451,600 by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development for management of access and digital literacy training, space, utilities, outreach and use value of computers;
•$8,250 by MN Learning Commons, a collaboration of MnSCU, UofM, and MN Dept of Education for depository development and maintenance;
•$20,000 by Regional Development Commissions for travel, outreach, personnel and coordination expenses;
•$200,000 by demonstration communities' application implementation, 20% minimum match for all applications;
•$51,000 by communities funded through the LightSpeed and Feasibility programs; and
•$7,500 by Association of Minnesota Counties for managing the Network of Care

Submitted Date:	Easygrants ID: 557
Funding Opportunity: Public Computer Centers and Sustainable Broadband Adoption	**Applicant Organization:** C. K. Blandin Foundation
Task: Submit Application - Non-Infrastructure Programs	**Applicant Name:** Ms. Bernadine Joselyn

implementation and outreach.

54. Buy American.

Is the applicant seeking an individual waiver of the Buy American provision?
No

Buy American Waiver Request Explanation

H. DOC Environmental Checklist

55. SECTION 1 – Please refer to upload section at the end of document.

I. Compliance and Certification

56. Certification and signature.

Please refer to upload section at the end of the document.

Submitted Date:	Easygrants ID: 557
Funding Opportunity: Public Computer Centers and Sustainable Broadband Adoption	**Applicant Organization:** C. K. Blandin Foundation
Task: Submit Application - Non-Infrastructure Programs	**Applicant Name:** Ms. Bernadine Joselyn

Uploads

The following pages contain the following uploads provided by the applicant:

Upload Name
10. CD-511 Certification - Lobbying, Upper Tier*
08. Environmental Checklist
13. SF-424B Assurances Non-Construction
17. Legal Opinion*
18. Authentication*
16. SF-LLL Disclosure of Lobbying Activities*
09. Compliance and Certifications*
12. SF-424A Budget Information Non-Construction**
02. Q24 PCC; Q29 SBA - Management Team Resumes
03. Q26 PCC; Q31 SBA - Organization Chart
19. Supplemental Information

Submitted Date:	Easygrants ID: 557	
Funding Opportunity: Public Computer Centers and Sustainable Broadband Adoption	**Applicant Organization:** C. K. Blandin Foundation	
Task: Submit Application - Non-Infrastructure Programs	**Applicant Name:** Ms. Bernadine Joselyn	

04. Q27 PCC; Q32 SBA - Key Partners
06. Q35 PCC; Q40 SBA - Historical Financial Statem

To preserve the integrity of the uploaded document, headers, footers and page numbers have not been added by the system

CERTIFICATION REGARDING LOBBYING

Applicants should also review the instructions for certification included in the regulations before completing this form. Signature on this form provides for compliance with certification requirements under 15 CFR Part 28, "New Restrictions on Lobbying." The certifications shall be treated as a material representation of fact upon which reliance will be placed when the Department of Commerce determines to award the covered transaction, grant, or cooperative agreement.

LOBBYING

As required by Section 1352, Title 31 of the U.S. Code, and implemented at 15 CFR Part 28, for persons entering into a grant, cooperative agreement or contract over $100,000 or a loan or loan guarantee over $150,000 as defined at 15 CFR Part 28, Sections 28.105 and 28.110, the applicant certifies that to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

(1) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress in conncection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.

(2) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying." in accordance with its instructions.

(3) The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly. This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into.

Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than $10,000 and not more than $100,000 for each such failure occurring on or before October 23, 1996, and of not less than $11,000 and not more than $110,000 for each such failure occurring after October 23, 1996.

Statement for Loan Guarantees and Loan Insurance

The undersigned states, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

If any funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this commitment providing for the United States to insure or guarantee a loan, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions.

Submission of this statement is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required statement shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than $10,000 and not more than $100,000 for each such failure occurring on or before October 23, 1996, and of not less than $11,000 and not more than $110,000 for each such failure occurring after October 23, 1996.

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I hereby certify that the applicant will comply with the above applicable certification.

NAME OF APPLICANT	AWARD NUMBER AND/OR PROJECT NAME
C. K. Blandin Foundation	MN Intelligent Rural Communities

PRINTED NAME AND TITLE OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE
James Hoolihan, President/CEO
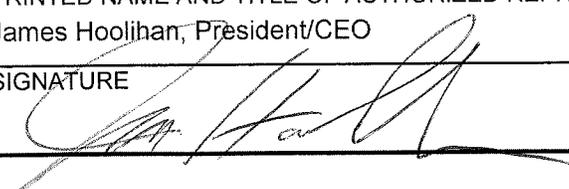
SIGNATURE	DATE
	August 4, 2009

DOC Environmental Checklist

1. **SECTION 1**- To be completed for those projects historically shown not to create significant environmental impacts to the human or natural environment. Any answer of "No" or "Not Applicable" may require additional documentation or review.

   a. Is the proposed action solely a procurement action for materials intended to be installed, stored or operated in an existing building or structure?

   ☐ Yes

   ☐ No

   ☐ Not Applicable

   b. If the proposed action involves procurement of electronic equipment, will the equipment be disposed of in an environmentally sound manner at the end of its useful life?

   ☐ Yes

   ☐ No

   ☐ Not Applicable

   c. Does the proposed action involve only minor interior renovations to a structure, facility, or installation?

   ☐ Yes

   ☐ No

   ☐ Not Applicable

   d. Is the proposed action solely for the production and/or distribution of informational materials, brochures, or newsletters?

   ☐ Yes

   ☐ No

   ☐ Not Applicable

   e. Does the proposed action consist solely of training, teaching, or meeting facilitation at an existing facility or structure?

   ☐ Yes

   ☐ No

   ☐ Not Applicable

ASSURANCES - CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0348-0042), Washington, DC 20503.

PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET.
SEND IT TO THE ADDRESS PROVIDED BY THE SPONSORING AGENCY.

NOTE: Certain of these assurances may not be applicable to your project or program. If you have questions, please contact the Awarding Agency. Further, certain Federal assistance awarding agencies may require applicants to certify to additional assurances. If such is the case, you will be notified.

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I certify that the applicant:

1. Has the legal authority to apply for Federal assistance, and the institutional, managerial and financial capability (including funds sufficient to pay the non-Federal share of project costs) to ensure proper planning, management and completion of the project described in this application.

2. Will give the awarding agency, the Comptroller General of the United States and, if appropriate, the State, through any authorized representative, access to and the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the assistance; and will establish a proper accounting system in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards or agency directives.

3. Will not dispose of, modify the use of, or change the terms of the real property title, or other interest in the site and facilities without permission and instructions from the awarding agency. Will record the Federal interest in the title of real property in accordance with awarding agency directives and will include a covenant in the title of real property acquired in whole or in part with Federal assistance funds to assure non-discrimination during the useful life of the project.

4. Will comply with the requirements of the assistance awarding agency with regard to the drafting, review and approval of construction plans and specifications.

5. Will provide and maintain competent and adequate engineering supervision at the construction site to ensure that the complete work conforms with the approved plans and specifications and will furnish progress reports and such other information as may be required by the assistance awarding agency or State.

6. Will initiate and complete the work within the applicable time frame after receipt of approval of the awarding agency.

7. Will establish safeguards to prohibit employees from using their positions for a purpose that constitutes or presents the appearance of personal or organizational conflict of interest, or personal gain.

8. Will comply with the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. 4728-4763) relating to prescribed standards for merit systems for programs funded under one of the 19 statutes or regulations specified in Appendix A of OPM=s Standards for a Merit System of Personnel Administration (5 C.F.R. 900, Subpart F).

9. Will comply with the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. 4801 et seq.) which prohibits the use of lead-based paint in construction or rehabilitation of residence structures.

10. Will comply with all Federal statutes relating to non-discrimination. These include but are not limited to: (a) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin; (b) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended (20 U.S.C. 1681-1683, and 1685-1686), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex; (c) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. 794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicaps; (d) the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. 6101-6107), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age; (e) the Drug Abuse Office and Treatment Act of 1972 (P.L. 92-255), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of drug abuse; (f) the Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-616), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of alcohol abuse or alcoholism; (g) 523 and 527 of the Public Health Service Act of 1912 (42 U.S.C. 290 dd-3 and 290 ee-3), as amended, relating to confidentiality of alcohol and drug abuse patient records; (h) Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.), as amended relating to nondiscrimination in the sale, rental or financing of housing; (i) any other nondiscrimination provisions in the specific statute(s) under which application for Federal assistance is being made; and (j) the requirements of any other nondiscrimination statute(s) which may apply to the application.

11. Will comply, or has already complied, with the requirements of Titles II and III of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-646) which provide for fair and equitable treatment of persons displaced or whose property is acquired as a result of Federal and federally-assisted programs. These requirements apply to all interests in real property acquired for project purposes regardless of Federal participation in purchases.

12. Will comply with the provisions of the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. 1501-1508 and 7324-7328) which limit the political activities of employees whose principal employment activities are funded in whole or in part with Federal funds.

13. Will comply, as applicable, with the provision of the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. 276a to 276a-7), the Copeland Act (40 U.S.C. 276c and 18 U.S.C.874), and the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. 327-333) regarding labor standards of federally assisted construction subagreements.

14. Will comply with flood insurance purchase requirements of Section 102(a) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-234) which requires recipients in a special flood hazard area to participate in the program and to purchase flood insurance if the total cost of insurable construction and acquisition is $10,000 or more.

