

*Blandin Foundation is pleased to announce \$740,000 in new funding for broadband development and promotion in Southwest Minnesota**

The *Light Speed Grant Program* provides matching funds to support project implementation of new broadband applications from institutions (schools, health care facilities, etc.) to the home or between institutions with a priority on applications that reach home users.

The *Open Access Feasibility Fund* provides matching grants to communities for feasibility studies for deploying Open Networks. Open Networks enable multiple, competitive retail providers to use the same network by purchasing access from a wholesale network owner and manager. Other business models, including municipal utility or other private-public partnership arrangements can also be examined through the feasibility study process.

RSVP by sending your contact information, including the city where you plan to attend, to

broadband@blandinfoundation.org.

Please make your area health care providers and educational institutions aware of the *Light Speed* grant program as they are key prospective applicants.

* Communities and organizations in the following 28 southwestern Minnesota counties will be eligible to apply for funds: Chippewa, Kandiyohi, McLeod, Meeker, Nicollet, Renville, Sibley, Lac Qui Parle, Lincoln, Lyon, Redwood, Yellow Medicine, Brown, Cottonwood, Jackson, Martin, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, Rock, Watonwan, Blue Earth, Faribault, Freeborn, LeSueur, Rice, Steele, and Waseca Counties

Workshop Schedule

Prospective applicants are invited to attend one of these pre-application sessions.

Mankato - June 17, 2008

9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Technology Plus, Room B
1961 Premier Drive

Litchfield - June 18, 2008

9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Meeker County Courthouse
Community Room
325 Sibley Avenue

Appleton - June 18, 2008

2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Shooters Grill
530 2nd Ave N

Slayton - June 27, 2008

9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Southwest Regional Development
Commission
2401 Broadway Avenue, Suite 1

Questions? Contact Bill Coleman at bill@communitytechnologyadvisors.com or 651-491-2551.