

KASSON EDA REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, January 8th, 2019

12:00 noon

MEETING WILL BE HELD AT KASSON CITY HALL

12:00 noon Call Meeting to Order

- I. Approve Minutes of the Previous Meeting**
- II. Quarterly Financial Report**
- III. Coordinator Report**
 - a. Community Roadside Landscape Partnership Program**
 - b. State Revolving Loan Funds**
 - c. Other**
- IV. Minnesota Main Street – Network Community Program**
- V. City Logo**
- VI. Other Business**
 - a. Blandin Foundation - Janice**
- VII. Items for February EDA Meeting**
- VIII. Adjourn**

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 5th, 2019

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY COORDINATOR'S REPORT



Stephanie Lawson
December 4, 2018 - January 8, 2019

Business Retention Visits & Meetings

1. CEDA Marketing in the Morning
2. Three Rivers Community Action
3. SBDC Annual Consultant Training

Kasson Konnections

After discussions at the previous EDA meeting three networking events have been set up at Daniel's/504 Tavern. The first will take place on January 10th at 7:30am, second on February 7th at 9:30am and the third on March 7th at 2:00pm. During this three month trial period future times and locations will be determined based off of attendee responses.

Notice went out residents and business owners in the January newsletter and a Facebook post was created to be published through the Chamber and City.

Community Roadside Landscape Partnership Program

A kick-off meeting is being set up with MnDOT's Landscape Architects to review the current plan for the Hwy 57/Hwy 14 project.

Policy & Procedures Manual - Revolving Loan Fund Guidelines

A number of revisions are in the process of being made, but further review of the Revolving Loan Fund Guidelines is required.

State Revolving Loan Funds

Resolution was adopted by City Council and funds were sent back to DEED.

Other Notes

Potential Townhome/Apartment Developments

Currently working with developers to determine feasibility on two potential developments. Further details are not to be disclosed at this time.

Potential Development of Childcare Facility

Project is on hold at this time.

MINNESOTA MAIN STREET



REINVESTING IN MINNESOTA COMMUNITIES

Downtowns and historic commercial districts are at the center of a community's pride and prosperity. They are economic engines and a key source of jobs, provide a defining sense of character, and act as the cultural and civic heart of a community. Building a vibrant downtown doesn't happen by accident though. It requires deliberate and attentive investment. Creating a thriving downtown district demands interest and action from stakeholders who are committed to their community's future.

AT A GLANCE: NETWORK COMMUNITIES

The Preservation Alliance of Minnesota offers two different ways for communities to join the Minnesota Main Street program and take the first steps towards downtown revitalization. Designated Minnesota Main Street Communities receive a robust set of training, tools, information, and resources to reinvigorate their commercial districts. Our Designated Minnesota Main Street Communities have broad-based support, dedicated staff and volunteers, and meet nationally defined standards.

However, we recognize that communities interested in joining the Minnesota Main Street Program have a diverse set of needs and situations. We're also proud to support the Minnesota Network Communities program, which offers many of the same resources to communities that might not have the capacity at this time to meet the Designated Program requirements.

NETWORK COMMUNITY PROGRAM BENEFITS

- Regional workshops on pertinent topics
- Regular webinars and discussion calls
- Online resource toolkit and best practice guide
- Regional networking events
- Limited consultation services from Minnesota Main Street staff



Downtown Wabasha, MN

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

A participating community must have an organization or group that focuses on downtown/historic commercial district issues, be able to commit to participation in education and training opportunities and fulfill annual reporting requirements. Examples include a Chamber of Commerce, City Government, Economic Development Authority, or downtown nonprofit group. Communities will be required to sign a participation agreement with the Preservation Alliance and Network Communities will pay an annual participation fee of \$250.

APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

Network Communities applications are accepted twice per year: in the winter and in the summer.

APPLICATION DETAILS

A competitive application process is used to identify communities that are ready and able to advance downtown revitalization initiatives. Network Communities applicants should demonstrate the following:

- Defined downtown/commercial district
- Organizational stability
- Need for assistance
- Availability of local support and resources

NETWORK COMMUNITIES SELECTION

The Network Communities application is competitive. When applications are received they go to an internal committee for final recommendation. Applications are taken at the beginning of the year with new Network Communities being announced for March 1st start date. As this is a technical assistance program, no funds are awarded. Selected communities must pay an annual fee of \$250 to the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota.

For more information and to download the application, [click here](#).

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Blandin Foundation

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(218) 326-0523 | www.blandinfofoundation.org
grants@blandinfofoundation.org

Important Information

2019 Deadlines: March 15, June 15, September 15, December 15. Grants of \$50,000 or less are reviewed on an ongoing basis.