15. Will comply with environmental standards which may be prescribed pursuant to the following: (a) institution of environmental quality control measures under the

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190) and Executive Order (EO) 11514; (b) notification of violating facilities pursuant to EO 11738; (c) protection of wetlands pursuant to EO 11990; (d) evaluation of flood hazards in flood plains in accordance with EO 11988; (e) assurance of project consistency with the approved State management program developed under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq.); (f) conformity of Federal actions to State (Clean Air) Implementation Plans under Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act of 1955, as amended (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.); (g) protection of underground sources of drinking water under the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended (P.L. 93-523); and (h) protection of endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (P.L. 93-205).

16. Will comply with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (16 U.S.C. 1271 et seq.) related to protecting components or potential components of the national wild and scenic rivers system.

17. Will assist the awarding agency in assuring compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470), EO 11593 (identification and protection of historic properties), and the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 469a-1 et seq.).

18. Will cause to be performed the required financial and compliance audits in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and OMB Circular No. A-133, AAudits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations.@

19. Will comply with all applicable requirements of all other Federal laws, executive orders, regulations, and policies governing this program.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED CERTIFYING OFFICIAL	TITLE
	President/CEO
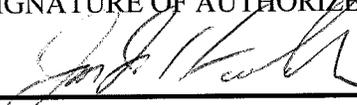
APPLICANT ORGANIZATION	DATE SUBMITTED
C. K. Blandin Foundation	August 4, 2009

Borenstein and McVeigh Law Office

August 6, 2009

Assistant Secretary
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Charles K. Blandin Foundation
    Broadband Technology Opportunities Program Applicant

Dear Sir or Madam:

We are special counsel for Charles K. Blandin Foundation, representing the Foundation in the areas of corporate, tax and employment law (the "Applicant.") In such capacity, we have been asked to opine in connection with Applicant's ability to apply to the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program and in the review of the grant agreement, as referenced in the Notice of Funds Availability (i.e., Financial Assistance Award Form CD-450), excluding any "Special Award Conditions" or conditions that would be added as "Other(s)" aside from those in the Notice of Funds Availability itself (e.g., "Award Terms and Conditions" at IX-C, page 33123, Federal Register, July 9, 2009, Vol. 74, No. 130).

In preparation of our opinion, we have reviewed the following: the Applicant's Broadband Technology Opportunities Program grant application, current as of the date of our opinion; Applicant's corporate resolution adopted by its Board of Directors at a meeting held on March 26, 2009, directing staff of Charles K. Blandin Foundation to pursue federal funding to expand broadband access to rural Minnesota communities; public records located at the website of the Office of the Secretary of State of Minnesota, evidencing the Applicant's corporate status as a Minnesota nonprofit corporation; a statement from Applicant's Finance Director, advising this firm that there are no legal proceedings that have been instituted or are pending against the Applicant, the outcome of which would adversely affect its ability to perform the duties under the proposed grant agreement, and no judgments against the Applicant that would adversely affect its ability to perform its duties under the proposed grant agreement.

We have relied upon the representations made in the documents we have reviewed, and our opinion is limited to our knowledge, i.e. the information actually known to us at the time of our opinion in connection with the matters described herein. In rendering such opinions, we have conducted no review of documents in our files relating to any other matters in which we have represented the Applicant.

We are of the opinion that:

(a) the Applicant is a duly organized and existing nonprofit corporation under the laws of the State of Minnesota, in good standing as of the date of this opinion.

(b) the Applicant has corporate power: (1) to execute and deliver the agreement; and (2) to perform all acts required to be done by it under said agreement.

(c) no legal proceedings have been instituted or are pending against the Applicant, the outcome of which would adversely affect the Applicant's ability to perform the duties under the grant agreement, and there are no judgments against the Applicant which would adversely affect the Applicant's ability to perform its duties under the grant agreement.

Very truly yours,
BORENSTEIN AND MCVEIGH LAW OFFICE LLC
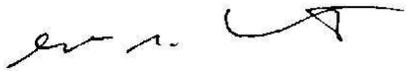
By: Eve R. Borenstein

U.S. Department of Commerce
Broadband Technology Opportunities Program

I certify that I am the duly authorized representative of the applicant organization, and that I have been authorized to submit the attached application on its behalf. A copy of the applicant organization's authorization for me to submit this application as its official representative is on file in the applicant's office, and I am identified as the applicant organization's Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) in the Central Contractor Registration database. By signing this certification, I certify that the statements contained in the application are true, complete, and accurate to the best of my knowledge, and that if an award is made, the applicant organization will comply with all applicable award terms and conditions.

_August 4, 2009_____
      (Date)

(Authorized Representative's Signature)

      James Hoolihan_____
      Name:

      President/CEO_____
      Title:

Disclosure of Lobbying Activities

Complete this form to disclose lobbying activities pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1352

(See reverse for public burden disclosure)

1. Type of Federal Action:	2. Status of Federal Action:	3. Report Type:

a. contract
_X_ b. grant
    c. cooperative agreement
    d. loan
    e. loan guarantee
    f. loan insurance
	X a. bid/offer/application
	_____ b. initial award
	_____ c. post-award
		X a. initial filing
		_____ b. material change
		
		For material change only:
		Year _____ quarter _____
		Date of last report_____

4. Name and Address of Reporting Entity:	5. If Reporting Entity in No. 4 is Subawardee, Enter Name and Address of Prime:
_X_ Prime _____ Subawardee Tier_____, if Known: **C. K. Blandin Foundation** **100 N Pokegama Ave** **Grand Rapids, MN 55744** **Congressional District,** *if known*: **MN 8th District**	N/A Congressional District, *if known*:

6. Federal Department/Agency: **Department of Commerce, NTIA**	7. Federal Program Name/Description: **Recovery Act - BTOP** CFDA Number, *if applicable*: ___11.557

8. Federal Action Number, *if known:* N/A	9. Award Amount, *if known:* $ N/A

10. a. Name and Address of Lobbying Registrant
    (if individual, last name, first name, MI):
 	
None
	b. Individuals Performing Services *(including address if different from No. 10a)*
	    (last name, first name, MI):
	
	None

11. Information requested through this form is authorized by title 31 U.S.C. section 1352. This disclosure of lobbying activities is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed by the tier above when this transaction was made or entered into. This disclosure is required pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1352. This information will be reported to the Congress semi-annually and will be available for public inspection. Any person who fails to file the required disclosure shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than $10,000 and not more than $100,000 for each such failure.	Signature: *[signature]* Print Name: James Hoolihan Title: President/CEO Telephone No.: 218-327-8728 Date: August 4, 2009
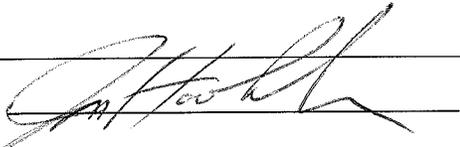
Federal Use Only	Authorized for Local Reproduction Standard Form - LLL (Rev. 7-97)

Certifications and Signature

(i) I certify that I am authorized to submit this grant application on behalf of the eligible entity(ies) listed on this application, that I have examined this application, that all of the information and responses in this application, including certifications, and forms submitted, all of which are part of this grant application, are material representations of fact and true and correct to the best of my knowledge, that the entity(ies) that is requesting grant funding pursuant to this application and any subgrantees and subcontractors will comply with the terms, conditions, purposes, and federal requirements of the grant program; that no kickbacks were paid to anyone; and that a false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or **claims** on this application are grounds for denial or termination of a grant award, and/or possible punishment by a fine or imprisonment as provided in 18 U.S.C. § 1001 and civil violations of the False Claims Act.

(ii) I certify that the entity(ies) I represent have and will comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, regulations, ordinances, codes, orders and programmatic rules and requirements relating to the project. I acknowledge that failure to do so may result in rejection or deobligation of the grant or loan award. I acknowledge that failure to comply with all federal and program rules could result in civil or criminal prosecution by the appropriate law enforcement authorities.

(iii) I certify that the entity(ies) I represent has and will comply with all applicable administrative and federal statutory, regulatory, and policy requirements set forth in the Department of Commerce Pre-Award Notification Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements ("DOC Pre-Award Notification"), published in the Federal Register on February 11, 2008 (73 FR 7696), as amended; DOC Financial Assistance Standard Terms and Conditions (Mar. 8, 2009), the Department of Commerce American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Award Terms (Apr. 9, 2009); and any Special Award Terms and Conditions that are included by the Grants Officer in the award.

(iv) If requesting BTOP funding, I certify that the entity(ies) I represent has secured access to pay the 20% of total project cost or has petitioned the Assistant Secretary of NTIA for a waiver of the matching requirement or received a waiver.

