

Subject: Blandin Foundation- Grants Update

Hello Grantees and Partners,

Blandin Foundation has increased our grant-making by 40 percent in the last decade. In response to this growth, urgent rural needs, and to improve service to our grantees, we are redesigning our grant processes and implementing a new grants management system. This effort is taking place as part of our organization's shift to a new strategic direction.

We will start to answer a few questions that you may have in this email. We also encourage you to review our [FAQ](#), but more rounds of information will follow.

The Benefit

The redesigned grant interface will make it easier for you to engage with us, provide more streamlined data collection, and better tools to customize and track progress.

The Near-Term Impact

To advance this work, **our inquiry portal will be closed starting Tuesday, January 31st**. While we will not be accepting new inquiries, all active grants will continue to be processed. We anticipate the inquiry portal will reopen this spring, but we will advise of a firmer timeline as the technical work progresses.

What Happens Now

We understand this pause in processing new grants and the shift in our strategic focus represents a change in our usual interactions and will generate questions. To implement successfully, it will take some time for all of us to review existing work and adjust to new systems. We ask for your patience as we build the new grants management system and fully transition our organization to the new strategic direction. Along the way, you can expect that we will continue the open dialogue about where we are in the process.

Additional communications are forthcoming. In the meantime, please take a moment to review some background on the development of the [new strategic direction](#). If you have further questions, please email us at grants@blandinfoundation.org.

Thank you for all you do to move rural places forward. We are excited to continue working with you as we take these important steps.

Sonja Merrild

Director of Rural Grantmaking