Types of Grants Awarded: Project/Program, Operating, Capital (in Itasca), Management/Technical Assistance

Other Types of Funding Awarded: Program-Related Investments

Geographic Focus: Itasca County (a minimum of 60% of grant funding must stay in Itasca), Rural Minnesota

Interests/Priorities

Blandin Foundation is both a responsive and strategic grantmaker. The Foundation welcomes applications from current and potential grantees working to strengthen rural Minnesota communities, and concentrate its investments in three primary strategic areas of focus:

- **Itasca County Area Vibrancy:** Blandin Foundation's most substantial and broadest form of grantmaking (60%) occurs in North-Central Minnesota (Itasca County and the neighboring communities of Blackduck, Northome, Hill City, and Remer). The Foundation supports work that helps meet the economic, social, physical, cultural, and spiritual/wellness needs of Itasca-area residents.
- **Rural Community Leadership:** Beyond its training programs, the Foundation offers grants that support new and diverse people taking formal and informal leadership roles in their communities.
- **Expand Opportunity:** These grants support projects that improve and align education, entrepreneurship, quality employment, and innovations to expand opportunity for every community member.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion is a focus of the Foundation's grantmaking.

Key Personnel

President and CEO: Kathleen Annette

Vice President: Wade Fauth

Director of Grants: Sonja Merrild

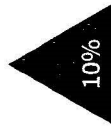
Financial Summary

For Fiscal Year 2017

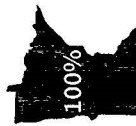
Total Assets: \$441,344,050

Total Grants: \$11,047,640

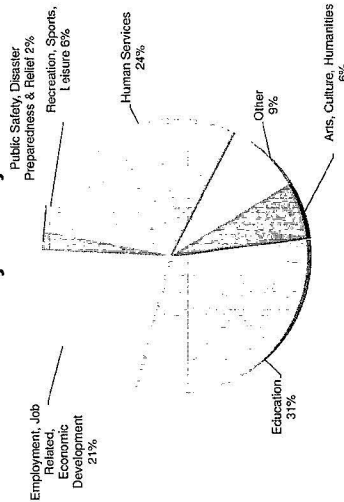
Change in
Assets FY 2017:



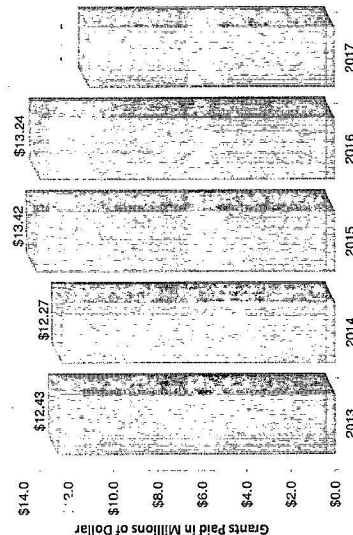
Amount of Grants to
Minnesota Nonprofits:



Grants By Activity Area



Total Grants Paid Over 5 Years



Sample Grants to Minnesota Nonprofits in 2017

Largest Grant	\$1,975,000
Smallest Grant	\$100
Average Grant.....	\$23,000
Invest Early, Taconite	\$1,975,000
Itasca Economic Development Corporation, Grand Rapids ...	\$500,000
Boys and Girls Club, St. Paul	\$308,000
NE Entrepreneur Fund, Duluth	\$140,000
MN Education Equity Partnership, St. Paul.....	\$180,000
Itasca Community College, Grand Rapids.....	\$375,000
Pfund Foundation, Minneapolis	\$180,000
Second Harvest North Central Food Bank, Grand Rapids	\$5,000

Focus Area 2: Rural Community Leadership

In addition to **community leadership training programs**, Blandin Foundation offers grants to support community leaders as they think holistically and act collaboratively on systems-level (embedded policies or practices that perpetuate community inequities) issues they have identified as critical to the health and resiliency of their community.

Blandin Foundation welcomes inquiries from organizations that:

- **Inform and connect community leaders to issues relevant among rural Minnesotans:** leaders stay current on topics, trends and issues that impact their communities. Examples: **What's Left** (an exhibit on mental illness and suicide) and MinnPost's **Immigrant Communities Reporting Project**
- **Support and sustain networks of rural leaders:** leaders are equipped with skills and abilities to strengthen their communities and/or lead on diversity, equity and inclusion. Examples: Minnesota Network of Community Developers, **Better OUTcomes for LGBTQI**, and the **American Indian Oyate Network**
- **Equip Blandin Leadership Program alumni to move forward a cohort-identified idea:** leaders take courageous action to address barriers in their community, especially socio-economic, racial and cultural barriers. Each community cohort is eligible for three \$5,000 grants and are encouraged to use the **program-specific guidelines and applications**. Examples: **Chisholm Kids Plus** and **MNyou Youth Garden**

Focus Area 3: Expand Opportunity

Grants support projects that improve and align education, entrepreneurship, quality employment and innovations to expand opportunity for every community member.

Blandin Foundation welcomes inquiries from organizations leading projects that:

- **Engage broader sections of the current or potential workforce:** create or expand educational and employment opportunities, especially for youth and people who have been persistently excluded. Examples: Women's Foundation [girlsBEST program](#) and [Northern Opportunity Works](#)
- **Use existing assets in creative ways:** incorporate a community's economic strengths in new ways to innovate based on existing enterprises and cultural, creative, or natural assets. Examples: [Rural Entrepreneurial Venture Program](#) and Greater Bemidji's LaunchPad.
- **Forge stronger relationships between education and employment systems:** two or more entities work together to improve educational and employment outcomes for people living in rural Minnesota. Examples: [Minnesota innovation Institute](#) and [AEOA Adult Scholarship Program](#)