Signature of authorized person _____ Date 8-04-09
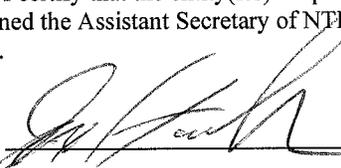
Print name of authorized person James Hoolihan

Title or position President / CEO

BUDGET INFORMATION - Non-Construction Programs

SECTION A - BUDGET SUMMARY

Grant Program Function or Activity (a)	Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number (b)	Estimated Unobligated Funds		New or Revised Budget		
		Federal (c)	Non-Federal (d)	Federal (e)	Non-Federal (f)	Total (g)
1. NTIA - BTOP Sustainable Broadband Adoption	11.557	$ 4,858,219.00	$ 1,525,775.00	$	$	$ 6,383,994.00
2.						0.00
3.						0.00
4.						0.00
5. Totals		$ 4,858,219.00	$ 1,525,775.00	$ 0.00	$ 0.00	$ 6,383,994.00

SECTION B - BUDGET CATEGORIES

6. Object Class Categories	GRANT PROGRAM, FUNCTION OR ACTIVITY				Total (5)
	(1) NTIA - BTOP Sustainable Broadband Adoption	(2)	(3)	(4)	
a. Personnel	$ 211,688.00	$	$	$	$ 211,688.00
b. Fringe Benefits	63,507.00				63,507.00
c. Travel	63,300.00				63,300.00
d. Equipment	0.00				0.00
e. Supplies	9,400.00				9,400.00
f. Contractual	5,678,499.00				5,678,499.00
g. Construction	0.00				0.00
h. Other	357,600.00				357,600.00
i. Total Direct Charges (sum of 6a-6h)	6,383,994.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	$ 6,383,994.00
j. Indirect Charges	0.00				$ 0.00
k. TOTALS (sum of 6i and 6j)	$ 6,383,994.00	$ 0.00	$ 0.00	$ 0.00	$ 6,383,994.00
7. Program Income	$ 0.00	$ 0.00	$ 0.00	$ 0.00	$

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Prescribed by OMB (Circular A -1 02) Page 1A

SECTION C - NON-FEDERAL RESOURCES

	(a) Grant Program	(b) Applicant	(c) State	(d) Other Sources	(e) TOTALS
8.	NTIA - BTOP Sustainable Broadband Adopt	$ 787,425.00	$ 451,600.00	$ 286,750.00	$ 1,525,775.00
9.					
10.					0.00
11.					0.00
12. TOTAL (sum of lines 8-11)		$787,425.00	$ 451,600.00	$ 286,750.00	$ 1,525,775.00

SECTION D - FORECASTED CASH NEEDS

	Total for 1st Year	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
13. Federal	$ 2,543,400.00	$ 383,510.00	$ 720,630.00	$ 720,630.00	$ 720,630.00
14. Non-Federal	$ 797,514.00	119,627.00	225,962.00	225,962.00	225,962.00
15. TOTAL (sum of lines 13 and 14)	$ 3,340,914.00	$ 503,137.00	$ 946,592.00	$ 946,592.00	$ 946,592.00

SECTION E - BUDGET ESTIMATES OF FEDERAL FUNDS NEEDED FOR BALANCE OF THE PROJECT

	(a) Grant Program	FUTURE FUNDING PERIODS (YEARS)			
		(b) First	(c) Second	(d) Third	(e) Fourth
16.	NTIA - BTOP Sustainable Broadband Adopt	$ 2,314,819.00	$	$	$
17.					
18.					
19.					
20. TOTAL (sum of lines 16 - 19)		$ 2,314,819.00	$ 0.00	$ 0.00	$ 0.00

SECTION F - OTHER BUDGET INFORMATION

21. Direct Charges:

22. Indirect Charges:

23. Remarks:

BLANDIN FOUNDATION LEADERSHIP, STAFF

Bernadine Joselyn, Director, Public Policy & Engagement, Blandin Foundation
A native of Minnesota, Bernadine spent the first 15 years of her professional life in Soviet (and then post-Soviet) Affairs. With an undergraduate degree from the University of Minnesota and a master's degree in international security policy and certificate in advanced studies from Columbia University, she served seven years as diplomat with the U.S. Department of State, where — after an initial tour in New Delhi, India — she was assigned to Moscow, Russia, and Washington, D.C., focused on the U.S.-Soviet/Russian relationship. After the collapse of the Soviet Union she left the diplomatic corps to work on international academic and cultural exchange programs with the former Soviet States, as director of the Moscow office of the International Research and Exchanges Board, and subsequently as the Director of the Moscow Office of the Eurasia Foundation, where she oversaw a $5 million annual grant program.

In 2000 Bernadine returned to Minnesota to complete a second masters degree in public affairs at the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute. Since 2001 she has directed Blandin Foundation's Public Policy & Engagement program area, where she leads efforts to facilitate the building of knowledge and catalyze informed and effective action around issues and opportunities that align with the Foundation's mission of strengthening rural Minnesota communities, especially the Grand Rapids area. Under her leadership, the Foundation currently is implementing two award winning public policy initiatives: Vital Forests/Vital Communities, and Broadband: Keeping Rural Communities Competitive.

Jean Lane, Finance Director, Blandin Foundation
Jean currently serves as Blandin Foundation's Director of Finance, overseeing all financial accounting and reporting, cash management, investment portfolio, operating and capital budgeting, risk management, payroll and employee benefits, governmental compliance, and administration functions of the Foundation. Prior to joining the Foundation staff, Jean worked 15 years for the City of Grand Rapids, the last 10 of which she served as finance director.

She graduated from St. Cloud State University with a bachelor's degree in accounting and holds her MBA and masters of accounting and finance management from DeVry University. She has been a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) since 1987 and a Certified Public Finance Officer (CPFO) since 2001. A native of Grand Rapids, Jean currently serves as a board member for the Itasca County Family YMCA. She is a 4-H adult project leader, and a member of the Minnesota Society of Certified Public Accountants, the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Foundation Financial Officers Group.

Valerie Shangreaux, Director of Leadership
Valerie directs the Foundation's Leadership program area, which has served more than 5,200 rural leaders in 340 rural Minnesota communities over the past 22 years. Valerie most recently worked with the Oklahoma Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics program on the Oklahoma State campus in Stillwater, Okla. She also has been a consultant providing leadership training, cultural diversity

workshops and strategic planning assistance to communities throughout the United States. Valerie is a graduate of University of Nebraska, including a master's degree in educational psychology. She also holds the doctorate of philosophy with a focus on educational psychology from Oklahoma State University. Raised on the Pine Ridge Reservation of South Dakota, Valerie joined the Foundation in August 2007 and will continue to advance the Foundation's work in rural community leadership development.

Wade Fauth, Grants Director, Blandin Foundation
As director of the Foundation's Grants program area, Wade is responsible for the organization's grantmaking activities, including the Educational Awards scholarship program available to graduates of Itasca County area high schools, as well as grants made in the Foundation's local giving areas and to communities and organizations whose work focuses on rural Minnesota. Previously, Wade was a manager for Land O'Lakes, Inc., agricultural cooperative, implementing economic restructuring programs in the former Soviet Union, the Balkans and Latin America. He also served as the Legislative Assistant for Agriculture to U.S. Senator Thomas Daschle. He is a former Peace Corps volunteer, graduate of Augustana College in Sioux Falls, S.D., the American University Law School in Washington, D.C., and is a member of the Colorado Bar Association. He joined the Blandin Foundation in 2001 as senior program officer for grants.

Mary Magnuson, Program Assistant, Public Policy & Engagement, Blandin Foundation
Mary Magnuson has been the Program Assistant for Blandin Foundation's Public Policy & Engagement Program since 2004. Prior to joining the Foundation, she worked in a variety of positions from retail to bookkeeping and office administration. Mary attended the University of Minnesota, where she earned a bachelor's degree in Anthropology with an emphasis on archaeology.

Becky LaPlant, Program Assistant, Public Policy & Engagement, Blandin Foundation
In her role as public policy program associate, Becky is responsible for managing communications and other projects that support the Foundation's public policy initiatives. Becky is a graduate of Colorado State University, where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Communication. She holds a Master's in Advocacy and Political Leadership from the University Minnesota Duluth. A native of Grand Rapids, Becky currently serves as a board member for Kootasca Community Action and Itasca County Hospice Partners, and is an ally in the Circles of Support program. Becky joined the Foundation in March 2003.

ORGANIZING CONSULTANTS

Bill Coleman, Community Technology Advisors and Independent Consultant, Broadband Initiative
Bill Coleman helps communities make the connection between telecommunications and economic development. As principal in Community Technology Advisors for eight years, he assists community, foundation and corporate clients develop and implement programs of broadband infrastructure investment and technology promotion and training. Coleman believes that both are required for community technology and economic vitality.

Current and past include Blandin Foundation, Dakota Future, the Cities of Eagan and Eden Prairie and Todd County. Through Blandin Foundation's Community Broadband Resources program, Bill has recently provided assistance to Cook, Swift and Lac qui Parle Counties, Region Nine and Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commissions and the City of Clearwater.

Prior to forming Community Technology Advisors, Bill managed Onvoy's Integrated Community Network rural market development efforts and staffed the MN Department of Trade and Economic Development Star City and Business Retention and Expansion Programs. He is a former board member of the Economic Development Association of Minnesota and the Midwest Institute for Telecommuting Education. Bill has a Bachelors Degree in Urban Studies and Political Science from Mankato State University. He has studied telecommunications management at Saint Mary's University of Minnesota, completed non-profit management, facilitation and training programs at the University of St. Thomas and is certified as an Economic Development Finance Professional.

James Baller
Jim Baller is president of the Baller Herbst Law Group, a national law firm based in Washington, DC, and Minneapolis, MN. The Firm specializes in communications and related matters, including telecommunications, cable television, high-speed data communications, the Internet, wireless communications, right-of-way management, pole and conduit attachments, barriers to the public-sector entry into communications, bankruptcy, privacy, and antitrust. His clients include the American Public Power Association, the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA), regional and state utility associations and municipal leagues, and numerous public and private entities in more than 35 states. He is also the founder of the US Broadband Coalition, a large and diverse consortium of prominent communications providers, high technology companies, manufacturers, labor unions, public interest and consumer groups, educational institutions, state and local government entities, utilities, content creators, foundations, charitable institutions, and other organizations that are working toward the development of a comprehensive national broadband strategy.

