



MINNESOTA COUNCIL  
ON FOUNDATIONS

## RURAL-URBAN BRIDGING INITIATIVE STEERING COMMITTEE JOB DESCRIPTION

### **PURPOSE:**

The Rural-Urban Bridging Initiative (RUBI) steering committee is responsible for guiding a process that will result in Minnesota philanthropy being equipped with a framework, strategies and new relationships designed to strengthen Minnesota by promoting urban/rural interdependence and reducing urban/rural divide. Philanthropy is uniquely positioned to play the roles of convener and bridge builder to create an aspirational vision that unites Minnesotans across differences, especially rural and urban geography.

### **STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP:**

The steering committee will be comprised twelve to sixteen members representing the diverse voices of grantmakers. Recruitment priorities include a mix of rural and urban geography, a variety of foundation types (independent, community, corporate, family), organizational role with both executive and staff level representation, and racial and ethnic diversity. Members must have decision making authority for their organization.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES AND TIME COMMITMENT:**

Steering committee members will commit to a 9-month process. The time commitment will include an in-person organizational meeting in April and 90-minute virtual check-ins every other week through the May. Subsequent meetings dates and times will be set by the steering committee.

Once the lead consultant is selected, steering committee members will engage three in-person work sessions and bi-weekly 90-minute virtual planning sessions between June and October to design the framework along with tools and resources that will support deep learning, strong collaboration, and greater impact from the investments funders make in promoting urban and rural interdependence.

Steering committee members will be responsible for bringing the results of their shared work to the broader field and beyond in the final months of 2023 and to develop a plan to test the tools, resources, and lessons learned beginning in 2024.

### **POSSIBLE OUTCOMES:**

Through conversations that began at the MCF CEO retreat in October 2022, possible outcomes of RUBI were identified. They include:

- Learning opportunities to strengthen philanthropy's role in promoting urban/rural interdependence, including practice and evaluation tools
- Strategic connections to new institutional and community partnerships
- Data and guidance to inform and evaluate rural funding needs and strategies
- Resources for philanthropic thought leadership and awareness raising, including narrative change

- Opportunities for collective action, including legislative advocacy and pooled funds
- Optimizing philanthropy's unique role as a convener and broker of non-partisan community building

These potential outcomes serve as a starting point for the steering committee. The collective wisdom of committee members will refine and expand the outcomes using a human-centered design process guided by a skilled facilitator specializing in social change.

If you or someone in your organization is interested in serving on the RUBI steering committee, Diana Anderson of BRIDGE Strategies Consulting, LLC has been retained to provide coordination and support to the process. Contact her **by March 31** at [Diana.BridgeND@outlook.com](mailto:Diana.BridgeND@outlook.com) or 320-583-5022.

The Rural-Urban Bridging Initiative is a collaborative project of Minnesota Council on Foundations members with MCF serving as the administrative hub and fiscal host.