

#### COMPLETE

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#### **PAGE 1: Introduction/Demographics**

Contact Person Name:	Jay Vasek
Municipal or Agency Name:	Comfort Keepers
Address:	211 1ST STREET NE
City/Town:	LITTLE FALLS
State:	MN
ZIP:	56345
County:	Morrison
Email Address:	jayvasek@comfortkeepers.com
Q2: Is the applicant (check all that apply)	Other,
	Other (please specify) In Home Health Care

#### PAGE 2: Project submittal

Q3: Project Name		
aking Care of our Elderly		

Q4: GIVE A DESCRIPTION OF YOUR PROJECT IDEA:1. Project Description details (descriptive for novice readers) Please address the following very breifly:(a) What is your project? (b) What need does it address? (c) Who will benefit or what will change if your project is implemented? (d) What specific activities (or strategies) are you going to undertake so that benefit or change will occur? (e) What resources do you have and what resources do you need to implement your activities? (or strategies).(f) Will this have a regional impact (5 county)?(g) Is this project a "want", "need" or "must have"?(h) Does your project impact the quality of life for residents?(i) Does your project have economic or environmental benefits?(j) Does your project align with other local or regional plans (comprehensive plans or the Resilient Region plan located at www.resilientregion.org)?(k) Is there a committed group of people poised for implementation?

Currently there are 75 hour HHA (Home Health Aid) courses offered by our colleges and part of the college curriculum for nursing etc. People who want to take this course are on the bottom of the list to get in. We are finding that there is a large number of older adults (30-75) that do not want to go thru the college credits to get this class. There are also those teenagers who do not want to go onto college to take even this 75 hour course do to location. We need to be able to offer a 75 hour HHA course that is outside of the college curriculum that is accessible for those teenagers looking to the housewife, veteran, widow/widower etc.

B. Caregiver shortage for the Baby Boomers, Jobs that pay in the\$9-\$10 Range -above minimum wage! C. The Baby Boomers will benefit by being able to stay in the comforts of their own home longer, those individuals who are looking for jobs that pay above minimum wage, Home Care Providers, LTC Facilities, Hospice Agencies, etc who are desperately looking for Caregivers.

D. Work as an Industry to properly train people to become Home Health Aids

E. I Don't have the resources currently, but as an industry we may have the training expertise. Need various locations to train, trainers, training equipment etc.

F. Yes

G. Currently a need and moving toward a must have.

H. Yes, statistics show that our Baby Boomers prefer to stay in their homes longer, thrive and cost less. I. Mainly, economic as more people in the workforce with jobs paying above minimum wage, environmental because of older neighborhoods not having run down homes as seniors have pride!

J. Not Sure

K. I know we can make this happen as it is a major concern of all health care agencies as this weekend in the Morrison County Record had 9 different agencies looking for HHA workers!

Q5: Space	for additonal	narrative	if needed.
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Respondent skipped this question

## Q6: Timeline (implementation period i.e. 12 - 24 - 36 months)

Within the next 12 Months

Q7: Budget	
Income: how much will it cost to implement this project?	I would have to investigate more as not sure to costs of equipment and what a trainer would cost along with rental of office
Expenses: catagory and amount. (examples; equipment, supplies, travel, personnel)	Equipment, Travel, Personnel, Supplies, Advertising
Existing resources: (grants, in-kind)	None to my knowledge
Q8: Identify which of the 4 disciplines below your project idea addresses. (Check all that apply)	Economic Development (energy, local foods, broadband, emerging high growth sectors)
Q9: Ordinances are in place or will be in place to support the idea.	Ordinance are in place
Q10: Evaluate Success: What metrics will be used to evaluate success? (check all tht apply)	Triple Bottom Line Matrix, Other (please specify) Number of participants who pass the 75 hour course

Q11: Region-wide benefit; Does the project benefit a wide range of people in the 5 county region: (check all that apply)

Q12: Please list any other information, comments or concerns about your community that you want us to know or feel would be useful for us to know.

Respondent skipped this question

Businesses, Socio or economically diverse groups



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#### **PAGE 1: Introduction/Demographics**

#2

Contact Person Name:	Robert Hall				
Municipal or Agency Name:	Crow Wing County				
Address:	16589 CR 142				
City/Town:	Brainerd				
State:	MN				
ZIP:	56401				
County:	Crow Wing				
Email Address:	rob.hall@crowwing.us				
Q2: Is the applicant (check all that apply)	Local unit of government				

#### PAGE 2: Project submittal

Q3: Project Name				
County State Aid Hi	ghway (CSAH) 3 Saf	ety Improvements	i	

Q4: GIVE A DESCRIPTION OF YOUR PROJECT IDEA:1. Project Description details (descriptive for novice readers) Please address the following very breifly:(a) What is your project? (b) What need does it address? (c) Who will benefit or what will change if your project is implemented? (d) What specific activities (or strategies) are you going to undertake so that benefit or change will occur? (e) What resources do you have and what resources do you need to implement your activities? (or strategies).(f) Will this have a regional impact (5 county)?(g) Is this project a "want", "need" or "must have"?(h) Does your project impact the quality of life for residents?(i) Does your project have economic or environmental benefits?(j) Does your project align with other local or regional plans (comprehensive plans or the Resilient Region plan located at www.resilientregion.org)?(k) Is there a committed group of people poised for implementation?

(a) Systemic intersection/business access safety improvements.

(b) Safety improvements at numerous intersections, including access points to a local manufacturing company that runs three shifts and has approximately 500 employees. In addition, the intersection of CSAH 3 and CSAH 4 would be included in an improvement program. This intersection handles approximately 7,500 vehicles per day, with substantially more in the summer. The traffic is a mixture of residential, school bus, commercial and tourism.
(c) Safety for all users of the roadways and access points in the area will benefit. The project would also be capable of addressing a proposed expansion by the local manufacturing business that would add 100 employees and 77,000 s.f. of building.

(d) A Traffic Impact Study is currently nearing completion that looked in-depth at CSAH 3 and the internal movements of the business. The cost of the study was shared between the county and the business as a means to identify safety improvements that can be accomplished for both users of the roadways and employees. The study will make recommended infrastructure improvements (both internally and on the county road system) to achieve the goals of the project. A study of the CSAH 3 and CSAH 4 intersection is scheduled to occur over the winter of 2014/15.

(e) The county has access to local levy and state aid funding; however the project is not in the county's current five year plan. Access to grants and other funding sources will be needed to move this project forward in a timely manner.

(f) Yes. In addition to the number of local employees that utilize these roadways, the CSAH 3-CSAH 4 intersection is the gateway to the residential and tourist areas of Crosslake, Breezy Point and the numerous recreational amenities in the area.

(g) This project is a "need" that may transfer to the "must have" category when the proposed business expansion occurs. Traffic levels will continue to increase with or without the expansion.

(h) Yes, primarily by the proposed safety improvements both for residents and visitors alike.

(I) Yes, by providing and maintaining a seamless, safe transportation system to allow the manufacturing company efficient access to Brainerd to the south and to the trunk highway system from there.

(j) The project aligns with the goals that are supported by efficient transportation systems that continue to provide efficient operations for local businesses, while at the same time providing safety enhancements for a high-volume county roadway(s). The proposed project will also include improvements to the internal business movements and enhanced signing to promote a safer, more enjoyable workplace.

(k) The County Highway Department is committed to providing continually providing safety enhancements, and have identified this area as a priority. By their involvement in the current study, and their interest in the proposed study at the CSAH 3-CSAH 4 intersection, the local business is also highly interested in making these improvements occur.

#### Q5: Space for additonal narrative if needed.

One of two proposed Traffic Impact Studies for this general area is nearly complete. The two projects could be moved forward individually (CSAH 3 and the business accesses, and the CSAH 3-CSAH 4 intersection) or as a joint project. The area lies approximately nine miles north of Brainerd, MN in the unincorporated area of Merrifield, MN CSAH 3 is a minor arterial with approximately 7,500 vehicles per day. The local manufacturing company has steadily grown and expanded over the years. During each expansion, additional access points have been required for employees, deliveries and shipments. The current configuration has led to confusion for the traveling public. In addition, the CSAH 3-CSAH 4 intersection has geometrical limitations to creating adequate sight distances, and is laid out such that the higher volume roadway needs to have the stop condition and yield to the lower volume roadway. This cannot be addressed without a short segment of re-alignment and a different intersection configuration.

nonths)				
Construction costs are not known at this time; however a range of \$300,000 to \$400,000 is likely.				
Engineering - \$40,000, Planning - \$10,000, Construction - \$300,000				
None identified; however the county has access to transportation funding for cost shares, etc.				
Transportaion, Economic Development (energy, local foods, broadband, emerging high growth sectors)				
Ordinance are in place				
Decrease in Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT), Other (please specify) It will actually be evaluated by crash rates and business shipping efficiency, not a decrease in VMT.				
Municipal jurisdictions, Businesses, Other (please specify) Roadway user safety.				

Q12: Please list any other information, comments or concerns about your community that you want us to know or feel would be useful for us to know.

As mentioned previously, there is a very successful business that is at the point of another expansion, that is willing to work with us as the road authority to mitigate safety concerns both internally and on the roadway. In addition to the business, the county roadways in this area are high volume and see many first time users due to the tourism in the area. The County Highway Department considers improvements in this area a priority, but have not been able to fund them in the current five year highway improvement program. I appreciate the opportunity to provide this information, and feel free to contact me with any questions.



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#### **PAGE 1: Introduction/Demographics**

#3

Contact Person Name:	Stacey Stockdill
Municipal or Agency Name:	Resilient Region Connectivity Champions
Address:	20652 Pike Avenue
City/Town:	Aitkin
State:	MN
ZIP:	56431
County:	Cass, Crow Wing, Todd, Morrison, Wadena
Email Address:	ensearch1@aol.com
Q2: Is the applicant (check all that apply)	Other,
	Other (please specify) Resilient Region Connectivity Champions

#### PAGE 2: Project submittal

#### Q3: Project Name

Virtual Highway Infrastructure Project

Q4: GIVE A DESCRIPTION OF YOUR PROJECT IDEA:1. Project Description details (descriptive for novice readers) Please address the following very breifly:(a) What is your project? (b) What need does it address? (c) Who will benefit or what will change if your project is implemented? (d) What specific activities (or strategies) are you going to undertake so that benefit or change will occur? (e) What resources do you have and what resources do you need to implement your activities? (or strategies).(f) Will this have a regional impact (5 county)?(g) Is this project a "want", "need" or "must have"?(h) Does your project impact the quality of life for residents?(i) Does your project have economic or environmental benefits?(j) Does your project align with other local or regional plans (comprehensive plans or the Resilient Region plan located at www.resilientregion.org)?(k) Is there a committed group of people poised for implementation?

a-i. This CEDS proposal focuses on the infrastructure needs yet to be met. It moves from planning and data gathering to implementation. The goal established by the Resilient Region plan calls for 95% of the households in the five-county area to be served. Recently the FCC and the State of Minnesota are recognizing that the original standard of 4/1 is no longer sufficient to reach the needs for telemedicine, online learning, and businesses. This also means that many of the goals regarding efficiencies in local units of government cannot be achieved because many lack the broadband infrastructure required to allow for the ability to communicate efficient with residents and/or to enable government processes such as completing various applications online. Therefore this project is a priority for the region and would have region-wide significance.

The Virtual Highway Connectivity Theme Champions have been very successful on a number of fronts:

Kural Broadband Policy. Virtual Highway White Paper is helping to inform state and national public policy regarding barriers to expansion of broadband infrastructure in rural places. Senator Paul Galzelka has forwarded a message to his colleagues to focus on 2 priority issues: a) access to the armer towers and b) reimbursement for telehealth.

http://www.resilientregion.org/cms/files/Presenting the Virtual Highway Project September 13 2013 new logo. pdf

Anchor Tenant Broadband Assessment was distributed. As of December 2, 2013, there were 30 organizations who responded: 17 schools, 2 medical centers, 8 cities and 3 counties. This needs assessment used items from the Minnesota Connect survey. They have asked for our database.

Innovative Public/Private Partnerships. WTCA, CTC, Todd County Broadband Task Force, and the Leech Lake Telecommunications are beginning to work together to share information and to pursue strategies to reach the last mile in the five-county area. One example may be found at http://mcrecord.com/2013/12/30/fiber-optics-is-comingto-little-falls/

WTCA was recognized as a Smart Rural Community, providing opportunities to promote our region to attract hightech companies. They will be launching pilot projects to demonstrate the value of access to fiber. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5oHPpr-tHU8&feature=youtu.be

Grants funded by Blandin Foundation:

Blandin Foundation Lightspeed Grant -- Also a program to put technology into 11 fire departments for shared training sessions that allows the fire fighters to share the cost of instructors and stay in their own communities.

Yuri Hupka, Little Falls resident and MA Student St. Cloud State University, was selected to receive a U of MN CURA award. Thanks to the work of Jeff Corn (CURA supervisor) the attached report was produced, Findings on the Economic Benefits to Broadband Expansion to Rural and Remote Areas. It identifies the benefits of connectivity and a few business models used to support broadband expansion in rural areas. This document is also posted on the CURA website:

http://www.cura.umn.edu/publications/catalog/cap-188

Danna Mackenzie and Diane Wells met with Cheryal and me to talk about access to Armer Towers and submitting Expressions of Interest for a FCC funding opportunity and as part of a list being compiled of "Shovel Ready Broadband Projects." They told us if we were having issues with access to the Armer Towers to let them know, "First is a follow-up from our conversation about ARMER tower access for broadband providers. We met with MNDOT last week and they assured us that they are working with many public and private tenants on colocation agreements for the ARMER towers. So, I was tasked to follow up with you to get more specifics about the bottle-necks you are running into when trying to access this resource. Not sure if we need to have a call or meeting to talk about this, but I am happy to continue to pursue resolution on any issues you are still having in this area."