The Fiber to the Home Council has recognized Jim as "the nation's most experienced and knowledgeable attorney on public broadband matters," and MuniWireless has called him "the foremost legal expert on U.S. public broadband matters." In 2001, NATOA named him its Member of the Year. In 2006, MuniWireless presented him its first Esme Award, for "working tirelessly to protect the interests of municipalities, many times in the face of huge opposition." In 2007, NATOA honored him as its first "Community Broadband Visionary of the Year," for "almost single-handedly putting the issue of the need for a national broadband strategy to the forefront of public consciousness." Washingtonian Magazine has listed Jim as one of "Washington's Best Lawyers" (defined as the top one percent). Ars Technica recently named him one of the "Top Names in Tech Policy for 2009."

Ann Treacy, Treacy Information Services and Independent Consultant, Broadband Initiative
Ann Treacy has been helping businesses, educators, nonprofits, government agencies and consumers use the Internet to find and disseminate information since 1995. In 1996, she worked

with communities in rural Minnesota on the Rural Datafication project where communities locally managed dialup Internet service provided by Minnesota Regional Network. In 1998, she received an international indexing award for her organization of a local directory of Minnesota web sites. In 1999, she received another award for her work on Surfin' the Net for Kids and Families, a tool to promote Information literacy and Internet safety. In 2000, she provided the taxonomy and project management for BizPathways, an online tool to help rural businesses create a business plan and find local business support to help them reach the next stage of business development. BizPathways, funded by the NTIA's TOPS program, received recognition from the National Governors Association in 2003. In 2007, she provided online marketing training to retailers in rural Minnesota. After applying lessons from the course, one company saw business climb from $500 per month to over $10,000 in the months following training.

Currently Ms Treacy tracks rural broadband issues for the Blandin on Broadband blog (www.blandinonbroadband.org), she works with a number of businesses and nonprofits in rural areas to use the Internet and social media tools to meet business needs and she provides training on business uses of broadband and the Internet. Ms Treacy has an MA in Irish Literature from University College Dublin and a Master's degree in Library and Information Science from Dominican University.

PARTNER ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVES

University of Minnesota Extension Service
Dick Senese, Associate Dean, Community Vitality and Public Engagement
Dick Senese became the Center for Community Vitality's Associate Dean in 2001, and has worked to build upon Extension's rich history of tapping University research to strengthen Minnesota's social, economic, civic and technological capacity. Dick is responsible for leadership, administrative oversight and management of community vitality programs, including trend analysis, program planning, finance, communications, marketing, and staff development. Before coming to Extension, Dick served in a number of positions, including Associate Dean at Capella University; Chair of the Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party; in research, instructional, and program development positions; and in grassroots and community organizing. As Public Engagement liaison, Dick serves all of Extension by integrating Extension outreach into the University's larger outreach mission through the Council on Public Engagement. Dick holds a B.A.: Psychology and Political Science from the University of Minnesota, Duluth, a Master of Arts, Educational Psychology, from the University of Minnesota, Duluth, and a Doctorate of Philosophy: Counseling and Student Personnel Psychology from the University of Minnesota.

Ryan Pesch Extension Educator, West Central Minnesota
Ryan has developed and delivered Extension Community Economics programming in west central Minnesota since 2004. In that capacity, he has delivered eCommerce, business retention and expansion programming, retail trade analysis, Market Area Profile, customer service, and small stores success workshops. He developed public finance programming with Department of Applied Economics faculty, expanded Extension's retail programming into trade area mapping / GIS analysis, and adapted the Access eCommerce program to the needs of direct farm marketers.

Before coming to Extension, Ryan taught at the elementary and post-secondary level in West St. Paul and in Trabzon, Turkey. At the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, Ryan researched case studies of rural knowledge and industry clusters, and hosted regional planning meetings for economic development planning. In addition to experience in teaching and rural development, Ryan has experience in sustainable agriculture as an intern, an independent farmer/ business owner and a grocer. Ryan holds a **Master of Urban and Regional Planning from the** University of Minnesota Humphrey Institute, a **Teaching English as a Second Language (TEFL) Certification** from Hamline University and a from Gustavus Adolphus College.

John Bennett, Extension Educator, Northeast Minnesota
John has been delivering Community Economics programming in Extension since 2007.   John comes to Extension with a background in public finance, community development and city and regional planning. His undergraduate work at the University of Minnesota Duluth was in geography and urban and regional studies and his graduate work was completed at Northwestern University in Public Policy and Administration.   John has helped develop the Business Retention and Expansion Toolkit Handbook curriculum among other programs in Community Economics. He has delivered Retail Trade Analysis, Small Store Success Strategies, Access eCommerce, among others around northeastern Minnesota and continues to work on programming to meet the needs of the region. John holds a **B.S. Geography and Urban and Regional Studies from the** University of Minnesota Duluth and a **Masters in Public Policy and Administration from** Northwestern University.

Adeel Ahmed, Extension Educator, Central Minnesota
Adeel has developed and delivered Extension Community Economics programming in north central Minnesota since 2006. He has delivered business retention and expansion programming, retail trade analysis, small stores success workshops and market area profiles. He developed the popular "Roadside Advertising in a Digital World" workshop which teaches communities how to position themselves on digital maps such as that found on GPS receivers. Adeel taught chemistry and physics in Tanzania with the Peace Corps while practicing community development. At the Humphrey Institute, he conducted a feasibility study on the use of switch grass as an alternative energy source. With a Boren Fellowship, Adeel studied the role of madrassas (religious schools) in the Pakistani educational system. Adeel also has seven years of private sector experience in information technology at Northwest Airlines, Koch Industries and Emerson Process Management. Adeel thrives in multi-cultural settings, is fluent in Urdu (the primary language in India and Pakistan), and has language competency in Swahili and Arabic. He holds a Masters in Public Policy from the University of Minnesota - Humphrey Institute, and a Bachelors of Science in Chemistry from the University of Minnesota.

Maxine Norman, Extension Educator, Central Minnesota
Maxine's career has focused on education in various settings, including parenting education, consumer education, teaching methods, public health education and Extension education. Most recently, she was with the Minnesota State Health Department working in Cardiovascular Health and Tobacco Prevention and Control. Maxine also has done consulting for Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Prevention for Central CAPT, Hazelden Foundation and the Minnesota Prevention Resource Center. She holds a B.S. in Home Economics Education from North Dakota State University and a Masters' Degree also from NDSU.

University of Minnesota
Jack M. Geller, Ph.D. is a tenured professor and head of the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Minnesota, Crookston. Dr. Geller has been actively involved in rural telecommunications research since 1999 and has been annually conducting household surveys examining broadband adoption and diffusion since 2001. He has also been active in conducting community broadband assessments and evaluations since 2006. Dr. Geller has provided testimony on his broadband research findings multiple times before the Minnesota State Legislature and before the U.S. House Agriculture Committee in May 2007. Geller received his Ph.D. in Rural Sociology in 1986 from Iowa State University in Ames, IA.

Minnesota Learning Commons
Gary Langer, Associate Vice Chancellor – Academic Innovations and Minnesota Online
Dr. Gary Langer is the Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Innovations and Minnesota Online for the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. He has over 30 years of experience in academic and student affairs at the two-year college level as well as the Office of the Chancellor for the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU). He has an M.A. and Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from the University of Minnesota and his current efforts involve using technology and the e-learning environment to assist learners to have access to online programs and services through a collaboration of the 32 Minnesota State Colleges and Universities known as Minnesota Online (minnesotaonline.org). Another effort has been the development of a world-class electronic portfolio system that is free to citizens of Minnesota (www.eFolioMinnesota.com). Currently he is leading an effort to develop a Minnesota Learning Commons in collaboration with the Minnesota Department of Education, University of Minnesota and Minnesota State Colleges and Universities.

Intelligent Community Forum
Robert Bell
Robert Bell is co-founder and Executive Director of the Intelligent Community Forum, a nonprofit think tank that that focuses on the use of broadband and information technology for economic development in communities around the world. During his tenure, Mr. Bell has led economic development missions to cities in Asia and the US; authored articles in The Municipal Journal of Telecommunications Policy, IEDC Journal, Telecommunications, Asia-Pacific Satellite and Asian Communications; and appeared in segments of ABC World News and The Discovery Channel. He is a frequent speaker and moderator at municipal and telecommunications industry conferences. He is also the author of ICF's pioneering study, Benchmarking the Intelligent Community, the annual Top Seven Intelligent Communities of the Year white papers and other research reports issued by the Forum, and of Broadband Economies: Creating the Community of the 21st Century.

Louis Zacharilla
ICF co-founder Louis Zacharilla is the creator and presenter of the annual Smart21, Top Seven and Intelligent Community Awards and oversees ICF's media communications and development programs. He is a frequent keynote and motivational speaker and panelist, addressing audiences of tech, academic and community leaders around the world, and writes extensively for publications including American City & County, Continental Airline's in-flight magazine and

Municipal World. His frequent appearances in the electronic media have included both television and radio in South Korea, China and Canada. He has served as an adjunct professor at Fordham University in New York and is a Guest Lecturer at Polytechnic University's Distinguished Speaker Series. He holds a Masters Degree from the University of Notre Dame.

Association of Minnesota Counties
Jim Mulder
Jim Mulder is the executive director of the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC). He was born and raised in Renville, Minnesota and is a graduate of the University of Minnesota. Mulder holds a Bachelor of Science degree and has earned a Masters degree from the Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs. Jim is currently working towards a doctorial degree in Public Administration at Hamline University. Mulder has been the executive director for AMC for over twenty years. Prior to holding this position, he served as county coordinator for McLeod County and worked for the Minnesota House of Representatives as a researcher and a committee administrator for the House Tax Committee.

