

# Community Grant and Partnership Opportunities Supporting Sustainability through University of Minnesota

**Andi Sutton**

Executive Director

Southeast Regional Sustainable Development Partnership

UMN Extension



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## **Overview: RSDP and Community/ University partnerships**

### **Grants and opportunities with and through UMN**

- 6 opportunities highlighted

### **RSDP as a strategic partner for rural communities**



# Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships

Advancing **environmental, economic, and social sustainability** in Greater MN

**5 regions** across the state

**Co-creating innovative solutions and nourishing collaboration**

Based at UMN Extension; **access to entire UMN system** for community-drive projects



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# Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships

## Four focus areas:

- Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems
- Natural Resources
- Clean Energy
- Resilient Communities



# 3 Bedrock Principles

Since creation by the Minnesota Legislature in 1997, three bedrock principles guide our work:

- **Community-University partnership**
- **Active Community leadership**
- **Advancing Regional Sustainability**

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EXTENSION

2023 Projects



**Building sustainability partnerships  
in 5 Greater Minnesota regions**



The Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships (RSDP) connect Greater Minnesota communities to University of Minnesota resources through sustainability projects. RSDP brings together local talent and innovation with University knowledge and resources. Projects are supported through 5 community-driven regional boards and statewide focus area staff.



# Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships

## RSDP Call for Ideas

- Annual grant funding and UMN partnership support through annual RSDP Call for Ideas
- Call for Ideas to open again Fall 2024 for 2025-2026 projects: [z.umn.edu/ RSDPcallforideas](https://z.umn.edu/RSDPcallforideas)
- High-touch grant process
  - Idea development
  - Grant materials support
  - What could the UMN do to help?
  - Does research/ solution exist already?
  - Discussion about ideas can start anytime!



# Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships

## Call for Ideas details

- Municipalities, Non-profits, Businesses and Individuals eligible to apply
- Sustainability project ideas across 4 focus areas; not available in metro
- Regional funding and regionally-specific decision-making
- Connection to/ collaboration with UMN is a cornerstone
- [z.umn.edu/ RSDPcallforideas](https://z.umn.edu/RSDPcallforideas)



# Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships

## Additional support for rural communities by RSDP:

- Network connector
  - Within and outside of UMN
  - Navigation of UMN for partnership/ collaboration/ support
  - Statewide network of leaders involved in sustainability/ community development
  - Media, sustainability stories, news
- Community leadership opportunities (Board and work group)
- Information about/ access to funding opportunities through UMN
- Find out more: [z.umn.edu/ RSDPhome](https://z.umn.edu/RSDPhome)





# Additional Grants and Opportunities through UMN

**Empowering Small MN Communities**

**Great Lakes TCTAC**

**Resilient Communities Project**

**Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs) technical assistance & grants**

**Institute on the Environment Impact Goals Grant**



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# EMPOWERING SMALL MINNESOTA COMMUNITIES



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# Historically Significant Opportunity for Small Communities

Unprecedented funding for infrastructure is available to communities across Minnesota

- Transportation
- Water
- Parks, trails, & tourism
- Buildings
- Emergency & weather readiness
- Energy efficiency
- Economic & cultural vitality
- Housing

**And so  
much more**



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# Historically Significant Opportunity for Small Communities

Available public and private funding could be transformative for Minnesota's small communities.

- **Federal Infrastructure Investment and Job Act (IIJA)**
- **Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)**
- **Additional State programs (LCCMR, MDA, MNDoT, DEED, etc.)**
- **Foundations (regional, statewide, and local)**



# UMN Partnerships Supporting Pathways to Success

## Empowering Small Minnesota Communities is a community-centered collaboration with UMN partners

Why? To strengthen small communities through the development of resilient infrastructure.

Partnerships to...