The Connectivity Champions and Todd County Fiberband Task Force submitted EOIs for all five counties. Stacey Stockdill and Kevin Larson presented at the East Central Broadband Taskforce conference on April 3rd, 2014.

The telehealth team (expanded to include Maureen Ideker, Essentia Health, and Michelle Adkins (telehealth expert) conducted a telehealth needs assessment of local private/public health care providers and convened a meeting (July 28) to identify priority telehealth projects for the region.

j. We are requesting CEDs funding to be able to reach the 95% goal and to successfully implement the recommendations included in the Resilient Region Plan:

Connectivity Issue: Extending high-speed internet access to the entire region increases telecommuting opportunities, provides greater access to customers and markets for businesses, and allows all residents access to civic resources and commerce.

Connectivity Goal: The number of households in the region served by high-speed internet services rises from the current level of 40% to 95% served. The (region/rural areas) community is willing to invest to increase coverage. This will include both public and private investment in service.

Recommendations:

Access across the region: Ensure all households in the region have high-speed internet access, which meets common state standards.

Efficiency: Local units of governments will work across political boundaries to share equipment costs/facilities for more efficient delivery of high-speed internet.

Efficiency in installation: Lay conduit for fiber optics when upgrading sewer and water or digging trench.

Access for entrepreneurs: Provide access to technology needs and support to retain businesses and encourage potential entrepreneurs

Economic development: Determine the compatibility and interface between communications, smart grid technologies, and internet systems. Develop a recruiting initiative encouraging technology-oriented companies to explore opportunities offered in non-urban spaces.

Telecommuting: Create a business plan that facilitates legitimate telecommuting jobs and promotes high-speed internet connection in the region. Upgrade and expand high-speed internet infrastructure in housing so residents may work from home.

Map of access sites: Develop map or list of accessible sites within region to conduct webtype meetings, free Wi-Fi etc.

Access for children: All school-aged children will have access to a computer with high-speed internet capabilities.

Support sites: Make available sites providing educational, internet, support, financial resources, etc.

Funding: Identify and pursue state, federal, and philanthropic grants to fund connectivity recommendations.

Use emerging technologies: Identify the emerging systems like Health Partner's VirtuWell that allows online access to health care providers.

k. Committed Group of Individuals. This project is being carried out by a unique group of champions who represent public, private, nonprofit, and tribal organizations:

Pam Mahling (Corporate Resource Specialist) West Central Telephone Association (WCTA) Kevin Larson (CEO) Kristi Westbrock (COO) Consolidated Telephone Company (CTC) Janelle Riley (CEO) Syvantis Technologies Stacey Stockdill, (CEO) EnSearch, Inc. Sally Fineday, Wireless Telecommunications Business Manager, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Paul Drange, Director of Regional Programs (NJPA)

The Virtual Highway Task Force The Virtual Highway Task Force includes all the Resilient Region Champions listed on slide 3 as well as: Tri-county Hospital; Brainerd Lakes Area Economic Development Corporation; Community Development of Morrison County; City of Staples Community Development; Wadena Economic Development Corporation; the Brainerd Lakes Chamber; Good Samaritan Society; Minnesota State Community and Technical College (M-State); Resilient Living Council, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, and Public and Private Health care providers. We also coordinate our work with the BLAEDC and Brainerd Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce High-Tech Sector Task Force and the CLC/MNSCU High Tech IT Task Force. We have letters of support from: Commissioner Mary Tingerthal (Minnesota Housing Fund), Warren Hansen, (CEO, Greater Minnesota Housing Fund - GMHF), and Bernadine Joselyn (Blandin Foundation) with the loan of their broadband expert, Bill Coleman. To date there are nearly 90 individuals on our task force list who receive monthly updates on progress.

We represent 40,500 (seasonal and year-round) residents, 24,877 K-12 students (49% eligible for free or reduced school lunches), more than 401,605 northbound cars loaded with visitors (continuous traffic monitors August 2009), and 11,252 home-based businesses who generate \$407,786,000 in revenue for the five-county region (Crow Wing and Cass Counties: Census 2010 and Morrison, Todd and Wadena Counties: ACS 2007). Advocates for improved broadband access come from ALL local units of government within the region (65 Cities & 5 Counties); hundreds of private sector companies; 27 school districts', 2 community colleges (CLC and Minnesota STATE Community Technical College) and the 600 residents who worked on the creation of the regions "Resilient Region Plan".

Q5: Space for additonal narrative if needed.

Respondent skipped this question

#### Q6: Timeline (implementation period i.e. 12 - 24 - 36 months) Phase I: 2015-2016 Q7: Budget Income: how much will it cost to implement this project? \$15,000 Expenses: catagory and amount. (examples; equipment, Connectivity Theme Champions Time supplies, travel, personnel) Housing, Transportaion, Q8: Identify which of the 4 disciplines below your project idea addresses. (Check all that apply) Economic Development (energy, local foods, broadband, emerging high growth sectors) Land Use, Comments All of the 11 themes in the Resilient Region Plan assume connectivity. N/A Q9: Ordinances are in place or will be in place to support the idea. Decrease in Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT), Q10: Evaluate Success: What metrics will be used to evaluate success? (check all tht apply) Other (please specify) Progress on reaching broadband infrastructure build-out goal (95% of all households in the region). Municipal jurisdictions, Watersheds, Businesses, Q11: Region-wide benefit; Does the project benefit a wide range of people in the 5 county region: (check Socio or economically diverse groups all that apply) *Respondent skipped this question* Q12: Please list any other information, comments or concerns about your community that you want us to know or feel would be useful for us to know.



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#### **PAGE 1: Introduction/Demographics**

#4

Jennier	er Bergma	n	
Crow W	Wing Cour	nty HRA	
324 Eas	ast River F	Road	
Brainer	erd		
MN			
56401			
Crow W	Wing		
Jennifer	er@braine	rdhra.org	
	er@brainer		0

#### PAGE 2: Project submittal

#### Q3: Project Name

Redevelopment Plan for Brainerd Oaks

Q4: GIVE A DESCRIPTION OF YOUR PROJECT IDEA:1. Project Description details (descriptive for novice readers) Please address the following very breifly:(a) What is your project? (b) What need does it address? (c) Who will benefit or what will change if your project is implemented? (d) What specific activities (or strategies) are you going to undertake so that benefit or change will occur? (e) What resources do you have and what resources do you need to implement your activities? (or strategies).(f) Will this have a regional impact (5 county)?(g) Is this project a "want", "need" or "must have"?(h) Does your project impact the quality of life for residents?(i) Does your project have economic or environmental benefits?(j) Does your project align with other local or regional plans (comprehensive plans or the Resilient Region plan located at www.resilientregion.org)?(k) Is there a committed group of people poised for implementation?

#### a) What is your project?

In 2005, the Brainerd HRA embarked on a single family owner-occupied housing subdivision in East Brainerd called Brainerd Oaks to address the move-up housing needs in the City of Brainerd. For a number of reasons, including the recession, the project failed. There are 96 lots in this subdivision of which 13 homes have been constructed leaving 83 vacant lots. The infrastructure has been installed in the subdivision. However, with the changing demographics it is uncertain whether there is a demand for the type of single family homes that was originally planned. The project would be to hire a planning firm to prepare a redevelopment plan and an implementation plan. The goal would be to address of number of the 11 themes within the Resilient Region Plan. b) What does it address?

The redevelopment plan would address the potential uses for this land using the Resilient Region Plan as a goal in the redevelopment. This would also include an implementation plan that would guide us to have a successful redevelopment.

c) Who will benefit or what will change if your project is implemented?

The project would benefit the entire community especially the neighborhood and those already living in Brainerd Oaks. The project would examine the gaps in housing within the community and develop a plan that would fill those gaps. The intent is to encompass as many elements within the Resilient Region plan to create a resilient development. The firm would be required to involve the community including but not limited to decision makers, builders, realtors, utility companies, residents and interested parties.

(d) What specific activities (or strategies) are you going to undertake so that benefit or change will occur? Currently this subdivision is mostly vacant with only 13 of the 96 lots developed. There has been a drastic change in the housing market since 2007 and the demand for the type of housing originally planned (move-up housing in a urban development) may not be the supply needed in 2014. In order to ensure that we have a successful development, we want to hire a planning firm and gather community input. Ultimately, the plan will be used as a road map to guide the development to a successful project.

(e) What resources do you have and what resources do you need to implement your activities?

The CWC HRA has included a portion of the cost to fund the redevelopment plan in their 2015 budget. These funds will be used to leverage other funding to assist in complete funding. In order to implement this, we will need a firm to facilitate the project, gather community members, development the plan, create drawings (charrettes) and estimate costs.

(f) Will this have a regional impact (5 county)?

Crow Wing County was estimated to have approximately 27,200 jobs. Of those, 18,000 are located in Brainerd and Baxter making up about 65% of the total jobs. Approximately 35% of employees working in Crow Wing County commute from around the Region. In addition, we have a growing elderly population who are looking to move closer to services such as clinics, pharmacies and government centers. This new development could provide additional housing options for people within the Region.

(g) Is this project a "want," "need" or "must have?"

This project is a need. This subdivision has been sitting nearly vacant for over 5 years. The city of Brainerd has invested over \$1.2 million in infrastructure. The city sold bonds and the payment was pledged with the TIF increment. Since the lots have not sold, there increment is not being generated. In addition, the development sits nearly empty which is a drain on the community, neighborhood and city as a whole. To help guide this development would be a benefit.

(h) Does your project impact the quality of life for residents?

As I mentioned above, there are currently 13 homes in the subdivision surrounded by empty lots. This has a blighting effect on not only the neighborhood but the community as a whole. The ultimate goal is to determine the needs within the community and create a development that addresses those needs. The goal is also to tie the development into the Resilient Region Plan and encompass as many of the 11 themes as possible. This project will have a huge impact on the quality of life for the residents.

(i) Does your project have economic or environmental benefits?

The redevelopment plan will determine the highest and best use for the land. This will have a huge economic benefit including generating taxes, employment of contractors and increases in property values once completed. In addition, creating a redevelopment plan that addresses as many of the themes in the Resilient Region Plan will have huge environmental benefits including housing, connectivity, health care, transportation and natural resources.

(j) Does your project align with other local or regional plans?

The redevelopment plan will not only include community needs and wants and the Resilient Region Plan, it will also draw from the City of Brainerd Comprehensive Plan and the Comprehensive Housing Needs Assessment for Crow Wing County.

(k) Is there a committed group of people poised for implementation?

The CWC HRA, Crow Wing County, Brainerd HRA and the City of Brainerd are very committed to seeing a successful project take place on this land. The redevelopment of this subdivision would be a huge benefit to the City of Brainerd, Crow Wing County and all of the Region. It would also serve as an example of how a development can draw from many of the components of the Resilient Region and we hope to have this be a showcase for the Plan itself.

**Q5: Space for additonal narrative if needed.** 

Respondent skipped this question

#### Q6: Timeline (implementation period i.e. 12 - 24 - 36 months)

We anticipate 12 months from RFP to completion of the Redevelopment Plan

Q7: Budget	
Income: how much will it cost to implement this project?	\$90,000
Expenses: catagory and amount. (examples; equipment, supplies, travel, personnel)	Contract Costs
Existing resources: (grants, in-kind)	The CWC HRA has agreed to pledge funds for the cost of the plan. The Board directed me to seek out grant opportunities first.
Q8: Identify which of the 4 disciplines below your	Housing,
project idea addresses. (Check all that apply)	Economic Development (energy, local foods, broadband, emerging high growth sectors) ,
	Land Use
Q9: Ordinances are in place or will be in place to support the idea.	N/A
Q10: Evaluate Success: What metrics will be used to evaluate success? (check all tht apply)	Decrease in Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)
Q11: Region-wide benefit; Does the project benefit a	Municipal jurisdictions, Businesses,
wide range of people in the 5 county region: (check all that apply)	Socio or economically diverse groups
Q12: Please list any other information, comments or concerns about your community that you want us to know or feel would be useful for us to know.	Respondent skipped this question



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#### **PAGE 1: Introduction/Demographics**

#5

Contact Person Name:	Mary Gottsch
Municipal or Agency Name:	Bridges Workplace COnnection
Address:	124 North 6th Street
City/Town:	Brainerd
State:	MN
ZIP:	56401
County:	crow wing
Email Address:	mgottsch@explorebrainerdlakes.com
Q2: Is the applicant (check all that apply)	Non-profit

#### PAGE 2: Project submittal

3: Project Name			
Computer Immersion Camp			

Q4: GIVE A DESCRIPTION OF YOUR PROJECT IDEA:1. Project Description details (descriptive for novice readers) Please address the following very breifly:(a) What is your project? (b) What need does it address? (c) Who will benefit or what will change if your project is implemented? (d) What specific activities (or strategies) are you going to undertake so that benefit or change will occur? (e) What resources do you have and what resources do you need to implement your activities? (or strategies).(f) Will this have a regional impact (5 county)?(g) Is this project a "want", "need" or "must have"?(h) Does your project impact the quality of life for residents?(i) Does your project have economic or environmental benefits?(j) Does your project align with other local or regional plans (comprehensive plans or the Resilient Region plan located at www.resilientregion.org)?(k) Is there a committed group of people poised for implementation?

a.) The project is to develop an IT Computer Immersion summer camp (still to be determined age group). b)-II Research and develop a "IT Computer Career Immersion" linking the key elements (technical skills,

foundational skills, business experience) of the Bridges Program. The Career Immersion activity is the next step in the career exploration process. It would bring together students from all sites, one week event of tours, speakers and personal development activities. It not only provides a total career experience but creates a career support system for future questions.

c) Students who would otherwise not have an opportunity to attend and explore an exciting career field and have time to really immerse in the week of activities and what career opportunities are available.

d) We will meet with the business(es), teacher(s) and college tech instructors to build the immersion camp experience and take into planning all the needs of the cluster group.

e) The resources we have is the strong business and educational relationship we have with the cluster communities involved with Bridges and the resources we need to build this camp is funding, templates and best practice research to structure and build a strong camp so it can be sustainable, plus to find scholarship and financial support for students to sign up and attend the camp in the future.

f) Yes

g) want and need

h) It will impact our future workforce and the needs of technology skills.

