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"The Local Government Institute of Wisconsin will collaborate with others to find solutions for the efficient delivery and funding of local government services consistent with the needs of our citizens."

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Chippewa Valley and Racine County Are Wisconsin's First "Future Regions"

Madison, WI October 9, 2017 - The Local Government Institute of Wisconsin ("LGI") announced today that the Chippewa Valley and Racine County have been selected as the first "Future Regions" - their statewide initiative to help communities address long term issues through intergovernmental collaboration.

The Future Regions initiative was launched earlier this year by LGI. It promotes intergovernmental collaboration, broad community engagement, accountability, and strategic foresight as a means to conquer communities' thorniest long-term challenges.

Eau Claire County and the Cities of Altoona and Eau Claire submitted a winning application to take-on the issue of their region's growing creative economy. "The area has become known for its' vibrant music and arts scene," said Eau Claire County Administrator Kathryn Schauf. "We as local governments would like to cooperatively work to nurture and support these efforts to provide continued community growth."

Racine County and multiple units of local governments within the county submitted a winning application to look at the long-term future of economic development. "With the announcement that Foxconn has chosen Racine County as its location of choice for its 20 million square feet advanced manufacturing campus, Racine County is poised for considerable growth," said Jenny Trick, Executive Director of the Racine County Economic Development Corporation.

The Future Regions initiatives is a three-year effort that intends to fund up to nine regional planning processes. 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. Other communities interested in participating in the Future Regions initiative should contact Gary Becker – gary@localgovinstitute.org.

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,

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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. More information is available at 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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