March 2016 grant awards

Local Grants
Area of focus: Vibrant Itasca County

Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency
Operations support of the Free At Last independent living skills program and the LIFE homeless youth program in 2016-17 in Itasca County $24,000

Bigfork Valley Foundation
Capital support to complete the Bigfork Riverwalk project in Itasca County $50,000

Deer River Area Health Care Foundation
Donation in support of improving health outcomes and quality of life in Itasca County. $250

Edge of the Wilderness Community Center
Project support for 2016 performances and events in Itasca County. $8,700

ElderCircle
Donation in support of scholarship funds for local nonprofits to attend Community Volunteer Leadership training and certification program in Itasca County. $1,000

Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation
Operations support for the Itasca County Sharing Fund in 2016-17. $200,000

Grand Rapids Players
Donation in support of underwriting the spring production of Zombie Prom in Itasca County. $500

Greenway 316 Foundation Inc
Donation in support of Financial Aid Night for Greenway High School students and parents in Itasca County. $150

Greenway Joint Recreation Association
Donation in support of the third annual fishing tournament for the Greenway Sports Complex in Itasca County. $500

Greenway Music Boosters, Inc.
Donation in support of new uniforms for Greenway music students in Itasca County. $1,000

Independent School District 118, Remer
Capital support for the Inspire Me disability-friendly playground project in Itasca County. $5,000

**Independent School District 118, Remer**
Donation in support of Financial Aid Night for Northland High School students and parents in the Itasca County area. $125

**Independent School District 316**
Donation in support of the 2016 Greenway Post Prom event in Itasca County. $500

**Independent School District 316**
Project support for the 2015 Children First! New Year’s Eve event in Itasca County. $5,750

**Independent School District 318**
Donation in support of the Grand Rapids High School 2016 post prom event in Itasca County. $750

**Independent School District 318**
Donation in support of Financial Aid Night for Grand Rapids High School students and parents in Itasca County. $150

**Independent School District 319**
Donation in support of the 2016 Financial Aid Night for Nashwauk-Keewatin High School students and parents in Itasca County. $100

**Itasca Community College**
Donation in support of the college readiness program for area students in grades 6-12 in Itasca County. $1,000

**Itasca County**
Donation in support of emergency safety signs for the Sheriff’s Search and Rescue team in Itasca County. $1,000

**Itasca Youth for Christ**
Donation in support of staff match for the Ground Floor youth center in Itasca County. $500

**Lets Go Fishing of MN**
Donation for the Itasca Chapter of Lets Go Fishing with Seniors in Itasca County. $1,000

**Reif Arts Council**
Operating support through June 2017 in Itasca County. $170,000

**Area of focus: Expand Opportunity**

**Boys and Girls Club of the Leech Lake Area**
Operating support in 2016. $70,000
Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation
Donation in support of Mobility Mania’s awareness and community event campaign in Itasca County. $1,000

Independent School District 363
Donation in support of updating the Northome School District’s library books in the Itasca area. $1,000

ISD 317 Deer River
Project support to develop a Scholarship Coach support system for Deer River High School students in Itasca County. $6,000

Itasca Area Schools Collaborative
Project support for a study to align staffing needs across three education initiatives in Itasca County. $2,250

Itasca Community College
Project support for continuation of financial aid programs for Itasca County high school graduates for the 2016-17 academic year. $375,000

Itasca Economic Development Corporation
Operating support to promote economic development opportunities during 2016-17 throughout Itasca County. $500,000

KOOTASCA Community Action, Inc.
Operating support over two years for Circles of Support, Teen Parent Program, Crisis Nursery, Homelessness Prevention and Community Engagement activities in Itasca County. $539,800

MN Assistance Council for Veterans
Project support for programming and services to veterans in the Itasca County area. $10,000

Rural Minnesota
Area of focus: Expand Opportunity

Bemidji Area Indian Center
Project support for the delivery of education and community engagement in rural Minnesota. $22,500

Itasca Community College
Project support for the 2016 career fair in Itasca County and the surrounding area. $10,000

Latino Economic Development Center
Operating support in 2016-18 for the continued development and delivery of business services to Latino populations in rural Minnesota. $225,000
Second Harvest North Central Food Bank  
Project support for the Kids Backpack program in Itasca County and operational support for the Cass Lake Food Shelf in the Cass Lake area. $5,000

