

THE WINDMILL

Two Large Grants Funded in Late November



We were able to really celebrate the week following Thanksgiving upon hearing of the award of two large grants. The week started with Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) announcing Lamoni’s request for \$295,000 in CDBG funds for mandated wastewater plant improvements was funded. This \$600,000 project will fund the installation of a UV disinfection system and provide better wastewater treatment meeting environmental standards.

Later in the week, we learned that the Creston McKinley Park Aquatic Center (MPAC) project received a DEKKO Foundation grant for \$1.5 million. This award will serve in part as a matching challenge pledge to generate private donations for this nearly \$5.5 million project. The image above illustrates the MPAC design concept.

SICOG prepared both applications with extensive support and input from those communities. Congratulations to Lamoni and Creston!

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A View From the First Tee

Many activities occur between Thanksgiving and the New Year and a lot of them are not just “personal-busy-time-of-the-season” activities. SICOG does not “shut-down” during this busy time. In fact, the upcoming month is usually our busiest time. Speaking of busy times, see the next paragraph.

We will soon see the end of the FY 2019 quarterly Community Development Block Grant season (submission date Dec. 31, 2018). SICOG will be submitting water and sewer applications and a community facility application; whew and you thought Santa was a busy guy!

The Southern Iowa COG Housing Trust Fund was awarded \$293,673 to be used for various initiatives to improve the area’s housing stock. Local organizations and developers are asked to submit applications to the trust fund. The trust fund board awards grants, loans, and forgivable loans for various kinds of projects that benefit the region.

At the time of this writing, we are entering the harsh winter months of Iowa. I pass along to you my emergency supplies suggestions:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Water - one gallon per person, per day | 8. Multipurpose tool (e.g., Swiss army knife) |
| 2. Food - nonperishable, easy to prepare items | 9. Sanitation and personal hygiene items |
| 3. Flashlight | 10. Cell phone with chargers |
| 4. Battery powered or hand crank radio (NOAA Weather Radio, if possible) | 11. Family and emergency contact information |
| 5. Extra batteries | 12. Extra cash |
| 6. First Aid kit | 13. Emergency blanket |
| 7. Medications (7 day supply), other medical supplies, and medical paperwork | 14. Manual can opener |
| | 15. JUST SAYING, be prepared! |

The Christmas trees are up! Each year I update you, so this year will be no different. Pam is decorating our home with scads of festive trees. My magnificent wife spends countless hours putting up multiple trees to festoon our domicile. These include: Angel Tree, Star Trek Tree, Disney Tree, Patriotic Tree, Miniature House Tree, Golf Tree and our Family Tree. I wish she would put up a Money Tree. Also, I have not disappointed the countless masses, for I have put up outside decorations. Why, you ask? Because it is a simple way to put a smile on someone’s face.



As always, if there is anything I can do, please let me know. Our phone number is 641.782.8491.



Remember, we are working for you.



**As I close for this month, I extend to you
my sincere wishes for a
Joyous Holiday Season and a Happy New Year!**

Timothy Ostroski



SICOG Executive Board Meeting of November 6, 2018

Chairman Karl McCarty called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 6, 2018 at the SICOG office in Creston. The following members were in attendance: Christensen, Davidson, Lesan, McCann, McCarty, Minnick, Price, Riley, Tullberg, Twombly, Waddle and Zabel.

Staff present: Ostroski and Brimm.

Twombly made a motion to approve the agenda. Price seconded the motion, all ayes. Motion carried.

McCann made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 2, 2018 meeting. Tullberg seconded the motion, all ayes. Motion carried.

Tullberg made a motion to approve the financial reports for the month of October. Riley seconded the motion, all ayes. Motion carried.

Tullberg made a motion to approve opening a Line of Credit for the city of Creston's housing rehabilitation program in the amount of \$100,000. Riley seconded the motion, all ayes. Motion carried.

Other items discussed included: EDA-RLF semi-annual reports, CDBG applications, insurance, grant report, budget, retirement, Governor appointment, state legislature and federal legislature.

Twombly made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:26 p.m. Christensen seconded the motion, all ayes. Motion carried.