- Develop or strengthen projects & plans to pursue long-term goals
- Lay groundwork for competitive proposals eligible for a wide a range of funding opportunities
- Be well positioned to benefit from federal, local, and state investments



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# ESMC Eligibility Requirements

- Priority: communities of 5,000 or fewer. Communities with populations of 15,000 or fewer are eligible to apply.
- Multiple communities can collaborate on a single proposal, all of which must have populations of 15,000 or fewer
- Government entities, tribal nations, non-profits, and community groups can apply



# UMN Partnerships Supporting Pathways to Success

## Empowering Small Minnesota Communities

has **three** pathways for collaboration, all FREE of charge:

**Rapid Response**

**Tactical Actions**

**Community Futures**



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# UMN Partnerships Supporting Pathways to Success

Pathway available for submissions **\*now\***.

**Rapid Response**

Tactical Actions

Community Futures

Short projects with a quick turnaround providing technical assistance to produce specific small-scale products requested by communities.

- Committed UMN researcher provides 10-20 hours to develop products under the leadership of the community partner
- *Examples:* GIS maps, survey writing, data analysis, and more



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# UMN Partnerships Supporting Pathways to Success

At least 1 more call for projects to come (time TBD)

Find out more about the program and submit:

<https://www.cts.umn.edu/programs/empoweringcommunities>

**Connect anytime!** to talk more about your idea or learn more:

Andi Sutton: [sutto364@umn.edu](mailto:sutto364@umn.edu) (Southeast RSDP)



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# More information

## Primary University Partners

- Center for Transportation Studies
- Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs
- Minnesota Design Center, UMN College of Design
- Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships, UMN Extension
- Resilient Communities Project, UMN Center for Urban & Regional Affairs (CURA)

Other University of Minnesota departments and programs available to support projects.

# Great Lakes TCTAC

## Great Lakes Environmental Justice and Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Center (TCTAC)

Helps underserved and overburdened communities build capacity to successfully apply for and manage the immense federal funding currently available to support their defining, shaping, and driving solutions from concept to implementation.

**\*Capacity building and support available now\***

- **FREE technical assistance, training, and support**
- Strong focus on rural communities



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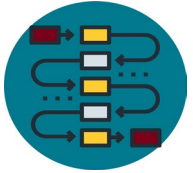
# Great Lakes TCTAC can help with:



Information, Tools, &  
Trainings



GIS Mapping



Grant Identification &  
Navigation



Budget & Evaluation  
Planning



Project Scoping &  
Design



Post-Award  
Support



Engineering  
Consultation & Analysis



# Great Lakes TCTAC

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	<b>What</b>	<b>How</b>
<b>Education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Grant-specific updates and announcements</li><li>● Toolkits, templates, guides</li><li>● Training videos</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Newsletter</li><li>● Website</li><li>● Email connections</li></ul>
<b>Navigation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Grants navigation</li><li>● Grants review</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Workshops</li><li>● Office Hours</li></ul>
<b>Development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Scope concepts, &amp; planning</li><li>● Proposal development</li><li>● Engineering analysis</li><li>● GIS/ mapping, and data visualization</li><li>● Budget development</li><li>● Post-grant support</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 1:1 partnership</li><li>● Cohorts</li></ul>

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# TCTAC Website: Tools & Resources

## Great Lakes Environmental Justice TCTAC

Home About Us ▾ Our Work ▾ Hub News and Stories Hub Events **Resources**

Resources

## Resources

Below you can find general, pre-, and post-award grant resources curated for you by the TCTAC network. Broken up by category, the resource list serves to provide guidance to organizations, Tribes and environmental justice communities on their grant journey. This list is in the works and will continue to grow.

[Expand all](#)

+ Finding a grant

+ Finding tax credits and rebates

+ SAM.gov

+ Grant preparation

+ Getting ready to manage a grant

+ Key grants

+ Webinars

+ Other technical assistance

### × Key grants

#### General

- **[Access Federal Funding - Environmental Protection Network](#)** - This website showcases the resources the Environmental Protection Network has created to assist environmental justice communities understand the application process for specific federal grants.

