

Blandin Broadband Communities – Iron Range Cohort 2017-18 Projects

Updated: March 2018

Community	Project Owner	Project Name	Project Description
Aitkin County	Aitkin County	Aitkin County Community Calendar	Create a county-wide landing page for events sponsored by Aitkin County Chambers, Schools and other organizations.
Aitkin County	Aitkin County	Community Conference Centers	Provide three small communities with conference/meeting suites, including a mobile computer lab, smart boards, other digital equipment, and Wi-Fi hotspots for use by residents, community education and others.
Aitkin County	Aitkin County	Wi-Fi Network for Small Cities	Provide Wi-Fi for the central hub of Palisade to attract commercial growth, promote connectivity, enhance education, and promote telehealth. This project will serve as a pilot for Wi-Fi networks in other small cities.
Aitkin County	Aitkin County	Wi-Fi at Berglund Park	Provide Wi-Fi at the Palisade city park campground - a main entry point for the Northwoods ATV Trail and important source of economic activity. Park usage is anticipated to increase with Wi-Fi availability.
Aitkin County	East Central Regional Library	Mobile Wi-Fi Hotspots	The East Central Regional Library will obtain 14 mobile hotspots and make them available to patrons at the Aitkin Library and other outreach locations in Aitkin County, providing internet access to county residents who don't have broadband.
Aitkin County	ISD 1 Aitkin Public Schools	Wi-Fi Enabled Buses	Install Wi-Fi on four school buses so students will be able to work on homework while traveling to and from home, and on longer trips.
Aitkin County	Long Lake Conservation Center	Wi-Fi and Increased Bandwidth at Long Lake Conservation Center	Increase the Internet bandwidth to the LLCC campus, and improve the Wi-Fi network. This will improve working conditions for the staff, increase the effectiveness of programming offered, and make the center a more desirable event venue.
Chisholm	Chisholm Community Education	Community Training Sessions	Training sessions on internet use (social media, security, Facebook) to be offered free of charge to the community. CHS students will be on hand to help class participants as they utilize the training.
Chisholm	Chisholm EDA	Community Website/Portal	Develop a community portal and calendar for community information and events, including marketing, tourism, school events, city and chamber.
Chisholm	Chisholm EDA	Community Hot Spots	Provide Wi-Fi hotspots at the Chisholm Public Library, Lake Street Pocket Park, Balkan Community Center, and HRA Apartment Complex.
Chisholm	Chisholm EDA	The "Business Perks" Building	Develop a technology center with rental space/incubator space available for businesses. Broadband/Internet/website/social media training opportunities for businesses will be offered.



Blandin Broadband Communities ~ 2017-18 Iron Range Cohort Projects

Community	Project Owner	Project Name	Project Description
Chisholm	Chisholm Public Library	Hot Spot Check-Out System	Provide fifteen hotspots with mobile data plans for check out at the Chisholm Public Library.
Chisholm	ISD 695 Chisholm Public Schools	Wi-Fi on Buses	Install Wi-Fi on two school buses, allowing students taking longer bus trips to have access to the internet. Bus Wi-Fi may be used for community events as well.
Chisholm	Minnesota Discovery Center	Minnesota Discovery Center Broadband Connection	Upgrade Wi-Fi throughout the Minnesota Discovery Center, allowing for better access during meetings, for events, and for patron/staff use.
Chisholm / Hibbing / Mt. Iron-Buhl	Chisholm EDA	Central Range Area Feasibility Study	Hire a consultant to conduct a feasibility study to better understand options for improving broadband infrastructure and services within the designated area, present the resulting plan and funding options to city councils, townships, school boards and the St. Louis County Board, and assist with grant writing as requested.
Ely	City of Ely - Ely EDA	Homegrown Ely Website (Elyite.com)	Create a website to showcase Ely to prospective residents, businesses, and visitors. The site will include information on the cost of living, the arts, restaurants, churches, business opportunities, infrastructure, etc.
Ely	Entrepreneur Fund	Digital Marketing for Small Businesses	Engage seven small business owners (selected through an application process) in hands-on consulting to build brand awareness and increase revenue by developing and implementing affordable website and social media strategies.
Ely	Incredible Ely	Ely Technology Center	Utilize current space in the downtown business district to provide a shared office space with high-speed Internet for local telecommuters, entrepreneurs, and visitors.
Ely	Entrepreneur Fund	Ely Small Business Workshop Series	Provide three structured workshops on timely topics for small business owners. Local facilitators will share practical tools and ideas on topics such as digital marketing, employee recruitment, and QuickBooks.
Ely	City of Ely	Ely Area Broadband Feasibility Study	Conduct a feasibility study that will provide factual information about market demand, technology alternatives, deployment and maintenance costs, network operation and marketing. It will include installation of fiber within the City of Ely, and extending throughout the entire school district area. Project partners will use the data generated to develop a plan for service delivery.
Ely	Incredible Ely	Business Development/Broadband Survey	Conduct a survey on business development and internet usage data as well as projected broadband usage information, with the goal of bringing broadband to Ely and making it an economic success.
Grizzlies (Bois Forte, Cook, Orr)	Bois Forte Band of Chippewa Indians	Business Training and Community Education	Design and provide community technology education programs at Bois Forte, Orr Center, Cook Library and Community Center, and North Woods High School. Topics will be determined based on community feedback.