Minutes Submitted by Brimm

Reminder to Cities and Counties

The SICOG Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Priority survey and SWOT forms have been sent out to every city and county in our region. To assure that your city or county is involved in this process, please place this matter on an upcoming meeting agenda and complete the survey documents. You may respond online or mail your hard copy documents back to us by December 31, 2018. If you have any questions, contact Marcus Amman at the SICOG office: 641.782.8491.



January 8
SICOG Executive Board Meeting, 1:00 p.m.
SIDG Executive Board Meeting to follow
Southern IA COG Housing Trust Fund Meeting, 2:00 p.m.

January 15
RPA 14 / ATURA Policy Board Meeting, Jamie's Coffee Mill & Deli,
Mount Ayr, 1:30 p.m.

February 5
SICOG Executive Board Meeting, 1:00 p.m.
SIDG Executive Board Meeting to follow



2019 CDBG Application Deadlines Set and Applications Now Open

In November, the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) held the 2019 CDBG application workshop. During the workshop IEDA staff announced the due dates for 2019 applications:

Community Facilities and Services: April 19
 Housing Sustainability (Rehab): April 26
 Downtown Revitalization: May 17
 Water/Sewer: Quarterly at end of each quarter

SICOG is already working with a few cities on housing and water/sewer applications but is able to assist more communities on any of these projects. Grants can be as high as \$600,000.

Community facilities and services is the CDBG program that provides grants for daycare facilities, group homes and related quasi-health facilities, sheltered workshops, and others. It also funds storm water control projects. With the ever-increasing numbers of huge rainfall events in all seasons, it is imperative that cities address storm water to prevent flooding, street damage, and other property damage.

The housing sustainability fund provides grants for owner-occupied rehabilitation. The limit is six homes per city per grant cycle. The IEDA no longer requires a match for this grant.

Downtown Revitalization (DTR) is a program to help building owners in the downtown to renovate building storefronts or facades. This grant has improved this year because now only eight buildings are required to receive the maximum grant and as few as six buildings can apply. This is a big deal because it allows smaller towns in our region to apply. SICOG is looking for one town to apply this year.

Water & Sewer Fund applications are due quarterly. This grant funds various capital improvements to water and sewer systems.

Because these grants require extensive upfront work and planning, it is important that you notify SICOG as soon as you think you might have a project. Your community is not limited to only one project and can apply under multiple categories. SICOG is here to help. We have secured and administered over \$50 million in CDBG funds over the years for our members.

2018 SICOG PARTNERSHIPS

PLATINUM (\$2,500)

- John Wayne Birthplace Society, Ltd. of Winterset
- City of Osceola
- Clarke County Development Corporation

DIAMOND (\$1,500)

- Creston City Water Works
- First National Bank of Afton & Creston
- Iowa State Savings Bank of Corning, Creston, Diagonal, & Lenox
- Lenox Municipal Utilities

GOLD (\$1,000)

- Garden & Associates, Ltd. of Creston & Oskaloosa

SILVER (\$500)

- American State Bank of Lamoni, Osceola & Winterset
- First National Bank of Murray & Osceola
- Community Development Corporation of Greenfield
- Corning Municipal Utilities
- Greater Regional Medical Center of Creston
- JEO Consulting Group, Inc. of Ankeny
- Michael Foods of Lenox
- PCSB Bank in Clarinda, Corning, Creston, Lenox, & Mount Ayr
- Snyder & Associates, Inc. of Ankeny & Atlantic
- Southwest Iowa Rural Electric Cooperative of Corning, Mount Ayr, & Stanton
- Tyler Insurance Services of Creston & Mount Ayr
- Union County Development Association
- Veenstra & Kimm, Inc. of West Des Moines

BRONZE (\$250)

- Adams Community Economic Development Corporation
- Akin Building Centers of Corning & Creston
- Bradley Angus Farms of Lenox
- City State Bank of Mount Ayr
- Clarke Electrical Cooperative of Osceola
- Farmers & Merchants State Bank of Orient, St. Charles, & Winterset
- FNB Bank of Fontanelle & Greenfield
- Gilbert True Value of Leon & Osceola
- Lenox Development Corporation
- Ringgold County Development Corporation
- Saylor Realty, LLC of Osceola
- Southwestern Community College
- State Bank of Brooks
- Union State Bank of Greenfield
- Union State Bank of Winterset

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

In the Spotlight

Community of Lenox

SICOG and Lenox have partnered on multiple projects including Lenox trails, wastewater treatment improvements, day care facility, and the Lenox Comprehensive Plan. Also, through the Housing Trust Fund, we are providing funding for the renovations of the Bunn building.