The Association of Minnesota Counties is a voluntary association of Minnesota's eighty-seven counties. The association provides a broad range of services that include lobbying the Minnesota Legislature; working with state departments and agencies; and providing training and information to Minnesota County officials.

Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development
Kathy Sweeney
Since June of 2006, Kathy Sweeney's role has been to facilitate regional partnerships and link resources needed for regional development to succeed. In that statewide role, Kathy works with community, state, federal and philanthropic partners to bring resources and talent together to facilitate and implement successful development projects.

Sweeney has both management and field expertise in a variety of settings. At the national level, Sweeney currently serves as an officer of the National Governors Association of State Workforce Liaisons. She has been an active member of the group for the last twelve years and served as Chair from 1999-2001 during the implementation of the national Workforce Investment Act. At the State Level, she has twelve years of management experience serving under three different Governors. During her tenure at the State she has served as the Assistant Commissioner of the Department of Economic Security as well as the Director of the Governors' Workforce Development Council.

Community field experience includes twelve years of service as the Assistant Director of the Anoka County Workforce Center and the Director of the Parents Fair Share Program for Anoka, Dakota and Ramsey Counties. In addition Sweeney worked in rural and metro area community based organizations in Minnesota for ten years in workforce and community development. Sweeney holds a bachelors degree in education and a Masters of Science degree in vocational counseling from the University of Wisconsin Superior.

Minnesota Renewable Energy Marketplace – Alliance for Talent Development
Teresa Kittridge is the Executive Director of the Renewable Energy Marketplace – An Alliance for Talent Development. For the past eight years, Teresa has led Compass Point & Picture Window Books in Mankato, serving as Managing Director of Picture Window Books from 2001-2003, and as President of both companies since 2003. She started and built Picture Window Books to a $7 million business in 4 years, and repositioned Compass Point Books into a new market within 12 months of being named its leader. Prior to that, Teresa served for twenty years as Assistant Chief Clerk and as an elected Officer of the Minnesota House of Representatives. In that role, she served as advisor to Speaker of the House and Leadership on parliamentary matters and rules of procedure for the legislative body.

Teresa also led the Rural Policy Research Institute (RUPRI) in Washington DC, as Director of National Policy Programs for three years. In this position, she advocated in the U.S House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate for economic and policy issues affecting rural Americans, and facilitated panels of policy makers and RUPRI research practitioners and academics via Capitol Hill briefings to inspire rural policy direction for national lawmaking.

Teresa is a graduate of Metropolitan State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration, and the College of St. Catherine with a Master of Arts degree in Organizational Leadership. She is an active community volunteer, was a Member of Youth in Government Board and Advisor for ten years, and serves on the Board of Waconia School District 110.

PCs for People
Andy Elofson, Founder
Andrew Elofson, the founder of PCs for People, has worked as a licensed social worker for Blue Earth County for the past 18 years. In this time, Andrew has developed an expertise in the areas of Youth Development, Child Mental Health, Adult Mental Health, and is currently working with single adults and families who are homeless. Andrew utilizes his efforts as a social worker to help distribute computers to those most in need. Andrew has a Masters degree in Education and lives in Saint Peter, MN with his four children. In 1998, Blue Earth County gave Andrew the first computer to be donated. After 4 months, 30 more computers were donated; and Andrew knew he needed help to grow the program. He obtained a county-owned house, developed relationships throughout the community, found a group of interested high school students, and established PCs for People. Since that time, PCs for People has donated over 1,500 computers to those who would not otherwise have the opportunity to easily access technology and actually own a computer.

Blandin Foundation
Minnesota Intelligent Rural Communities
2009 Org Chart

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Jim Hoolihan

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Director of Human Resources/Board Services

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Director of Leadership

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Director of Communications

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*Jean Lane
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*Wade Fauth
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Director of Public Policy & Engagement

Matt Rezac
Senior Program Officer

Becky LaPlant
Program Associate

Mary Magnuson
Program Assistant

Alana Hughes
Secretary/PP&E
Administrative Assistant
(.75 FTE)

Bill Coleman
Project Manager

University of Minnesota Crookston

Ann Treacy
Jim Baller

Minnesota Intelligent Rural Communities Guiding Coalition

Broadband Strategy Board

University of Minnesota Extension

Association of MN Counties

MN Dept of Employment & Economic Development – Workforce Centers

PCs for People

Intelligent Community Forum

MN Learning Commons

Regional Development Commissions

MN Renewable Energy Marketplace

COLLIN C. PETERSON
7TH DISTRICT, MINNESOTA

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
CHAIRMAN

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

WASHINGTON, DC 20515

2211 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
TELEPHONE: (202) 225-2165
FAX: (202) 225-1593
INTERNET: www.house.gov/collinpeterson

August 10, 2009

Bernadine Joselyn, Director
Public Policy & Engagement
Blandin Foundation
100 N Pokegama Avenue
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Dear Ms Joselyn:

It is my pleasure to provide a letter of support to the proposed project from the Blandin Foundation for the Broadband Technology Opportunity Program.

Since 2003, Blandin has had a broadband initiative to help communities optimize their use of broadband-based technologies to improve their economic competitiveness in a global economy. Through this grant application, key partnerships have been formed with Blandin and the University of Minnesota Extension Service, Minnesota State Colleges and University System, Regional Development Commissions, Initiative Foundations, schools and libraries, and local economic organizations. The partnership will also include private sector telecommunications providers. These partnerships will enable Blandin to develop and implement a comprehensive and systematic program of community-based efforts to increase broadband availability and use.

I have heard from many of my constituents who desire access to the internet and faster connection services. The unserved and underserved areas of Congressional district seven would be proud to be a part of President Obama's vision of a nationwide 21st century communications infrastructure.

It is my opinion that the Federal objectives for the Department of Commerce's NTIA BTOP will be well met with the approval of this grant.

Sincerely,
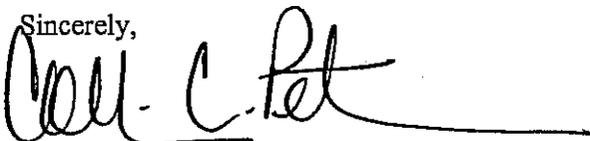
Collin C. Peterson
Member of Congress

——————————————— DISTRICT OFFICES ———————————————

714 LAKE AVENUE	1420 EAST COLLEGE DRIVE	MN WHEAT GROWERS BUILDING	CENTRE POINT MALL
SUITE 107	SW/WC	2603 WHEAT DRIVE	320 4TH STREET SW
DETROIT LAKES, MN 56501	MARSHALL, MN 56258	RED LAKE FALLS, MN 56750	WILLMAR, MN 56201
(218) 847-5056	(507) 537-2299	(218) 253-4356	(320) 235-1061
FAX: (218) 847-5109	FAX: (507) 537-2298	FAX: (218) 253-4373	FAX: (320) 235-2651

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–2309

August 13, 2009

The Honorable Lawrence E. Strickling
Assistant Secretary
National Telecommunications & Information Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

To Assistant Secretary Strickling:

This letter is to urge your strong consideration of the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program application which the Blandin Foundation has submitted to the National Telecommunication and Information Administration.

The project, also known as Minnesota Intelligent Rural Communities (MIRC), will increase broadband subscribership and create jobs and economic opportunity in rural Minnesota communities. This project will provide increased access to resources for rural Minnesotans seeking employment and will provide education, training, and technical assistance to small businesses in critical industries for rural Minnesota. It will also lead communities and critical institutions in promoting and implementing broadband applications in health care, education, government and business.

As a result of this project, the local economy will be stronger, and more jobs and technology tools will be created to better address our health care, education, economic development and governmental challenges. For these reasons, I strongly encourage your careful consideration of the proposal by the Blandin Foundation.

Sincerely,

Al Franken
United States Senator

CAPITOL OFFICE:
1529 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2472

MANKATO OFFICE:
227 EAST MAIN STREET
SUITE 220
MANKATO, MN 56001
(507) 388-2149

ROCHESTER OFFICE:
1134 7TH STREET NW
ROCHESTER, MN 55901
(507) 206-0643

TIMOTHY J. WALZ
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
FIRST DISTRICT, MINNESOTA
WWW.WALZ.HOUSE.GOV

AGRICULTURE
Conservation, Credit, Energy, and Research
General Farm Commodities and
Risk Management

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE
Economic Development, Public Buildings, and
Emergency Management
Highways and Transit
Rail, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials

VETERANS' AFFAIRS
Oversight

August 12, 2009

Blandin Foundation
Bernadine Joselyn, Director, Public Policy & Engagement
100 Pokegama Ave
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Dear Ms. Joselyn:

I am writing to express my support for the Blandin Foundation's efforts to create the Minnesota Intelligent Rural Communities (MIRC) project. This project will guide rural communities in developing sustainable broadband adoption, increasing opportunities and ensuring the vitality of small town Minnesota.

MIRC leadership will come from the Blandin Foundation, a private foundation based in Grand Rapids, MN and the state's largest rural-based and rural-focused foundation. The Blandin Foundation mission is to strengthen communities in rural Minnesota. Blandin has been operating a successful broadband initiative to improve the economic vitality of Minnesota's rural communities by encouraging the development of rural telecommunications markets and infrastructure since 2003.

Recognizing the vast opportunities available with high speed internet, the Blandin Foundation strives to bring those opportunities to rural citizens in Minnesota. In fact, it is in these rural areas where broadband applications are most important. It will strengthen local economies and help provide training and technical assistance to small businesses, deliver applications in health care, government, business and education.