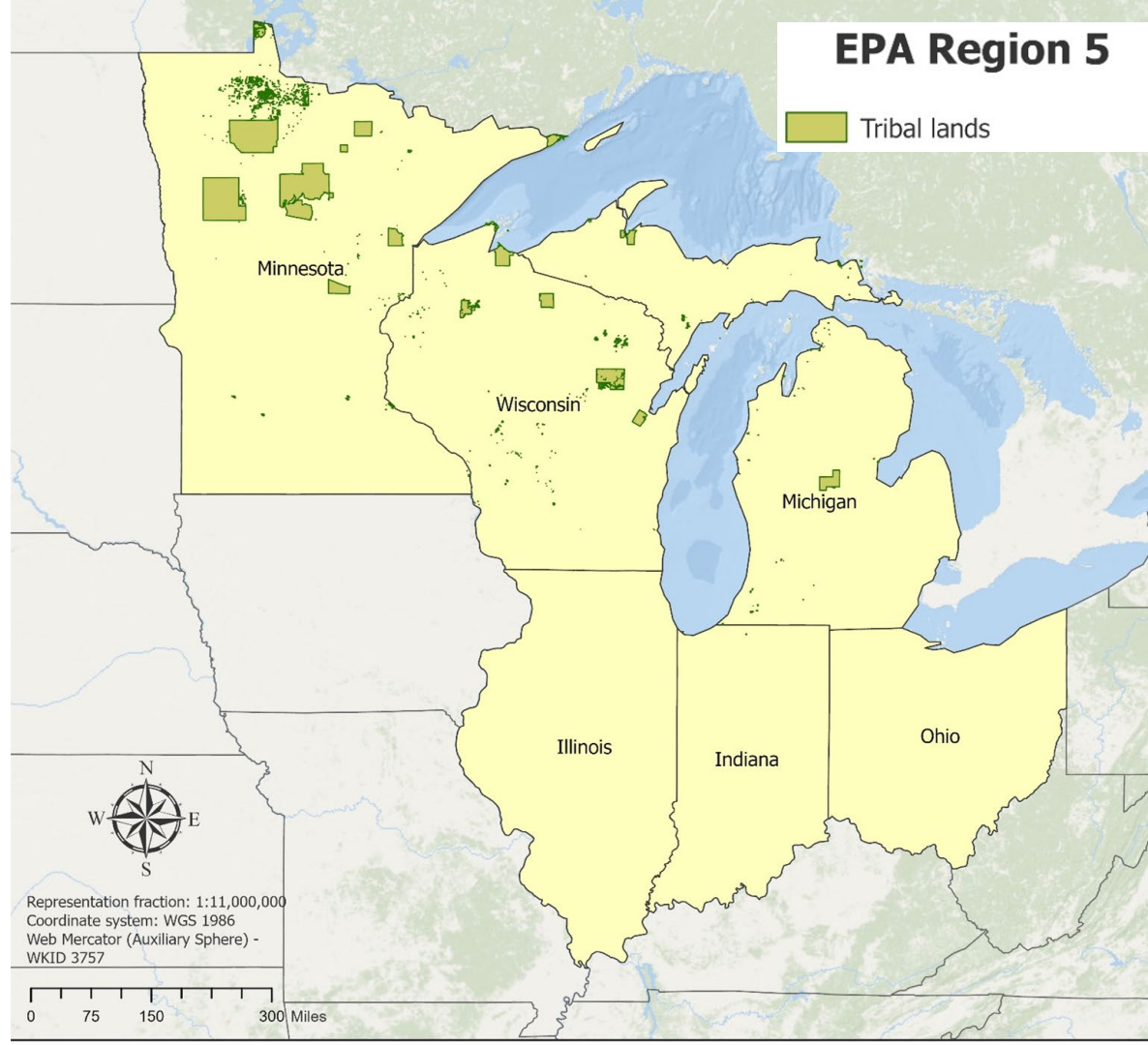
#### Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)

- **[Communities with High Fatality Rates Spreadsheet](#)**  
USDOT encourages communities with higher needs to apply by providing additional award consideration to those with higher fatality rates.
- **[Self-Certification Eligibility Worksheet](#)**  
Required for all SS4A Implementation Grant applications and any Planning and Demonstration Grant applications to conduct Supplemental Planning/Demonstration Activities only.
- **[Application Checklists: Implementation Grant Checklist and Planning and Demonstration Grant Checklist](#)**
- **[Budget Templates: Implementation Grant Estimated Budget and Planning and Demonstration Grant Estimated Budget](#)**
- **[March 2023 webinar series](#)** slides and recordings can be found on the [SS4A Webinar Series page](#).
- **[Understanding Non-Federal Match Requirements](#)**
- **[Complete List of SS4A Resources](#)**