University of Minnesota Extension  
Donation for UMD’s Center of American Indian and Minority Health in support of supplementing science program materials for teachers of Native students in rural Minnesota. $1,000

**Area of focus: Invest in Leadership**

CommunityGiving  
Project support for the Brainerd Lakes Area Community Foundation’s planning work for their Community Vision 2025 in rural Minnesota. $10,000

Duluth Area Family YMCA  
Project support for community efforts in Cook County to increase quality and access to early childhood care and education as part of the Blandin Leadership Grants Program. $5,000

Strong Towns  
Project support for strengthening and expanding the Curbside Chat program to promote sound community infrastructure planning and development in up to ten communities in rural northeast Minnesota. $20,000

Winona State University Foundation  
Donation in support of a World Café event in Winona to identify mutual vision and possible commitment as part of the Blandin Leadership Grants Program. $1,000

**Broadband**  
**Rural Minnesota grants**

Aitkin County  
Project support to provide technical assistance to businesses to market their products through online presence and social media as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota. $25,000

Brainerd Lakes Area Development Corp  
Project support to implement the Tech Services marketing plan as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota. $4,000

Brainerd Lakes Area Development Corp  
Capital support for video conferencing equipment for use by area businesses and organizations as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota. $7,500

Carlton County  
Project support to conduct a feasibility study to understand options for improving broadband infrastructure and services within the county
as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota. $25,000

**Chisago County Housing and Redevelopment Authority/Economic Development Authority**
Project support to create and maintain a multi-community/area website to serve visitors and residents with information on activities, attractions and community events as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota. $5,500

**Chisago County Housing and Redevelopment Authority/Economic Development Authority**
Project support to inventory, map and showcase businesses and attractions along Old Highway 61 through online web and mobile devices as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota. $3,050

**Chisago County Housing and Redevelopment Authority/Economic Development Authority**
Project support to increase the number of local businesses that have an online presence as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota. $5,518

**Chisago County Housing and Redevelopment Authority/Economic Development Authority**
Capital support for two video conference systems to enable distance learning for the county, local residents, businesses and organizations as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota. $11,133

**Chisago County Housing and Redevelopment Authority/Economic Development Authority**
Project support to mobilize community stakeholders to gather and share information about existing and proposed broadband services and to develop and implement broadband improvement strategies as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota. $10,000

**Chisago County Housing and Redevelopment Authority/Economic Development Authority**
Capital support to create 8-10 wi-fi hot spots across Chisago County for enhanced public access as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota. $8,500

**City of Big Lake**
Project support to install wi-fi access point at the Big Lake City Park to provide public internet access and for community events as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota. $10,000

**City of Moose Lake**
Project support to expand the Moose Lake Community Digital Messaging System to other community entities enabling them to broadcast messages to the public in rural Minnesota. $5,000

**City of Redwood Falls**
Project support to utilize telemedicine and other services that leverage Broadband networks to provide advanced and specialized medical care for the convenience of southwest Minnesota residents as part of the
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization and Initiative</th>
<th>Funding Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>City of Redwood Falls</strong>&lt;br&gt;Capital support to update technology for patron usage as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota.</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
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<td><strong>Cook County</strong>&lt;br&gt;Project support to create a co-working center in Grand Marais that will provide space for entrepreneurs and tele-workers to congregate and work using the fiber optic network and center equipment as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota.</td>
<td>$10,500</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>East Central Regional Development Commission</strong>&lt;br&gt;Project support to work with up to five rural townships to identify and implement broadband solutions providing public access in areas with little to no existing broadband access as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota.</td>
<td>$17,200</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa</strong>&lt;br&gt;Capital support for classroom technology to enhance staff professional development and encourage collaboration between school staff, students and community members as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota.</td>
<td>$2,100</td>
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<td><strong>Independent School District 518</strong>&lt;br&gt;Project support to implement the use of the myON digital library in the Worthington area for the benefit of preschoolers and their families as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota.</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
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<td><strong>Independent School District 728</strong>&lt;br&gt;Project support to increase public Internet access by opening the Community Education Center an additional 240 hours on nights and weekends as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota.</td>
<td>$2,000</td>
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<td><strong>Independent School District 94</strong>&lt;br&gt;Project support for technology training and resources for enrichment activities and parenting skills to pre-K students and families as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota.</td>
<td>$17,760</td>
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<td><strong>Joseph R. Brown Heritage Society</strong>&lt;br&gt;Capital support to create 26 wi-fi hot spots in five communities in Renville and Sibley counties as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota.</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
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<td><strong>Kandiyohi County &amp; City of Willmar EDC</strong>&lt;br&gt;Project support to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of a new Fiber to the Premise network throughout Kandiyohi County as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota.</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Martin County</strong>&lt;br&gt;Capital support to provide a variety of devices for local school districts allowing them to upgrade their use of technology as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota.</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
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**Martin County**  
Project support to provide businesses in the Martin County area relevant training in social media and online presence as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota.  

