

Arrowhead Intelligent Region Project List

Updated: August 2021

| Project Owner | Project Name | Project Description |
|---|--|---|
| May 2021 Grant Awards: | | |
| Iron Range Tourism Bureau <i>(with support from ReVive Virginia)</i> | Casual Co-working and Welcoming Communities | To promote the City of Virginia and the surrounding area as attractive and welcoming to new residents by creating a casual co-working space at an existing business with internet upgrades for remote workers and twice-monthly "Jelly events" where people who work from home can gather for networking and comradery. http://www.workatjelly.com/ Highlighting Family Friendly workplaces will give employers another recruiting tool, and job seekers a way of identifying employers who may provide flexible schedules, onsite services, or other ways of serving families. A service design project will identify ways newcomers can be better served and welcomed, and a Homeward Bound component will build a sense of community among residents and newcomers alike. |
| Itasca Economic Development Corporation | LaunchMN – Innovate 218 | To extend the impact of Itasca County's participation in LaunchMN, a statewide collaborative effort to accelerate the growth of startups and amplify Minnesota as a national leader in innovation. "Innovate 218" will bring together a network of partners to create a brand and marketing outreach strategy to reach entrepreneurs, identify gaps, and build resources to support them; and offer nine-week training programs based on the Lean Startup Model to up to thirty entrepreneurs. |
| Minnesota Children's Press | Arrowhead Children's Publishing Cooperative: An 18-month Collaboration in Applied Innovation | To deliver an outdoors, GIS-based approach to teaching spatial thinking, environmental stewardship, writing, illustrating, and publishing for children in Cook County that may be expanded across the Arrowhead region. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Litter Lab field season - students will collect litter in Grand Marais and the Lake Superior shoreline and use ArcGIS Mapping software to map its location. 2. Students will analyze the Litter Lab data, propose solutions, and write an illustrate the book, and present the results to the Grand Marais City Council. 3. Field test and focus group the book, model, methods, curriculum, and teaching templates with Arrowhead region peers, and coordinate a 7-county outreach campaign. 4. Conduct 2 civic journalism workshops in Arrowhead region where youth and mentors teach adults practical digital media competencies. 5. Integrate findings from Arrowhead region feedback from civic journalism workshops and create free online curriculum. Sell Litter Lab field guide to fund civic projects. 6. Finalize report to local govt and business leaders, finalize website and curriculum, social media campaign, continue to present findings to community groups. |
| 100 Rural Women <i>(with support from Minnesota Children's Press)</i> | Cooperative Business Model: Arrowhead Children's Publishing | To conduct research to identify and define cooperative and collaborative publishing business and financial models to support creative and cutting-edge publishing product utilizing local talents to support the growth of impactful and engaging children's publishing in the Arrowhead Region. The project is specifically designed to complement and support the work of Minnesota Children's Press. |

Arrowhead Intelligent Region Project List

| Project Owner | Project Name | Project Description |
|---|---|---|
| The Northspan Group, Inc. <i>(with support from Northland Foundation)</i> | Welcoming Community | To transform leadership practices in the Arrowhead to embrace the diversity that exists and will continue to grow in its communities, including through increasing digital access equity and inclusion across the region. Fostering welcoming and increasing digital access are interrelated steps in the development of more generous, inclusive, and engaged communities that can work toward eliminating the opportunity gaps that exist in northeast Minnesota. |
| Range Association of Municipalities and Schools <i>(with support from ISD 2142)</i> | St. Louis County School District Wireless Broadband Project | To map internet speeds at the homes of all of the students in the St. Louis County school district to inform the design of a wireless broadband network that achieves the highest level of internet service for the most students at the lowest cost. . |
| Smart North <i>(with support from the Regents of the U of MN)</i> | Smart Street Lights & Mobility Hubs, Grand Rapids | To plan for and implement a pilot project supporting the deployment and adoption of smart streetlights and mobility hubs in the City of Grand Rapids. Smart Mobility Hubs are interactive kiosks that bring a city's transportation options together at a single location so users can get where they need to go efficiently and affordably. Amenities available at Smart Mobility Hubs include municipal Wi-Fi, bike/scooter-share, bike racks, ride-share pick-up/drop off zones, car sharing parking, and EV charging. The infrastructure will allow different city departments to access and share data, enabling robust 5G connectivity throughout the city. Grand Rapids was chosen as the pilot community because of the autonomous vehicle mobility initiative to be launched here in September 2021. |

| Project Owner | Project Name | Project Description |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| August 2021 Grant Awards: | | |
| Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency | Clean Transportation Pilot | To decrease Arrowhead Transit's carbon footprint by reducing its greenhouse gas emissions, and to create more affordable transportation opportunities across Northeastern Minnesota, ensuring individuals and families have equitable access to transportation options they can afford through the purchase two electric buses. The buses will be operated on their busiest routes, Virginia and Grand Rapids. Arrowhead Transit will use data gathered through this pilot to make clean transportation investments across their 10-county service region. They will also provide guidance and support for other transportation providers and fleet operators in implementing their own projects. |
| City of Grand Rapids | Smart Rural Mobility Outreach & Seminars: Minnesota's Automated Rural Transit Initiative (goMARTI) | To conduct outreach and storytelling among key users of the electric, autonomous shuttles that will be deployed in Grand Rapids in late 2021 and showcase those and other learnings to peer organizations around the state and region through a series of seminars. As one of the first winter rural pilots in the country, it will be important to understand and share best practices of community engagement with the rest of the region, country, and industry to help empower other community leaders to understand the positive impacts an initiative like this can deliver. This project will also promote Grand Rapids and the surrounding area as a good place to live, work, and visit. |

Arrowhead Intelligent Region Project List

| Project Owner | Project Name | Project Description |
|--|---|---|
| Iron Range Tourism Bureau <i>(with support from Hibbing Dylan Project)</i> | City of Dylan Music and Art | To create a more welcoming community by upgrading an outdated sound system that will rely on wireless technology and strong internet. It both revitalizes and updates a downtown tradition of music in the street and embraces local musicians in a creative and celebratory way. Because the music and artistic elements of this project are being created in public spaces, City of Dylan Music and Art programming will be accessible to all. |
| Itasca Economic Development Corporation | Innovation Center | To provide education, training and workforce development opportunities to area students and community members. The Innovation Center will be a place where innovators and entrepreneurs can thrive and grow. It will help create a pipeline of local workforce for local industries, and a path of opportunity for area youth. In Phase I half of IEDC's existing Airport Road Building will be renovated to serve as a training, workforce development, and innovation facility. Phase II includes the evaluation of the larger Innovation Center (location, needs, partners), identification of site, and funding options. Other partners include Northeast MN Higher Education District, Northeast MN Office of Job Training, and Itasca Area Schools Collaborative & Next Career Pathways. |
| The Lighthouse Center For Vital Living | Tech to Connect for Older Adults in Rural Arrowhead | To help alleviate loneliness and social isolation among Arrowhead seniors by promoting broadband connectivity and use. Project activities will include public education and outreach, needs assessments, skills training, loans of technology devices, and internet connections, and support of one or more remote 'engagement groups' for older adults in collaboration with multiple local organizations regionwide. |
| Northland Foundation | Technology Assessment Project | To help small businesses learn about and adopt the technology they need to effectively manage and market a business in the "new normal" of the post-pandemic world. Northland Small Business Development Center will provide one-on-one technology consulting to 60-80 small business in the seven county Arrowhead Region. Participating businesses qualify for matching funds to implement technology upgrades. |



Blandin Foundation™
STRENGTHENING RURAL MINNESOTA

