



Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request

7B
Agenda Item #

Requested Meeting Date: June 9, 2020

Title of Item: Blandin Broadband Community Grants Grants

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REGULAR AGENDA	Action Requested:	<input type="checkbox"/> Direction Requested
<input type="checkbox"/> CONSENT AGENDA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approve/Deny Motion	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Item
<input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION ONLY	<input type="checkbox"/> Adopt Resolution (attach draft)	<input type="checkbox"/> Hold Public Hearing*

**provide copy of hearing notice that was published*

Submitted by: Ross Wagner	Department: Economic Development & Forest Ind
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Presenter (Name and Title): Ross Wagner, Economic Development & Forest Industry Coordinator	Estimated Time Needed: 10 Minutes
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Summary of Issue:
In 2019 Aitkin County was awarded \$50,000.00 from the Blandin Foundation as round 2 participants of the Blandin Broadband Community. In November, we awarded \$44,510 to; WiFi in Jacobson, Long Lake Conservation Center fiber build, My Chart enhancements Riverwood Healthcare Center and enhancements to the remote learning centers. Those awards left a balance of \$5,490.00 for future projects.
Two requests have been received and are attached. The criteria is community based and not dictated by Blandin. Blandin's criteria was that we hold a second "Community Listening Session" (at LLCC) to gather input from the community on what the community felt it needed in regards to broadband access and training. After brainstorming, several categories were identified as needs in the County. They were Long Lake Conservation Center, Education, Small Business technology, WiFi in communities and Senior Citizens with an emphasis on telemedicine. Both requests would fit the criteria established by the community at the listening sessions.
• Long Lake Conservation Center, Long Lake View Distance Learning, asking to offset wages, wage costs attached.
• Riverwood Healthcare Center, Isabel Symptom Checker, annual cost \$1,950.00 and Deploy iPad's to inpatient unit \$2,975.00, total request is \$4,950.00

Both projects are worthy, however, the recommendation from the Economic Development Committee is to award the Riverwood Healthcare Center request in full. The decision is based on the Blandin Grant be awarded to a community based request rather than a county entity.

Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments:

Recommended Action/Motion:
Approve Blandin Broadband grants.

Financial Impact:
Is there a cost associated with this request? Yes No
What is the total cost, with tax and shipping? \$
Is this budgeted? Yes No *Please Explain:*
Blandin Funds are already awarded to Aitkin County. Aitkin County in turn awards the grants to the community.

Long Lake Conservation Center Request

Good morning, Ross:

I am reaching out to request additional Blandin Broadband dollars to assist in funding our "Long Lake View" distance learning program.

We have made Long Lake View available to the public, at no charge, to any person wanting to use it (teachers, parents, students, community members, etc). We have received positive feedback, and gratitude, especially from our schools who unfortunately could not attend Long Lake this Spring due to the COVID-19 pandemic. You can find our programming on Facebook, YouTube, and our website: www.longlakeecc.org

In addition, with the support of the Aitkin County Board, we were able to keep our education staff on the payroll for an additional 4 weeks. A breakdown of our payroll costs is attached.

Any assistance you can give would be greatly appreciated!

Thank you!

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Wendie Bright

Business Manager @
Long Lake Conservation Center

Riverwood Healthcare Center Request

Problem: Large amount of medical knowledge on the Internet and patient's lacking creditable resources regarding their symptoms and where to find care.

Solutions:

- Isabel, a symptom checker, uses the latest Artificial Intelligence (AI) searching technology to help patients understand the symptoms they are experiencing, search possible causes of the symptoms and where to find care.

Benefits:

- Offers patients the most up to date and accurate information available online
- Suggests a list possible conditions based on the symptom's patients entered
 - Includes thousands of diagnosis
 - Each condition to linked to medical reference knowledge to help patients learn more
- Includes COVID symptoms
 - Help reduce call center volume during potential surge
 - Help reduce UC and ED visits during potential surge
- Drives patient engagement
- Help to determine where to receive care based on possible conditions
 - Virtual Visit/ eVisit
 - Appointment with Provider/ Urgent Care
 - Emergency Department
- Available to patient's on Riverwood website
- Set up a generic email to receive updates on patient symptoms
 - Patient can choose to share report of their results
 - Patient will enter in name, dob, contact info, additional information field
 - The form will send to the generic email set up by Riverwood
 - Set up automatic reply that form was receive and someone will review it within X number of days
 - Have designated staff review reports and determine workflow
- Offers a professional platform for healthcare professional education and resources
 - Providers can enter in labs, vital signs and co-morbidities along with age, gender and travel history manually with immediately getting a relevant list of diseases that can be sorted by specialty or red flags. A list of drugs with side effects is also available.
 - Provides clinicians with evidence- based knowledge in making better decisions on selecting the right tests and treatment

Cost: \$1,950 annually

Problem: Hospitals are deploying tablets and smartphones to protect staff, preserve protective equipment, and help patients connect with loved ones

Solutions:

- Deploy iPad's to inpatient unit that are designed for patients to connect with staff and loved ones

Benefits:

- Nurses can use the iPad to check on and communicate with patients without donning masks, gloves, and other PPE
 - This will decrease overall use of PPE
 - This will allow nurses/providers to check in with the patient easily and more frequently
- Providers could have the ability to check in on their patients remotely
- Allow the ability to video chat with other specialties including pharmacy, dietician, RT, Rehab
- Allow the ability to video chat with family and loved ones
- Allow family to hear updates during rounds
- Allow families of critically ill patients to be brought to the bedside virtually to be with their family member/loved one during their final moments
- Allow patients the ability to connect with a religious service virtually

Cost: \$2,975