Utilities and Community Facilities Agencies and Programs

The following list of Utilities and Community Facilities agencies and programs is focused on agencies that serve the State of MN and the NE Arrowhead region. At the bottom of the list, please also find links to County and local agencies and programs.   Please feel free to contact Arrowhead Regional Development Commission (ARDC) Regional Planning Division with questions about any of the following programs. Phone: 218-722-5545 www.arrowheadplanning.org

This list of agencies and programs was developed in 2014-15 and is subject to change. Utilities and Community Facilities includes the following topic areas. This list is intended to provide current agencies and programs relevant to the following topic areas.

- Utilities
    - o Water
    - o Sewer and Storm water
    - o Communications and electricity
    - o Waste Collection and Recycling
- Community Facilities
    - o Public buildings
    - o City Hall
    - o Library
    - o Fire and ambulance halls
    - o Emergency Service equipment
- Parks and Recreation
    - o Park land
    - o Park buildings
    - o Trail facilities

Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board (IRRRB)

- Community Infrastructure Grant - The Development Infrastructure Grant Program helps cities and townships fund community related infrastructure projects located within the IRRRB service area to support economic development. http://mn.gov/irrrb/community/grant-programs/communityinfrastructure.jsp
- Development Infrastructure Grant - The Development Infrastructure Grant Program helps cities and townships fund development related infrastructure projects located within the IRRRB service area to support economic development. http://mn.gov/irrrb/community/grant-programs/developmentinfrastructure.jsp
- Development Partnership - The Development Partnerships Program provides funds for research, education and development based initiatives which support the long-term economic growth of northeastern Minnesota. Contact: Chris Ismil, IRRRB, 218-735-3010, Chris.Ismil@state.mn.us
- Culture and Tourism Grant - The Culture and Tourism Grant Program assists non-profits in supporting projects that stimulate tourism, enrich communities and generate economic impact through arts, culture, heritage and recreational activities within the IRRRB service area. Contact: Mary Somnis, 218-735-3040, Mary.Somnis@state.mn.us

Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and Minnesota Public Facilities Authority (PFA)

Water and Wastewater revolving funds are available. Clean Water Project Priority Lists and Intend Use Plans (PPL/IUP) and Drinking Water PPL/IUP Annual Mailing to Municipalities.

In December of each year, the MPCA, Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority (PFA) send an announcement of the annual cycle of the Project Priority Lists and Intend Use Plans. That mailing goes to more than 1,300 eligible municipal entities that are eligible to submit wastewater, stormwater or drinking water capital improvement projects.
http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/dwrf/

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Wastewater and stormwater financial assistance
Managing wastewater and stormwater is important for the health and safety of any community. It can also make a difference to a community's growth potential and environmental value, in terms of attracting new businesses, new residents, and additional visitors. Financing for wastewater and stormwater projects is available for public entities.
http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/water/water-types-and-programs/wastewater/wastewater-financial-assistance/wastewater-and-stormwater-financial-assistance.html

Water Program
Water is one of Minnesota's most abundant and precious resources. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency helps protect our water by monitoring its quality, setting standards and controlling what may go into it. http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/water/index.html

- Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems (SSTS)
- Watersheds
- Surface Water
- Groundwater
- Impaired Waters and TMDLs (total maximum daily load)
- Stormwater
- Wastewater
- Nonpoint Source Issues
- Clean Water Fund
- Feedlots

Clean Water Partnership program is accepting applications through March 6, 2015. Public stormwater, wasterwater and drinking water infrastructure improvements on the 2016 Project Priority Lists (PPL) and Intended Use Plans for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund.
http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/water/water-types-and-programs/water-nonpoint-source-issues/clean-water-partnership/clean-water-partnership-applications-open.html

Stormwater Program
The surest way to improve water quality in Minnesota is to better manage stormwater. To better manage stormwater across the state, the MPCA administers the requirements of the

federal Clean Water Act in addition to its own State Disposal System requirements.
http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/water/water-types-and-programs/stormwater/index.html

Federal-State Stormwater permits:

- Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Permit
- Construction Stormwater Permit
- Industrial Stormwater Permit

Minnesota Green Step Cities Initiative

http://greenstep.pca.state.mn.us/bestPractices.cfm

During fall 2007, Minnesota's Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs) held regional listening sessions around the state to discuss community-based energy opportunities and the state's Next Generation Energy Act of 2007. The idea was raised of creating a sustainable cities program, free to cities, that would challenge, assist and recognize cities that were "green stars." This idea was taken up by the 2008 Legislature, which directed the MPCA, the Division of Energy Resources at the Minnesota Department of Commerce, and CERTs to recommend actions cities could take on a voluntary basis.