I) Economic

j) Absolutely - Bridges has been identified as a program that can make a difference

k) Yes the Bridges program has the Brainerd Lakes Chamber, 23 area school districts, Cheryal Hills /Region 5, Central Lakes College, Central MN Carl Perkins Consortium and many area funders along with the Bridges Leadership Council as support

#### Q5: Space for additonal narrative if needed.

The Bridges Program has also identified 6 additional immersion camps that would be opportunities for region 5 students to participate .We are starting conversation on the camps fall/winter 2014-15.

The Bridges Program's proposed activities seek to fundamentally change the way students explore and determine their future careers. Because the activities are designed to link education with real-life experiences, students are able to determine the career that best fits their interests and skills. The local businesses and industries have partnered with Bridges in an effort to grow a knowledgeable and skilled employee base and therefore positively impacting the local economic development.

## Q6: Timeline (implementation period i.e. 12 - 24 - 36 months)

#### 12 MONTHS

Q7: Budget	
Income: how much will it cost to implement this project?	\$12,000.00
Expenses: catagory and amount. (examples; equipment, supplies, travel, personnel)	Instructors, transportation to tours, meals, marketing, mileage, supplies, technology, personnel
Existing resources: (grants, in-kind)	Region 5, Otto Bremer Foundation, Brainerd Lakes Chamber, Carl Perkins

Q8: Identify which of the 4 disciplines below your project idea addresses. (Check all that apply)	Economic Development (energy, local foods, broadband, emerging high growth sectors)
Q9: Ordinances are in place or will be in place to support the idea.	N/A
Q10: Evaluate Success: What metrics will be used to evaluate success? (check all tht apply)	Conservation Design Score Card,
	Other (please specify) Maybe this wasn't a grant for Bridges - I didnt know what to choose - sorry
Q11: Region-wide benefit; Does the project benefit a wide range of people in the 5 county region: (check all that apply)	Businesses, Socio or economically diverse groups
Q12: Please list any other information, comments or concerns about your community that you want us to know or feel would be useful for us to know.	Respondent skipped this question



Collector: Web Link (Web Link) Started: Thursday, August 14, 2014 8:42:46 AM Last Modified: Thursday, August 14, 2014 2:19:07 PM Time Spent: 05:36:21 IP Address: 69.168.246.94

#### **PAGE 1: Introduction/Demographics**

#6

Contact Person Name:	Megan Rehbein
Municipal or Agency Name:	Brainerd Lakes Area Economic Development Corp
Address:	124 N 6th St
City/Town:	Brainerd
State:	MN
ZIP:	56425
County:	Crow Wing
Email Address:	megan@growbrainerdlakes.org
Q2: Is the applicant (check all that apply)	Economic development organization

#### PAGE 2: Project submittal

#### Q3: Project Name

EXEC Connect - Strategy Development and Pilot

Q4: GIVE A DESCRIPTION OF YOUR PROJECT IDEA:1. Project Description details (descriptive for novice readers) Please address the following very breifly:(a) What is your project? (b) What need does it address? (c) Who will benefit or what will change if your project is implemented? (d) What specific activities (or strategies) are you going to undertake so that benefit or change will occur? (e) What resources do you have and what resources do you need to implement your activities? (or strategies).(f) Will this have a regional impact (5 county)?(g) Is this project a "want", "need" or "must have"?(h) Does your project impact the quality of life for residents?(i) Does your project have economic or environmental benefits?(j) Does your project align with other local or regional plans (comprehensive plans or the Resilient Region plan located at www.resilientregion.org)?(k) Is there a committed group of people poised for implementation?

Our project idea is related to our current EXEC program. BLAEDC utilizes the resources of retired executives (EXECs) in order to provide support and expertise to prospects and current business owners in Crow Wing County. The EXEC program focuses on four initiatives: Be an EXEC, Meet an EXEC, Ask an EXEC and EXEC Connect. EXEC Connect is the newest strategy and we would like to enhance our efforts to link our EXECs with economic development initiatives and business attraction. EXECs work to target and attract potential businesses to the area. They compile lists of potential companies, develop processes to qualify prospects, create methodology to contact prospects, and move viable prospects into BLAEDC projects. This benefits both the community by attracting new businesses to the area, and also helps businesses make the decision to come to the area. This impacts the county because it brings more jobs and more opportunities to the community. This is a "must have" project.

Resilient Region/CEDS Proj	ect Planning Form 2014	
Q5: Space for additonal narrative if needed.		
DRAFT 2015-2016 Budget – EXEC Connect- Strategy Development and Pilot (The budget below is an estimate of staff, marketing and material costs)		
General Program Initiatives \$4,000 Strategy: Develop Attraction Initiatives with EXECs Action: Meetings and Work Plans		
Sites Exploration and Marketing Info Strategy: Identify viable sites and prospective businesses. Action: Identify sites and develop marketing information for t	\$6,000 he community	
Manage Prospects Strategy: Find Prospects Action: Create lists of potential prospective businesses	\$3,000	
Launch a Pilot \$6,000 Strategy: Create a pilot project to attract certain types of businesses (ex. A technology company) to a business or industrial park in the area Action: Create a committee of EXECs and attract a specific business to the area.		
Technical Assistance/General Staff Resources (100 Hrs X\$ Misc. Regional Outreach Initiatives	75/Hr) \$7,500 \$1,000 \$2,500	
2015-2016 DRAFT BUDGET TOTAL	\$30,000	
Q6: Timeline (implementation period i.e. 12 - 24 - 36 m 12-24 months	onths)	
Q7: Budget		
Income: how much will it cost to implement this project? Expenses: catagory and amount. (examples; equipment, supplies, travel, personnel)	\$30,000. Requesting 10,000 from CEDS See above	
Existing resources: (grants, in-kind)	IF grant and RCDI grant (funding to overall EXECs program)	
Q8: Identify which of the 4 disciplines below your project idea addresses. (Check all that apply)	Economic Development (energy, local foods, broadband, emerging high growth sectors)	
Q9: Ordinances are in place or will be in place to support the idea.	N/A	
Q10: Evaluate Success: What metrics will be used to evaluate success? (check all tht apply)	Decrease in Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT), Other (please specify) Other-Economic Develpoment and job growth	
Q11: Region-wide benefit; Does the project benefit a wide range of people in the 5 county region: (check	Businesses	

Q12: Please list any other information, comments or concerns about your community that you want us to know or feel would be useful for us to know.

Respondent skipped this question



Collector: Web Link (Web Link) Started: Thursday, August 14, 2014 2:19:46 PM Last Modified: Thursday, August 14, 2014 2:28:30 PM Time Spent: 00:08:44 IP Address: 69.168.246.94

#### **PAGE 1: Introduction/Demographics**

#7

Q1: Please provide your contact information	
Contact Person Name:	Megan Rehbein
Municipal or Agency Name:	Brainerd Lakes Area Economic Development Corp
Address:	124 N 6th street
City/Town:	Brainerd
State:	MN
ZIP:	56401
County:	Crow Wing
Email Address:	megan@growbrainerdlakes.org

#### PAGE 2: Project submittal

#### Q3: Project Name

Enhanced Tech Service Marketing and Branding Initiative

Q4: GIVE A DESCRIPTION OF YOUR PROJECT IDEA:1. Project Description details (descriptive for novice readers) Please address the following very breifly:(a) What is your project? (b) What need does it address? (c) Who will benefit or what will change if your project is implemented? (d) What specific activities (or strategies) are you going to undertake so that benefit or change will occur? (e) What resources do you have and what resources do you need to implement your activities? (or strategies).(f) Will this have a regional impact (5 county)?(g) Is this project a "want", "need" or "must have"?(h) Does your project impact the quality of life for residents?(i) Does your project have economic or environmental benefits?(j) Does your project align with other local or regional plans (comprehensive plans or the Resilient Region plan located at www.resilientregion.org)?(k) Is there a committed group of people poised for implementation?

A cluster of professional and technical companies, in addition to our fiber infrastructure have created an opportunity to support and grow the technology services sector and workforce for our area. The Tech Services Workforce Development Committee formed four strategies to achieve this goal: Marketing and branding, Workforce and training, Infrastructure, and Economic Development. One of BLAEDC's emphases will be marketing the "Tech Services" opportunity in our area. In addition, there will be marketing documents and a website created around to help attract tech services companies as well as employees to the Brainerd Lakes Area. BLAEDC is currently working with CTC to finalize a "Tech Ready" website to provide support to high-tech companies starting, expanding or locating here, expand the area's workforce skill sets by attracting high-tech employees and educating students at the local schools and community college, and market the "Tech Ready" community and advertise the website. Another project BLAEDC is working on is hosting a technology event such as a "Hackfest." These events connect technology-skilled workers and businesses together in a setting where workers can display their talent through a series of challenges.

#### Q5: Space for additonal narrative if needed.

DRAFT 2015-2016 Budget –Enhanced Tech Services Marketing and Branding Initiative (The budget below is an estimate of staff, marketing and material costs)

General Program Initiatives \$5,000 Strategy: Support and grow the technology services and workforce sector of Crow Wing County Action: Work with a cluster of professional and technical companies to assemble a four-prong approach to grow the tech services and workforce	
Enhanced Marketing and Branding Approach Strategy: Promote the area as "Tech Ready" for technology businesses Action: Distribute and market the "Tech Ready" logo to area business and schools who are involved in the initiative	\$3,000
Educate the Community Strategy: Inform interested students of the opportunities to strengthen their technological skills within the school districts, attract new technology businesses, and draw employees with high technical skills to the area. Action: Create a "Tech Ready" website for students, businesses, and high-tech employees to use. The website will not only connect people with technology-related education and job opportunities, but will also serve as a guide to Crow Wing County, including quality of life and employment resources for spouse Action: Market the website and create a newspaper ad to announce the launch. Action: Create and display billboards with "Tech Ready" messages and website infor Action: Host "Tech" events (ex. Hackfest)	
Technical Assistance/General Staff Resources (100 Hrs X\$75/Hr) Misc. Regional Outreach Initiatives	\$7,500 \$1,000 \$2,500
2015-2016 DRAFT BUDGET TOTAL	\$30,000

## Q6: Timeline (implementation period i.e. 12 - 24 - 36 months)

12-24 months

12-24 months	
Q7: Budget	
Income: how much will it cost to implement this project?	\$30,000. Requesting \$10,000 from CEDS
Expenses: catagory and amount. (examples; equipment, supplies, travel, personnel)	see above
Existing resources: (grants, in-kind)	RCDI grant (for overall Tech Services Initiative)
Q8: Identify which of the 4 disciplines below your project idea addresses. (Check all that apply)	Economic Development (energy, local foods, broadband, emerging high growth sectors)
Q9: Ordinances are in place or will be in place to support the idea.	N/A
Q10: Evaluate Success: What metrics will be used to	Decrease in Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT),
evaluate success? (check all tht apply)	Other (please specify) Other-Economic Development and Job Growth
Q11: Region-wide benefit; Does the project benefit a wide range of people in the 5 county region: (check all that apply)	Businesses
Q12: Please list any other information, comments or concerns about your community that you want us to know or feel would be useful for us to know.	Respondent skipped this question



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#### **PAGE 1: Introduction/Demographics**

#8

Contact Person Name:	Mayor Cathy VanRisseghem	
Municipal or Agency Name:	City of Little Falls	
Address:	100 NE 7th Ave.	
City/Town:	Little Falls	
State:	MN	
ZIP:	56345	
County:	Morrison	
Email Address:	gandcvanrisseghem@gmail.com	
Q2: Is the applicant (check all that apply)	Local unit of government	

#### PAGE 2: Project submittal

#### Q3: Project Name

Camp Ripley Veterans State Trail

Q4: GIVE A DESCRIPTION OF YOUR PROJECT IDEA:1. Project Description details (descriptive for novice readers) Please address the following very breifly:(a) What is your project? (b) What need does it address? (c) Who will benefit or what will change if your project is implemented? (d) What specific activities (or strategies) are you going to undertake so that benefit or change will occur? (e) What resources do you have and what resources do you need to implement your activities? (or strategies).(f) Will this have a regional impact (5 county)?(g) Is this project a "want", "need" or "must have"?(h) Does your project impact the quality of life for residents?(i) Does your project have economic or environmental benefits?(j) Does your project align with other local or regional plans (comprehensive plans or the Resilient Region plan located at www.resilientregion.org)?(k) Is there a committed group of people poised for implementation?

What is your project? The Camp Ripley Veterans State Trail (CRVST) through Little Falls; a very important 32 mile missing link between 6 other existing bike trails. When the CRVST is completed it will become part of the longest, continuous paved off-road bike trail in the world! The trail would not only impact Little Falls and Central Minnesota, but create the "link" that would connect many Minnesota communities to each other. The City of Little Falls will need to complete several miles of the "missing link".