The Blandin Foundation has demonstrated its competence and commitment to rural Minnesota. I strongly support their efforts and encourage your support as well.

Sincerely,

Tim Walz, Member of Congress

TJW:jab

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe

Arthur "Archie" LaRose, Chairman
Michael J. Bongo, Secretary/Treasurer

District I Representative	District II Representative	District III Representative
Robbie M. Howe	*Lyman "Dede" Losh*	*Eugene "Ribs" Whitebird*

8/04/09

Ms. Bernadine Joselyn
Blandin Foundation
100 North Pokegama
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Dear Ms. Joselyn,

As Chairman of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, I am pleased to inform you that our tribal community is committed to participate as a Demonstration Community in your exciting new project submitted for funding through the USDA/NTIA broadband funding programs. The Blandin Foundation's use of the Intelligent Community framework for this program is appropriate as it has great applicability to our community's efforts to improve our economic competitiveness.

We will bring together our team from government, health care, education, public safety, and business to work on this project. We will determine and implement priority technology improvement strategies in broadband access, knowledge workforce, digital inclusion, innovation and marketing. We will increase the number of people subscribing to broadband, increase access for those who cannot afford it and increase the sophistication of our local users so that they receive full value from their broadband use. As a result, our local economy will be stronger, more jobs will be created and we will have technology tools to more effectively address our health care, education, economic development and governmental challenges.

Thank you for this opportunity to participate in this initiative. Let us know what we can do to help make it a success!

Sincerely,

Arthur LaRose, Tribal Chairman
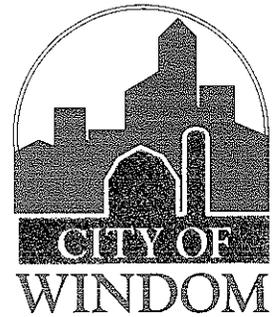
August 12, 2009

CITY OF WINDOM

Ms. Bernadine Joselyn
Blandin Foundation
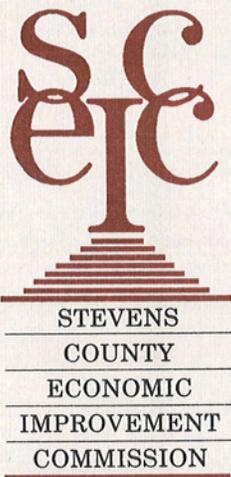100 North Pokegama
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Dear Ms. Joselyn:

On behalf of the Economic Development Authority of Windom (EDA), I am pleased to inform you that the City of Windom is committed to participate as a Demonstration Community in your exciting new project submitted for funding through the USDA/NTIA broadband funding programs. The Blandin Foundation's use of the Intelligent Community framework for this program is appropriate as it has great applicability to the EDA's efforts to promote economic growth, enhance innovation, and improve our economic competitiveness.

We will bring together our team from business, health care, education, government, and non-profit organizations to work on this project. We will ascertain and implement priority technology improvement strategies in broadband access, knowledge workforce, digital inclusion, innovation and marketing. Our goals are to increase the number of people subscribing to broadband, increase access for those who cannot afford it and increase the knowledge of our local users so that they receive full value from their broadband use. As a result, our local economy will be stronger, more jobs will be created, and we will have technology tools to more effectively address our economic development, health care, education, and governmental challenges.

The Windom EDA appreciates the opportunity to participate in this innovative initiative. If you need additional information, do not hesitate to contact the EDA at 507-831-6125.

Sincerely,

Juhl Erickson, Vice President
Economic Development Authority of Windom

SCEIC

STEVENS COUNTY ECONOMIC IMPROVEMENT COMMISSION

507 Atlantic Avenue
Morris, Minnesota 56267
(320) 585-2609
FAX (320) 585-4814
www.sceic.org
sceic@hometownsolutions.net

03 August 2009

Ms. Bernadine Joselyn
Blandin Foundation
100 North Pokegama
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Dear Ms. Joselyn,

As Executive Director of Stevens County Economic Improvement Commission, Inc. (SCEIC), I am pleased to inform you that Stevens County is committed to participate as a Demonstration Community in your exciting new project submitted for funding through the USDA/NTIA broadband funding programs. The Blandin Foundation's use of the Intelligent Community framework for this program is appropriate as it has great applicability to our community's efforts to improve our economic competitiveness.

We will bring together our team from health care, education, government, public safety and business to work on this project. We will determine and implement priority technology improvement strategies in broadband access, knowledge workforce, digital inclusion, innovation and marketing. We will increase the number of people subscribing to broadband, increase access for those who cannot afford it and increase the sophistication of our local users so that they receive full value from their broadband use. As a result, our local economy will be stronger, more jobs will be created and we will have technology tools to more effectively address our health care, education, economic development and governmental challenges.

Thank you for this opportunity to participate in this initiative. Let us know what we can do to help make it a success!

Cordially,

Michael Haynes
Executive Director

Worthington

YOU'LL COME TO LOVE US

**WORTHINGTON REGIONAL
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

1121 Third Avenue
Worthington, MN 56187
Phone: 507-372-5515
Fax: 507-372-7165
www.wgtn.net
Email: wredc@frontiernet.net

Ms. Bernadine Joselyn
Blandin Foundation
100 North Pokegama
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Dear Ms. Joselyn,

As Manager of Worthington Regional Economic Development Corporation (WREDC), I am pleased to inform you that Worthington and Nobles County is committed to participate as a Demonstration Community in your exciting new project submitted for funding through the USDA/NTIA broadband funding programs. The Blandin Foundation's use of the Intelligent Community framework for this program is appropriate as it has great applicability to our community's efforts to improve our economic competitiveness.

We will bring together our team from health care, education, government, public safety and business to work on this project. We will determine and implement priority technology improvement strategies in broadband access, knowledge workforce, digital inclusion, innovation and marketing. We will increase the number of people subscribing to broadband, increase access for those who cannot afford it and increase the sophistication of our local users so that they receive full value from their broadband use. As a result, our local economy will be stronger, more jobs will be created and we will have technology tools to more effectively address our health care, education, economic development and governmental challenges.

Thank you for this opportunity to participate in this initiative. Let us know what we can do to help make it a success!

Sincerely,

Glenn Thuringer
Manager
Worthington Regional Economic Development Corporation
1121 Third Avenue
Worthington, MN 56187
Email: gred@frontiernet.net
Phone: (507) 372-5515
Mobile: (507) 360-9225
Fax: (507) 372-7165

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

LAND USE

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

320/ 968-5065

fax: 320/ 968-5351

Courthouse

531 Dewey Street

PO Box 129

Foley, MN 56329-0129

www.co.benton.mn.us

August 10, 2009

Ms. Bernadine Joselyn
Blandin Foundation
100 North Pokegama
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Dear Ms. Joselyn,

As the Economic Development Director for Benton County, I am pleased to inform you that The Benton County Broadband Committee is committed to participate as a Demonstration Community in your exciting new project submitted for funding through the USDA/NTIA broadband funding programs. The Blandin Foundation's use of the Intelligent Community framework for this program is appropriate as it has great applicability to our community's efforts to improve our economic competitiveness.

We will bring together our team from health care, education, government, public safety and business to work on this project. We will determine and implement priority technology improvement strategies in broadband access, knowledge workforce, digital inclusion, innovation and marketing. We will increase the number of people subscribing to broadband, increase access for those who cannot afford it and increase the sophistication of our local users so that they receive full value from their broadband use. As a result, our local economy will be stronger, more jobs will be created and we will have technology tools to more effectively address our health care, education, economic development and governmental challenges.

Thank you for this opportunity to participate in this initiative. Let us know what we can do to help make it a success!

Sincerely,

Nancy Hoffman
Economic Development Director

August 12, 2009

Ms. Bernadine Joselyn
Blandin Foundation
100 North Pokegama Avenue
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Dear Ms. Joselyn:

This letter is in support of the Blandin Foundation's application to develop and implement Network of Care Mental Health sites, on a regional basis, for 80 rural Minnesota Counties.

By way of introduction, the National Association of Counties (NACo) is the only national organization that represents county governments in the United States. Founded in 1935, NACo provides essential services to the nation's 3,068 counties. NACo advances issues with a unified voice before the federal government, improves the public's understanding of county government, assists counties in finding and sharing innovative solutions through education and research, and provides value-added services to save counties and taxpayers money.

One of the value-added services sponsored by NACo is the Network of Care (NOC), launched in January of this year. The NOC is a highly interactive web portal that consumers, community-based organizations and local and state governments can use to quickly access a wide variety of important information relating to health and human services. Some of the resources available in the NOC "virtual community" include: an easy to use service directory; a comprehensive health library; a secure Personal Health Record; a social networking platform including blogs, wikis and groups; and links to relevant web sites throughout the nation. The NOC is supplied by Trilogy Integrated Resources and was selected through a nationally solicited competitive bid process by Fairfax County, Virginia.

We support the Blandin Foundation application because it represents using important e-government tools to connect local governments with the communities they serve. Using today's technology tools, especially in small, rural counties makes critical information and tools relating to one's own health or that of a loved one easier and more readily accessible. Programs like the NOC, allows individuals, families, caregivers and providers to access critical service information, support and advocacy, and communication tools.