Topic Areas

1. Buildings and Lighting
    a. Efficient Existing Public Buildings: Benchmark energy usage, identify savings opportunities in consultation with state programs, utilities and others to implement cost-effective energy and sustainability improvements.
    b. Efficient Existing Private Buildings: Provide incentives for energy, water and sustainability improvements in existing structures.
    c. New Green Buildings: Construct new buildings to meet or qualify under a green building framework.
    d. Efficient Outdoor Lighting and Signals: Improve the efficiency and quality of street lighting, traffic signals and outdoor public lighting.
    e. Building Reuse: Create economic and regulatory incentives for redeveloping and repurposing existing buildings before building new.
2. Land Use
3. Transportation
4. Environmental Management
    a. Purchasing: Adopt environmentally preferable purchasing policies and practices.
    b. Urban Forests: Add city tree and plant cover that increases community health, wealth and quality of life.
    c. Innovative Stormwater Management: Minimize the volume of and pollutants in rainwater runoff.
    d. Parks and Trails: Support active lifestyles and property values by enhancing the city's green infrastructure.

e. <u>Surface Water Quality:</u> Improve local water bodies.
f. <u>Efficient Water and Wastewater Facilities:</u> Assess and improve city drinking water and wastewater facilities.
g. <u>Septic Systems:</u> Implement an effective management program for decentralized wastewater treatment systems.
h. <u>Solid Waste Reduction:</u> Increase waste reduction, reuse and recycling.

5. <u>Economic and Community Development</u>
   a. <u>Benchmarks & Community Engagement</u>: Adopt outcome measures for GreenStep and other city sustainability efforts, and engage community members in ongoing education, dialogue, and campaigns.
   b. <u>Green Business Development</u>: Support expansion of the city's green business sector.
   c. <u>Renewable Energy</u>: Remove barriers to and encourage installation of renewable energy generation capacity.
   d. <u>Local Food</u>: Strengthen local food and fiber production and access.
   e. <u>Business Synergies</u>: Network/cluster businesses to achieve better energy, economic and environmental outcomes.

David Larson, Landscape Architect, Office of Environmental Stewardship, MN Dept. of Transportation: 651/366-4637

Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development

Small Cities Development Grant Program

Federal funding administered by state agency. Public facility improvements, such as water systems, sewer systems. Contact information for regional offices: http://mn.gov/deed/government/financial-assistance/community-funding/

Our Small Cities Development Program helps cities and counties with <u>funding for housing, public infrastructure and commercial rehabilitation projects.</u>

Projects must meet one of three federal objectives:

- Benefit people of low and moderate incomes
- Eliminate slum and blight conditions
- Eliminate an urgent threat to public health or safety
- In addition, need, impact and cost effectiveness must be documented and the general public must be involved in the application process.

Tom Gast, Director of Community Assistance, 651-259-7425, <u>Tom.Gast@state.mn.us</u>

Minnesota's Legacy

Opportunities for <u>funding in the following categories</u>: http://www.legacy.leg.mn/opportunities-funding

- Arts & Cultural Heritage
- Clean Water

- o Clean Water Fund Grants (Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources)
  - o Clean Water Partnership (Minnesota Pollution Control Agency)
  - o Phosphorus Reduction Grant Program (Minnesota Public Facilities Authority)
  - o Small Community Wastewater Treatment Construction Loans & Grants (Minnesota Public Facilities Authority)
  - o Source Water Protection Grant Program (Minnesota Department of Health)
  - o Surface Water Assessment Grants (Minnesota Pollution Control Agency)
  - o Total Maximum Daily Load Grant Program (Minnesota Public Facilities Authority)
- Environment & Natural Resources
- Outdoor Heritage
- Parks & Trails – MN DNR Parks & Trails Legacy Grant, see below

MN Department of Natural Resources

Parks and Trails Legacy Grant Program

Program purpose: To provide grants to local units of government to support parks and trails of regional or statewide significance. Funding for this grant program is from the Parks and Trails Fund created by the Minnesota Legislature from the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment.
http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/recreation/pt_legacy.html

Local Trail Connections Program

Program purpose: To provide grants to local units of government to promote relatively short trail connections between where people live and desirable locations, not to develop significant new trails. Eligible projects: acquisition and development of trail facilities. Must result in a trail linkage that is immediately available for use by the general public.
http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/recreation/trails_local.html