**Mille Lacs County**  
Project support to conduct educational outreach and “take rate” survey of County residents to develop a business plan for a fiber ring/wireless network for rural Mille Lacs County as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota.  

**Mille Lacs County**  
Project support for a feasibility study of using a wireless broadband system throughout the county as a part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota.  

**Mille Lacs County**  
Project support to provide a series of technology workshops to increase the online presence of businesses via websites and social media as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota.  

**MN State Community & Tech College – Wadena**  
Project support to host a one-day tech expo event in Wadena that will combine active learning by MNSCU students and displays and seminars for the general public as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota.  

**Moose Lake Community Schools**  
Capital support to equip school activity busses with wi-fi to provide access for students to be able to work on homework assignments when travelling long distances as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota.  

**Nobles County**  
Capital support for mobile devices within two branches of the Nobles County Library for patron usage and check out to community groups and preschools as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota.  

**Nobles County**  
Project support to bring fiber to the Biotechnology Advancement Center, its teleconferencing room, and the business incubators in the Worthington Industrial Park as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota.  

**Northland Foundation**  
Operations support for continued funding of the Rural Economic Development (RED) Group in rural Minnesota.  

**Northland Foundation**  
Project support to host the 2016 Early Childhood Summit in northeastern Minnesota.  

**Range Regional Health Services**
Donation in support of the annual community health expo for northeastern Minnesota, including Itasca County. $1,000

**Red Rock Central School**  
Project support to provide technology training to students, residents, and businesses of the Lamberton area of Redwood County as part of the Broadband program in rural Minnesota. $6,000

**Red Wing Ignite**  
Project support to facilitate and host activities that will create and support a culture of innovation within Red Wing as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota. $25,000

**Red Wing Ignite**  
Project support for a unified marketing and branding initiative across all key stakeholder organizations in Red Wing as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota. $10,000

**Redwood Area School District**  
Capital support to provide current educational technology to preschoolers and their parents to enhance learning and readiness for kindergarten as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota. $9,300

**Redwood County**  
Project support to market and promote the new Technology Training Center and Lunch N Learn technology classes for area residents and businesses while promoting the need for better broadband as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota. $4,000

**Redwood County**  
Project support to provide Geographic Information Systems to the public via the Internet, creating efficiencies for both county staff and the public as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota. $12,100

**Rural and American indigenous Leadership**  
Operating support over three years for women’s leadership training in rural Minnesota. $50,000

**Sherburne County**  
Capital support to extend an existing City of Elk River fiber network from Zimmerman School to Zimmerman City Hall to provide fiber-based broadband to the tenants and users of City Hall campus as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota. $10,000

**Sherburne County**  
Capital support to build fiber and install wireless networking equipment to provide visitors with broadband access as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota. $12,000

**Sherburne County**  
Capital support for wi-fi access in downtown Elk River as part
of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota. $10,000

**Sibley County**
Project support to provide one-on-one consulting assistance to local small businesses as they develop and implement enhanced online presence and social media strategies as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota. $5,000

**Sibley County**
Project support to connect local businesses with high school students to increase the online activity of the businesses while businesses provide real-life training opportunities for students as parts of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota. $3,000

**Sibley County**
Project support to provide computer and online technology training to area residents and businesses as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota. $3,750

**Spectrum High School**
Capital support for classroom technology as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota. $10,000

**The Brainerd Baxter Youth Center**
Project support to continue to train youth to refurbish computers and distribute them to low-income families in the Brainerd area as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota. $5,000

**Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center**
Capital support to provide reliable, high-speed Internet access to promote the learning of K-12 students, graduate school students and community members visiting Wolf Ridge as part of the Broadband Program in rural Minnesota. $5,000

**Total**
91 grants $2,828,236