(b) What need does it address? Physical fitness; the 2013 County Health Ranking and Roadmaps program, with 87 Minnesota counties ranked Morrison 82 out of 87 in health outcomes. The rankings indicated that Morrison County ranked 75 in health factors, with the top two causes of death being lung cancer and heart disease1 (University of Wisconsin, 2013). One of the most concerning health factors in Morrison County is the weight related issues between males and females in comparison to other Minnesota counties. According to the Morrison County Community Health Needs Assessment, the weight related issues expressed are based off of the BMI results of 9th and 12th grade students only. In the state of Minnesota, the percentages of males over weight are

13.7% and females, 11%. The percentages of obese males are 12.4%, and 6% females in Minnesota. In comparison with Morrison County, 13.3% of males and 17% of females are overweight, whereas 15% of males and 8.4% of females are obese2 (Rioux, 2013).

Economic growth; Little Falls has the lowest family incomes in our State. Our unemployment numbers are not very positive. We don't have any major industries that offer great economic support our local economies. Our biggest manufacturing base in this area is recreational boat building. The recession almost destroyed those businesses. One manufacturer left our area completely and the other laid off the majority of their work force. They are recovering, but at a slow pace. Bottom line, we need to bring in some "New Money" to this area.

(c) Who will benefit or what will change if your project is implemented? The resulting trail will be a one-of-a-kind system for non-motorized users. A person will be able to go from Fergus Falls to Bemidji or St. Joseph to Cass Lake, for example. Motorized users will also enjoy an enhanced and simplified connection through central Minnesota. Everyone will have to go through Little Falls, the hub city of this network, which means all of Central Minnesota will benefit by greatly enhancing their ability to draw tourism. With \$3.2 Billion spent by trail users in Minnesota per year, a portion of that will come to our area. Having over 400 miles of continuous, off road bike trails we inevitably draw tourist from all over the world.

These trails will not only lure tourists, but they are also beneficial to the quality of life for our residents. During warm weather months in Minnesota nearly 1.5 million cyclists, inline skaters, and walkers use our nationally-recognized trails. The long term goal for CRVST is to make the trail usable year round by encircling Camp Ripley and linking many equestrian, ATV, and snowmobile trails together.

There's no doubt the CRVST will have a huge impact on our region. It will do wonders to help our existing base of tourist attractions and businesses by bringing people into our downtowns, but it will also attract other businesses to locate in Little Falls and surrounding area. Area businesses will see positive growth and there will be much potential for local and national entrepreneurs.

(d) What specific activities (or strategies) are you going to undertake so that benefit or change will occur?
The trail received over \$2 million dollars in the 2014 State bonding bill – we will be meeting with the DNR shortly to see what their engineers findings were on the best trail route

• We are developing a Marketing Plan to promote the trail to area residents and tourist

A strong collaborative committee made up of Morrison County Public Health, Great River Arts Associations, Healthy Community Collaborative, Convention and Visitors Bureau, Little Falls Police, area business owners, Little Falls Schools, and the City of Little Falls. Everyone is pulling together their time and resources to work on various projects that will develop and enhance Little Falls and the CRVST. Here are a few things we're working on:

• "Themed" Bike Racks" - Little Falls has applied for several bike rack grants and received 2 of them. Themed bike racks, created by a local artist, have been placed in 6 locations, to date, around Little Falls. Many area businesses are purchasing their own racks to participate in the program, while cities around the county are applying for grants. Old racks are also being refurbished by area schools for community use. We hope to expand the program through grants and donations

• Open Streets Event – we are implementing our first Open Streets event on June 15, 2014. We are in the beginning stage of developing a family event centered on health, fitness, and community.

• Downtown Beautification Community - new downtown lighting is being implemented. We are looking at the esthetics of the downtown and trying to create a welcoming atmosphere for local citizens and tourist. We are seeking funding sources to develop a plan and implement it.

• We are working with Royalton, Randall, Pierz, and Upsala, who are developing links to the trail route.

• Bicycle Friendly Community Certification – we have applied for a Bike Friendly Community status through Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota. To meet their qualifications, area law enforcement has taken courses in bicycle safety training and developed a Bicycle Education Program. The Police Department received a grant, through Public Health, to purchase a bike trailer and bicycles to teach bicycle training throughout Morrison County. The LFPD has been putting on bike rodeos in many of the local communities in Morrison County. The Little Falls Convention and Visitors Bureau has implemented a Bicycle Helmet Program where children receive a helmet if they take the bicycle training classes. Several local businesses purchased the helmets and donated them to the program—grants were also obtained.

• Bicycle Lanes have been implemented by the City of Little Falls on First Street as well as a Walking and Biking tail from 7th Ave. NE to Pine Ave. My hope is that we would implement a Safe Routes to School Program and, at the same time, develop a Sidewalk and Trail Way System Plan. Times have changed from the original function and use of our city sidewalks. The proposed CRVST will go right through Little Falls, potentially creating more use on City streets and sidewalks. We need to assess our trail system and find the best locations to place it within the city. We need to know how to connect it to the proposed CRVST link and how it will best serve the community.

• Historic Bike Tours are being offered by the Convention and Visitors Bureau.

• City Parks Camping Sites – the City of Little Falls has been discussing the possibility of placing camping sites

In a downtown park. KV and rustic sites are being considered for potential tourist along the Mississippi

• (e) What resources do you have and what resources do you need to implement your activities? (or strategies).

• The DNR recently received a grant for engineering services for the CRVST and over \$2 million dollars in the 2014 State bonding bill.

• The CRVST is now waiting to meet with the DNR to see what their engineers have discovered on the potential trail segments.

• The City of Little Falls needs to do a trail study within the City to see what the best route is for the trail to come through the City.

• The City of Little Falls needs to develop a trail plan and find funding to implement it.

#### (f) Will this have a regional impact (5 county)?

The development of the trail will impact the whole region. These trails will not only lure tourists, but they are also beneficial to the quality of life for our residents. During warm weather months in Minnesota nearly 1.5 million cyclists, inline skaters, and walkers use our nationally-recognized trails. The long term goal for CRVST is to make the trail usable year round by encircling Camp Ripley and linking many equestrian, ATV, and snowmobile trails together.

The CRVST will have a huge impact on our region. It will do wonders to help our existing base of tourist attractions and businesses by bringing people into our downtowns, but it will also attract other businesses to locate to the area. Area businesses will see positive growth and there will be much potential for local and national entrepreneurs.

#### (g) Is this project a "want", "need" or "must have"?

I believe the CRVST is a must have. Central Minnesota has been struggling since it was pioneered almost 200 years ago. The CRVST will change the whole area economically. It will draw people from all over the World; tourism will expand in the area creating the need for entrepreneurs. Little Falls is on the brink of developing one of the largest tourism boosts in our history—with the possibility of generating an additional one million dollars into our economy each year.

(h) Does your project impact the quality of life for residents? When completed Little Falls residents will have the opportunity to hike, bike, walk or snowmobile on the CRVST. Are businesses will have the opportunity to to see more business through tourism development.

(i) Does your project have economic or environmental benefits?

Tourism will grow and add to the economic base of local retailers. The trail will add to city amenities making it more attractive for doctors, teachers and new industry. There will be more opportunities for entrepreneurs. Tourist from all over the world will have the opportunity to utilize the trail and enjoy the natural habitation in the region.

(j) Does your project align with other local or regional plans (comprehensive plans or the Resilient Region plan located at www.resilientregion.org)? Yes, we are creating a trail that will connect to surrounding communities. These communities have created a marketing plan to promote Central Minnesota. We are also working on several co-op projects that will enhance the area.

(k) Is there a committed group of people poised for implementation? The Camp Ripley Veterans State Trail committee meets monthly. Over 98 organizations are involved and committed to developing the CRVST.

#### Q5: Space for additonal narrative if needed.

The City of Little Falls will need to implement the CRVST through Little Falls connecting to the Paul Bunyan Trail system to the north side of the City and the Soo Line Trail to the south side of the city. The trail may also impact other areas of Little Falls. A trail study and plan will need to be implemented to make sure the trail connections are feasible.

#### Q6: Timeline (implementation period i.e. 12 - 24 - 36 months)

12 months

<b>Q7: Budget</b> Income: how much will it cost to implement this project? Expenses: catagory and amount. (examples; equipment,	? ?
supplies, travel, personnel) Existing resources: (grants, in-kind)	?
Q8: Identify which of the 4 disciplines below your project idea addresses. (Check all that apply)	Transportaion, Economic Development (energy, local foods, broadband, emerging high growth sectors) , Land Use
Q9: Ordinances are in place or will be in place to support the idea.	Ordinance need to be put into place to support work , Predicted date of passing ordinance January 2015
Q10: Evaluate Success: What metrics will be used to evaluate success? (check all tht apply)	Conservation Design Score Card, Other (please specify) local survey
Q11: Region-wide benefit; Does the project benefit a wide range of people in the 5 county region: (check all that apply)	Municipal jurisdictions, Businesses, Socio or economically diverse groups
Q12: Please list any other information, comments or concerns about your community that you want us to know or feel would be useful for us to know.	Respondent skipped this question



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#### **PAGE 1: Introduction/Demographics**

#9

Contact Person Name:	Larry Ketchum
Municipal or Agency Name:	Tri-County Community Action, Inc.
Address:	501 LeMieur St.
City/Town:	Little Falls
State:	MN
ZIP:	56345
County:	Morrison
Email Address:	larry.ketchum@tccaction.com

#### PAGE 2: Project submittal

#### Q3: Project Name

**Operation Community Connect** 

Q4: GIVE A DESCRIPTION OF YOUR PROJECT IDEA:1. Project Description details (descriptive for novice readers) Please address the following very breifly:(a) What is your project? (b) What need does it address? (c) Who will benefit or what will change if your project is implemented? (d) What specific activities (or strategies) are you going to undertake so that benefit or change will occur? (e) What resources do you have and what resources do you need to implement your activities? (or strategies).(f) Will this have a regional impact (5 county)?(g) Is this project a "want", "need" or "must have"?(h) Does your project impact the quality of life for residents?(i) Does your project have economic or environmental benefits?(j) Does your project align with other local or regional plans (comprehensive plans or the Resilient Region plan located at www.resilientregion.org)?(k) Is there a committed group of people poised for implementation?

(a) The project is Operation Community Connect, patterned after events in other areas of Minnesota that grew out of an effort to reach out to homeless people. The event is scheduled for November 1, 2014 and is targeted to low income people.

(b) Operation Community Connect links people in need to community resources and services, linking people directly at the event. The event and the work of the planning committee also serves to increase community awareness of poverty.

(c) Approximately 500 low income and minority people from Crow Wing and surrounding counties will benefit from Operation Community Connect, receiving direct services and linkages to resources to build self sufficiency.

(d) The event offers small incentives such as gas and food cards to facilitate participation and gives people access to free haircuts (in part to build self esteem and to prepare unemployed people to job interviews. Access is

available to free telephone services so people are able to make and receive job application calls. Longer term changes can occur as people are linked to educational resources, affordable health care, and job training and employment opportunities. The Crow Wing County Coalition to End Poverty (the planning group that facilitates Operation Community Connect) was formed as an outgrowth of the a local activity of the Minnesota Legislative Commission to End Poverty by 2020. The Coalition has had other strategies in the past and plans to use this event to generate interest in elimination of poverty and develop additional strategies in the coming year.

(e) The Coalition has a limited amount of money left from last year's event and plans to generate funds from vendor fees and contributions from member organizations.

(f) Most participants are expected to come from Crow Wing County, but the event draws people from surrounding counties including Cass, Morrison, Todd, Wadena and Aitkin Counties.

(g) This project is a need. The Operation Community Connect makes low income people aware of resources to help make themselves more self sufficient and is a means of communicating new information. Last year's event provided a "kickoff" for assisting people in applying for Affordable Care Act coverage (MNsure). The coalition's current need is for additional resources to continue the event.

(h) The project impacts the quality of life for residents, helping them to obtain resources to sustain their families. For example, participants learned about the opportunity to receive no charge tax preparation through TCC in order to access the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). Last year, TCC's tax preparation returned approximately \$1.2 million to the region in tax refunds.

(I) The Operation Community Connect event generates employer awareness that there are low income underemployed and unemployed local people with the desire to work, current job skills and willingness to learn new skills. The event also serves to link people to services that prepare them for work. Nutrition information and demonstrations help people to access health and locally grown food.

(j) The primary objective of Operation Community Connect is to engage marginalized populations, which is a focus of the Resilient Region plan. Also, the project aligns with Resilient Regions Plan Valuing Interdependence Community and Neighborhoods Theme 9 Changing Populations (diversity) and Affordable Housing theme 11.

(k) The Coalition to End Poverty group that facilitates Operation Community Connect has a group of committed individuals who represent a variety of community organizations. Northern Pines Mental Health Center serves as fiscal host and provides in-kind support. Tri-County Community Action also provides cash and in-kind support. Central Lakes College host the event on their campus. The College of St. Scholastica provides support and social work student volunteers. Other active members include organizations such as Lutheran Social Services, Rural Minnesota Concentrated Employment Program, the Minnesota Workforce Center Bridges of Hope and My Fathers House. Many other organizations participate as vendors.

Q5: Space for additonal narrative if needed.

Respondent skipped this question

#### Q6: Timeline (implementation period i.e. 12 - 24 - 36 months)

The event is planned on a 12 month timeline. Current planning is in month 9 of the planning timeline.