Federal Recreational Trail Program

Program purpose: To encourage the maintenance and development of motorized, non-motorized, and diversified trails by providing funding assistance. Eligible projects: Motorized and non-motorized trail projects; maintenance/restoration of existing recreational trails; development/ rehabilitation of recreational trail linkages, including trail side and trail head facilities; environmental awareness and safety education programs relating to the use of recreational trails; and redesign/relocation of trails to benefit/minimize the impact to the natural environment.
http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/recreation/trails_federal.html

Regional Trail Grant Program

Program purpose: To provide grants to local units of government to promote development of regionally significant trails outside the seven-county metropolitan area. Eligible projects include acquisition and development of trail facilities outside the seven-county metropolitan area that are considered of regional or statewide significance. Acquisition projects require a perpetual easement for recreational purposes. Development projects require a 20 year maintenance commitment by the project sponsor.
http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/recreation/trails_regional.html

Land and Water Conservation Fund

The Land and Water Conservation Fund Act was enacted by Congress in 1964 "to strengthen the health and vitality of the citizens of the United States" through planning, acquisition, and development of land

and water outdoor recreation facilities. To be eligible for funding, each state must prepare a statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plan (SCORP) that identifies recreation issues of statewide importance and the actions the state will take to address them. These plans must be updated every five years. http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/aboutdnr/lawcon/index.html   Grants Manager: Joe Hiller, Phone: 651-259-5538, Joe.Hiller@state.mn.us

MN Environmental Initiative

- Project green fleet - provides pollution control equipment for school buses and other diesel vehicles at low or no cost to fleets. PHONE: 612-334-3388 http://environmental-initiative.org/projects/project-green-fleet
- Waste Reduction Collaborative – Resources for waste reduction. http://www.environmental-initiative.org/projects/waste-reduction-collaborative

U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA RD)

Minnesota regional offices: http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/MN-Community%20Programs.html

Water and Wastewater (WW) loans, grants and loan guarantees

- drinking water
- sanitary sewer
- solid waste and storm drainage facilities

Community Facilities (CF) Direct Loans, grants and loan guarantees

- Essential buildings: schools, libraries, childcare, hospitals, medical clinics, assisted living facilities, food shelves, fire and rescue stations, police stations, community centers, public buildings,
- Transportation, fire trucks, ambulances, police cars, utility vehicles, emergency response equipment and necessary equipment to improve a public facility, weather sirens

US Environmental Protection Agency

Clean Water Fund

Funding for: Water quality monitoring, Watershed restoration and protection strategies and applied research and tool development, Protection and restoration, Groundwater assessment and SSTS - Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems. http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/water/water-types-and-programs/surface-water/clean-water-fund/index.html

Watershed project funding

Funding opportunities for watershed projects around the state are available through federal and state funds. http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/water/water-types-and-programs/surface-water/watershed-approach/minnesota-watershed-project-funding-system.html

Green Infrastructure http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/greeninfrastructure/index.cfm
Green infrastructure first emerged as an alternative approach to stormwater management in the early 1990s. Since then, stormwater professionals have accumulated an extensive body of knowledge on the design of green infrastructure practices that improve the triple bottom line, and on the development of policies that support this approach.

Case studies of Green Infrastructure at:
http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/greeninfrastructure/index.cfm#tabs-3

Green Infrastructure Benefits

- Reduction in combined sewer overflows, urban heat island reduction, air quality improvements, mitigate flooding, stormwater maintenance, stream restoration, air quality improvement, groundwater recharge, improved/maintained water quality of local water bodies.

Green Infrastructure Techniques http://www.epa.gov/region9/water/tribal-CWA-workshop/docs/ProtectingWaterQualityWithLID.pdf

- Urban tree canopy and vegetation, green roof, green alleys, bioswale, rain gardens, permeable pavement, native woodland garden, rain barrels, stormwater park

Green Communities
Tools and information on the best strategies, programs and policies to reduce your environmental footprint. 5-step environmental planning framework. http://www.epa.gov/greenkit/index.htm

Natural Infrastructure Planning
http://www.epa.gov/greenkit/natural_infrastructure_planning.htm

Resource management programs
Helping providers and consumers of waste management services improve profitability and conserve resources. http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/topics/preventing-waste-and-pollution/waste-reduction/resource-management-programs.html

Waste Reduction and Recycling Program
Businesses are always seeking ways to increase competitiveness and boost productivity. One way to cut costs is to use resources more efficiently and preventing waste and pollution.
http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/topics/preventing-waste-and-pollution/waste-reduction/waste-reduction.html

MN Waste Score Report
Information on solid waste disposal trends.
http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/data/score/recycling-in-minnesota-the-score-report.html

