

ESMC Intake Form

Please complete this form to begin the review process for an Empowering Small Minnesota Communities (ESMC) Program application.

The ESMC program is funded by the Minnesota Legislature and run by University of Minnesota partners the Center for Transportation Studies, UMN Extension's Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships, the Minnesota Design Center, and the Humphrey School of Public Affairs.

The program aims to support small Minnesota communities in conceptualizing, designing and finding paths to fund resilient, comprehensive infrastructure interventions. The program will connect communities with UMN resources and personnel to undertake work prioritized by residents. The goal of the effort is to provide small communities with the capacity needed to develop resilient and sustainable infrastructure projects that will be competitive for a range of other funding streams.

There are three main pathways for support through the ESMC:

1. Rapid response projects. Efforts of fewer than 10 hours, these projects are intended to help applicant communities address a short term need as an input into a larger project. (E.g. a GIS map, statistical or demographic analysis, creation of a survey, etc.) **Rapid response projects represent about 10% of ESMC work and will be accepted after review and on a first-come, first-served basis until capacity is reached.**
2. Tactical Action support. These medium term (2-9 month) projects are intended for communities with particular needs or projects in mind can gain support from UMN teams to further develop the efforts. (E.g. developing schematic designs for a park, doing community engagement around a proposed project, calculating economic impacts of an effort). **Tactical action projects represent about 30% of ESMC work. Competitive selection will conclude with the announcement of participating communities in May 2024.**
3. The Community Futures process is an opportunity for communities to address their future in compelling, realistic, practical, and implementable ways. Responding to existing community assets, aspirations, needs, challenges, and previous work, it uses design thinking to create a strategy to move the community forward. The process promotes more value from individual project investments by creating specific, fundable projects that support the resilient community strategy and support each other with existing federal and state funding sources. It creates materials to support project funding efforts. Due to the high level of engagement and investment in community work that Community Futures provides, the effort may last up to 12 months. Some compensation for people's time and funding to cover community meeting expenses will be included in the work budget. **Community**

Futures projects represent about 60% of ESMC work. Competitive selection will conclude with the announcement of participating communities in May 2024.

Please visit the [Empowering Small Minnesota Communities program page](#) for more detailed information regarding the program, eligibility requirements, and other FAQs.

If you have questions regarding this form, please contact Kyle Shelton at shelt169@umn.edu.

** Indicates required question*

1. Email *

2. Name of Applicant (Individual)

3. Name of Applicant Organization

4. Type of Organization *

Mark only one oval.

Unit of local government (County, City, Township, Special District)

Non-profit

Community Based Organization

Tribal nation

Other: _____

5. Contact Information

6. Applicant location/small community(ies) served

7. Population(s) of small community(ies) served. Provide population numbers for all communities that are a part of an application. *

Skip to question 8

Rapid Response Projects

One track of ESMC are rapid response projects that can help advance an idea or project. Such projects might be the creation of pertinent GIS maps; a demographic analysis; data collection, surveys; or simple design work.

8. Are you looking to have the ESMC team complete a time-limited (fewer than 10 hrs) specific task that will help your community or team develop a project application or proposal for resilient infrastructure? (You may say yes to this and continue with the full application)

If you answer yes, a member of the ESMC team will follow up to explore fit with the program and availability of support.

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No

Skip to question 9

The two remaining tracks of ESMC are efforts that would occur over a longer time frame of 2-10 months depending on scope. The following questions will help the ESMC learn more about your work and where it might best fit.

- 9. Do you have a specific project(s) or work in mind that you are looking for help to develop or refine?

If so, briefly describe the work or specific project idea, the work’s potential outcomes, and the rationale for the project based on community needs.

- 10. Where are you in the planning process for your idea or broader work? Check all that apply.

Check all that apply.

- I would like help forming an idea(s) or effort
- I have an idea
- I have gotten partners on board
- I have worked on cost estimates
- I am planning implementation
- Other: _____

11. In two or three sentences, describe how your project will impact the environmental, social, economic, or transportation infrastructure of your region.

12. If this project is part of a larger or pre-existing effort, please describe that work.

13. What known community partner(s) are or might be involved in this project? This includes nonprofit organizations, governmental entities, businesses, individuals, and other community groups. For each partner, please indicate if they are committed to the project already, have expressed some interest, or if they are just a potential partner.

- 14. Preference is given to projects that are from, led by or include meaningful participation of historically underrepresented communities. This includes, but is not limited to, Native communities, people of color, immigrants, people with low incomes, LGBTQ+, people with disabilities, women and geographically isolated communities. If applicable, please describe how this relates to your project.

15.

Would you be interested in participating in a potentially longer-term, open-ended, asset-focused, community-driven partnership to create a resilient community-development strategy and identify specific projects that support the strategy?

Work in this area might include:

- 1) Asset and challenge identification;
- 2) Community capacity building with a focus on social, economic, and physical assets and resource management;
- 3) Creation of community-based strategies that leverage existing assets and the challenges within the community's local and regional context;
- 4) Design expertise to promote community resilience in localized issues such as landscape resiliency, building reuse, housing needs, natural resource enhancement, human health improvement, transportation improvements;
- 5) Community responses to 21st century demographic and technological changes

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No

*Skip to section 4 (Once you submit your request you will receive an email with the information that you submitted. **KEEP this email.** It will have a link to go in and edit your submission if needed. The next step is that someone from the ESMC team will contact you. Thank You!)*

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