



The goal of the program is to help communities develop and support leaders who will work with local citizens to create a promising future.



The Northwest Area Foundation was founded in 1934 by an heir to the Great Northern Railroad fortune. The Foundation is headquartered in St. Paul, MN, and is utilizing its \$367 million in assets to help communities reduce poverty in the eight states in which the Great Northern Railroad operated – Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Oregon and Washington. For more information on the Northwest Area Foundation and the Horizons Leadership Program, please go to: <http://www.nwaf.org>.



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Prepare to help make it happen!



horizons LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

The Horizons Leadership Program is an innovative new program designed to help small, rural communities reverse population and economic decline. It offers comprehensive community leadership programming and activities within small, rural communities that in general, have experienced significant decline in population, income and resources.

The Horizons program is intensive and locally-based. Selected communities will receive training, support, and other resources to build the skills, connections and information base needed to stem decline. Research and experience have shown that a critical factor in whether small, rural communities survive or thrive is whether there is a diverse pool of people with the skills and willingness to lead and assist with key community projects and issues.

The Horizons Leadership Program has been developed and funded by the Northwest Area Foundation, whose mission is to help communities in an eight-state region reduce poverty.

What are the overall themes of the Horizons Leadership Program?

- Communities are full of assets and we need to build on them
- There is an abundance of leadership
- Leadership is part of a community's infrastructure
- Everyone should be involved
- By working together, difficult issues can be addressed

What will communities get that are involved in the Horizons Leadership Program?

- An 18-month commitment from the Northwest Area Foundation
- A full-time coach for three communities
- Trainers and consultants from the North Dakota State University Extension Service
- Information and data about your community
- LeadershipPlentySM curriculum material and training
- A tailor made leadership program consisting of programs needed in each community

What will individuals get that are involved in the Horizons Leadership Program?

- Opportunities to enhance and expand their leadership and communication skills
- Opportunities to increase confidence in working with groups, managing conflict and leading effective meetings
- A chance to help build momentum and increase capacity for positive, sustainable change within your community

Who can be involved in the Horizons Leadership Program?

Specific communities are selected by the Northwest Area Foundation for this 18-month program based on need and community size. Once a community has been selected all individuals interested in making their community a better place to live and work are encouraged to participate in the Horizons Leadership Program. The program is open to:

- Existing community leaders
- Newcomers to the community
- Youth and adults
- Community members that want to learn how to make a difference in their community
- Any individual that considers themselves a part of the community

Watch for more information on this program in your community!