Library Programs

Arrowhead Library System
Library services for patrons, librarians, and staff. http://www.arrowhead.lib.mn.us/

MN Department of Education

Division staff are consultants who help libraries to plan, develop and implement high-quality services that address community needs. State Library Services administers federal grant, state aid, and state grant programs that benefit all types of libraries.
http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/StuSuc/Lib/StateLibServ/

US Institute of Museum and Library Services

Federal grants and programs. Contact MN State. http://www.imls.gov/applicants/available_grants.aspx
Minnesota State Library Agency, MN Department of Education, Division of State Library Services
Ms. Jennifer R. Nelson, Director of State Library Services
1500 Highway 36 West, Roseville, MN 55113-4266
Phone: 651/582-8791 E-mail: jennifer.r.nelson@state.mn.us

Emergency Service Programs

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) – Minnesota
https://www.fema.gov/states/minnesota
https://www.fema.gov/
Community Emergency Response Teams - https://www.fema.gov/blog/2015-01-09/resolve-serve-community-emergency-response-teams?utm_source=hp_promo&utm_medium=web&utm_campaign=fema_hp

Arrowhead Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Association

http://www.arrowheadems.com
- Critical Incident Stress Management
- Regional EMS funds
- Hospital Preparedness
- Training Equipment

Minnesota Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Regulatory Board

http://mn.gov/health-licensing-boards/emsrb/grantprojects/regional-programs/
Minnesota Health Licensing Boards EMS Regulatory Board
The Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board is the state agency responsible for:

- Designating and funding eight Regional EMS organizations that support Emergency Medical Services.
- Administering the Volunteer Training Reimbursement program, the Cooper/Sams program for volunteer ambulance personnel and the EMS for Children (EMSC) grant program.

http://mn.gov/health-licensing-boards/emsrb/grantprojects/regional-programs/ Every two years, the EMSRB issues a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the operation of EMS systems in each of Minnesota's eight geographic EMS regions. The general purposes of the grant program include: promoting the systematic and cost-effective delivery of emergency medical care throughout the state; identifying and addressing common local, regional and state EMS system needs; providing public education and promoting the exchange of information about emergency medical care; establishing and maintaining

training standards to ensure consistent quality of EMS throughout the state. The regional programs were designated as grantee's by action of the EMSRB.

<u>Northeast EMS Region</u>, Pat Lee, Executive Director, Arrowhead EMS Association, Inc. 4219 Enterprise Cir. , Duluth, MN 55811, (218) 726-0070, pat@arrowheadems.com

Federal Interagency Committee on Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

EMS is ternary: part public health, part healthcare and part public safety. No single federal agency operates fully in all three domains. Because of that, federal support of EMS comes from several places. FICEMS was established in 2005 by the US Department of Transportation Reauthorization, Public Law 109-59 (Section 10202), to ensure coordination among Federal agencies involved with State, local, tribal, and regional emergency medical services and 9-1-1 systems. http://www.ems.gov/FICEMS.htm

Firefighters Support Foundation, Inc. http://ffsupport.org/index.html

- Free life-saying materials and training
- Equipment Grants
- Assistance to survivors

VolunteerFD.org http://www.volunteerfd.org/

- Volunteer firefighting grants and fundraising, recruitment and retention http://www.volunteerfd.org/topics/
- Columns & news
- Message board
- Products

Electric Programs (Renewable energy and efficiency)

Mn Department of Commerce
Financial Resources including energy savings programs, funding opportunities and information. https://mn.gov/commerce/energy/topics/financial/

US Department of Energy
Database of State Incentives for Renewables & Efficiency (DSIRE). http://dsireusa.org/incentives/index.cfm?re=0&ee=0&spv=0&st=0&srp=1&state=MN

Broadband Programs

DEED Department of Employment and Economic Development
Accepting Applications for Broadband Grants ~$20 million available under Border-to-Border program~

Application materials and other details are available on the DEED website at http://mn.gov/deed/programs-services/broadband/grant-program/index.jsp .

DEED is the state's principal economic development agency, promoting business recruitment, expansion and retention, workforce development, international trade and community development.

Blandin Foundation
Blandin Foundation has a long history of supporting the active engagement of communities to ensure their telecommunications and technology vitality. http://broadband.blandinfoundation.org/programs/

- Blandin Broadband Communities Program
- Broadband Innovation Grants
- Community Broadband Resources Program
- Robust Network Feasibility Fund Grants

County and Local Agencies and Programs

Aitkin County

Environmental Services / Planning & Zoning
http://www.co.aitkin.mn.us/Departments/Enviro-Svcs/environmental.html
Our mission statement: "To Promote the judicious use of our vast resources while protecting and preserving our Environment."

