

ESMC Round 2 Community Futures

Recommended Action - If you have not had a conversation with your ESMC team member, you are encouraged to [start with this first step form](#) to schedule a meeting. In order to have enough time to respond, this first step should be completed by Oct 15th.

For your reference, please see the following links for more detailed information about the Empowering Small Minnesota Communities program:

- [About ESMC](#)
- For more detailed information about [Project Pathways](#) (Short Term Tasks, Tactical Action, and Community Futures)
- Details about the application process: [How to Apply](#)

Please complete this form to begin the review process for an Empowering Small Minnesota Communities (ESMC) Program application. Applications for Community Futures Pathway are due Nov. 15, 2024. Review and identification of finalists will be completed by January 2025. Work on Community Futures will begin in early 2025.

If you have questions regarding this form, please contact Ursula Lang at Minnesota Design Center, lang0294@umn.edu.

* Indicates required question

1. Email *

Applicant Information

Please enter baseline applicant and community information below.

2. Name of Applicant Organization

3. Name of Applicant (Individual)

4. Preferred Phone Number

5. Type of Organization *

Mark only one oval.

County

City

Township

Special District

Tribal Nation or Community (federally recognized or unrecognized)

Non-profit

Community Based Organization

Other: _____

6. Applicant community(ies) served

7. County and County seat

- 8. [MN Compass](#) compiles baseline data searchable by location. Please find applicant community(ies) and copy/paste the link for each applicant location profile. (The [US Census Bureau](#) provides another searchable resource to generate a community profile.)

- 9. Using data from above, please list community(ies) name and population (2020 census data).

Tribal Nations, Reservations and Communities

- 10. Is the applicant community a federally recognized Tribal Nation or Community?

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No

Other: _____

11. Does the applicant community have connections to a Tribal Community (i.e. nearby/shared geography, or other community connections)? If so, please briefly describe.
-

Regional Partners: Existing and Potential

12. Please list any existing partner communities (i.e. connected by watershed district, public health, economic development, tourism board, etc.)
-

13. For this effort, to what extent does applicant community intend to partner with neighboring communities?

Mark only one oval.

- Extensive collaboration with neighboring communities
- Some involvement of and consultation with neighboring communities
- Limited or no partnership with neighboring communities
- Unsure
- Other: _____

14. Would applicant community be interested in being part of a cluster of communities with similar challenges assigned by ESMC?

Mark only one oval.

- Yes - Open to this possibility
- No - Definitely not
- Maybe
- Other: _____

15. In a few sentences, please describe why your community is interested in the Community Futures pathway with ESMC and the University of Minnesota. How do you think we can help?

Community Assets

The following questions ask about an expansive inventory of community assets - we do not expect any one community to have all or even most of these. This is to provide a general picture of assets within applicant community(ies) - having or not having any of these assets does not disqualify applicants from consideration. **Please leave blank if none apply.**

16. **Civic Assets** - Please check all that apply to applicant community(ies), as it is now.

Check all that apply.

- Post Office
- Library
- Community Center
- Youth Center
- Senior Center
- Hotel, Motel, Vacation Rentals (Air BnB or similar)
- Restaurant(s)
- Medical Facility - Hospital
- Medical Facility - Clinic
- Civic Organization(s)
- Religious Organization(s)
- Childcare Services - Home-based
- Childcare Services - Center-based
- Empty or underutilized Building(s)
- Empty or underutilized Land (eg empty city lot(s), area prepared for development)
- Other: _____

17. **Natural & Recreation Assets** - Please check all that apply to applicant community(ies), as it is now.

Check all that apply.

- Lakes
- Rivers
- Natural areas
- Parks and Trails (local, regional, state)
- Ski Facilities
- Golf Course
- Other: _____

18. **Public Safety** - Please check all that are currently present in the applicant community(ies).

Check all that apply.

- Fire Department
- Local ambulance service
- Law Enforcement - City Police Department
- Other: _____

19. **Previous Community Planning** - Please check all types of planning applicant community(ies) has completed to date.

Check all that apply.