Blandin Broadband Communities ~ 2017-18 Iron Range Cohort Projects

Community	Project Owner	Project Name	Project Description
Grizzlies	Bois Forte Band of Chippewa Indians	Wi-Fi Access Points	Provide Wi-Fi Access Points throughout the Orr Center, and Cook Library and Community Center.
Grizzlies	Cook Library	Wi-Fi Hot Spot Check Out Program	Purchase five mobile hotspots that can be checked out from the Cook Library to provide home access to un- and underserved residents of the Grizzlies community.
Grizzlies	Cook Library	Cook Library Expansion	Expand the capacity of the computer lab at Cook Library by adding electrical outlets and cleaning up the cabling. This will greatly enhance training opportunities in the City of Cook.
Grizzlies	Orr Center	Orr Center Web Page Redevelopment	Redesign the Orr Center's webpage, making it more user-friendly for customers, and allowing Orr Center staff to maintain it without consulting assistance.
Hibbing	Access North	PC Distribution and Computer Skills Training	Distribute 50 PCs for People computers to seniors and people with disabilities, along with technical assistance and service, and provide 10 training sessions for recipients on basic computer literacy skills to increase knowledge and confidence in use. <i>This project builds upon an IRBC program element where each community received 50 PCs for People Computers to distribute to low income residents.</i>
Hibbing	Hibbing Area Chamber of Commerce	Increase Public Wi-Fi Availability	Promote the use of Wi-Fi by providing hotspots at public and municipal locations including schools, colleges, and libraries; implementing a mobile hot spot check-out program through the public library; and creating a Wi-Fi map of the city.
Hibbing	Hibbing Community College	IT Knowledge & Career Fair	Host an Information Technology Fair for high school and college students that will focus on the many ways IT interfaces with everyday life, careers options, and education pathways to those careers.
Hibbing	Entrepreneur Fund / Hibbing Area Chamber of Commerce	Digital Marketing Consultations for Small Businesses Growth	Provide seven Hibbing business owners with professional digital marketing consulting to implement affordable strategies to strengthen brand awareness and increase business success. The business owners are selected via an application process, and will complete marketing assessments, create work plans and implement strategies to grow their online presence. <i>This project was so successful that a second round was held for 16 additional area businesses.</i>
Hibbing	Entrepreneur Fund / Hibbing Area Chamber of Commerce	Digital Marketing Workshops for Small Businesses	Conduct a series of three workshops for are business owners that will deliver practical tools and ideas to their businesses' marketing efforts. Workshop topics may include website strategies; promotional products; photos, writing and design; and social media.
Mt. Iron-Buhl	City of Mt. Iron	Internet Access at Public Buildings	Improve Internet access and expand technology capabilities at the Mt. Iron Senior Center, City Hall and other public buildings for public use.
Mt. Iron-Buhl	ISD 712 Mountain Iron Buhl	Wi-Fi on School Buses	Install and maintain Wi-Fi on MIB's fleet of seven buses used to transport students to and from school and home, and to athletic and academic activities, allowing students to complete homework and participate in classes while traveling

Blandin Broadband Communities ~ 2017-18 Iron Range Cohort Projects

Community	Project Owner	Project Name	Project Description
Mt. Iron-Buhl	ISD 712 Mountain Iron Buhl	Technology for Environmental Learning	Introduce technology to the environmental learning classes at MIB Schools and community education, and City of Mt. Iron School Forest, including GPS mapping, geocaching, trail cameras, and lab equipment.
Mt. Iron-Buhl	ISD 712 Mountain Iron Buhl	Technology Classroom Upgrades	Purchase equipment for the Mt. Iron-Buhl School District to improve technology offerings, including a journalism technology class for students and adult learners, and to create a Makerspace classroom.
Mt. Iron-Buhl	Kinney Township & Great Scott Township	Township Websites	Develop websites for Kinney and Great Scott Township so residents will be able to access meeting minutes, pay bills, learn about community events, and interact with elected officials online.
Mt. Iron-Buhl	Kinney Township & Great Scott Township	Township Technology Upgrades	Improve Internet access and technology equipment, including video projectors and Wi-Fi network capacity, in government buildings in Kinney and Great Scott Townships.
Mt. Iron-Buhl	UMD Center for Economic Development	Community and Business Technology Breakfasts	Provide training for safe, efficient, and effective use of technology by community members and area businesses. Fifteen trainings will be offered, including six business breakfasts, on topics such as cyber security, social media tips, smartphone basics, FaceTime, etc.
Mt. Iron-Buhl	UMD Center for Economic Development	Small Business Marketing and Technology Audits	Conduct marketing and technology audits for area businesses. Business owners will work with a consultant to complete the audit of current technology platforms, and may apply to be one of ten businesses to receive \$1,500 worth of digital marketing training.