#### Q7: Budget

Qr. Budget	
Income: how much will it cost to implement this project?	\$6000 total cost, need \$2,150 in additional revenue
Expenses: catagory and amount. (examples; equipment, supplies, travel, personnel)	\$3000 gas and food cards, \$2000 event meals, \$500 publicity and promotional materials, \$500 genaral and food demonstration supplies
Existing resources: (grants, in-kind)	\$950 current cash, \$900 expected vendor revenue, \$2000 planned contributions

<b>C</b>	, 0
Q8: Identify which of the 4 disciplines below your project idea addresses. (Check all that apply)	Housing, Transportaion,
	Economic Development (energy, local foods, broadband, emerging high growth sectors)
Q9: Ordinances are in place or will be in place to support the idea.	N/A
Q10: Evaluate Success: What metrics will be used to evaluate success? (check all tht apply)	Decrease in Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT),
	Other (please specify) post event survey of participants and vendors provides information for future planning, provides some demographic, and assesses continuing needs
Q11: Region-wide benefit; Does the project benefit a wide range of people in the 5 county region: (check all that apply)	Socio or economically diverse groups

Q12: Please list any other information, comments or concerns about your community that you want us to know or feel would be useful for us to know.

The Crow Wing County Coalition to End Poverty comprises a range of regional and community organizations that work directly with marginalized and diverse populations and has members who are willing and able to represent those populations as well as to provide access to members of the local population in need for the purpose of future area planning.



Collector: Web Link (Web Link) Started: Wednesday, August 20, 2014 12:26:58 PM Last Modified: Wednesday, August 20, 2014 1:02:01 PM Time Spent: 00:35:03 IP Address: 75.100.220.172

#### **PAGE 1: Introduction/Demographics**

Contact Person Name:	Quinn Swanson
Municipal or Agency Name:	Happy Dancing Turtle
Address:	2331 Dancing Wind Rd. SW, Suite 1
City/Town:	Pine River
State:	MN
ZIP:	56474
County:	Cass
Email Address:	quinn@hugllc.com
Q2: Is the applicant (check all that apply)	Non-profit

#### PAGE 2: Project submittal

Q3: Project Name	
Food Youth Biz	

Q4: GIVE A DESCRIPTION OF YOUR PROJECT IDEA:1. Project Description details (descriptive for novice readers) Please address the following very breifly:(a) What is your project? (b) What need does it address? (c) Who will benefit or what will change if your project is implemented? (d) What specific activities (or strategies) are you going to undertake so that benefit or change will occur? (e) What resources do you have and what resources do you need to implement your activities? (or strategies).(f) Will this have a regional impact (5 county)?(g) Is this project a "want", "need" or "must have"?(h) Does your project impact the quality of life for residents?(i) Does your project have economic or environmental benefits?(j) Does your project align with other local or regional plans (comprehensive plans or the Resilient Region plan located at www.resilientregion.org)?(k) Is there a committed group of people poised for implementation?

-What is your project? This project is to educate young adults about the food system, the value of locally grown food, and overall food security. Through this process students become aware of the economic opportunities in sustainable agriculture and local food systems.

-What need does it address? As the demand for local food continues to grow, there is an increasing disparity between what producers are able to supply and what consumers are requesting. We feel that this offers a prime opportunity to illustrate to the next generation of growers the value proposition of local food. Our youth, especially those that are coming from low income homes not only need more nutrient dense whole food to sustain themselves, they are most likely to stay in the area and either contribute meaningfully or perpetuate generational poverty. Through the first year of our Food-Youth-Biz program we have shared with students the issues related to our current food system, alternative production models, and through farm and restaurant visits, the economic opportunities created by the growing local food movement. We feel that the skills, knowledge, and training to "grow the grower" is imperative to increase the resilience of our families. communities. and region.

-Who will benefit or what will change if your project is implemented? Through the Food-Youth-Biz program we are lighting or fanning a passion for locally produced food. With greater resources we hope to offer additional apprenticeships and fund a hoop house for longer growing season education. With more growing capacity there is a terrific opportunity for students to raise the food that can be utilized by the school lunch program, further educating students on healthy diets and the value of sustainably, locally grown food. The more food that is produced, distributed and consumed locally, the better suited our students are to meet the demands of their lives and prepare them for the future work world. There is substantial evidence that local food systems can be a viable economic driver and as such this project has the potential to increase the resilience of the community as a whole.

-What specific activities or strategies are you going to undertake so that benefit or change will occur? Happy Dancing Turtle offered the Food-Youth-Biz program in the spring semester of 2014 in the Pine River-Backus High School Marketing Course and as a Short Course at the PR-B Area Learning Center. We have already committed to offering the program this year at PR-B. We have great partners at the school at both the administration level with the superintendent and principals, and at the teacher level too. Additional funds will allow us to delve deeper into the food system realm with hoop-house production, growing season classroom credit, and an on the job training program or apprenticeships for qualifying students. In the 2014 FYB program, some of the most beneficial time was spent touring working farms and restaurants. Students were able to see first hand existing sustainable food production and distribution systems, and it made quite an impact.

-What resources do you have and what resources do you need to implement your activities (or strategies) HDT is committed to offering FYB again this coming school year. The depth and breadth that we are able to cover with local food is dependent on what resources we are able to tap. We plan to connect students to educational offerings and resources for them to further their education and experience with local food production. Additionally, a component that we had hoped to fold into our FYB course is that of business and life skills education. In 2014, due to the unavoidable shortening of a VISTA term we weren't able to fold all that we had hoped into the first FYB offering.

-Will this have a regional impact (5 County)? This region has been fortunate to have some great local food advocates promoting the economic benefit to local communities and connecting growers and consumers. The success of the effort to move local food from growers to consumers has effectively opened the market creating larger demand. If this program effectively grows great produce and grows empowered growers, it will serve as a great pilot to other school districts.

-Is this project a "want., need or must have? Due to the economic and health disparity of the Pine River area this project is imperative to educate future leaders on the value of sustainable, locally grown food security.

-Does your project impact the quality of life for residents? Yes, when students have the skill set to grow their own food, they are able to share fresh food with their families. They can impact the sustainability and health of their households and by extension our community.

-Does your project have economic or environmental benefits? If we are successful growing new growers, they'll be contributing to the local economy as producers. Research has shown local food production to be a viable economic driver. In addition, food traveling fewer miles can have environmental benefits. Finally, agricultural production based on soil health and diversity has the potential to not only protect natural resources, but sequester carbon, increase resilience to weather extremes, stabilize product markets, restore hydrologic cycles and water quality, and improve wildlife habitat. This is imperative to our region and its valuable tourist industry.

-Does your project align with other or regional plans (comprehensive plans or the Resilient Region plan located at www.resilientregion.org)?

Effectively designed and implemented this program addresses economic disparities within the region, health (and healthy living) disparities, and provides valuable workforce development. In addition, it provides life skills for participants that helps with their own resilience through the capacity to grow foods for household consumption as well as a broader consumption (community and beyond).

-Is there a committed group of People poised for implementation? Happy Dancing Turtle is heavily invested in local food. We have strong support from the PRB School District and Area Learning Center as well as local producers, farmers' market, restaurants and other institutions. Non profit organizations including the Sustainable Farming Association, Farm Bureau, and Crow Wing River Basin Forage Council are also supportive. With the support of partners and collaborators we plan for this to be an ongoing program into the future.

we are utilizing to impact the future of our community and the region.

Q5: Space for additonal narrative if needed.

Respondent skipped this question

#### Q6: Timeline (implementation period i.e. 12 - 24 - 36 months)

This funding is to support the ongoing development of the program over a 12 month period. This will include establishing the physical infrastructure and refining the classroom curriculum.

Q7: Budget	
Income: how much will it cost to implement this project?	\$27,000
Expenses: catagory and amount. (examples; equipment, supplies, travel, personnel)	hoop house, soil amendments, and misc tools - \$10,000 curriculum development, field trips, speaker per diem, classroom materials, apprenticeships - \$5000 Total Requested Sum from CEDs grant: \$15,000
Existing resources: (grants, in-kind)	HDT (in-kind) - staff time - \$7500 PRB/ALC - staff time, other - \$2500 Producers - \$2000
Q8: Identify which of the 4 disciplines below your project idea addresses. (Check all that apply)	Economic Development (energy, local foods, broadband, emerging high growth sectors) ,
	Land Use
Q9: Ordinances are in place or will be in place to support the idea.	N/A
support the idea.	N/A
support the idea. Q10: Evaluate Success: What metrics will be used to	N/A Triple Bottom Line Matrix, Other (please specify) Number of students participating, student

# Q12: Please list any other information, comments or concerns about your community that you want us to know or feel would be useful for us to know.

Cass County and more specifically the Pine River-Backus area has an unemployment rate higher than the state average, coupled with a lower median household income, leading to a high poverty rate. This data is from the State Demographer, Census, County, and MN Compass. Other indicators of high poverty are the growing number of clients and frequency of use at the Pine River Area Food Shelf, the percentage of students that qualify for free or reduced lunch (65.63% of the Elementary and 50.27% of the High School students as reported by Denise Koering the Youth and Family Services worker) and the high number of teens utilizing the Warehouse, an after school and summer program for youth that provides snacks, activities, and a place to be.

Growing interest and demand for local produce combined with an under-employed youth population are coalescing forces in support of this project. Our small towns need brave thinkers and doers willing to take the risks inherent in agriculture and business. Without exposure to these career paths and opportunities many students will not be aware of the vastly rewarding opportunities that may await them as farmers and or entrepreneurs.



#### COMPLETE

Collector: Web Link (Web Link) Started: Wednesday, August 20, 2014 12:33:55 PM Last Modified: Wednesday, August 20, 2014 1:51:42 PM Time Spent: 01:17:47 IP Address: 75.100.220.172

#### **PAGE 1: Introduction/Demographics**

Contact Person Name:	Ryan Hunt	
Municipal or Agency Name:	HUG/HDT	
Address:	2331 Dancing Wind Rd SW	
City/Town:	Pine River	
State:	MN	
ZIP:	56474	
County:	Cass	
Email Address:	ryanhunt@hugllc.com	
Q2: Is the applicant (check all that apply)	Other,	
	Other (please specify) For Profit/Non Profit Organization	

#### PAGE 2: Project submittal

#### Q3: Project Name

Crowd Source Solutions (AKA Live Open Science)

Q4: GIVE A DESCRIPTION OF YOUR PROJECT IDEA:1. Project Description details (descriptive for novice readers) Please address the following very breifly:(a) What is your project? (b) What need does it address? (c) Who will benefit or what will change if your project is implemented? (d) What specific activities (or strategies) are you going to undertake so that benefit or change will occur? (e) What resources do you have and what resources do you need to implement your activities? (or strategies).(f) Will this have a regional impact (5 county)?(g) Is this project a "want", "need" or "must have"?(h) Does your project impact the quality of life for residents?(i) Does your project have economic or environmental benefits?(j) Does your project align with other local or regional plans (comprehensive plans or the Resilient Region plan located at www.resilientregion.org)?(k) Is there a committed group of people poised for implementation?

#### -What is your project?

This project is to develop the tools that will foster collaborative problem-solving skills required for the workforce of the future; connecting students (K-12 through college) into a live and highly interactive process of addressing real problems with real solutions. With the right web platform, Minnesota research and development can harness the creative power of the world to drive innovation locally. Through this process students can participate and become aware of the challenges and, more important, the opportunities that exist in an "open source" approach to creative effective problem solving.

-vvnat need does it address?

Innovation is the driving force in business and is key to our region's future success. The faster we can innovate the more success we can bring to our region. The connectivity of the internet has lead to revolutions in cooperation starting from open source software and more recently in crowdsourced funding for projects. Now we can crowdsource innovation through a process of open research on the web inviting skilled people from around the world to participate in solving your particular design challenge by adding their suggestions for improvements.

There is a growing awareness within industry, government, and academics that in order for our region, our state, even our nation, to be a real leader in emerging opportunities (Clean Tech, Bio-Medical, highly productive local foods practices) it requires a new approach and new measures of success (triple bottom line).

A critical bottleneck in our capacity to move forward is a SKILLED WORK FORCE that is well versed in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) but who also have a creative entrepreneurial orientation with the capacity to work as a

team. Industry, government, and academics agree (on at least one thing) the need to draw students into into this disciplined approach as early as possible (K-12).

There is a need to build AWARENESS with students AND with the general population of the entrepreneurial process. The need to "fail forward" "fail early and often", try new and innovative approaches. The need for creativity, tenacity, flexibility.

The global opportunities are HUGE but if we as a region or as a state want to be a real player there will need a more orchestrated and cooperative approach to foster the skills required.

-Who will benefit or what will change if your project is implemented? The current and future workforce as well as our local and regional economy; especially rural communities.

-What specific activities or strategies are you going to undertake so that benefit or change will occur? Working with institutions like the University of Minnesota (Extension, Design, STEM education), Department of Education, DEED, Department of Commerce and others, develop the tools that can make Crowd-Source Solutions (or Live Open Science -LOS) a conduit to harness the creative power of the crowd around the world to help drive innovation here. In addition, this platform will help by addressing the educational and workforce bottlenecks AND the opportunities! LOS could provide an real and tangible conduit to connecting K - 12, with STEM+, with institutions, with the private sector, in an environment that is focused on solutions that builds awareness and capacity.

-What resources do you have and what resources do you need to implement your activities (or strategies) The attached \* flow chart illustrates how one team, lead by Ryan Hunt, has successfully applied LOS for over two years to a specific research process. This process lends itself to broad range of applications; energy, water, food, virtually any scientific question. It will be key to partner with the right resources (see those referenced in "activities") to select the best pilot question(s) and to engage students at every level.

-Will this have a regional impact (5 County)? As a leader in this process the region would benefit from having a tool to help drive innovation and allow for a better skilled workforce and it could capitalize on those opportunities that demand advanced skills for its success. The region could serve as a great pilot to other rural (and urban) economic hubs as it partners with school districts, the university, DEED, and others.

