Blandin Broadband Communities
2022-23 Projects

Updated: June 2022

Community	Project Owner	Project Name	Project Description
Austin Area	Austin Aspires	Focus Groups with Traditionally Underrepresented Populations	Better understand the technology needs of diverse groups in the Austin Area by hosting a series of focus groups with underrepresented groups, including but not limited to senior citizens, non-English language speakers, and individuals with disabilities and their caregivers.
Austin Area	Austin Aspires	Translation Software	Bridge the communication gap in the Austin Area through the use of translation software. Austin Public Schools currently serves families representing 45 home languages, and nearly 50% of students identify as a member of an ethnic minority. Translation assistance is needed throughout the community.
Austin Area	Austin Public Library and Mayo Clinic	Public Access Privacy Rooms	Facilitate access to and use of technology through the creation of at least three "Zoom Rooms" strategically placed around the city that people can use to conduct private business including job interviews, parent-teacher meetings, medical appointments, etc.
Austin Area	Austin Public Schools Community Ed.	Community Digital Literacy Training	Build digital literacy skills around the community by hosting digital literacy training classes. Targeted populations include the elderly, ESL families, and people wanting to improve their work skills.
Austin Area	Development Corporation of Austin	Small Business Resiliency Through Technology	Help small businesses innovate, update, and flourish by promoting the availability of Mower County's micro-grant program. Participating small businesses will receive a technology assessment to pinpoint resiliency gaps in operations, marketing, or online presence, and have access to matching grants to address issues.
Austin Area	Hormel Nature Center	Community Tree Nursery	Promote the creative application of technology and address environmental justice by designing and constructing a gravel bed tree nursery to grow trees to augment loss associated with aging and dying trees throughout the community. The nursery will be used as an educational tool through videos, photos, and articles shared online.
Austin Area	United Way of Mower County	Affordable Connectivity Program Promotion	Connect qualifying families to affordable internet service by promoting the Affordable Connectivity Program through various community engagement efforts, including assisting them with the application process.
Big Stone County	Big Stone County	Big Stone County Smart Rooms	Expand technology access around the county by creating four Smart Rooms in four communities that residents can use for remote meetings, trainings, and connect with friends and family.
Big Stone County	Big Stone County 4H U of MN Extension	4-H STEM Programming	Provide STEM learning opportunities to students in 4-H afterschool programs and day camps including a STEM Career Day, STEM Camps, and establish an AIS/Robotics Team.

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STRENGTHENING RURAL MINNESOTA

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Big Stone County	Big Stone County Family Services	Childcare Technology Initiative	Promote childcare as a profession, help to improve existing childcare business operations and access to information, and ensure young children have access to online learning opportunities by providing at least two devices and support and training to childcare providers.
Big Stone County	Big Stone County HRA	Lakeside Apartment Broadband Access	Improve educational and career opportunities by ensuring low-income residents in public housing have access to computers and the internet. The project will expand Wi-Fi to the common areas of Lakeside Apartments for both building residents and residents of other public housing units in Ortonville.
Big Stone County	Big Stone County Veterans Services	Technology Assistance for Veterans	Increase access to educational opportunities and support services among veterans by offering technical literacy training.
Big Stone County	Clinton-Graceville-Beardsley Elementary School	CGB Schools STEM Opportunity for Students	Provide fun and engaging STEM opportunities for K-8 students through the purchase of STEM materials and curriculum. Students will learn basics in computer science and coding, and interact with technology tools and/or robots.
Big Stone County	Ortonville EDA	Business Training Project Phase I	Increase the sophistication of use of broadband to help small businesses and organizations, with a special emphasis on artists, sell and market their products and services.
Big Stone County	Ortonville EDA	Business Training Project Phase II	Further increase the sophistication of use of broadband to help small businesses and organizations by offering further trainings with a special emphasis on opportunities to build their customer base and increase profitability.
Lincoln County	Development Services, Inc.	"At Home in Lincoln County" Website	Promote and market Lincoln County to residents and visitors by expanding the current countywide website to include a comprehensive overview of the county's communities, resources for residents and visitors, business information, and events and activities.
Lincoln County	Development Services, Inc.	Ivanhoe Broadband Community Survey	Determine Ivanhoe residents' satisfaction with current broadband offerings and gauge interest in a potential fiber optic network by conducting a community broadband survey.
Lincoln County	Lincoln County	Public Wi-Fi Access	Increase access to the internet by providing public Wi-Fi access at parks and other spots where people gather around the county.
Lincoln County	Tyler Public Library	Internet Safety Programs	Educate parents, students, and community members on internet safety by conducting training programs on Social Media Safety and Internet Fraud and Scams.
Mahnomen County	City of Mahnomen	City Hall Conference Room Tech Upgrades	Improve the effectiveness and efficiency of community meetings by upgrading technology in the Mahnomen City Hall conference room, allowing them to host virtual meetings. The room will continue to be available to various community organizations.