# Great Lakes TCTAC

Multi-state effort

1 of 16 nationwide centers



# Great Lakes TCTAC Network



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Better Energy.  
Better World.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



**MSU EXTENSION**



**Illinois Extension**  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN



THE OHIO STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION





# Contact Us



Visit <https://greatlakestctac.umn.edu>



Reach out to [TCTAC@umn.edu](mailto:TCTAC@umn.edu)



Sign up for newsletters and emails  
([z.umn.edu/TCTACNews](https://z.umn.edu/TCTACNews)).



# Resilient Communities Project (RCP)

The Resilient Communities Project connects local government agencies in Minnesota with University of Minnesota faculty and students to advance community resilience and student learning through collaborative, course-based projects.

**Eligible applicants:** Counties, cities, tribal public entities, special districts, government agencies only

**Program cost involved:** \$6,000 - \$7,000

**\*Currently accepting applications\***

**\*Open now\*** **Priority deadline:** April 30, 2024; next deadline August 15, 2024



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# Resilient Communities Project (RCP)

Partnerships to:

- Provide applied research and technical assistance from UMN researchers
- Generate new ideas and perspectives on a challenging problem or issue
- Bring community voices and knowledge into the conversation

More information and next steps:

- Application: [rcp.umn.edu/ applying-rcp-partnership](https://rcp.umn.edu/applying-rcp-partnership)
- Informational webinar: [vimeo.com/ 924245965](https://vimeo.com/924245965)
- Sign up for office hours with RCP staff: [z.umn.edu/ office-hours](https://z.umn.edu/office-hours)



# Clen Energy Grants, Resources, and Opportunities

## Support includes, but not limited to grants

- Teams in every part of MN
- Seed grant every 2 years (next in fall 2025)
- Technical assistance on clean energy projects, programs, and needs
- Extensive online resources on clean energy and energy efficiency
- Clean energy sector job board

## Find out more:

[cleanenergyresourceteams.org](https://cleanenergyresourceteams.org)



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# Clean Energy Grants, Resources, and Opportunities

## CERTs supports

- Businesses
- Cities and counties
- Farmers
- Residents
- Schools
- Tribal Nations
- Utilities
- Underserved Communities

## Contact the CERTs Coordinator for your area:

### Southeast:

Jennifer Lindahl - [jlindahl@umn.edu](mailto:jlindahl@umn.edu)

### Southwest:

Nadya Bucklin – [nadyab@swrdc.org](mailto:nadyab@swrdc.org)

## More about CERTS:

[cleanenergyresourceteams.org](http://cleanenergyresourceteams.org)



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# UMN Institute on the Environment (IonE)

## UMN IonE

- Research center focused on sustainability and the environment
- IonE Impact Goals Grants available for community-engaged UMN research (open again Spring 2025 for 2025-2028)
- **\*University-led\*, UMN researcher is lead applicant**
- RSDP can support connecting to UMN researchers for idea development

Find out more:

[environment.umn.edu/impact-goals/](https://environment.umn.edu/impact-goals/)



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# RSDP as a strategic partner for rural communities

## Opportunities for support from RSDP:

- Network connector
  - Within and outside of UMN
  - Navigation of UMN for partnership/ collaboration/ support
- Information about/ access to funding opportunities through UMN

## Contact me!

Andi Sutton: [sutto364@umn.edu](mailto:sutto364@umn.edu)  
857-928-4196

Website: [z.umn.edu/RSDPHome](http://z.umn.edu/RSDPHome)



# Thank you!

**Andi Sutton**

Executive Director

Southeast Regional Sustainable Development Partnership

UMN Extension

Email: [sutto364@umn.edu](mailto:sutto364@umn.edu)

Phone: 857-928-4196

Website: [z.umn.edu/RSDPhome](http://z.umn.edu/RSDPhome)



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