Sincerely,

Jim E. Sawyer
Director
NACo Financial Services Corporation

BLUE EARTH COUNTY

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www.co.blue-earth.mn.us

COMMISSIONERS

District 1   Colleen Landkamer
District 2   Tom McLauglin
District 3   Mark Piepho
District 4   Will Purvis
District 5   Kip Bruender

August 5, 2009

Bernadine Joselyn
Blandin Foundation
100 North Pokegama Ave.
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
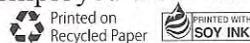
Dear Ms. Joselyn:

PC's for People was formed ten years ago when a single computer was given to a young Mankato boy living in poverty. Through this one donation of a computer from PC's for People, his computer interests were fostered, his technical skills increased; and one year later at age 14, he started a job at a local internet service provider creating websites for churches in the early age of the internet. This one donation was followed by many, many more, as computers became available at the County and then other organizations and institutions with a mission to provide access to technology to those who could not afford a system of their own. To this day, thousands of computers have been donated back to the community through simple collaboration between local business and organizations and a staff of volunteers at PC's for People who are invested in this social work model with a techie twist!

Pc's for People is an official nonprofit with 501C3 status with two locations: the original location and office in Mankato and also a office in St. Paul, Minnesota. PC's for People is also a Microsoft Authorized Refurbisher. For eight years, PC's for People had a stand-alone Mankato office. Then two years ago, Casey Sorensen (a past intern from PC's for People) resigned at Deloitte Corp. and opened PC's for People St. Paul with a continued mission of helping people living in poverty gain access to technology by providing computers to those who, without this program, would never be able to acquire a system of their own.

PC's For People is managed by Andrew Elofson who is a Blue Earth County Social Worker. Andrew works with various community volunteers, student interns, and local businesses and organizations to assure that computers are regularly being recruited and donated to be given back to rural communities around Minnesota. Minnesota State University - Mankato and SCTC (South Central Tech College of Mankato) have both provided interns who involve themselves in the mission along with faculty involvement.

This mission to connect those in poverty to technology is an extremely important one as the gap grows larger every year between those who have the connection to technology and those who do not. In today's world, those who have the ability to be connected to the internet and have access to technology have the advantage, plain and simple. Whether someone is looking for employment, a place to live, a paper to write for school, researching a medical problem they have, staying connected with family, or just having a computer that allows them some sort of outlet can be a very significant in their lives. Many of the recipients of computer systems from PC's for People are folks who are displaced/unemployed from the workforce,

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32. Key Partners.

PARTNER ORGANIZATONS

Association of Minnesota Counties
Laurie Klupacs, Member Services Director
125 Charles Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55103-2108
lklupacs@mncounties.org
Office: 651-789-4329
Type: Statewide association
Role/Contribution: Facilitating the implementation of Network of Care mental health websites across the rural mental health regions, sustainability strategies. Personnel time, communications, supplies.

Minnesota Workforce Council Association
Anne Olson, Executive Director
125 Charles Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55103-2108
aolson@mncounties.org
651-789-4323
Type: Non-profit association
Role/Contribution: Communication with counties, organization and training, sustainability strategies

Intelligent Community Forum
Robert Bell
55 Broad Street, 14th Floor
New York, NY 10004 USA
(646) 291-6166
rbell@intelligentcommunity.org
Type: Non-profit organization
Role/Contribution: Provision of framework and metrics, training on best practices, data and information sharing

Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development, and Workforce Centers
Kathy Sweeney, Strategic Projects Manager
1st National Bank Building
332 Minnesota St. Suite E200
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-1351
651/259/7565
Kathy.Sweeney@state.mn.us
Type: State Government, workforce
Role/Contribution: Outreach and recruitment of training participants, provision of computer access, delivery of digital literacy training. Personnel, space, utilities, equipment

Minnesota Learning Commons: Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, University of Minnesota, Minnesota Department of Education
Gary Langer, MnSCU AVC Academic Innovations
Wells Fargo Place
30 7th St. E., Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101-7804
651-649-5772
gary.langer@so.mnscu.edu
Type: Public post secondary and K-12 Education, Development and delivery of online education
Role/Contribution: Course development, learning objects and repository, online delivery, personnel

Minnesota Renewable Energy Marketplace
Teresa Kittridge
607 West Main Street
Marshall, MN 56258
Executive Director
952-454-7211
teresa@mnrem.org
Type: Non-profit organization
Role/Contribution: Facilitate renewable energy sector participation in training and technical assistance, including outreach and needs assessment, Outreach to and leadership of renewable energy businesses in rural MN

National Association of Counties
Jim Sawyer
Director, NACo Financial Services Corporation
25 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20001
Phone: (202)661-8868
E-mail: jsawyer@naco.org
Type: National Association
Role/Contribution: Personnel, support for site development

PCs for People
Andy Elofson
402 Jackson St.
Mankato, MN 56002-3526
507-304-4291
andy.elofson@co.blue-earth.mn.us
Type: Non-profit
Role/Contribution: Distribution of computers for participants and vulnerable populations. Collaborate with WFCs and county human service departments for distribution and training alignment.

Regional Development Commissions
http://www.mrdo.org/ This web site provides links to each of the regional development commissions.
Type: Regional government
Role/Contribution:Minnesota has ten regional development commissions that serve as the federal EDA planning district administrators. These organizations will provide outreach and communication resources within their regions. As interdisciplinary organizations with boards from all levels of government and other community representation, they are well positioned to add value to this project.

University of Minnesota, Crookston Campus
Jack Geller, Department Head, Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences Dept
2900 University Ave.
Crookston, MN 56716-5001
gelle045@umn.edu
(218) 281-8248
Type: Public post-secondary
Role/Contribution: Evaluation, Evaluation expertise, data gathering and comparison

University of Minnesota Extension
Dick Senese, Associate Dean, Community Vitality and Public Engagement
467 Coffey Hall, 1420 Eckles Ave
St. Paul, MN 55108-6070
Email: dsenese@umn.edu
Phone: (612) 625-2811
Type: Public post-secondary
Role/Contribution: Education, training and technical assistance to small businesses, Personnel, rural network of personnel and expertise, curricula

COMMUNITY PARTNERS
Each of the following communities (community is self-defined with geography ranging from single communities to a five county region and an Indian reservation) is committed to serving as a MIRC demonstration community. This means that each community: has a sponsoring lead organization – a unit of government , chamber of commerce, local economic development organization -, has a community track record of excellent community economic development and participation in collaborative activities around broadband; has a vision to increase competitiveness through technology deployment and adoption; has one or more telecommunications providers currently offering or planning deployment of advanced telecommunications networks; is ready to engage in a campaign to increase broadband adoption and sophistication across community institutions and within the general citizenry, including targeted groups such as the elderly, poor, disabled and others.

Nine communities have committed to date:
- City of Grand Rapids / Itasca County: Itasca County has significant community capacity, led by the Itasca Economic Development Corporation and Itasca Community College. Grand Rapids is home to the Blandin Foundation which

provides substantial financial and organizational support to the community. The area has a vibrant non-profit community sector.

- Kandiyohi County: Willmar, the county seat, has a competitive marketplace for broadband services. A county focus on broadband has increased access in the rural portions of the county. Kandiyohi County broadband development efforts are led by the Kandiyohi County Economic Development Commission.
- Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe: The Leech Lake Band has just completed a comprehensive telecommunications improvement study and a technology utilization study. There is strong tribal government leadership towards active use of technology to provide decentralized services across the 1100 square mile reservation.
- City of Morris/Stevens County: The Stevens County Economic Development Commission will take the lead on this initiative.
- City of Winona: The City of Winona has strong community capacity through the Winona Port Authority. Winona Health is a national leader in e-health applications and will actively participate.
- Cook County: Cook County has successfully implemented a number of Internet and broadband projects. There is strong capacity and commitment to broadband as a key economic development driver. Cook County would be led by Cook County, Boreal Access and Arrowhead Electric Cooperative.
- City of Worthington: The Worthington Economic Development Corporation would lead this initiative. They have a strong interest in technology-based economic development.
- Upper MN Valley Region (5 county EDA region): Broadband access is now a regional priority. This effort would be led by the Upper MN Valley Regional Development Commission, an EDA planning district.
- City of Thief River Falls: This effort would be led by the City of Thief River Falls and Jobs Inc, a local, private economic development group.
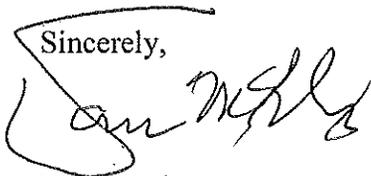
August 12, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

I strongly support Blandin Foundation's application for federal stimulus funding through the NTIA Broadband Technology Opportunity (BTOP) Program. This application includes the participation of Blandin Foundation, University of Minnesota Extension Service, the MN Learning Commons led by MnSCU, the MN Workforce Centers, MN Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED), Regional Development Commissions and others. This collaborative effort has been very productive in creating a program that is comprehensive and innovative.

The project falls under the Sustainable Broadband objective of the BTOP. All activities will take place in greater Minnesota. Key activities include:

• E-Commerce and Internet training for small businesses

• Increased access and digital literacy training for workforce center clients

• Support of ten demonstration communities where intensive broadband market development activities and new technology application (in health care, education, government and business) will be implemented.

DEED looks forward to working with the Blandin Foundation as this important program moves forward.

