



Blandin Community Leadership Program

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is the Blandin Foundation?

The Blandin Foundation is a private independent foundation based in Grand Rapids, Minnesota. Its mission is to strengthen rural Minnesota communities, especially the Grand Rapids area, through grants, leadership programs, and public policy initiatives. For more information about the Foundation visit www.blandinfoundation.org.

What is the Blandin Community Leadership Program?

Since 1985, the Blandin Community Leadership Program (BCLP) has provided intensive leadership training to over 7,000 rural community leaders in Minnesota. BCLP is nationally recognized and works with emerging and established leaders in rural communities to deepen their understanding of community dynamics and strengthen their skills for initiating and managing change.

Who is the program for?

The program serves rural Minnesota communities. Individuals are recruited from selected communities and become part of a 24-person community cohort. Each community cohort is a cross section of the community in terms of age, gender, ethnicity, and sector, representing a wide variety of networks including: businesses, nonprofits, government, healthcare, and education, among others.

Recruitment efforts focus on individuals who are:

- Actively involved in community life
- Credible and open minded
- Open to risk-taking
- Passionate about their community's future
- Willing to work collaboratively to promote healthy community

How many days is the training?

The program is a residential retreat that involves eight days of training over a six month period. The training begins with a 5-day residential retreat held south of Grand Rapids, MN, and continues with three separate 1-day workshops that continue to build on the skills and networks that began at the retreat. These workshops are held in the home community.



What skills do you focus on?

BCLP is highly experiential learning and is centered on three core competencies of community leadership that are essential for building and sustaining healthy community.



Framing: The creation of shared meaning about issues affecting community health that influences action choices.

Social Capital: A network of relationships for getting things done for a healthy community.

Mobilization: Engaging enough people, resources, and power to get the job done.

While the skills addressed in the program are not new to most participants, the way these skills are applied to community settings adds to the effectiveness of even highly experienced leaders. Some of the skills include the following:

- Communications that foster understanding, efficiency, and cooperation
- Networking that brings together people, ideas, and solutions
- Conflict management
- Stakeholders analysis

What are the program costs?

The cost for program participants is their commitment of time and travel to the site. The Foundation covers the overall cost of the program including training materials (approximately \$4000/person).

What sort of opportunities does the program bring?

The Blandin Foundation makes a substantial investment of both time and money. In return, participants are committed to ongoing involvement in developing and sustaining the health of their community. The Foundation provides advanced leadership opportunities for alumni and communities who have participated in BCLP.



For additional information contact:

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