

Welcome



Informational Session
February 2010



Northland Foundation

Nearly 250-year history of capacity-building support for non-profits that address children and youth/strengthening families, aging with independence, and opportunities for self-reliance.



Strengthening Communities Fund

- Two-year U.S. Health and Human Services Department grants through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.
- Build the capacity of nonprofit organizations, whether secular or faith-based, to address the broad economic recovery issues present in their communities.
- \$1.1 million total (with our \$220,000 in matching funds) for northeastern Minnesota over the project period.



Overarching Goal



To increase the long-term sustainability and effectiveness of community and faith-based nonprofits providing critical employment and social services that address broad economic recovery issues.

Geographic Area

Community and faith-based organizations serving within the 7 county region of northeastern Minnesota



Broad Economic Recovery

Nonprofits providing programs and services to low-income people of all ages, that assist them in gaining greater economic security. Examples include, but are not limited to helping individuals

- secure and retain employment,
- earn higher wages,
- obtain better-quality jobs, and
- gain greater access to State and Federal benefits and tax credits.

Eligibility

- Must be a nonprofit (*Appendix D, page 21*)
- Must address the broad economic recovery issues in the seven-county region
- Faith-based organizations must operate a least one secular program (*Appendix G, page 26*)
- Organizations with budgets of \$500,000 or less and organizations working with agencies which administer the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Program will be given a preference in scoring.

Definition of Capacity Building

“Capacity building is the process of implementing activities critical to the long-term viability of an organization. The goal of capacity building is to increase organizational infrastructure and bolster sustainability. By building or increase an organization’s capacity, the effectiveness of programmatic activities and organizational operations will also increase.”

Five Critical Areas

- Organizational Development
- Program Development
- Collaboration & Community Engagement
- Leadership Development
- Evaluation of Effectiveness

(Appendix C, page 18)

Organizational Development

- Create a strategic plan for the organization
- Implement a new accounting system
- Install IT infrastructure
- Create marketing materials
- Create a revenue development plan

Program Development

- Take steps to increase the effectiveness of existing services
- Take steps to expand current services into new geographic area
- Take steps to reach an underserved population in existing geographic area
- Obtain program-related equipment

Collaboration & Community Engagement

- Conduct an assessment of community needs
- Create an action plan for coordinating/collaborating
- Develop new strategic partnerships
- Create marketing materials
- Create a map or inventory of community assets

Leadership Development

- Create board policies
- Create an executive succession plan
- Implement a volunteer management plan
- Provide training/written information for board
- Provide management/leadership training for staff

Evaluation of Effectiveness

- Launch a formal program evaluation
- Develop and incorporate new program measures
- Incorporate best practices
- Assess program outcomes
- Replicate effective program models

Approach

Two cohorts (rounds) of participation, each including:

- Intensive, one-on-one Technical Assistance
- Competitive Financial Awards
(\$527,942 total distributed over the project period)

Training – 5 Convenings covering 5 critical areas

(RFP Packet, pages 3-5)

Technical Assistance

- Intensive one-on-one technical assistance provided to organizations from the initiative, that is free and ongoing during the project.
- Anticipate serving approximately 45 organizations.
- Each cohort of organizations receiving technical assistance will have two opportunities to apply for financial awards.

Financial Awards

- Financial awards will be provided on a competitive basis to those organizations receiving technical assistance
- A total of \$527,942 will be distributed (60% of Federal award)
- Each Technical Assistance Cohort will have two opportunities to apply for financial awards
- Financial Award implementation period is up to 9 months

Financial Award Uses

- Additional capacity-building work with consultants
- Registration and travel costs for training and conferences
- Technology and equipment purchases (computers, software, copiers, printers, etc.)
- Materials or supplies that build the organization's capacity in one of the five critical areas
- Wages and salaries to cover staff time spent on capacity-building activities (*limited*)

Training

The initiative will hold 5 trainings over the project period, open to all nonprofits in the region on a first-come, first-served basis, covering the critical capacity-building areas:

- Organizational Development
- Program Development
- Collaboration and Community Engagement
- Leadership Development
- Evaluation of Effectiveness

Cohort I Timeline

Cohort I

Information sessions:	February 2010
Application for participation due:	March 15, 2010
Notification of selection:	May 14, 2010
Financial award applications due:	June 30, 2010 <i>or</i> December 31, 2010

(RFP Packet, page 5)

Cohort II Timeline (tentative)

Cohort II

Information sessions:	June 2010
Application for participation due:	August 13, 2010
Notification of selection:	October 15, 2010
Financial award applications due:	November 30, 2010 or March 31, 2011

Considerations

- Organizations must work in at least 3 of the 5 critical capacity-building areas (*Appendix C, page 18*)
- Activities eligible for grant funding can not be direct service (*Appendix F, page 24*)
- Activities can not be direct fundraising (*Appendix E, page 22*)
- Any religious programming must be completely separate from economic recovery programming (*Appendix G, page 26*)

Application Process

- Online eligibility assessment and application plus provision of key documents
- Site visit to gather additional information
- Independent panel review
- Notification of selection

(RFP Packet, pages 5-7)

Application Process

www.northlandfdn.org/SCI/index.shtml





Next Steps

- Application deadline for Cohort I participation **March 15, 2010**
- Follow-up email alert **February 11, 2010**

Watch for updates on Northland Foundation's web site:
www.northlandfdn.org/Grants/StrengtheningCommunities.shtml



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*Please take a few minutes to complete the evaluation form.
Thank you!*

