

REGIONAL PARTNERS

In addition to WCI resources and programs, there are a number of partners and other assets available to strengthen the region. These include local economic development programs, state and federal financial assistance programs, business assistance providers, utility companies and existing businesses in the region. A summary of the assets available and the providers follows, this list is ever-growing and is intended to be a snapshot of partners in time.

Loan Program Assets

Economic development loans are provided in the region through a number of state, federal and local programs, in addition to WCI loans. Table 01 shows the loan program assets available to the region that can be used to support development of quality employment opportunities.

TABLE 01: ASSETS PROVIDING FINANCING FOR QUALITY EMPLOYMENT

ASSET/PROGRAM	PROVIDED BY
Lending programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MN Department of Employment & Economic Development (DEED) • The Small Business Development Loan Program • USDA Rural Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Intermediary Relending Program (IRP) ○ Business and Industry Guaranteed Loans (B&I) ○ Rural Development Loan Assistance; • Small Business Administration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SBA 7a, and Low-Doc Loan Programs • MN Business Finance Corp. SBA 504 loan program • Midwest Minnesota Community Development Corporation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Intermediary Relending Program (IRP) ○ Rural Business Enterprise Loan Program • West Central Initiative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Business and Industry Loan Fund ○ Community Fund Loan Programs
Incentive Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MN Department of Employment & Economic Development (DEED) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ DEED Business Finance Programs ○ The Minnesota Investment Fund Angel Tax Credit • Midwest Minnesota Community Development Corporation
Micro Lending	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Central Initiative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Small Enterprise Loan Fund (SELF) ○ Component Funds • Local Economic Development Authorities or Corporations
Equity Investors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Granite Equity • RAIN Source Capital • Local investors

Business Assistance Assets

Table 02 shows the assets available in the region for business assistance. While these assets cover a wide range of needs, the levels of certain services, especially management assistance, are not sufficient to meet the need.

Enterprise Minnesota, a major service provider to manufacturing companies, is a strong partner for WCI. The Small Business Development Center, another WCI partner, has seen a change in location to Concordia College in Moorhead, and a change in how it implements its programs, including establishing rotating satellite offices throughout the region.

Comprehensive entrepreneurial training programs have all but disappeared because of lack of funding. Additional services are being provided by Minnesota State Community and Technical College in Detroit Lakes and Alexandria Technical College with support from WCI.

TABLE 02: ASSETS FOR ASSISTANCE TO BUSINESSES

ASSET/PROGRAM	PROVIDED BY
Consulting and Business Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enterprise Minnesota• MN Department of Employment & Economic Development (DEED)<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ The Small Business Assistance Office• Small Business Development Center• SCORE• Anderson Center for Management and Business Development• Private Consultants• Angel Investors• Immigrant Development Center• Afro American Development Association• White Earth Economic Development
Business Workshops / Classes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minnesota State Community and Technical College - Detroit Lakes• Alexandria Technical College• Anderson Center for Management and Business Development
Incubator space	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minnesota State Community and Technical College - Detroit Lakes - Business & Entrepreneurial Services• City of Hawley Business Incubator

REGIONAL ASSETS

There are many organizations that address portions of the need for skilled labor in the region. The Labor Force Development Council (LFDC), which we convene, provides a platform for collaboration and information sharing. Table 03 describes other assets available in the region to address workforce needs.

TABLE 03: ASSETS FOR WORKFORCE NEEDS

ASSET/PROGRAM	PROVIDED BY
On-the-Job Worker Re/training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Businesses • Enterprise Minnesota • Specialized Consultants • Technical Colleges • Rural Minnesota Concentrated Employment Program (Rural Minnesota CEP) • White Earth Economic Development • White Earth Nation • Experience Works!
Regional Planning/Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labor Force Development Council • Workforce Investment Board • Packaging Machine Manufacturing Consortium • Tri-State Manufacturers Association • MN Department of Employment & Economic Development (DEED) • EDA University Center UofM Crookston
Resources for Job Seekers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Action Agencies • County Social Services Agencies • MN Workforce Centers • Rural Minnesota Concentrated Employment Program • MN Department of Employment & Economic Development (DEED) Labor Market Information
Training for Entering & Re-entering Workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High School Vocational Programs • Technical Colleges • Rural Minnesota CEP • Adult Basic Education • Afro American Development Association • Cultural Diversity Resources • Immigrant Development Center
Worker Recruitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Businesses • Local Economic Developers • MN Workforce Centers • Central Minnesota AHEC • DEED Business Service Specialists
Youth-Focused Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Businesses • K-12 Education • Minnesota Dept. of Education • Post Secondary Education • Rural Minnesota CEP • Lakes Country Service Cooperative • Tri-State Manufacturers Association

The next table shows that there are organizations, resources and programs available to help communities with assessment, planning and leadership development. These resources are available within the region and work with individual communities. We may act as a liaison for communities and organizations to access these resources via our community leadership grants or by providing contacts.

TABLE 04: COMMUNITY AND REGIONAL IMPROVEMENT ASSETS

ASSET/PROGRAM	PROVIDED BY
Community Assessment, Planning, and Technical Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private Consultants • Staff of Large Communities • Utility Companies • University of Minnesota Morris Center for Small Towns • WCI Staff • University of Minnesota Extension Service • Headwaters Regional Development Commission • Midwest Minnesota Community Development Corporation • Minnesota Design Team • Minnesota Main Street Program • Engineering Firms • EDA University Center UofM Crookston
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Leadership Development Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of Minnesota Extension Service • Blandin Foundation • Ad Hoc Groups • Chambers of Commerce • Educational Institutions
Facilitation & Group Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of Minnesota Extension Service • Private Consultants • WCI Staff
Organized Philanthropy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fargo-Moorhead Area Foundation • Central MN Community Foundation • Minnesota Community Foundation • WCI Component Funds • GiveMn • Leave a Legacy Program