#### -Is this project a "want., need or must have?

If the experts in industry, academics, and government are correct, developing this kind of skilled workforce and providing an orientation to these skills as young as possible (K-12) may be a critical factor for addressing the current economic disparity of the region. So, YES, it is a want, a need, and a must have.

-Does your project impact the quality of life for residents? Employability for high skilled high paying jobs has a direct impact on quality of life for residents. So, YES, but the impact will need to be measured long term.

#### -Does your project have economic or environmental benefits?

YES - Reference "Will this have a regional impact" and "Quality of life for residents". These kinds of skills require "life-time learning" and, as such, provide as much of a safeguard as any to providing a resilient economy in good time or bad. A healthy economy requires a diverse economy so it can adapt with and help create new opportunities.

-Does your project align with other or regional plans (comprehensive plans or the Resilient Region plan located at www.resilientregion.org)?

Again, effectively designed and implemented this process would lend itself to addressing specific questions in a broad range of applications/issues including the Resilient Region's 11 themes.

-Is there a committed group of People poised for implementation?

Hunt Utilities Group has over two years applying LOS for a specific scientific endeavor. There is active dialog with the university and other resource for pursuing a pilot if funded.

#### Q5: Space for additonal narrative if needed.

\* Referenced flow chart (under resources) can be found at-Part A: https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B0yO8n6-0MjNRWQ1SkJrQ01HWHM/edit?usp=sharing Part B: https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B0yO8n6-0MjNY05uLUhuaDNDWWs/edit?usp=sharing

#### Q6: Timeline (implementation period i.e. 12 - 24 - 36 months)

This funding is to support the ongoing development of the program over a 12 month period. This will include the development of necessary web-based tools for facilitating LOS dialog and supporting educators (U of MN, Department of Education, etc) in curriculum development.

#### Q7: Budget

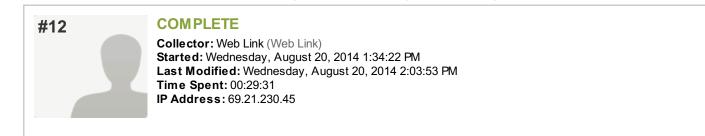
Gr. Duugei	
Income: how much will it cost to implement this project?	\$100,000
Expenses: catagory and amount. (examples; equipment, supplies, travel, personnel)	Software development including support/hosting university interns- \$70,000 Collaborative development, meetings, travel, hosting forums - \$30,000
Existing resources: (grants, in-kind)	HUG (in-kind) - staff time - \$50,000 University - \$TBD Others - \$TBD
Q8: Identify which of the 4 disciplines below your project idea addresses. (Check all that apply)	Economic Development (energy, local foods, broadband, emerging high growth sectors) , Comments All 11 themes of the Resilient Region may be applicable but specifically Economic Development. Well implemented, the Crowd Source Solution model has the unique capacity to transcend disciplines (or Champion themes). Beyond the software platform (and right team) to facilitate the discussion the key element is to engage "the crowd" with a narrowly defined yet engaging question that is in need of the solution.
Q9: Ordinances are in place or will be in place to support the idea.	N/A
Q10: Evaluate Success: What metrics will be used to	Triple Bottom Line Matrix,
evaluate success? (check all tht apply)	Other (please specify) Empirical measures of participation by: students (including levels of students: K-12, college, grad school, etc.) universities, research centers, think tanks, government agencies, corporate research groups, sponsorship, etc.

Q11: Region-wide benefit; Does the project benefit a wide range of people in the 5 county region: (check all that apply)

Q12: Please list any other information, comments or concerns about your community that you want us to know or feel would be useful for us to know.

Respondent skipped this question

Businesses, Socio or economically diverse groups



# **PAGE 1: Introduction/Demographics**

Contact Person Name:	Robert L McLean
Municipal or Agency Name:	Hunt Utilities Group, LLC
Address:	2331 Dancing Wind Road SW
City/Town:	Pine River
State:	MN
ZIP:	56474
County:	Cass
Email Address:	robertm@hugllc.com
Q2: Is the applicant (check all that apply)	Other,
	Other (please specify)
	R&D Company focused on high performance housing, resilient living

# PAGE 2: Project submittal

# Q3: Project Name

Agriculturally Resilient Communities (ARC) Similar concepts refer to Sustainable Communities, Agricultural Urbanism, Development Supported Agriculture (DSA), or Sustainable Urban Development

Q4: GIVE A DESCRIPTION OF YOUR PROJECT IDEA:1. Project Description details (descriptive for novice readers) Please address the following very breifly:(a) What is your project? (b) What need does it address? (c) Who will benefit or what will change if your project is implemented? (d) What specific activities (or strategies) are you going to undertake so that benefit or change will occur? (e) What resources do you have and what resources do you need to implement your activities? (or strategies).(f) Will this have a regional impact (5 county)?(g) Is this project a "want", "need" or "must have"?(h) Does your project impact the quality of life for residents?(i) Does your project have economic or environmental benefits?(j) Does your project align with other local or regional plans (comprehensive plans or the Resilient Region plan located at www.resilientregion.org)?(k) Is there a committed group of people poised for implementation?

#### -What is your project?

The project will define the attributes of a site based walkable community development that incorporates smallscale food production into and co-existing with a residential neighborhood. The housing focus will be structures that are affordable to build, own, and operate ("high performance"); micro-housing, single family, duplex, multifamily, multi-use (owner's home and small business). Food production would range from small container and raised bed gardens, traditional backyard gardens, community gardens, and commercial scale high-tunnels, market gardens, and small livestock production. The development would be placed in a site where the occupants

could conveniently walk to most basic services; post-office, clinic & pharmacy, grocery, retail, banking, recreation, etc. The project recognizes that "Community" comes from a sense of place as well as a sense of belonging. The social dynamic and interconnectedness of a diverse population will be an important part of the overall design. The project will incorporate conservation design and stormwater management strategies that capture and utilize rainwater as an asset.

### -What need does it address?

Globally, today's large scale agriculture practices exert an incredible toll that deplete and pollute soil and water resources. In the alternative, there are ecologically based agricultural practices, smaller in scale, that in the aggregate can have a substantial positive impact economically, ecologically, and in social equitability. Growing more food locally has the potential to improve our local economy, decrease our "food miles", and improve the nutritional quality of what we consume.

Food, energy, and economic securities are key factors for a family, a community, and beyond. A resilient community is one that strengthens the capacity of individual households to maximize the use of limited resources while participating in and supporting an interdependent network of local goods and services. The more local the participants, the greater the capacity of households and the community to weather the ebbs and flows of outside forces.

# -Who will benefit or what will change if your project is implemented?

The positive trend in local foods is increasing demand but it is also increasing the disparity between that demand and supply; especially for the economically challenged.

In our region, a disproportionate number of veterans, elderly, and youth come from low income homes. The ARC starts with the home and the home garden, which builds resilience and security of neighborhoods and the community. Through the Local Food Innovation Center and other networks, residents can store/process what they will need, then sell the excess, further supporting economic development and security. The economically challenged, the veteran, the elderly and youth, can join other resident members becoming aware of and participating in the economic and social opportunities that a local food system provides while benefitting directly from a more nutrient dense whole-foods diet.

-What specific activities or strategies are you going to undertake so that benefit or change will occur? The Resilient Living Campus (RPM/HUG/HDT), working in direct collaboration with the Resilient Region Champions will design a pilot ARC. Though the design will be site specific, the key attributes of the design are intended to be adaptable/transferable to other locations that the Resilient Region Champions are pursuing in the coming years. The design will address development supported agriculture with a direct link to the emerging regional local food network and support diversified, sustainable agricultural practices at the household, neighborhood, and community level. The design will address social interconnectedness, walkability, and access to area retail, medical, banking, recreational, and other lifestyle staples. To further support this concept, the development will be located close to the proposed Local Food Innovation Center. The design will provide a model for other communities, beyond the region, to use as a base for exploring their own ARC.

-What resources do you have and what resources do you need to implement your activities (or strategies) Organizations on the Resilient Living Campus have years of experience in high performance building design and construction, energy conservation, renewable energy research, and resilient agricultural production. The organizations are actively involved at the local, regional, and state level on related initiatives. That said, for this project to succeed we will need the active engagement of other Resilient Region Champions to assure the practicality, feasibility, adaptability, and transferability of an ARC design. Outside facilitation of community engagement may also be fruitful. Financial support to help address the cost of the design will be essential. It will be imperative to leverage the connectedness of the Resilient Region and its champions to outside resources; university assistance, agency assistance, etc.

The Resilient Living Campus has been host to numerous university interns in a variety of disciplines. An additional regional benefit would come from documenting the process of creating an ARC design. This documentation will be incorporated into resources for future community development as well as college level curriculum for community/rural design initiatives. Support for interns and for this documentation will be needed.

# -Will this have a regional impact (5 County)?

Based on the already identified needs of the region in housing, health, and the disproportionately high percentage of veterans, the elderly, and youth living in poverty, a pilot design that has transferability within the region could have a high impact and a high return on grant dollars.

-Is this project a "want., need or must have?

Given the priorities established by the Resilient Region study and noting the existing disparities of the pilot site this project is a want, a need, and a must have.

-Does your project impact the quality of life for residents?

Yes, by effectively addressing affordable/quality housing, quality local food, enhanced economic well being, and a more resilient community, the quality of life for residents of the pilot site and for future ARC sites would be positively impacted.

-Does your project have economic or environmental benefits?

YES! Reference previous questions on Needs addressed - Benefits, Strategies, and Impact. Effectively implemented this project would have positive benefits economically, environmentally, ecologically, and in social equality.

-Does your project align with other or regional plans (comprehnsive plans or the Resilient Region plan located at www. resilientregion.org?

Absolutely! The project aligns with the objectives of multiple disciplines within the 11 Resilient Region Themes and would specifically engage the Champions participating in the most relevant themes; Housing, Economic Development, Land Use, Infrastructure, Education, Interconnected Communities - Health and Wellbeing, Interconnected Communities - Changing Population, and Efficiency & Effectiveness.

-Is there a committed group of People poised for implementation? The organizations on the Resilient Living Campus have a strong commitment to this project as well as an ongoing commitment to the implementation of the goals outline in the Resilient Region plan.

Q5: Space for additonal narrative if needed.

Respondent skipped this question

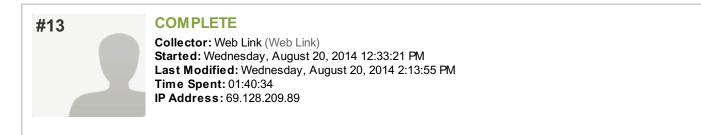
# Q6: Timeline (implementation period i.e. 12 - 24 - 36 months)

Funding would support the initial steps to completing the pilot development plan within 12 months of funding.

# Q7: Budget

Income: how much will it cost to implement this project?	\$35,000
Expenses: catagory and amount. (examples; equipment, supplies, travel, personnel)	Professional design expense, regulatory expenses - \$10,000 planning development, collaborative meetings, interns - \$5000
Existing resources: (grants, in-kind)	RPM/HUG/HDT (in-kind) staff time - \$13,000 Resilient Region Champions (expected in- kind) - \$5000 Producers (expected in-kind) - \$2000
Q8: Identify which of the 4 disciplines below your project idea addresses. (Check all that apply)	Housing, Transportaion, Economic Development (energy, local foods, broadband, emerging high growth sectors) , Land Use, Comments Again, the project aligns with the objectives of multiple disciplines within the 11 Resilient Region Themes. In addition to the 4 listed disciplines it aligns with: Infrastructure, Education, Interconnected Communities - Health and Well- being, Interconnected Communities - Changing Population, and Efficiency & Effectiveness.

Q9: Ordinances are in place or will be in place to support the idea.	N/A, Predicted date of passing ordinance TBD There may be community specific ordinance that future ARCs will need to address.
Q10: Evaluate Success: What metrics will be used to evaluate success? (check all tht apply)	Green Step Cities, Triple Bottom Line Matrix, Conservation Design Score Card, Decrease in Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)
Q11: Region-wide benefit; Does the project benefit a wide range of people in the 5 county region: (check all that apply)	Municipal jurisdictions, Watersheds, Businesses, Socio or economically diverse groups, Other (please specify) NOTE: (Watersheds would benefit by the use of ecologically based agricultural practices in the small farm aspects)
Q12: Please list any other information, comments or concerns about your community that you want us to know or feel would be useful for us to know.	Respondent skipped this question



# **PAGE 1: Introduction/Demographics**

Economic development organization, Non-profit,
katejea@gmail.com
Cass County
56474
MN
Pine River
P.O. Box 187
Pine River Area Foundation
Kathryn J. Hunt

# PAGE 2: Project submittal

# Q3: Project Name

TEDxMNLakes Project

Q4: GIVE A DESCRIPTION OF YOUR PROJECT IDEA:1. Project Description details (descriptive for novice readers) Please address the following very breifly:(a) What is your project? (b) What need does it address? (c) Who will benefit or what will change if your project is implemented? (d) What specific activities (or strategies) are you going to undertake so that benefit or change will occur? (e) What resources do you have and what resources do you need to implement your activities? (or strategies).(f) Will this have a regional impact (5 county)?(g) Is this project a "want", "need" or "must have"?(h) Does your project impact the quality of life for residents?(i) Does your project have economic or environmental benefits?(j) Does your project align with other local or regional plans (comprehensive plans or the Resilient Region plan located at www.resilientregion.org)?(k) Is there a committed group of people poised for implementation?

