The Community Website Partnership (CWP) is an initiative of Community Systems and is supported by The Ford Family Foundation and participating communities to create inclusive, comprehensive and sustainable community-owned websites. Our goal is to engage residents, nonprofits and/or businesses through the community website template and process to promote community awareness, connectedness, and community building.

The CWP website template offers robust features and has been developed with input from rural communities over the last five years. Every site is unique and created by a community-based leadership team of stakeholders guided by the CWP Hub Team with Community Website Partnership resources and training. With this support, communities develop content, increase site user engagement, and develop capacity for a successful, sustainable website.

Not only does each site provide a live, user-driven portal for information and resources, it is an essential tool in rural communities, a “one stop shop” that is accessible, free, and open to all users. Each website serves as a resource hub, attracting diverse community members to exchange information, connect with their community, and create opportunities to increase community vitality. Sites often act as portals for making community visioning processes and projects possible.

Communities may be selected to participate based on a readiness assessment, application, approval by The Ford Family Foundation, and available resources. A skilled Hub Team and Partnership participants support Community Teams in their community-building work during a
guided, collaborative process to create, maintain, and sustain a unique community website. Communities provide dedicated coordination support and match funding for hard costs and maintenance ($1200 in 2020). In future years they may access options for tiered levels of technical maintenance, technical support, and outreach support via an agreement with the Hub Team. Communities also may choose to maintain sites locally.

**Customized features of Community Websites may include:**

- Information, Photos, Maps
- Calendar
- Directory
- Volunteer Matching
- News and stories
- Press Release submission
- Projects and Initiatives
- Links to other sites, resources and social media

Communities provide local website coordination, website community teams, volunteers and a hosting organization/fiscal sponsor. The community partners are responsible for developing initial site content and for ongoing community outreach and engagement to engage site visitors and registered users to the websites current. Community teams with sites are part of the Partnership, they access and provide peer resources, skill-up with training opportunities, and have access to the Partnership resources including a website, e-newsletters, and the annual Partnership Summit event.

The CWP Hub Team supports teams to customize the template with their selected domain and content offering technical specialist expertise and support, community outreach/engagement strategies, and access to Partnership training and peer sharing.

View the demo Community Website template site here: [communitywebsite.org](http://communitywebsite.org)

Check out the participating Community Website Partnership sites:

- [rivercal.org](http://rivercal.org)
- [illinoisvalleyweb.org](http://illinoisvalleyweb.org)
- [bandoncares.org](http://bandoncares.org)
- [jeffcoconnects.org](http://jeffcoconnects.org)
- [ruralklamathconnects.org](http://ruralklamathconnects.org)
- [applegateconnect.org](http://applegateconnect.org)
- [wildriversconnect.org](http://wildriversconnect.org)
- [mckenziecommunity.org](http://mckenziecommunity.org)
- [southcoastconnects.org](http://southcoastconnects.org)

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