



Blandin Foundation™
STRENGTHENING RURAL MINNESOTA

SUGGESTED BLOG/NEWSLETTER/EMAIL LANGUAGE FOR RURAL MINNESOTA COMMUNITY LEADERS

With a little more investment and planning, your community can make federal broadband funding go further.

A new Blandin Foundation study finds that federal broadband funding alone isn't enough for Minnesota's rural communities to meet their needs or state broadband goals -- today or in the future.

The report, "[Impact of CAF II-funded Networks: Lessons from Two Rural Minnesota Exchanges Left Underserved](#)", illustrates that without additional investment, the vast majority of land where two federally funded broadband networks were built will not have access to speeds of 25 megabits per second download and 3 mbps upload by 2020 or 100/20 mbps by 2022.

Rural communities are at risk of being left with outdated networks even before the first house, business or school is hooked up.

There's a better way forward!

Minnesota can look to examples of communities that have partnered with internet providers to weave together local, state and federal resources to finance and build networks that offer true and lasting internet solutions.

As internet providers are selecting locations to build with federal funds, community leaders aware of their plans can work with providers to build the kinds of networks their communities need.

Don't let opportunity pass you by!

Use the resources below to determine if your community is eligible for CAF II funding. If so, contact your local provider to see if they intend to use CAF II funding for a future build in your community. Use the tools in the linked documents below to assist you in working with an internet provider in the early stages of the project to plan for a network that will expand – not limit – opportunities for your community.

Learn more about the CAF II report during a July 19 webinar from 3-4 p.m. [Register for Leveraging CAF II Dollars to Bring World-Class Broadband to your Community.](#)¹

If you have questions or comments, email Bernadine Joselyn, director of public policy and engagement at Blandin Foundation.

Report: [Impact of CAF II-funded Networks: Lessons from Two Rural Minnesota Exchanges Left Underserved](#)²

Community Resources: [CAF II Quick Look Background for Communities](#)³, [Working with a Broadband Provider](#)⁴, and [The Community Broadband Development Process](#)⁵.

1 https://blandinfoundation.clickmeeting.com/leveraging-caf-ii-dollars-to-bring-world-class-broadband-to-your-community/register?_ga=2.44348644.1558172896.1530572159-859878998.1530572152

2 <https://blandinfoundation.org/caf2>

3 <https://blandinfoundation.org/content/uploads/CAF-II-quick-look-fact-sheet-1.pdf>

4 <https://blandinfoundation.org/content/uploads/Working-with-a-Broadband-Provider.pdf>

5 https://blandinfoundation.org/content/uploads/vy/Community_Decision_Tree_03-06-15.pdf