#### Summary description of project:

The TEDxMNLakes Project is designed to benefit the Resilient Region by prompting participating communities, organizations, and individuals to expand the conversation and connection on the Resilient Region's championed themes. This expansion of thought, collaboration, creativity will be organized through a one-day licensed TEDx (an "independently organized TED event.") The TEDxMNLakes Project will provide a platform for creative, innovative people and ideas for the benefit of changemakers and inspired thinkers from our region and beyond, expanding the dialog within our regional community through ideas and concepts that foster all aspects of resilient living.

Please see the TEDx website for further information and examples of the proposed project: http://www.ted.com/about/programs-initiatives/tedx-programDxMNLakes

a) What is your project?

TEDxMNLakes will be a licensed, independently organized TEDx event for the Resilient Region, connecting regional resources with local and global changemakers focused on the Resilient Region's eleven themes.

b) What need does it address?

In order to keep the dialog of the Resilient Region engaged, current, and fresh, it requires various creative approaches to communicating with regional participants, as well as collaborations with like-minded people beyond the region. TEDxMNLakes will create a unique experience to address this head-on.

c) Who will benefit or what will change if your project is implemented

The local community of Region Five will benefit from TEDxMNLakes addressing key needs identified in the Resilient Region Study. Additionally, the greater Midwest, Minnesota, other rural regions, and sponsoring organizations benefit by participating and having a model to emulate for their own regions; HUD, EPA, USDA, NADO, Blandin, Bush, McKnight, etc. On a broader level, the TEDxMNLakes event will highlight the Resilient Region on a global scale by featuring each TEDx talk on the internet, and allowing for the dissemination of local ideas, concepts and perspectives to the broader global community.

d) What specific activities or strategies are you going to undertake so that benefit or change will occur? Please see attached list of tasks/strategies outlined in the TEDxMNLakes Project Plan, which will culminate in a regional TEDx event to be held in Aug - October 2015.

e) What resources do you have and what resources do you need to implement your activities (or strategies) In addition to a TED fellow serving as curator, we have a core team of individuals who have actively participated in the Resilient Region initiative and are avid supporters of the TED process. In addition to existing resources and grant support, we will need other Resilient Region champions and volunteers to help promote, sponsor, and participate in the establishment of a regionally focused TEDx. Please see attached list of tasks/strategies outlined in the TEDxMNLakes Project Plan

f)Will this have a regional impact (5 County)?

A TEDx, aligned with the identified needs of the Resilient Region, provides an important platform for communities/participants to draw on changemakers and inspiring experts in housing, health, connectivity, the economically disadvantages, etc to expand on established goals, explore what is possible, and work together to make the possible a reality.

An immediate impact will be the involvement and engagement of the 5 County community and beyond. The educational impact for raising the bar of resiliency in the Resilient Region will be one of the strongest influences of the TEDxMNLakes event on the community, and will continue to drive the standard of involvement ahead.

g) Is this project a "want, need, or must have?

If the work of the Resilient Region is to continue long into the future, it will be essential to find various venues and platforms to keep the region, the champions, sponsors and partners committed, energized, and engaged. So the answer would be "YES" – it is a want, need, AND must have!

h) Does your project impact the quality of life for residents?

Absolutely! First, from the standpoint of social and intellectual benefit, TEDxMNLakes will provide a venue that offers knowledge and inspiration from inspired thinkers in the local and global communities. It will also enrich their experience, encourage participation in the eleven themes, and contribute significantly to those themes. Done well, it will also draw worthy support and additional resources well beyond the region.

i) Does your project have economic or environmental benefits

Yes! To the extent that it adds to, and aligns with the implementation of the Resilient Region's eleven themes, it will foster economic and environmental benefits by deriving those benefits for the third leg of the triple bottom line; social equity!

j) Does your project align with other regional plans (comprehensive plans of the Resilient Region plan located at www.resilientregion.org)?

Definitely! The TEDxMNLakes talks would align with the Resilient Region plan via the topics drawn upon, round table discussions and break-out sessions. Ultimately, the project will tap into the creative potential of speakers and attendees to come up with unique solutions to local/global community issues united with the Resilient Region plan.

A curator/organizer is already identified (a TED Fellow and TED Speaker), and a core team has started the process with the expectation that more inspired individuals from the Resilient Region will become engaged once the project is approved! Again, please see the list of tasks & strategies from the TEDxMNLakes Project Plan.

Q5: Space for additonal narrative if needed.

Respondent skipped this question

# Q6: Timeline (implementation period i.e. 12 - 24 - 36 months)

We anticipate the inaugural TEDx event to take place in August to October, 2015 -- so the event would take place approximately 12 months after approval.

Expected cost of event = \$31,600.00 + unforeseen costs. Incoming funding (approx) = \$5,000 from ticket sales + Sponsorship + In-kind services. We expect 200 participants, which will include full price, discount, and scholarship tickets. An additional 50 participants will include speakers, coordinating volunteers, and sponsors and will not be paying-attendees. Expected cost (\$20,000) - Income(\$5,000) = \$15,000 Seeking \$15,000 in CEDs Grant Dollars
Please see TEDxMNLakes Project Plan document for expected expenses under the column "SWAG COST"
There is a catalytic team initiating the project as in-kind volunteers. We will also be seeking sponsorship in the form of donations and in-kind services for the remaining amount.
Housing, Transportaion,
Economic Development (energy, local foods, broadband, emerging high growth sectors) ,
Land Use,
Comments The TEDxMNLakes would provide a platform for addressing and expanding on ALL four disciplines and eleven themes
N/A
Triple Bottom Line Matrix
Municipal jurisdictions, Watersheds, Businesses, Socio or economically diverse groups, Other (please specify) The TEDx would provide a platform for addressing

Q12: Please list any other information, comments or concerns about your community that you want us to know or feel would be useful for us to know.

Kathy Hoefs will send an email with the pdf. copy of this application, as well as the TEDxMNLakes Project Plan document, as referred to in the above CEDS Grant application.

Thank you for your consideration.



### **PAGE 1: Introduction/Demographics**

Contact Person Name:	Robert L McLean
Municipal or Agency Name:	Hunt Utilities Group, LLC + Happy Dancing Turtle
Address:	2331 Dancing Wind Road SW
City/Town:	Pine River
State:	MN
ZIP:	56474
County:	Cass
Email Address:	robertm@hugllc.com
Q2: Is the applicant (check all that apply)	Non-profit, Other,

# PAGE 2: Project submittal

# Q3: Project Name

Roundtable Forums for the Advancement of Regional Food Systems

Q4: GIVE A DESCRIPTION OF YOUR PROJECT IDEA:1. Project Description details (descriptive for novice readers) Please address the following very breifly:(a) What is your project? (b) What need does it address? (c) Who will benefit or what will change if your project is implemented? (d) What specific activities (or strategies) are you going to undertake so that benefit or change will occur? (e) What resources do you have and what resources do you need to implement your activities? (or strategies).(f) Will this have a regional impact (5 county)?(g) Is this project a "want", "need" or "must have"?(h) Does your project impact the quality of life for residents?(i) Does your project have economic or environmental benefits?(j) Does your project align with other local or regional plans (comprehensive plans or the Resilient Region plan located at www.resilientregion.org)?(k) Is there a committed group of people poised for implementation?

#### -What is your project?

In collaboration with University Extension and AURI, establish a series of food system Roundtables that engage key stakeholders, produce actionable results, and inform those engaged in food systems research. This would be a statewide collaboration of vested stakeholders working to scale-up regional food systems including entrepreneurship, production, distribution, processing, food safety, nutrition, and cooking skills.

#### -What need does it address?

Regional food system operations in Minnesota have reached a critical stage of maturity with mainstream acceptance and appreciation. Small and medium scale producers need to scale-up operations in order to meet

consumer demand above and beyond direct marketing.

Infrastructure for small scale (non-commodity) crops are underdeveloped or non-existent in Minnesota regions. A push to develop food hubs and value added processing facilities has arisen from growers and food entrepreneurs in order to serve regional markets, but economies of scale and slim profit margins are rarely aligned for endeavors to develop successfully.

This project builds upon work done to date by setting the groundwork for creating communities of practice, building shared opportunity partnerships, and facilitating progress towards addressing current and emerging challenges in regional food systems. The project is important since it allows stakeholders to create a platform from which to move long and short term strategic actions forward.

-Who will benefit or what will change if your project is implemented?

Benefit will come, first and foremost to area consumers interested in the benefits and increased availability of local food. In addition benefit will come to small scale growers, institutional consumers, educators, university faculty, grocers, food hub representatives, distributors/other supply chain representatives, health services, various departments of government, legislators, associations, cooperatives, and foundations... all who share an interest in this vital and growing segment of our local economy.

-What specific activities or strategies are you going to undertake so that benefit or change will occur? As part of a statewide series our region would host a Roundtable discussions to:

• Provide opportunities for stakeholders to identify barriers, solutions, and form networks needed to accomplish identified solutions and/or next steps

• Bring in resources to address specific technical or business issues to promote profitability and viability of small and medium scale Minnesota food producers and food related businesses

• Bring in external stakeholders together with Extension and University researchers to identify research, education, and outreach needs for regional food systems

-What resources do you have and what resources do you need to implement your activities (or strategies) The core team advancing this initiative is the Resilient Living Campus (HUG/HDT), AURI, and University Extension and Regional Partnerships. AURI created the template for this approach with their successful Renewable Energy Roundtable Forums. Extension comes from a background of a century long capacity to conduct statewide collaborations with vested stakeholders, working to scale-up regional food systems. The Resilient Living Campus has been an active catalyst, convener, and engaged participant in the programs supported by AURI and Extension.

This core team will be seeking additional resources and funding from various agencies and foundation to help promote, sponsor, and fund the Roundtable Forums.

-Will this have a regional impact (5 County)?

Absolutely. This initiative is a direct outgrowth of the Resilient Region plan with collaboration along a broad base of stakeholders supporting the advancement of local food in the region. This initiative puts the region at the forefront of this statewide effort.

-Is this project a "want., need or must have?

This would certainly be a want in that we would want our region to be a host of one of the select few Roundtable forums that are planned. If our region wants to be a leader and host, preferably hosting the FIRST Roundtable the support (in-kind, collaboration, grants) will be a need and a must have.

-Does your project impact the quality of life for residents?

Certainly! The Roundtable forum brings a holistic approach to local food. Participation in the discussion on technical, policy, market, ecological, and economic issues raises the bar of awareness and capacity to live more resiliently as a household, a community, and a region.

-Does your project have economic or environmental benefits?

One of the key impacts on quality of life for residents (prior question) is our region's ability to engage stakeholders and experts from the region, the state, and beyond. Again, the Roundtable forum brings a holistic approach to local food from an economic and environmental aspect but equally important in social equity; the participation at every economic/social level to build capacity for resilient living.

-Does your project align with other or regional plans (comprehensive plans or the Resilient Region plan located at www. resilientregion.org?

Specifically, the catalyst for the project is the Resilient Region plan and draws on many of the eleven themes; The structure of the forum also speaks to other Resilient Region Themes; Economic Development, Land Use,

Infrastructure, Education, Health and Well-being, our Changing Population, and Efficiency & Effectiveness. In addition, it aligns directly with the efforts of University Extension (Statewide Sustainable Partnership), AURI's long term strategic thinking for outreach.

-Is there a committed group of People poised for implementation?

YES, there is already stated commitment to support a statewide series of Roundtable forums from University Extension (Statewide Sustainable Partnership), AURI, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, and USDA Rural Development.

# Q5: Space for additonal narrative if needed.

There is great enthusiasm to move this project forward. It would be great for our region if we were a site (preferably the first site) for one of the select Roundtable Forums.

# Q6: Timeline (implementation period i.e. 12 - 24 - 36 months)

There are between 3 and 6 Roundtable forums in the plan depending upon available funding. Initial implementation will take 12 months, expanded to 24 months if additional resources are available to support all six Roundtable forums.

#### Q7: Budget

QA: Budget	
Income: how much will it cost to implement this project?	The estimated overall costs for planning, organizing, and presenting at least three forums is approximately \$63,000. We are seeking \$15,000 in grants to help off-set One Third of the overall cost (\$21,000)
Expenses: catagory and amount. (examples; equipment, supplies, travel, personnel)	as it relates to the one third of overall costs (\$21,000) Venue and meals - \$3,000 Keynote expenses - \$1,000 Travel Stipend + Scholarship for underserved - \$1,000 Personnel - \$15,000 Other expenses: media, materials, etc - \$1,000
Existing resources: (grants, in-kind)	Current grants and in-kind - \$6,000
Q8: Identify which of the 4 disciplines below your project idea addresses. (Check all that apply)	Transportaion, Economic Development (energy, local foods, broadband, emerging high growth sectors) , Land Use, Comments The structure of the forum also speaks to other Resilient Region Themes; Education, Health and Well-being, our Changing Population, and Efficiency & Effectiveness
Q9: Ordinances are in place or will be in place to support the idea.	N/A, Predicted date of passing ordinance For this project, there are not ordinance issues but changes in Ordinances and Regulation may be an outcome of the forums

Q10: Evaluate Success: What metrics will be used to evaluate success? (check all tht apply)	Green Step Cities, Triple Bottom Line Matrix,	
	Conservation Design Score Card,	
	Decrease in Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT),	
	Other (please specify) Number of participants including: students, educators, private sector stakeholders, local growers, food co-ops, institutions (schools, hospitals, senior living), legislators, etc	
Q11: Region-wide benefit; Does the project benefit a wide range of people in the 5 county region: (check all that apply)	Municipal jurisdictions, Watersheds, Businesses,	
	Socio or economically diverse groups	
Q12: Please list any other information, comments or concerns about your community that you want us to know or feel would be useful for us to know.	Respondent skipped this question	



### **PAGE 1: Introduction/Demographics**

Q1: Please provide your contact information	Duran Llout	
Contact Person Name:	Ryan Hunt	
Municipal or Agency Name:	HUG/HDT	
Address:	2331 Dancing Wind	
City/Town:	Pine River	
State:	MN	
ZIP:	56474	
County:	Cass	
Email Address:	ryanhunt@hugllc.com	
Q2: Is the applicant (check all that apply)	Other,	
	Other (please specify) For Profit/Non Profit Organization	

# PAGE 2: Project submittal

# Q3: Project Name

Local Food Innovation Center

Q4: GIVE A DESCRIPTION OF YOUR PROJECT IDEA:1. Project Description details (descriptive for novice readers) Please address the following very breifly:(a) What is your project? (b) What need does it address? (c) Who will benefit or what will change if your project is implemented? (d) What specific activities (or strategies) are you going to undertake so that benefit or change will occur? (e) What resources do you have and what resources do you need to implement your activities? (or strategies).(f) Will this have a regional impact (5 county)?(g) Is this project a "want", "need" or "must have"?(h) Does your project impact the quality of life for residents?(i) Does your project have economic or environmental benefits?(j) Does your project align with other local or regional plans (comprehensive plans or the Resilient Region plan located at www.resilientregion.org)?(k) Is there a committed group of people poised for implementation?

