

Iron Range School Collaboration: Bricks & Mortar

The Iron Range School Collaboration Bricks & Mortar grant program supports regional multi-district collaborative initiatives that result in increased availability and access to high quality education and training for students, teachers and communities.

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Eligible Applicants: A collaboration of two or more school districts within the agency's service area. Or a stable or growing school district within the agency's service area.

Eligible Projects: Projects that meet the needs of new collaborative activities and improved curriculum opportunities for students by building new facilities, renovating existing facilities, bond payments as described by legislation, and demolition/infrastructure for stable or growing districts.

Ineligible Projects: Projects that supplement existing costs and programs.

Funding: The grant program funding for Bricks & Mortar is capped at 55% from this fund and 45% from local contributions based upon approval of referendum.

Evaluation Criteria

- 1. Investing in growing businesses that create jobs across the agency's service area.**
 - Describe job creation or retention, if any that will result from this project. (Minnesota Statute 298.22 subd. 13)
 - Explain wages and benefits, and whether the jobs created are full time, part time, temporary or permanent.
- 2. Enhances livable communities.**
- 3. Maximizes collaborations and partnerships.**
- 4. Strengthens businesses and worker education.**
- 5. Project serves an underserved community/population.**
 - Minority.
 - Geography.
 - Economic status.

Application Process and Review

A pre-application meeting with the grant administrator is required. Applications are accepted July 1 through July 31, 2019. Applications submitted after July 31 through the end of the agency's fiscal year (June 30, 2020) may be awarded funding on a rolling basis subject to the availability of remaining program funds.

Applications are reviewed by the grant administrator and recommended for approval on an individual basis.

Project recommendations are presented to the agency's board.

Project funding is subject to the Commissioner's final approval. Project must meet objectives, priorities and policies established by the Commissioner.

Notify grant program administrator of any changes to application after final submittal.

Application Checklist

Submittal requirements prior to agency approval and local referendum:

- Project Narrative:**
 - Narrative must address evaluation criteria and items listed below:
 - Job creation: wages and benefits, whether the jobs created are full-time, part-time, temporary or permanent.
 - Evidence that participating school districts are working toward a common calendar and bell schedule to meet the needs of new collaboration.
 - Evidence of new and increased curriculum opportunities for students.
 - Evidence of new and increased cost savings going back to the classrooms/students.
 - Evidence of three staff meetings and three public meetings.
 - Evidence of current teacher contracts.
- Timeline of project including proposed date of voter referendum.**
- Budget including detailed sources and uses.**
- Letter of support from participating school districts and project partners.**
- Other documentation to support the application.**

Submittal requirements after referendum is approved:

- Updated timeline of project.**
- Final budget including detailed sources and uses.**
- School board resolutions of support from participating school districts and project partners.**
- Copy of approval of the project by the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Education.**
- Evidence of approval of a voter referendum.**

Additional Information

- The agency reserves the right to require signage/logo acknowledging financial assistance from the Department of Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation. Details are outlined in the grant agreement.
- Awarded projects must meet Minnesota Prevailing Wage Statutes as stated in the grant agreement.
- Project information is subject to Minnesota Data Practices Act, Minnesota Statute Chapter 13.
- A progress report is required if the grant period exceeds 12 months.
- A site visit may be conducted by an authorized representative of the agency.

- A final report is required before final payment including job creation/retention.