Sincerely,

Dan McElroy
Commissioner

1st National Bank Building ■ 332 Minnesota Street, Suite E200 ■ Saint Paul, MN 55101-1351 USA ■ www.deed.state.mn.us
Phone: 651-259-7114 ■ Toll Free: 800-657-3858 ■ Fax: 651-296-4772 ■ TTY/TDD: 651-296-3900

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August 13, 2009

Bernadine Joselyn
Blandin Foundation
100 North Pokegama Avenue
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Dear Bernadine:

The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) is the state's principal economic development agency, with programs promoting business recruitment, expansion and retention; workforce development; international trade; and community development. The agency's mission is to support the economic success of individuals, businesses, and communities by improving opportunities for growth. Deed's organizational structure is aligned with its mission. Our Workforce Development Division works with local and statewide partners to provide training and support to unemployed and dislocated workers, and financial assistance for businesses seeking to upgrade the skills of their workforce. Additional services include State Services for the Blind, Rehabilitation Services, Local Labor Exchange, and Disability Determination. Many of these services are provided at Minnesota WorkForce Centers located throughout the state.

The importance of broadband adoption by our residents is critical. Without the skills and knowledge to effectively use broadband strategies, our residents, businesses, and communities cannot compete in the global economy. Today's world demands a minimum level of internet savvy to seek, find and retain employment. Limited resources have limited our Workforce Center efforts in the past, so we welcome the Minnesota Intelligent Rural Communities initiative.

DEED looks forward to working with you and all the Minnesota Intelligent Rural Communities partners. We are excited about the capacity this project will bring to the Workforce Centers and our efforts to provide digital literacy training to rural residents. It is anticipated that the facilities, utilities, and use value of computers will contribute in-kind services valued at approximately $450,000. Thank you for bringing DEED into your highly respected broadband efforts. I do not think you could have hit upon a more critical issue for residents of rural Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Kathy Sweeney
Strategic Projects Manager

ASSOCIATION *of* **MINNESOTA COUNTIES**
Proudly Serving Counties Since 1909.

August 13, 2009

Bernadine Joselyn
Blandin Foundation
100 North Pokegama Avenue
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Dear Bernadine:

The Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) is very pleased to be a part of the Minnesota Intelligent Rural Communities initiative. As you know, AMC is a voluntary statewide organization that assists the state's 87 counties in providing effective county governance to the people of Minnesota. It is the mission of the Association to assist in the provision of effective county governance for the people of Minnesota.

To that end, we are happy to offer our support to the implementation of the mental health Network of Care (NOC). As an organization, we are always looking for ways for our members to improve services and utilized technology for effective and efficient delivery. We see the NOC tool as a vital e-government component. You may be interested to know, that several urban counterparts are looking at NOC sites for a variety of human service areas. We have also heard about the value of the NOC from colleagues around the country.

AMC will provide coordination with counties and Trilogy Integrated Resources during the development and maintenance of the mental health tools during the life of the grant. We conservatively estimate the value of our contribution at $7,500. We will also work with our member counties to identify the value and sustainability strategies for when grant funding expires. Thank you for your leadership in this effort. We look forward to working with the Blandin Foundation and partners.

Sincerely,

James A. Mulder

Jim Mulder
Executive Director

August 12, 2009

**Community
Vitality**

467 Coffey Hall
1420 Eckles Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55108-
6068

PHONE
(612) 625-7779
(612) 624-2811

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(612) 625-1955

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dsenese@umn.edu

WEB
www.extension.umn.
edu/community

*Enhancing
Minnesota's*
social, **economic**,
civic,
and **technological**
capacity

To: BTOP Grant Reviewers
From: Dick Senese, Ph.D., Associate Dean
           University of Minnesota Extension Center for Community Vitality
Re: Intent to Partner

The University of Minnesota Extension Center for Community Vitality is pleased to be a sub-recipient grantee for the MIRC project. We will utilize our capacity to deliver technology literacy programming, to apply research to community needs, and to serve small rural businesses to target businesses who have not adopted broadband technology. We will also assist Blandin in facilitating strong relationships among all BTOP partners to achieve the goals of the grant.

Extension has developed educational materials that are now used across the country and are accessed internationally (www.accesse.info). These materials help small business, non-profit organizations, local government, new Internet users and (most recently) community initiatives to use the internet safely and effectively. As a project partner, Extension will tap these resources and will build upon our growing engagement with small rural businesses statewide to stimulate forward-looking community economic development.

The University of Minnesota Extension Center for Community Vitality agrees to:
1. Hire qualified staff as technology coaches to work within areas of the state affected by the economy and low adoption rates.
2. Provide necessary office and technology for grant activities.
3. Provide Extension educators already delivering community development programming in the service areas to support grant activities through educational programs.
4. Utilize local partnerships to achieve grant goals.
5. Collaborate with BTOP partners.
6. Conduct applied research that can inform the target audience about consumer behavior on the Internet or other research topics.
7. Provide requested accounting and data requirements from the grants administrators.

We encourage the funding of this proposal to make an important difference in Minnesota.

Richard Senese, Ph.D., Associate Dean
Center for Community Vitality and Public Engagement
University of Minnesota Extension
(612) 625-7779 (w); (612) 327-4242 (cell)
dsenese@umn.edu   www.extension.umn.edu/community

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

August 7, 2009

Office of the Senior Vice President
for Academic Affairs and Provost

234 Morrill Hall
100 Church Street S.E.
Minneapolis, MN 55455-0110

Office: 612-625-0051
Fax: 612-624-3814

Bernadine Joselyn
Director of Public Policy & Engagement
Blandin Foundation
100 North Pokegama Avenue
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Re: Minnesota Learning Commons support for the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program proposal
     submitted by the Blandin Foundation

To Whom It May Concern

As Vice Provost for Distributed Education and Instructional Technology and one of the founders and sponsors of the Minnesota Learning Commons, I am responsible for identifying and facilitating innovative technologies that have the potential to increase collaboration and efficiencies for our University and with the other higher education sponsor, the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities.

The proposal by the Blandin Foundation that includes the Minnesota Learning Commons, will enable us to provide important educational content to our state, especially our rural areas, and it will increase demand for and use of the broadband capacity that has been built or is being planned. The demonstration project led by the Minnesota Learning Commons within the Blandin proposal coherently addresses an urgent need for new education methods that focus on knowledge-based occupations and pathways to pursue necessary education and training for employment opportunities, occupations which will also further increase broadband use.

The Minnesota Learning Commons (MnLC) is a partnership of the state's public P-20 education systems: Minnesota Department of Education, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities and University of Minnesota. MnLC provides convenient access to comprehensive public, high quality online P-20 learning opportunities for Minnesota citizens – learners of all ages, educators, advisors and parents. MnLC helps increase efficiencies and saves money; improves services by partnering to avoid duplication; provides access to centrally-licensed high quality products and tools; and supports the development of online resources at a central web site for online learners. MnLC also sponsors a learning object repository that will provide access for creating, storing and retrieving local and leased content.

I have worked closely with the Minnesota Learning Commons and as co-chair of its advisory group, the organization and I highly support the broadband initiatives and leadership of the Blandin Foundation. The University is also a partner with the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development in projects to promote community economic development and a highly skilled workforce. The demonstration project included in the Blandin proposal strengthens the workforce goals of the state by exposing participants to occupations and occupation pathways that typically use information and communications technology (knowledge workers) and helps assure they acquire 21st century skills useful to a host of other occupations as well. Minnesota Learning Commons is providing a $8,250 in-kind match to the grant funds through its curriculum development and outreach funds.

If you have questions regarding our support for this project, please contact me

Sincerely,

Billie Wahlstrom, Ph.D.
Vice Provost, Distributed Education & Instructional Technology
Office of the Senior Vice President & Provost
University of Minnesota
236 Morrill Hall
Minneapolis, MN 55455

Driven to Discover℠

August 12, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

The Intelligent Community Forum (ICF) is a think tank that studies the economic and social development of the 21st Century community. Whether in industrial or developing nations, communities are challenged to create prosperity, stability and cultural meaning in a world where jobs, investment and progress increasingly depend on advances in communications. For the 21st Century community, connectivity is a double-edge sword: threatening established ways of life on the one hand, and offering powerful new tools to build prosperous, inclusive, environmentally sustainable economies on the other. The Intelligent Community Forum seeks to share the best practices of the world's Intelligent Communities in adapting to the demands of the Broadband Economy by conducting research, hosting events, publishing newsletters and producing an international awards program.

I am writing to provide enthusiastic support for the Blandin Foundation's application for broadband stimulus funds under the Department of Commerce's NTIA Broadband Technology Opportunity Program. Broadband and IT can be particularly powerful tools for bringing rural areas into the global broadband economy. As proposed, the Blandin Foundation program will accelerate a broad range of activities now in the concept and planning stages into rapid execution. ICF has studied communities in rural and urban areas that are using broadband and information technology to promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth. We have learned that success depends on making progress on multiple fronts: not just broadband deployment, but skills training and educational improvements to create knowledgeable users; not just innovation initiatives that stimulate entrepreneurship but programs that fight digital exclusion and combat long-standing social ills with digital tools.

The Blandin Foundation has invited ICF to provide services as part of the program, should funding be received from NTIA BTOP. ICF brings to the project nearly a decade of study of communities using broadband and IT for economic and social development. During that period, we have amassed substantial knowledge on effective strategies and best practices, and have developed metrics for comparing the progress of "intelligent communities" to a global benchmark. This permits communities to identify their strengths and weaknesses in broadband-based development, and to adapt for their own use successful strategies and solutions from other communities around the world. For the Blandin Foundation, ICF will provide the services of 2 executives for onsite training, community demonstration projects, metric analysis, and program customization with communities in their service area as well as follow-up technical assistance. We are grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the development of rural Minnesota.

We urge NTIA to provide the funding and project support requested in the application from Blandin Foundation and look forward to reporting to our global audience on the progress of the Foundation as a great example of American public-private innovation.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Bell
Executive Director and Co-Founder