



Blandin Foundation™  
STRENGTHENING RURAL MINNESOTA

Nothing truly worthwhile is ever easy.

What we've learned is that vibrant communities are built on hard work. On the hard work of leadership, of genuine inclusion, of reaching across boundaries and building lasting relationships. On commitments—families facing hardship together, individuals prepared to make a stand when it matters most. And on belonging—that indelible sense of place that we call home.

That's the fertile soil that healthy communities grow in.

And that's what the Blandin Foundation is all about. Minnesotans imagining, leading, and growing vibrant, resilient, rural communities.

We're committed to strengthening rural Minnesota communities, especially the Grand Rapids, Minn., area. We invest in education, the economy and community inclusion. We train, support and connect leaders. We've come to believe that in the rich blend of these activities, communities come together, defining and claiming their future.

Blandin Foundation is one of only a handful of philanthropies in the country focused solely on rural communities. We are delighted to partner with Philanthropy's Promise, to join the network of foundations advancing systemic change and inclusion in communities.

We seek difference--all differences that make a difference--in our relationships. We believe that sustainable action in a community is anchored in the quality and diversity of its connections. We see that change can happen from anywhere.

Blandin Foundation embraces challenges of inclusion and systemic change in our programs and initiatives. For example, leadership training for communities partnering to end poverty and leaders in ethnically diverse communities, expanding access to broadband and early childhood education, building capacity of grantees, training of staff and board. Some of the outcomes we seek are:

- Greater educational and economic opportunities for people of all backgrounds
- Reduced structural barriers that prevent people from reaching their full potential
- Accelerated innovation driven by interaction of more diverse perspectives

Internally, we claim inclusion as part of our culture, our DNA. With leadership and community resilience, it is an essential ingredient of everything we are and all that we aspire to be.