

February 8, 2019



Dear Region 5 communities,

Developing, retaining and attracting a talented workforce is critical for Greater Minnesota to sustain and grow rural businesses and communities. In 2018, Region Five Development Commission (R5DC) launched the “Welcoming Communities Program” with support from the Blandin Foundation and the Northwest Area Foundation. The R5DC Welcoming Communities program offers tools through the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) assessments and facilitation of community equity advocacy groups to assist the region in working with our neighbors, co-workers, newcomers and students in ways that cultivate our quality of life.

Thanks to support from Sourcewell, R5DC is seeking a city to pilot a community-wide Welcoming Communities program to create long-lasting impacts of attracting a qualified workforce. R5DC’s IDI Qualified Assessors will deliver IDI assessments to 5 groups within a community (city administration, city council, non-profit organizations, school board, and economic development organizations or private sector businesses) and facilitate one larger community gathering to establish a Welcoming Communities Advocacy Group (WCAG’s) that involves students and diverse community members. For 18 months, R5DC will coordinate/facilitate 6 quarterly WCAG meetings to assist in the completion of a community project that practices public work that expands cultural agility.

If your community is interested in being considered for this opportunity, please complete the attached application and submit it no later than March 15, 2019 to [despe@regionfive.org](mailto:despe@regionfive.org) or R5DC, 200 1<sup>st</sup> Street NE., Ste. 2, Staples, MN 56469. Additionally, IDI assessments are available to groups wishing to participate outside of the community-wide pilot projects.

If you have questions, please feel free to email or call at the contact information listed below.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dawn Espe', is written over a light gray rectangular background.

Dawn Espe  
Senior Regional Development Planner  
Region Five Development Commission  
[despe@regionfive.org](mailto:despe@regionfive.org) | 218.894.3233 x3



**Welcoming Communities  
ADVOCACY GROUP**



**Community Application**

Name of Community \_\_\_\_\_

Main Contact \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/Email \_\_\_\_\_

Five community groups committed to participating in the program: (city council, other city boards, school board, nonprofit boards, private employers, etc.)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

How could your community benefit from launching a Welcoming Communities Advocacy Group?

What are some current welcoming initiatives taking place in your community now?

What are some obstacles your community may interface with as a result of this program?