



Mineland Reclamation

Mineland Reclamation grants provide funding to assist with highly visible development and restoration of mining impacted land.

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Eligible Applicants: Cities, townships, counties, tribal units of government, joint powers boards and nonprofits within the agency's service area. Multi-organization collaboration is welcome and encouraged.

Eligible Projects: Projects that reclaim or repurpose former mining impacted lands not otherwise provided by state law or that sustain current and future mining. Examples include stockpile reclamation and vegetative enhancements, master planning, recreational and mine pit development and improvements.

Ineligible Projects: Projects that must be undertaken to comply with federal, state or local laws, rules or ordinances.

Funding:

- Mineland Reclamation is funded at \$350,000 for FY2022.
- The agency requires a 1:1 match per project.
- In-kind materials and equipment rental may constitute up to 25% of the local match. Pre-approval of the in-kind match is required. In-kind materials and equipment rental must be provided by an approved vendor or entity.
- Architectural and engineering fees may be eligible up to 15% of the total site development costs.
- In order to be eligible for program funding, project must begin within six months of a grant award.

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.

Evaluation Criteria (100 points)

Grants are awarded to the highest scored application using the following criteria. Please address all criteria in the project narrative.

1. Job creation. (5 points)

- Describe how the project supports job creation or retention, if any that will result from this project. (Minnesota Statute 298.22 subd. 13)

2. Impact. (30 points)

- Project impacts a large amount of people and/or a large visible area.
- Leverage.
- Potential for new development.

3. Project readiness and timeliness. (25 points)

- Operation, maintenance and risk management plan is in place.
- Applicant and partner funding is secured.
- Authorization from land owner is in place.

4. Community benefit and partnership. (30 points)

- Identify project partners and community and regional support
- If the project aligns with the community's comprehensive plan, that portion of the plan should be highlighted and uploaded
- The project involves mining impacted land aimed at future community, recreational, tourism, historical, residential or commercial use or an aesthetic enhancement to the environment.

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.
 - LGBTQI communities.
 - Disability status.
 - Veterans.
 - Geographic.

Application Checklist:

- **Project narrative.**
 - Narrative must address evaluation criteria.
 - Describe how the project exceeds State of Minnesota Mineland Reclamation Statutes 93.44-93.51 and Rules 6130.
- **For non-government, IRS Form W-9 – Request for Taxpayer ID Number and Certification.**
- **For non-government, financial documents.**
 - IRS 990 Form - For organizations with an annual revenue below \$750,000, a most recent IRS 990 form must be uploaded.
 - Certified Financial Audit - For organizations with an annual revenue of over \$750,000 a most recent certified financial audit must be uploaded.
- **Funding sources.**
 - List funding sources and contribution amounts.
- **Certified cost estimates and engineering/architectural plans, any service contract and/or materials must follow the state contracting and bidding requirements below:**

Non-Governmental Entity

Contract or Cost of Material or Service	Quotes/Cost estimates
Under \$10,000	Not required
\$10,000 - \$24,999	Two - upload with application or provide verbal quote detail in project narrative
\$25,000 - \$99,999	Three – upload with application or provide verbal quote detail in project narrative
\$100,000 or more	Must undergo formal notice and bidding process

Municipality

Contract or Cost of Material or Service	Quotes/Cost estimates <i>*Per Minnesota Statute 471.345</i>
Under \$25,000	Two – may be upon quotation or open market
\$25,000 - \$175,000	Two – may use competitive bidding process or direct negotiation
Over \$175,000	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

- **Statement of concept project approval** - from the appropriate regulatory agency if project involves active mine area or other lands covered by a permit (attach if applicable). If minerals are controlled by a fee holder or by an entity that is not a partner in the project, a letter of support should accompany the application.
- **Resolution authorizing applicant to apply for and accept funds.**
- **Pre-project photographs.**
- **Other documentation to support the application.**

Application and Award Process:

- **Application process:**
 - Applications must be submitted through the FLUXX grants portal.
 - A short pre-application is required to determine eligibility of project.
 - Once eligibility is determined, a full application will be available in FLUXX.
- **Application deadline:**
 - Applications are accepted July 1 through July 30, 2021.
 - Applications submitted after July 31, 2021 through the end of the agency's fiscal year (June 30, 2022) may be awarded on a rolling basis subject to meeting minimum scoring criteria and subject to the availability of remaining program funds.
 - Notify grant program administrator of any changes to application after final submission.
- **Application review:**
 - All eligible applications are reviewed by a team and evaluated and scored on an individual basis according to the evaluation criteria.
 - Grant program administrators do not score applications for their respective program.
- **Application award:**
 - Grants are awarded to the most competitive applications.

- Applicants will be notified by email within 30 days following application review.
- 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 within the agency's service area is encouraged.

Reporting Requirements:

- A progress report is required if grant period is scheduled 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.