-Project Description details (descriptive for novice readers)

We envision a local food innovation center focused on the question of how to get more food grown locally and eaten locally. Key aspects to this mission, as identified in an ongoing feasibility study, are:

- Growing Growers through trainings and initiatives to help overcome obstacles for local growers

- Connecting growers to markets through collaboration with local food hubs and institutions, facilitating value added processing, as well as education for local eaters

- Innovation Initiatives such as technology to enable better collaboration between growers, solutions for year round production, and production tracking and troubleshooting systems

-what is your project?

What can we do to get more of what we eat to come from nearby? That is the question our proposed Local Food Innovation Center will attempt to answer.

Hunt Utilities Group is in the middle of a feasibility study for such a center. The study will result in a list of services such a center could offer in order to help growers supply local markets. The center will focus on being a locus of creativity that continues to innovate around these questions.

The feasibility study has lead us to identify many challenges local growers face and many requirements and expectations local food buyers have. We have also identified and contacted many organizations out there that already deliver services to address these challenges.

We plan to assemble a small team of champions for local foods that will connect resources like training, markets, technical innovations, and physical infrastructure with growers in our local area. The exact services and facilities to be part of the center will be determined as we go forward with the feasibility study, but strong emphasis continues to be placed on teaming up with existing organizations and existing facilities.

# -What need does it address?

ACCESS is critical to growers. Access to markets, to expertise, to facilities for processing and distribution. The region has a good base of potential local food growers with a market of increasing demand. It is a challenge for small scale growers, geographically dispersed, to gain access to the growing markets efficiently and effectively. The food sector is complex. Gaining access to affordable distribution, processing, AND the innovations that are an inherent part of a growing sector is challenging for small scale operations. Many hold more than one job just to make ends meet so time for research is at a premium. The issue is compounded by a consumer market which has grown overly dependent on the abundance of cheap energy to grow cheap food in unnatural ways and to transport it long distances. Our region would be much more resilient if we collectively grew, processed, and distributed food closer to where we ate it.

-Who will benefit or what will change if your project is implemented? Beneficiaries: Local Growers Local Eaters (from vulnerable youth and the elderly to those dining in the finest restaurants) Local Economies Our soil (and capacity to grow health foods) Health Services (even Insurance Companies) Everyone and everything that relies on clean air and clean water

-What specific activities or strategies are you going to undertake so that benefit or change will occur?

- 1. Finish feasibility study
- 2. Find a core champion(s)

3. Map out the strategies that will support an infrastructure that is sustainable long term

-What resources do you have and what resources do you need to implement your activities (or strategies) Resources:

- The Resilient Living Campus with Hunt Utilities Group (HUG), Happy Dancing Turtle (HDT), and strong diverse governance

- Long standing credible ties to the local food community

- Well established working relationships with statewide programs; UMN Extension, AURI, Land Stewardship Project, SFA, SPROUT, Rural Development (USDA), DEED, Department of Commerce, etc.

-Local resources include the Pine River Backus School District, restaurants, grocery stores, farmers markets, and area producers and producer groups such as the Crow Wing River Basin Forage Council and the Cass County Farm Bureau.

# Resources needed:

The vision is still being refined as we are mid way through the feasibility study. The scope could range from a modest plan of one advocate continuing to facilitate collaborative relationships to a major center complete with full food processing and education kitchen(s), a food hub distribution facility, a food lab, and entrepreneurial center.
A key step will be identifying that right full time champion to take this focus forward

-Will this have a regional impact (5 County)?

YES! There are small growers all over the region. Offering services out of a location in Pine River will benefit growers and buyers in the top half of Region 5, strengthening the region's capacity to meet growing need and demand for healthy local food through a more established region-wide local food network. By collaborating with Sprout and other initiatives to make a vibrant local food environment, our efforts will positively affect the whole region.

-Is this project a "want., need or must have?

Given the priorities established by the Resilient Region study and noting the existing challenges of successfully connecting the broad base of small scale growers, this project is a want, a need, and a must have.

-Does your project have economic or environmental benefits?

Money spent locally has a very large multiplier effect. A vibrant local food economy may have the effect of redirecting a sizable portion of the current food budgets for families and institutions from long distance food to local food. If even 10% of the money spent on food is redirected back into the local economy, that has the potential to make a lot of jobs.

Ecologically speaking, having bunches of farmers doing bad practices in our backyards could make ecological problems that are currently happening in California, Mexico, or Brazil instead. On the other hand, if we advocate farming practices based on soil health and diverse cropping systems, then we could make a veritable oasis.

Adding to that, if the innovation center serves as a resource to compliment educational initiatives, like Extension, the gap in social equity with healthy food disparity can be significantly bridged.

-Does your project align with other or regional plans (comprehensive plans or the Resilient Region plan located at www. resilientregion.org)?

Yes. The project aligns with the objectives of multiple disciplines within the 11 Resilient Region Themes and would specifically engage the Champions participating in the most relevant themes; Economic Development, Land Use, Infrastructure, Education, Health and Well-being, our Changing Population, and Efficiency & Effectiveness.

-Is there a committed group of People poised for implementation? Hunt Utilities Group and Resilient Living Council can provide much of the manpower, support, and infrastructure. Going forward, we would engage our close allies to make the Innovation Center a reality; UMN Extension, AURI, Land Stewardship Project, SPROUT, SFA, Rural Development (USDA), DEED, Department of Commerce, etc.

**Q5: Space for additonal narrative if needed.** *Respondent skipped this question* 

# Q6: Timeline (implementation period i.e. 12 - 24 - 36 months)

Once the critical questions inherent in the feasibility study are answered and a center is deemed vital and funding for a major center became available, we would expect the center to be up and operating within 24 months... recognizing that the center AND the timeframe will be highly dependent on obtaining the necessary support.

# Q7: Budget

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Income: how much will it cost to implement this project?

TBD. This could be a small office absorbed within the Resilient Living Campus or a substantial facility that could cost upwards of \$2.5 Million.

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# **PAGE 1: Introduction/Demographics**

Contact Person Name:	Chet Bodin
Municipal or Agency Name:	Minnesota Rising
Address:	8053 Gladstone Lake Rd
City/Town:	Nisswa
State:	MN
ZIP:	56401
County:	Crow Wing
Email Address:	chetbodin@gmail.com
Q2: Is the applicant (check all that apply)	Other,
	Other (please specify) Young Public Professional Network

# PAGE 2: Project submittal

# Q3: Project Name

Greater Minnesota Rising

Q4: GIVE A DESCRIPTION OF YOUR PROJECT IDEA:1. Project Description details (descriptive for novice readers) Please address the following very breifly:(a) What is your project? (b) What need does it address? (c) Who will benefit or what will change if your project is implemented? (d) What specific activities (or strategies) are you going to undertake so that benefit or change will occur? (e) What resources do you have and what resources do you need to implement your activities? (or strategies).(f) Will this have a regional impact (5 county)?(g) Is this project a "want", "need" or "must have"?(h) Does your project impact the quality of life for residents?(i) Does your project have economic or environmental benefits?(j) Does your project align with other local or regional plans (comprehensive plans or the Resilient Region plan located at www.resilientregion.org)?(k) Is there a committed group of people poised for implementation?

(a) Proposal for a regional group with a central board to connect existing YP groups in NW Minnesota locations Alexandria, Moorhead, Bemidji, Brainerd and Warroad. This group exists to create a stronger network of young professionals Norrhwest MN, and more exposure to opportunities here. In addition, the group will organize a shared purpose through an evaluation of its member organizations, developing a coordinated direction for these groups to aspire and design programming around.

(b) the purpose of the regional network is to recruit and retain professional talent, with a focus on the Generation X and Millennial population. The need addressed is the development of a more robust and diverse workforce who will lead the region in the next generation. The organizing purpose is to market professional life in the region, and do so through a personal network of experienced and thriving young professionals here, who may provide an

immediate sense of collegiality and detailed input to nuanced questions job seekers from outside the region may have.

(c) Young Professional Groups in multiple Northwest area locations will be coordinated with common goals, shared vision and organizing resources, in person and online. The region, its communities, and public and private institutions will benefit by recruiting and retaining its ranks or young professionals.. Job seekers from outside the region will benefit from better insight into personal and professional life here, expanding their realistic options for work at any stage of their career.

The stated goals are as follows:

- 1) Create a communication channel and talent network between NW Minnesota and the seven-county metro area
- 2) Retain talent in Northwest Minnesota
- 3) Promote the benefits and values of working in Greater Minnesota / Northwest MN

(d) Steps to accomplish this include

1) Recruit a 'Reorganization and Engagement' Committee from the member organizations who are committed to forming a regional network.

2) Conduct a qualitative evaluation study of the existing YPN groups in the NW Minnesota to organize their efforts to recruitment and retain young professionals with a shared vision of leadership and the future in NW MN..

3) Host Two Region-wide events and mixers

4) Host a MN Rising event in the region, connecting TC network to burgeoning NW network

(e) There are 5 existing YPN groups who are interested in connecting to a regional network. Each group is connected to an area chamber of commerce and is entrenched in their respective communities. We need funds to carry out the next steps and IT support to develop an online presence.

(f) yes. Recruiting and retaining professional talent is an objective of the region.

(g) This project is a 'must have'. YPN groups exist in Northwest MN, but early research indicated they often lack direction or a formidable strategy to bring new talent to the area. A regional group will provide them with a greater regional purpose, immediately adding to their capacity to communicate inside and outside the region. Without such a connection and greater focus on the region's future, YPN groups have suffered from a lack of participation and stability. Given a difficult job market, the prospect of even searching for a job outside of one's established area is daunting, and often unthinkable to young professionals in other locations. A capable regional network with adequate financing and support must exist to eliminate these barriers and any other preconceived stereotypes of living and working in the region.

(i) Yes. As part of the organizing effort, the qualitative research will ask members what they envision for the future of the region, and what leadership means to them in this generation. In developing a shared vision around these topics, the regional network will enhance the outlook for all residents. In addition, a more connected regional network will improve communication and a sense of belonging to its members and prospective members.

(j) A region-wide young professional network has unlimited potential to add to the social and economic fabric of the region.

(j) The Greater Minnesota Rising proposal aligns directly with the following goals outlined in the Resilient Region Plan:

1) Educating and retaining workforce: Facets of this issue include; understanding the demographic and skill make-up of the people in the region's major employment sectors. Other key components of this issue include lifelong learning aspects: how to keep young workers in the region, how to attract & retain talent, and how to best utilize an older workforce. Collaboration between private/public/non-profit sectors is of paramount importance for recommendations and actions to be successful under this theme.

2) Support sites: Make available sites providing educational, internet, support, financial resources,

(h) Yes, we have been in discussion with young professional groups in the five stated locations to carry out the initial evaluation, which is designed to develop a shared vision for the member groups in the areas of recruiting and retaining young professionals to the region. The Minnesota Rising- Twin Cities group is ready to help us carry out the initializing stages the new network, provide guidance from their own experience forming, and an output for a

communication channel from Northwest to other groups of young professionals in the Twin Cities who are jobseeking or just curious to learn about life in the region.

Q5: Space for additonal narrative if needed.

Respondent skipped this question

# Q6: Timeline (implementation period i.e. 12 - 24 - 36 months)

6	month	
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Q7: Budget	
Income: how much will it cost to implement this project?	\$15,000
Expenses: catagory and amount. (examples; equipment, supplies, travel, personnel)	Travel-6k; Events-3k; Evaluation Research and Report-6k
Existing resources: (grants, in-kind)	Chet Bodin, MN Rising
Q8: Identify which of the 4 disciplines below your project idea addresses. (Check all that apply)	Economic Development (energy, local foods, broadband, emerging high growth sectors)
Q9: Ordinances are in place or will be in place to support the idea.	N/A
Q10: Evaluate Success: What metrics will be used to evaluate success? (check all tht apply)	Conservation Design Score Card,
	Other (please specify) The formation of a regional network with dedicated time, resources and personnel to reach its goals.
Q11: Region-wide benefit; Does the project benefit a wide range of people in the 5 county region: (check all that apply)	Businesses,
	Socio or economically diverse groups,
	Other (please specify) Young Professionals, Regional Institutions
Q12: Please list any other information, comments or concerns about your community that you want us to know or feel would be useful for us to know.	Respondent skipped this question