

9/10/14



REGISTER NOW! Fall 2014 WEDC Regional Partner Summits

During the month of September, WEDC will be hitting the road hosting Regional Partner Summits across the state. These events will take place from 10 am - 4 pm and provide updates from WEDC and our regional partners, as well as offer afternoon workshop sessions on various WEDC programs, tools and resources that can assist in local economic development efforts. A hosted networking lunch is included. **Click her to register now for the summit coming to your region!**

- Tue, Sept. 2 Waukesha (Waukesha Tech College)
- Thurs, Sept. 4 Appleton (Bordini Center)
- Fri, Sept. 5 Marshfield (Hotel Marshfield)
- Mon, Sept. 8 La Crosse (Lunda Center)
- Tue, Sept. 9 Rice Lake (UW - Barron County)
- Fri, Sept. 19 Rhinelander (Nicolet Area Tech College)
- Mon, Sept. 29 Madison (WEDC)

CDI Grant Application Deadline: September 15, 2014

The Community Development Investment Program is now making grant awards through a competitive process in which applications will be scored and evaluated two to three times per year. For FY15, the first round application deadline is **Monday, September 15, 2014**. Grants of up to \$500,000 will be awarded for shovel-ready, high-impact, community-driven development efforts that will likely be a catalyst for additional investment in downtown districts of the community. Grants of up to \$50,000 will be awarded for planning, market analysis or branding efforts that will likely generate additional investment if implemented. A local unit of government or tribal entity must be the applicant and awards are limited to 25% of project costs. Please contact your regional Community Account Manager to discuss the project and obtain a copy of the application materials.

InForce Network (IFN) Free License Period Extended to June 30, 2015

As WEDC continues the rollout of the In Force Network (IFN - extended Salesforce CRM), we are extending the free licenses for anyone wanting to join the network through June 30, 2015. Extending this free trial period will provide the opportunity for us to expand the training and onboarding of new users, which in turn will provide more enhanced and beneficial data, tracking and reporting within the system.

Be assured that prior to July 1, 2015, WEDC will provide IFN users ample reminders prior to charging the \$500 annual license fee per user. Additionally, if users are on the IFN during the free trial period and decide at any time they no longer want to partake, their data can be copied back to be input into another system of the users choice.

11/9/17

The Wisconsin Rock River Initiative Impact Statement WR²VI

In rural areas of Jefferson and Dodge Counties many families and individuals are facing difficult economic times. Layoffs and business restructuring continue across the state in rural and small communities where broadband is meager at best. In contrast, Forbes magazine recently ranked the Madison area fifth on its list of "Cities Creating the Most Information Technology Jobs," in part an Epic phenomenon but also due to a host of start-ups and emerging companies working on everything from gaming to digital music to new ways to order food and buy groceries. Madison has high speed broadband. As one moves out from the densely populated urban areas to the rural areas that boast quality of life, recreation, and much lower crime numbers, one also finds that many new jobs come with for lower wages and benefits. Wisconsin's manufacturing base and good jobs haven't gone away — but this base has changed, and in ways that will make it more competitive. Technology is driving much of the manufacturing sector in Wisconsin today, especially in electronics, robotics, automation, sustainable processes, logistics and precision instruments, to name a few. As the "Internet of Things" grows, so will those businesses that combine expertise in manufacturing with digital technologies. The WR²VI goal is to provide the technology infrastructure needed to get back into the game. We are not playing single-element defense as do so many economic development programs. WR²VI is an offensive, multi-project campaign focused on delivering the technology infrastructure platform that all people and business need now and into the future. It gets us into the Game. In addition to Broadband, this initiative includes the Wisconsin Internet Cooperative Exchange (WICE) project, our gateway to the Internet, and a social media marketing campaign to build awareness. While the program focuses on delivering Information/Communication services, WR²VI also facilitates the customer links with the Electric and Natural Gas energy networks that are now deploying Smart Grid. Our game plan now includes the two most critical business enablers, Information/Communication and Energy. They make up a sustainable campaign to press a strategic advantage.



WR²VI is not a money maker. If delivering high speed broadband to rural areas was a lucrative business proposition, the public sectors for-profit organizations would have already provided this service. WR²VI is a public private partnership that measures success by delivering the technology infrastructure our citizens need at an equitable cost. Our focus is the wellbeing of our communities that will prosper and provide the economic return on this investment.

In brief: The Wisconsin Rock River Valley Initiative is a Win/Win beacon that will attract people and business to the Rock River Valley communities.

A place where people and business come to grow.

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