



Minnesota Intelligent Rural Communities Statewide Resources

The Minnesota Intelligent Rural Communities (MIRC) coalition brings a network of resources and support to rural Minnesota individuals and communities. Your regional development commission is an active member of this partnership, made possible through the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program, part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

🕒 Blandin Foundation Programs

For more information visit <http://broadband.blandinfoundation.org> or contact Bill Coleman 651.491.2551; bill@communitytechnologyadvisors.com

Community Broadband Resources (CBR) Program

CBR is a popular Blandin Foundation program that offers up to 32 hours of flexible technical assistance to communities to determine appropriate next steps towards their technology vitality.

LightSpeed

This Blandin Foundation program provides up to \$50,000 in matching funds to support projects that use new broadband applications. Applications can be between institutions (schools, health care facilities, etc.) or from institutions to home users.

Robust Broadband Networks Feasibility Fund

A Blandin Foundation program that provides matching funds for feasibility studies of geographically-based broadband networks. Individual communities can apply for up to \$25,000 in matching fund; up to \$40,000 in matching funds is available for applications that serve multiple communities.

Broadband Toolkit

The Broadband Toolkit puts at your fingertips hundreds of cutting edge applications for the business, government, education, health care and consumer sectors. The Toolkit also includes sections on technology market development, community assistance, and community networks.

<http://broadband.blandinfoundation.org/toolkit/>

🕒 MIRC Partner Programs

PCs for People <http://www.pcsforpeople.com/>

Since 1998, PCs for People has been providing personal computers and targeted computer training to people who have limited experience with technology due to social, physical and/or economic circumstances. Contact: Casey Sorensen 651.354.2552; csorensen@pcsforpeople.com



UMN Extension <http://www.extension.umn.edu/community/>

Technology related community economics education and technical assistance to help communities answer key economic development questions about broadband and the future. Contact: Joyce Hoelting 612-625-8233; jhoeltin@umn.edu

Minnesota Renewable Energy Marketplace (MNREM)

<http://www.mnrem.org/>

MNREM provides training, outreach, and technical assistance for small rural renewable energy businesses. Teresa Kittridge, 952.454.7211; teresa@mnrem.org

Minnesota Workforce Centers

http://www.positivelyminnesota.com/JobSeekers/WorkForce_Centers/index.aspx

The Centers help job seekers find employment, help businesses find workers, and help anyone explore and plan careers. MIRC provides increased and expanded training opportunities and hours of operations at Workforce Centers across Minnesota. Contact: Kathy Sweeney, 651-259-7565; Kathy.sweeney@state.mn.us

MN Learning Commons

MN Learning Commons helps students, educators, advisors and parents understand and access options for public education and classes online. MIRC supports the MN Learning Commons is a project to create, deliver and promote a knowledge worker online course. Contact: Gary Langer, 651-649-5772; gary.langer@so.mnscu.edu

For More Information Contact

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