

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### NINE WISCONSIN COMMUNITIES ELIGIBLE

### FOR FUTURE FOCUSED GRANTS

Madison, WI April 18, 2017 - The Local Government Institute of Wisconsin ("LGI") is accepting applications through June 30th from Wisconsin communities that are committed to working across government and stakeholder boundaries to design ambitious and resilient futures.

The three-year effort, called "Future Regions", will fund a total of nine regional planning processes – three in 2017, three in 2018 and three in 2019. LGI will underwrite up to 50% of the project cost; the participating communities are expected to contribute the balance. A region may be self-defined, but it must include at least two local units of government, key community organizations, key businesses and members of the community not normally involved in community leadership roles.

Future Regions will use a six-step foresight process facilitated by a professional futurist to:

- Identify critical trends that will shape their communities in the future
- Design a compelling vision and supporting strategies that are responsive to trends
- Execute strategy through a dynamic multi-sector configuration of stakeholders.

"Business-as-usual, where governments work in their silos independent of each other and other community actors, is not a sustainable strategy," says Gary Becker, LGI's Executive Director. Research conducted by LGI in 2016 determined that communities that flourish in the future will be collaborative, highly engaged across multiple jurisdictions and stakeholders, and accountable. The Future Regions initiative was designed with that in mind: to help Wisconsin communities be proactive and collaborative in designing their futures.

The Future Region competition is open to any community in Wisconsin. Grant recipients will work with Rebecca Ryan, a Wisconsin-based futurist and economist. Applications will be available May 1<sup>st</sup>. More information is available at [http://www.localgovinstitute.org/future\\_regions](http://www.localgovinstitute.org/future_regions).

*The Local Government Institute of Wisconsin* is a not-for-profit, non-partisan corporation created to conduct research, enhance collaboration, and educate the public and policymakers on ways to improve local government's ability to serve the people.

*Rebecca Ryan* is the Resident Futurist at the Alliance for Innovation and the Association of Government Risk Pools. She is a senior advisor at the Governing Institute and the author of several books and major reports on the future.

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