Land and Parks
http://www.co.aitkin.mn.us/Departments/Land/landhome.html
Aitkin County Land Department (ACLD) - A Department for all seasons

Sheriff's Office
http://www.co.aitkin.mn.us/Departments/public-safety/sheriff.html
The Aitkin County Sheriff's Office is committed to safeguarding the lives and property of the citizens and visitors to all 1,828 square miles of Aitkin County.

Carlton County

Parks and Trails
http://www.co.carlton.mn.us/index.asp?SEC=A406412E-16F4-4C0D-9C1D-FF3C51C2ACD9&Type=B_BASIC

Emergency Management
http://www.co.carlton.mn.us/index.asp?SEC=B2721C87-CF4F-4E4A-A13F-AC13A8508D48&Type=B_BASIC
In accordance with MN Statute Chapter 12, and under the direction of the County Board, the Emergency Management Director is responsible for Emergency Management activities throughout the County, except in cities or towns which have established local emergency management organizations.

Cook County

Planning & Zoning
http://www.co.cook.mn.us/index.php/government/departments/planning-and-zoning

Emergency Management
http://www.co.cook.mn.us/index.php/government/departments/emergency-management
The role of Emergency Management is to maximize the protection and promotion of public safety, health and welfare during large-scale emergencies. They plan for the coordinated response of county forces to any disaster situation, with special focus on potential wildfires.

Itasca County

Environmental Services
https://www.co.itasca.mn.us/Home/Departments/Environmental%20Services/Pages/default.aspx
The Environmental Services Department issues permits for buildings (new, alterations and replacements), septics, land use, and lakeshore alterations. Water testing kits are available here.

Land Department
https://www.co.itasca.mn.us/Home/Departments/Land/Pages/default.aspx
The Land Department is responsible for land management of 300,000 acres of Itasca County tax forfeited lands. The Department reviews and comments on state and federal natural resource policy issues. The Land Commissioner is also the County Agricultural Inspector who is responsible for administering the MN Noxious Weed Law in Itasca County.

Park System
https://www.co.itasca.mn.us/Home/Departments/Park%20System/Pages/default.aspx
The Park System is responsible for the management and maintenance of county parks, recreation areas, public water accesses, and trails located on direct county owned and tax-forfeited lands.

Sheriff's Office
https://www.co.itasca.mn.us/Home/Departments/Sheriff's/Pages/default.aspx
The Itasca County Sheriff's Office has 72 employees working as Jailers, Dispatchers, Clerical and Road Deputies. We have employees that have specialized training to work in the following areas; D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education), pre-employment background investigation, Boat and Water Safety, Snowmobile Safety, Drug Task Force, Emergency Response Team, Dive Team, and special enforcement projects.

Koochiching County

Community Services
http://www.co.koochiching.mn.us/dept/com_serv/comservmain.htm
Land & Forestry
http://www.co.koochiching.mn.us/dept/land_&_forestry/lafmain.htm
Law Enforcement Center
http://www.co.koochiching.mn.us/dept/lec/lecmain.htm

Lake County

Planning and Zoning
http://www.co.lake.mn.us/departments/planning_and_zoning/index.php

Planning and Zoning administers county-wide land use controls that guide property development with the county. The staff administers and enforces state and local ordinances which govern shoreland, wetlands, subsurface sewage treatment systems (SSTS), subdivisions and the Lake County Comprehensive Plan and Land Use Ordinance #12.

St. Louis County

Community Development
http://www.stlouiscountymn.gov/GOVERNMENT/DepartmentsAgencies/PlanningDevelopment.aspx
Planning and Community Development Department is reponsible for land use planning, zoning and land subdivision administration, community development, and enterprise Geographic Information Systems (GIS) planning and development.

Public Works
http://www.stlouiscountymn.gov/GOVERNMENT/DepartmentsAgencies/PublicWorks.aspx
Public Works Mission: To provide a safe, well maintained road and bridge system that will insure the reliable and convenient access to County services, facilities, recreational and natural resource areas and employment centers, to enhance the quality of life of St. Louis County residents, and to promote the economic development of the area.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)
http://www.stlouiscountymn.gov/LAWPUBLICSAFETY/EmergencyManagement/EmergencyPreparation/CERT.aspx
Helps train people to be better prepared to respond to emergency situations in their communities. When emergencies happen, CERT members can give critical support to first responders, provide immediate assistance to victims, and organize spontaneous volunteers at a disaster site. CERT members can also help with non-emergency projects that help improve the safety of the community.