



January 21, 2020

Dear CLP members,

The Minnesota Office of Broadband Development announced the results of the 2019 Border to Border Broadband Development Grant Program. Our application was not among the awardees.

The MN Deed office released the broadband awards today. Unfortunately, the short answer is, we did not win. Out of the 78 applications submitted in Sept. 2019, they awarded 30. The largest amount granted was about \$2.89M. If you recall, we were asking for a \$5M grant. State statute dictates that they have the option to disperse the money geographically around the state, and that is what they did. Also, there were several projects in St. Louis County (CLP, Century Link in Gnesen Township, Paul Bunyan, and Boise Forte). With the exception of Century Link in Gnesen Township, the others did not directly compete with our territory. The grant requests just from the St. Louis County projects totaled more than \$10M. The Boise Forte and Paul Bunyan projects were awarded. I think that there were just too many applications in St. Louis County this year. On a good note, Century Link did not challenge our application for Gnesen Township.

Of course, the biggest issue is that there simply was not enough money to go around. The program only allocated \$20M for this round of funding, and that proved to be our disadvantage. To properly fund all the applications, they would have needed around \$70M, which was the original budget request. I know we had a very strong application with tremendous community support. You all should be proud of the work we accomplished. Don't be discouraged with the news, and please do not think we are done. We are working on a broadband roadmap to see what other options may be available to us through other sources. We have the State of MN again this year, and there may be a couple of Federal programs we will be looking at as well.

Thank you all for your support, and we will update you as we find out more information. We have notified the residential stakeholder leaders, and we will keep you informed throughout the year. Here is the link to the State awards posted today.

<https://mn.gov/deed/programs-services/broadband/grant-program/>

Stay tuned. Relentlessly Yours Truly,

Hal Halpern  
CEO/General Manager