



# **Southern Iowa Council of Governments: Partnership Prospectus**

## **Introduction**

In 2000, the Southern Iowa Council Of Governments (SICOG) Board of Directors implemented a Partnership Program to identify new resources and activities to benefit the eight counties making up the SICOG area.

The Partnership Program year begins on March 1 and is renewable on an annual basis. The information that follows explains and describes the benefits of the Partnership Program.

## **Who is SICOG?**

The Southern Iowa Council of Governments was formed as a non-profit corporation under chapter 509A.39 23 E and 28I of the Iowa Code in June 1973 in Creston, Iowa by the seven counties in south-central Iowa of Adair, Adams, Clark, Decatur, Ringgold, Taylor, and Union Counties. Madison County joined SICOG in 1985. Services offered by SICOG include, but are not limited to:

- Economic Development – Comprehensive loan packages, community marketing plans, development projects, and financial packaging;
- Community Development – Grant application and administration, special projects, and information resources;
- Planning – Comprehensive development plans, area wide development plans, recreation plans, zoning and subdivision regulations, ordinance codification, annexations, site designs, and neighborhood studies;
- Housing – Grant application and administration, first-time home buyers program, HOUSE program, special projects, and information resources;
- Education – Technical assistance to five school districts, grant applications, and special projects; and
- Disaster Assistance – Coordinate disaster assistance programs, short-term and long-term disaster assistance plans and housing assistance due to disaster.

The 64-member Project Board sets the overall policy of the planning activities of SICOG, and delegates the responsibility for implementing this policy to the Executive Board. The Executive Board, with representation from local governments and various agencies and interest groups, conducts a preliminary review of planning reports and approves their submittal for public comments and considerations.

## **Why This Program?**

*To obtain needed resources for potentially beneficial opportunities*

The region has significant opportunities through state and national programs that include flood mapping, rural development, housing, and economic development programs. Special endeavors could be undertaken to



strengthen SICOG data/census centers, Geographic Information System, affordable housing programs, land use mapping, and staff professional development. Currently, SICOG requires additional resources to pursue opportunities that will have an overall beneficial effect for the cities and counties of Southern Iowa.

*To meet the growing diversity of needs and interests*

During this last decade and into the foreseeable future, the activities carried out by SICOG have become very diverse. Cities, counties, and development corporations have different needs, programs, and interests. This makes it increasingly difficult for SICOG to be responsive to everybody in providing sound programs as well as the ability to provide technical assistance for special projects and programs.

*To increase involvement and cost equity*

More programs and projects have been undertaken now more than ever before. These projects require more time and staff resources than in previous years. Greater resources and equity can be achieved by participating in the Partnership Program.

*Mission & Programs*

The philosophy of the Southern Iowa Council of Governments is that all groups in or that service the SICOG region are essential to promoting, advancing, and developing the living conditions of citizens. One way that this goal is realized is by cities, counties, financial institutions, utility companies, lawyers, realtors, and local development corporations and others all working collectively with each other and with SICOG.

Since 1973 SICOG has utilized a cost-sharing approach to providing professional technical services that have been made available and affordable for all local governments in the eight-county region.

SICOG services have traditionally been supported through a basic per capita charge paid by all SICOG members and by various state and federal sources of funding. Over the years, SICOG membership has benefited all segments of the population and economic sectors, including local governments.

A focus of the Partnership Program is to continue to provide the same quality service in the future as we have in the past. Technology has evolved and we at SICOG would like to evolve with it in order to advance the area that we serve.

This is where the Partnership Program has its roots. The intent is for our Partnership Program to help us help all the cities, counties, and people that comprise the SICOG region.

**Investments**

Partnership investments are contributed by non-members to SICOG in order to raise capital. Therefore, Partners in essence, buy “equity” in the region, which assists in improving the general living conditions of the area. These improvements are the “dividends” paid for investing in the program. When a Partner buys



equity in SICOG they become a part owner of the concept of the Southern Iowa Council of Governments. Partnership investments typically are contributed on five (5) levels that include: Bronze (\$250), Silver (\$500), Gold (\$1,000), Diamond (\$1,500), and Platinum (\$2,500).

**Past Performance**

The table below shows SICOG’s performance on average annual returns for one year, three years, and the life of the organization. Performance figures are from inception (June 1, 1973 through December 31, 2017). One (1) year Performance figures are from January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017. Three (3) Year Performance figures are from January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2017. As with all investments, past performance is not necessarily an indication of future growth.

<i>Southern Iowa Council of Governments</i>	Life of SICOG	Three Year	One Year
<b>Return on Local Share</b>	<b>\$87.77 to \$1</b>	<b>\$67.28 to \$1</b>	<b>\$41.87 to \$1</b>

**Objectives and Strategies**

The Partnership Program’s contribution objective is to seek long-term economic and community growth by investing staff resources and time to assist primarily with:

- Research and Development of New and Innovative Programs
- Affordable Housing
- Technical Assistance
- Job Creation
- Technology Improvements
- Internet Presence

**Partnership Program Strategies**

The Program will normally use at least 75% of contributions made in staff resource to assist with the development of the area. Mr. Timothy Ostroski, the Partnership Program’s manager, selects activities according to the economic environment and the attractiveness of particular funding programs, the timeliness of the activity, and competitiveness of the program.

**Activity Characteristics**

The SICOG looks for activities when utilizing the contributions with the following characteristics:

- Research and Development of New and Innovative Programs
- Affordable Housing
- Technical Assistance



- Job Creation
- Technology Improvements, and
- Internet Presence

The Partnership Program also seeks opportunities that are deemed to be attractive due to:

- New Announced Programs or Funding
- Technical Assistance related to Job Creation
- Technical Assistance related to Job Retention
- Affordable Housing Program Opportunities, and
- Legislative Opportunities

### **Contribution Risks**

Investments (contributions) made to the Partnership Program in activities are subject to the risk of changing economic, industry, and company conditions and the risks inherent in management's ability to anticipate such changes.