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Mahnomen County	Gizhiigin Arts Incubator	Youth Asset Map	Build new technology knowledge and skills among youth in 4-6th grades by conducting workshops where students will create 3-5 informational QR spots around Mahnomen educating visitors about attractions and traditions.
Mahnomen County	Helping Hands Food Shelf	Computers and Inventory Software	Improve the efficiency of Helping Hands Food Shelf and improve access to food for community members by providing a computer and implementing a software program to track inventory and use, including allowing clients to pre-order food.
Mahnomen County	Lake Agassiz Regional Library	Library Technology Upgrade	Increase library-users' access to technology through the purchase of a new machine capable of color printing, copying, scanning, and faxing.
Mahnomen County	Mahnomen County EDA	Co-Working Services Launch	Provide support and services for entrepreneurs and small business owners by providing free access for two years to the co-working space for White Earth Nation tribal members and other qualifying Mahnomen County entrepreneurs.
Mahnomen County	Mahnomen County EDA	EDA Website and Digital Logos	Increase visibility and access to Mahnomen County EDA programs, events, and resources by building a new EDA website. This project includes creating a digital brand identity for the EDA and City of Mahnomen, and upgraded technology for clients and staff.
Mahnomen County	White Earth Tribal Community College	Bookstore Marketing Project	Foster cultural revitalization by increasing the community's access to locally made beading and crafting supplies and materials through the creation of a digital storefront for the White Earth Tribal Community College Bookstore.
Mahnomen County	White Earth Tribal Community College	WETCC Digital Mktg Geofencing Campaign	Market White Earth Tribal Community College cultural programs and increase student enrollment through a digital marketing campaign that utilizes videography and geofencing to target specific demographics.
Pine County	Pine City Chamber of Commerce	Going Google in Pine County	Increase visibility of local businesses by offering sessions with a Google-certified trainer on Google Maps, websites, and social media.
Pine County	Pine County	Chengwatana Broadband Infrastructure	Increase access to broadband in Chengwatana Township by installing a 170' guyed tower for fixed wireless to the Township Hall so they can offer free Wi-Fi to the public. Once installed the infrastructure should reach about 75 nearby households.
Pine County	Pine County	Kerrick Broadband Infrastructure	Increase access to broadband in the City of Kerrick and Kerrick Township by installing a main line and last mile fiber cable to Kerrick Town Hall so they can offer free Wi-Fi to the public. Households along the route may also be served.
Pine County	Pine County	Pine City Township Broadband Infrastructure	Increase access to broadband in Pine City and surrounding areas by installing fixed wireless services to an existing tower so free Wi-Fi can be offered to the public at the Pine City Town Hall. Once installed the infrastructure should reach about 155 nearby households.
Warroad Area	Warroad Community Development	Lake Street to Main Street	Increase access to broadband in the City of Warroad by installing a fiber broadband backbone upon which to base future expansion throughout the region.

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Warroad Area	Warroad Community Development	Public Wi-Fi Access Points	Increase access to broadband in the City of Warroad by installing 5-10 free public access Wi-Fi hotspots for use by residents and visitors. Possible sites include the Warroad Public Library & Heritage Center, EMS, and government buildings.
Warroad Area	Warroad Community Development	Warroad School District Sports and Special Events Broadcasting System	Increase accessibility of sports and other special events held on the school's athletic fields to the public by installing internet access points and broadcasting equipment. In addition to enabling broadcasting, the internet access points can be utilized by the public, increasing access to the internet.