**Registration Survey**

**Introduction**

In partnership with Blandin Foundation, the [community] seeks to improve access and use of technology to increase economic vitality and quality of life. The county initiative has been underway for over 3 years and is led by a steering committee (SC/or/Committee) of county citizens. A number of steps have been taken to date and now is the time the SC/Committee needs wide input from residents, business people and school leaders. Your input will help the SC determine how to best allocate grant funds, time and energy by setting priorities and suggesting project ideas. To date, the SC has been mapping broadband availability in the county along with identification of service providers involved. It's a complex situation.

The SC is beginning the process to allocate up to a $75,000 grant from the Blandin Foundation for technology-related projects. We welcome your participation through an upcoming online community meeting process led by Blandin. They are experienced in helping communities leap gaps in many processes including broadband but this is the first time the meeting process will be done online. Of course, the process has gone online because of Covid-19 and the SC and Blandin have given much thought about how to handle the meetings. It won't be perfect but the members of the SC and Blandin are confident that, with your help, we can get the job done.

This survey is the first step. We are inviting you to complete this and to be willing to participate in the meetings; just two, and they are one hour each! The first meeting is the *Vision* and the second is *Brainstorming* for project ideas. Because of the limitations of technology, 60 individuals may participate in the meetings and those individuals will be chosen from these surveys by the SC. Please understand if that if your participation is not chosen, your responses and input are still vitally important. There is still a lot of work to do. After these first two meetings, project(s) ideas will be selected and motivated individuals will be needed to get project(s) completed.

At the end of this survey, you may choose to register for the two online community meetings. You may participate in one of two places: At home using your Internet connection on your smartphone, iPad or tablet or desktop computer or at one of three public sites where social distancing guidelines will be met. You may feel concerned about your abilities to participate but don't: If you can send an email, check Facebook or watch a YouTube video, you can do this! While we would rather meet in a big room everyone present, these times call for a different approach.

We know that a modern broadband infrastructure enhances our ability to develop, support and retain workforce, spur innovation across the economy, address digital equity and communicate with those within and outside of our community. Our current broadband network limits the ability of many to do their work, go to school, order groceries and do many other tasks. This process will accelerate our efforts to get better broadband while promoting the use of the broadband we have available. This community effort will emphasize both better Internet access and more sophisticated use of technology using the Intelligent Community approach as guidance.

Blandin Foundation has completed this program in more than 40 communities in Minnesota. We will be the first group to do this via online meetings and social distancing. That is exciting! Let’s make it work!!

Click here to complete the survey to register for the online Vision and Brainstorm meetings!

www.registration...

For more information, check online to these resources –

• https://blandinfoundation.org/programs/expanding-opportunity/broadband/blandin-broadband-communities-program/

• Blandin community page

• [community website]

• www.intelligentcommunity.org

**BBC Vision Registration Survey Template**

1. Broadband is now foundational to our everyday lives – for economic development, education, health care and social interaction. Please describe how your home or business Internet connection supports or hinders your online world.
2. The creation, attraction and retention of a skilled workforce is more important than ever to support community economic vitality. Please share your thoughts on how [community] is positioned to provide the high-quality workforce.
3. To remain competitive, communities must support an environment of innovation; especially in the local business community, but also in health care, government and education. This can be demonstrated by support of new businesses and industries and smart use of technology across the community. How do you think [community] is doing in this area?
4. We know community residents who lack computers, technology skills and Internet connections are likely to fall behind in economic and social well-being. Please share your perspective on how you see this playing out in [community]. Please describe the impact on your family and other community members resulting from this digital divide.
5. What assets should we emphasize in our efforts to attract people and investment to the area? What else should we be doing to strengthen [community] to make it more attractive for development and to improve the quality of life?
6. The Community Vision meeting is [Thursday, June 11 from 1-3pm.]  
   The Brainstorm meeting is [Wednesday, June 17 from 10-11am.]

* I will register to participate in the online Vision and/or Brainstorm Meetings. [Registration links will be provided at the conclusion of this survey.]
* I will not attend these meetings

Comment field: Why are you unable to attend?

*This page skipped if they will not attend*

1. The Vision and Brainstorm sessions will take place online via Zoom videoconferencing (video is suggested but not required, particularly if your internet connection isn't sufficient to support video.)

* I can attend at home and my equipment is adequate to participate in a Zoom meeting and to view supporting documents.
* I can attend at home and my equipment is adequate, but could use a quick orientation on how to use Zoom.
* [I will need to attend at a public site, but I have my own personal equipment that is adequate to participate.]
* [I will need to attend at a public site and use their equipment]

Questions/comments

1. Zoom familiarity:
   1. I’m comfortable using Zoom
   2. I could use a Zoom orientation
2. During the meeting, individuals will be asked to discuss one area of more specific intent for the use of the Internet. Please indicate in which small group discussion you would like to participate:

* Broadband Infrastructure
* Workforce
* Innovation
* Digital Equity
* Advocacy

*End page*

*Everyone sees the following:*

1. Contact info

Name (required)

Organizational or Community Affiliation

Address

Email (required)

Telephone (required)

If you plan to attend the Vision and/or Brainstorm meetings, please take another moment now to register for each - all you'll need to do is enter your name and email address. It is not mandatory that you attend both meetings, but if you can attend both you will have a better experience and understanding of the program. Sessions will be recorded for later viewing. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting, and the opportunity to add it to your calendar.

* Vision Mtg – Date/time: Click here to register
* Brainstorm Mtg - Date/time: Click here to register

Once we have completed the Vision and Brainstorm meetings, we will all choose together how to move forward with the $75,000 grant funds. You will have the opportunity to cast your vote for the best project(s) to undertake and you will be invited to join a team to implement a project.   
  
Thank you for your willingness to help propel [community]'s citizens into the next phase of Internet technology. We're excited for the future!