

Getting Down to **Business**

Grants and Reporting
Mary Magnuson
Broadband Program Administrator
Blandin Foundation



Semi Annual Visits

“Strut Your Stuff” tour

Strut Your Stuff...

March 2019 ... September 2019 ... April 2020

- Replaces BBC Program reporting
- (FUN) Two-hour gathering in your community
 - Welcome / conversation
 - Introductions
 - Project updates
 - Discussion

Strut Your Stuff...

- Steering Committee Activity Update
 - Who was involved
 - Planning process
 - PCs for People Update
- Status of your community's grant projects
 - Significant accomplishments
 - Challenges
- How can the Blandin Team assist you?
 - What should we be aware of?
 - Significant learnings / most fun

Grants!

Funding for BBC Projects

Who Can Apply?

- All applicants must be:
 - IRS Status of 501(c)3
 - Tribal Government
 - Unit of Government

Application Review

- Grant applications will be reviewed by the Blandin Broadband Strategy Board.
- Project grant evaluation criteria:
 - Project meets an identified community need.
 - Community partnerships are evidenced in the proposal.
 - Project increases the technological vitality of the community.
 - Project uses appropriate technology for the stated purpose.
 - Project purpose is charitable.

Funds Available in 2018-2020

Blandin Broadband Grants: \$450,000/year

IRRR, for new IRBCs: \$277,500

- Blandin Broadband Communities
 - \$75,000 per community for projects that address access, adoption and use
- Robust Network Feasibility Fund
 - Up to \$25,000
 - open to any rural MN community
 - BBCs may apply

Application Process

- **Steering Team Meeting** (January)
 - Review and begin grant application process
- **Community Vision Meeting** (February)
 - Community technology goals set – these will be the goals of your project grant
- **Project Development Meeting** (March)
 - Finalize projects – submit final projects and budgets to Blandin Foundation for approval

Grant Application Deadlines

- **January 4**
 - January 30 decision
- **March 9**
 - April 11 decision

Grant Matching Requirements

- 25% of total project cost (1:3)
 - Projects with community-wide, cross-sector benefit (*most projects*)
- 50% of total project cost (1:1)
 - Equipment purchase
 - Robust Network Feasibility Fund grants
- Projects that demonstrate more than the minimum required match will be viewed favorably

Grant Reporting

- Final Grant Report: due one month after the end of the grant period.
 - Grant outcomes
 - Community improvement efforts
 - Healthy community indicators: Expand Opportunity
 - Lessons Learned
 - Budget