Community Infrastructure
Community Infrastructure grants assist projects that support residential infrastructure and public facility improvements.

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Eligible Applicants: Cities, townships, tribal governments, nonprofit organizations that directly support public safety services and governmental entities created pursuant to Minnesota Statutes located within the agency’s service area. Multi-organization collaboration is encouraged.

Funding
- Funded up to $10,000,000 for FY2023.
- 1:1 match per project required.
- In-kind materials and/or labor are not eligible toward the project match.
- Architectural and engineering fees in excess of 10% of the total project costs are ineligible for reimbursement.
- Applications should be submitted within six months of the project construction start date.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
- The Department of Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation works to improve economic opportunities in support of diversity, equity and inclusion in our service area.
- Diverse populations served by this program include economically distressed communities, tribal nations, Black, indigenous and people of color (BIPOC), veterans, low to moderate income neighborhoods and disabled individuals.
- Additional points are awarded to projects that serve a diverse population as listed above or utilize state certified Targeted Group (TG), Economically Disadvantaged (ED) area or Veteran-Owned (VO) vendors.

Scoring Model #1 – Populations greater than 500
Evaluation Criteria (100 points)
Grants are awarded to the highest scored applications using the following criteria. All evaluation criteria must be addressed in the project narrative.

1. **Leverage.** (30 points)
   - Total project investment.

2. **Community impact.** (25 points)
   - Mitigates health and public safety concerns.
   - Upgrades and restores public facilities.
   - Provides essential services.

3. **Job creation and retention.** (20 points)
   - # of permanent full-time jobs created.
   - # of permanent full-time jobs retained.
   - # of temporary full-time jobs created.
   - # of temporary full-time jobs retained.
• Describe how you will measure the jobs created or retained.

4. **Community resourcefulness. (15 points)**
   • Multiple partner funders – provide a list of federal, state or local grants, loans or other financing applications (other than Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation) submitted to finance this project.
   • Applicant and partner funding are secured.
   • Describe who benefits and how many people are served by the project.
   • Community has not received community infrastructure program funding in the prior two fiscal years, to include the current fiscal year.

5. **Diversity, equity and inclusion. (10 points)**
   • Project incorporates a state certified targeted group, economically disadvantaged area or veteran owned vendor.
   • Project serves an underserved community/population.
   • Diverse populations that include:
     o BIPOC.
     o Tribal nations.
     o LGBTQI.
     o Disability status.
     o Veterans.
     o Geographic.

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**Scoring Model #2 – Populations less than 500**

**Evaluation Criteria (100 points)**

Grants are awarded to the highest scored application using the following criteria. All evaluation criteria must be addressed in the project narrative.

1. **Community impact. (30 points)**
   • Mitigates health and public safety concerns.
   • Provides essential services.

2. **Community resourcefulness. (25 points)**
   • Multiple partner funders – provide a list of federal, state or local grants, loans or other financing applications (other than Iron Range Resources & Rehabilitation) submitted to finance this project.
   • Applicant and partner funding are secured.
   • Describe who benefits and how many people are served by the project.
   • Community has not received community infrastructure program funding in the prior two fiscal years, to include the current fiscal year.

3. **Job creation and retention. (20 points)**
   • # of permanent full-time jobs created.
   • # of permanent full-time jobs retained.
   • # of temporary full-time jobs created.
   • # of temporary full-time jobs retained.
   • Describe how you will measure the jobs created or retained.

4. **Leverage. (15 points)**
   • Total project investment.
5. **Diversity, equity and inclusion. (10 points)**
   - Project incorporates a state certified targeted group, economically disadvantaged area or veteran owned vendor.
   - Project serves an underserved community/population.
   - Diverse populations that include:
     - BIPOC.
     - Tribal nations.
     - LGBTQI.
     - Disability status.
     - Veterans.
     - Geographic.

**Application Checklist**

- **Project narrative.**
  - Narrative must address evaluation criteria.

- **Certified cost estimates and engineering/architectural plans and costs for new development, any service contract and/or materials must follow the state contracting and bidding requirements below.**

**Non-Governmental Entity**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contract or Cost of Material or Service</th>
<th>Quotes/Cost Estimates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under $10,000</td>
<td>Two – may be upon quotation or open market.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$10,000 - $24,999</td>
<td>Two - upload with application or provide verbal quote detail in project narrative.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$25,000 - $99,999</td>
<td>Two – upload with application or provide verbal quote detail in project narrative.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$100,000 or more</td>
<td>Must undergo formal notice and bidding process.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Municipality**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contract or Cost of Material or Service</th>
<th>Quotes/Cost Estimates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under $25,000</td>
<td>Two – may be upon quotation or open market.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$25,000 - $175,000</td>
<td>Two – may use competitive bidding process or direct negotiation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over $175,000</td>
<td>Sealed bids shall be solicited by public notice in the manner and subject to the requirements of the law governing contracts by the particular municipality or class thereof.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Resolution authorizing applicant to apply for and accept funds.**
- **Exhibits, reports or studies to support the application.**
- **Historic preservation requirements.**
  - If your project is listed in or located on the National Register of Historic Places and/or the State Register of Historic Places (specific to public buildings and landmarks), the project must be submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for review and the response letter uploaded to your application.
  - Contact the State Historic Preservation Office with questions at 651-201-3287.
• Other documentation to support the application.

Application and Award Process

• Application process.
  o Applications must be submitted through the FLUXX grants portal.
  o A short pre-application is required to determine eligibility of project.
  o A full application will be available in FLUXX once eligibility is determined.
  o Projects that are phased require an application for each phase. The project title stated in the application should indicate the phase.

• Application deadline.
  o Applications are accepted July 1, 2022 through May 31, 2023 subject to the availability of program funds.
  o Notify grant program administrator of any changes to application after final submission.

• Application review.
  o Initial review is completed by the grant program administrator for eligibility and application requirements.
  o Eligible applications are subject to a competitive review process. They are evaluated and scored based on the evaluation criteria by a minimum of three reviewers.
  o Grant program administrators do not score applications for their respective program.
  o Grant program administrator finalizes recommendations based on the completed evaluations, past performance of grantee and availability of program funds.
  o Applications that meet the minimum required score may be presented to the agency’s board for review and recommendation.
  o Applicant may be required to attend board meeting for project approval and will be notified when their application is to be presented.

• Application award.
  o Grants are awarded to the most competitive applications.
  o The agency reserves the right to award all or partial funding per application.
  o Applicants will be notified by email within 30 days following application review and recommendation.
  o Grant award is subject to the Commissioner’s final approval and must meet objectives, priorities and policies established by the Commissioner.

Grant Outcome Expectations

• Upon receiving a grant award that is over $175,000, it must be publicly bid. The contractor is required to be licensed and insured.
• 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 the Minnesota Prevailing Wage Statutes and the agency’s board policy as stated in the grant agreement.
• Spending for project within the agency’s service area is encouraged.

Reporting Requirements

• A progress report is required if grant period is to exceed 12 months and annually thereafter.
• A monitoring report will be conducted by the program administrator if the grant is over $50,000.
• A site visit may be conducted by the program administrator.
• A final report is required before final payment.
• A close out acknowledgement form may be required if there is a remaining grant balance.

Public Information
• All application information submitted is presumed to be public information pursuant to the Minnesota Data Practices Act, Minnesota Statute Chapter 13.