- Comprehensive Plan
- Active Living Plan
- Housing Plan
- Safe Routes to School (SRST) Plan
- Downtown Plan
- Water/Sewer/Flooding Management Plans
- Other: _____

20. **Previous Community Planning** - How have members of the community been engaged in the above plans, or more general planning processes? Please briefly describe.
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Infrastructure

The following questions ask about different kinds of infrastructure which may be present in applicant community(ies). Please select all that apply and leave blank if none apply.

21. **Infrastructure - Education**

What schools does applicant community(ies) have at present? Please check all that apply. (Having or not having the presence of a school does not disqualify a community from consideration.)

Check all that apply.

- K-6 school
- 7-12 school
- post-secondary
- Other: _____

22. **Infrastructure - Transportation (Existing)**

What infrastructure assets does applicant community(ies) have at present? Please check all that apply.

Check all that apply.

- Transit system
- Trails: Pedestrian, biking, snowmobile, ATV, horse
- Train Service (passenger)
- Long distance bus service
- Rideshare/TNC Service (such as Uber, Lyft)
- Shared, informal transportation networks (eg Facebook groups)
- Airport
- Other: _____

23. Infrastructure - Transportation (Proposed or in process)

What infrastructure assets in the applicant community are currently proposed or in process? Please check all that apply.

Check all that apply.

- Roads and bridges
- Sidewalk extensions/improvements
- Pedestrian, biking, snowmobile, ATV trails
- Other: _____

24. Infrastructure - Water Projects

Are there water related infrastructure projects currently underway or planned? Please check all that apply.

Check all that apply.

- Water - proposed
- Water - in process
- Sewer - proposed
- Sewer - in process
- Stormwater - proposed
- Stormwater - in process
- Flood mitigation - proposed
- Flood mitigation - in process
- Other: _____

25. Infrastructure - Communications

Does applicant community have the following? Please check all that apply.

Check all that apply.

- Newspaper
- Local radio station
- TV station
- Broadband
- Cellular coverage
- Community webpage
- Community social media, eg active Facebook page(s)
- Other: _____

26. Infrastructure - Communications

Please add links to community websites and/or social media pages.

27. Infrastructure - Energy Systems

Does applicant community have the following? Please check all that apply.

Check all that apply.

- Cooperative utility
- Municipal utility
- Major energy utility
- Other: _____

28. Infrastructure - Energy Systems

Does applicant community have unmet energy infrastructure needs? Please briefly describe.

29. **Infrastructure - Housing Needs**

Does applicant community have particular housing needs (for instance, workforce housing, low income housing, senior housing, building reuse, etc)? If so, please briefly describe.

Five horizontal lines for text entry.

Funding: Received and Pursued

30. **Funding: Received** - Has applicant community received funding for projects completed in the following areas in the past five to ten years. Please check all that apply.

Check all that apply.

- Transportation
- Bonding
- Legacy funding: Arts and Cultural Heritage, Clean Water, Outdoor Heritage, Parks and Trails, Environment and Natural Resources
- Regional Sustainable Development Partnership (RSDP) Project
- Housing
- Other: _____

31. **Funding: Received** - Please provide a brief description in a sentence or two of major projects funded and completed in the past five to ten years.

Five horizontal lines for text entry.

32. **Funding: Proposed or In Progress** - Please check all that apply, if the applicant community has proposed or funding in progress in the following areas.

Check all that apply.

- Transportation
- Bonding
- Legacy funding: Arts and Cultural Heritage, Clean Water, Outdoor Heritage, Parks and Trails, Environment and Natural Resources
- Regional Sustainable Development Partnership (RSDP) Project
- Housing
- Other: _____

33. **Funding: Proposed or In Progress** - Please provide a brief description in a sentence or two of major funded projects currently proposed or in progress.

Narrative Questions

Please answer these as best you can (approximately a paragraph or so).

34. 1. What community assets provide key opportunities for strategic improvements and coordination with infrastructure efforts?

35. 2. Tell us about your community’s experiences with leadership and working together on specific community initiatives or efforts, i.e. outstanding community leaders? groups working well together? Where is the most capacity working in these areas?

36. 3. Where are the opportunities for building strong community connections through the proposed project?
 Tell us how the effort will engage diverse perspectives within your community. Consider efforts to reach out to Tribal communities and/or multi-language residents.
 Please describe how residents impacted by the proposed effort are involved in the project. (200 words max)

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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