Development Infrastructure

Development Infrastructure grants assist communities with projects that support economic development.

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Eligible Applicants: Cities, townships, counties and tribal units of government within the agency’s service area. Multi-organization collaboration is welcomed and encouraged.

Funding:
- Infrastructure is funded at $8,500,000 for FY2022.
- The agency requires a 1:1 match per project.
- In-kind materials and/or labor are not eligible towards the project match.
- Architectural and engineering fees in excess of 10% of the total project costs are ineligible for reimbursement.
- Applications should be submitted six months prior to 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.

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. (25 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.

2. Economic impact. (25 points)
   - Enables new development.
   - Attracts new investment.
   - Broadens the local tax base.

3. Leverage. (20 points)
   - Total project investment.
4. **Project readiness and timeliness. (5 points)**
   - Applicant and partner funding is secured.

5. **Community benefit and partnerships. (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.
   - Describe who benefits and how many people are served by the project.
   - If the project aligns with the community’s comprehensive plan, highlight and upload that portion of the plan.
   - Community has not received development infrastructure program funding in the past two fiscal years, to include the current fiscal year.

6. **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.
  - List funding sources and contribution amounts.
  - Job creation: wages and benefits, whether the jobs created are full-time, part-time, temporary or permanent.

- **Funding sources.**
  - Letter of intent from lending institution (if applicable).

- **Certified engineering cost estimates and plans, any service contract and/or materials must follow the state contracting and bidding requirements below:**

<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>Three – may be upon quotation or open market</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$25,000 - $175,000</td>
<td>Three – 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>
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</tbody>
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- **Scope of work or bid specifications must be provided for agency-funded portion of infrastructure project.**

- **Developer business plan (if applicable).**

- **Resolution authorizing applicant to apply for and accept funds.**
• Exhibits, reports or studies to support the application.
• For housing developments, a market study is required.
• 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 Once eligibility is determined, a full application will be available in FLUXX.

• Application deadline:
  o Applications are accepted July 1 through July 30, 2021.
  o Applications submitted after July 30, 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.
  o Projects that are phased require an application for each phase. The project title stated in the application should indicate the phase.
  o Notify grant program administrator of any changes to application after final submission.

• Application review:
  o All eligible applications are reviewed by a team and evaluated and scored on an individual basis according to the evaluation criteria.
  o Grant program administrators do not score applications for their respective program.
  o All eligible projects that meet the minimum required score will be presented to the agency’s board for review. Applicant may be required to attend board meeting for project approval.

• Application award:
  o Grants are awarded to the most competitive applications.
  o Applicants will be notified by email within 30 days following application review.
  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 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.