What unique characteristics are you proud of in Lenox?

- ❖ We have a great golf course, sports complex, and community center and of course, we are also proud of our Bright Lights & Shining Hospitality!



What is Lenox's claim to fame?

- ❖ The Lenox Rodeo will be celebrating 74 years in 2019! We were also the sight of "The Craziest" movie in 2009. Half of the movie was filmed in Lenox and the other half in Perry, Georgia.



What is an interesting fact about Lenox that most people don't know?

- ❖ Hale's Shows of Tomorrow was a carnival company - originally started in 1908 by Wayne Hale, with an old style track merry-go-round with stationary horses, powered by a coal burning steam engine. From this, it grew to 10 rides accompanied by 32 concessions operated by individual owners. This information was proved in the History of Lenox, IA 1872-1972.



When you are not working, where in Lenox do you like to spend your time?

- ❖ Sporting events for the Lenox High School, Lenox Golf Course or eating a great meal in town.

What projects are you working on now in Lenox?

- ❖ The Lenox Development Corporation is working on renovating and restoring the old Bunn Jewelry building into a restaurant on one side with a retail business on the other side on the main floor. There are four loft apartments on the upper floor with wonderful outdoor space for the tenants. Once complete, this space will add vitality to our main street community.



Tell us about a successful project/partnership in Lenox.

- ❖ The Lenox Community Center was a project that took approximately five years of hard work and determination by many in the community to build. This fabulous community center can seat up to 400. This has been a great addition to Lenox and has been the setting for many weddings, graduations, business meetings, birthday parties, funerals, etc. It is a great asset to the community.



If you were asked to give a tour of your community to a visiting dignitary, what would you show them?

- ❖ First and foremost, it would be the fantastic residents and business owners of Lenox. They are our true shining stars. We also have a great manufacturing community that employs hundreds from Lenox and surrounding communities. Next, would be Lenox Community School, the Sports Complex, the Community Center, our golf course, and the camping and fishing spots. Lenox is a gem!

Do you have a website or social media links for Lenox?

- ❖ Our website is www.lenoxia.com
- ❖ Facebook - Lenox Area Chamber of Commerce



Approaching Grant Opportunities

The following are deadlines for popular grants our members and associated organizations should consider. SICOG has the staff and experience to assist our communities in submitting the best possible applications for these funds. **There are many other sources, so if you have a project, please contact us.**

Source/Program	Funding Uses	Due Date
Assistance to Firefighters Grant Fire Prevention and Safety ³	Various fire safety and prevention educational programs and related activities	December 21
Solid Waste Management Grant Program ¹	USDA funds to help with various solid waste projects including studies and implementation	December 31
CDBG Sustainable Community Demonstration ¹	Innovative and creative projects to support community sustainability. Projects might include green energy and streetscape projects	December 31
CDBG Water and Sewer Program ¹	Water and wastewater capital improvements: plants, mains, lagoons, pumps, towers, etc.	December 31, March 31, June 30, September 30
Solid Waste Alternatives Program ¹	Programs to encourage landfill alternatives - recycling, diversion, new technologies, new manufacturing processes, etc.	January 2
Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT) ²	Tourism, recreation, and entertainment capital projects, such as museums, libraries, swimming pools, trails, large recreational areas, amphitheaters, etc.	January 15
EPA Brownfields Grants ²	Grants up to \$800,000 for various activities, including planning, assessment, and cleanup of large or expensive environmentally compromised areas that, because of the compromise, are difficult to redevelop or bring to productive use	January 31
Derelict Building Program ¹	Deconstruction or renovation of abandoned or other derelict buildings, and removal of environmental hazards, such as asbestos	February 21
Land and Water Conservation Fund ¹	Outdoor recreational facilities, campgrounds, playgrounds, open spaces, and wildlife areas	March 15
Iowa West Foundation ^{2,4}	Community development, economic development, education, and human needs projects	March 15
USDA Rural Energy For America (REAP) ²	Renewable energy construction and energy efficiency improvements for business enterprises	April 1
Alliant Energy Hometown Safety Grants ³	Grants up to \$2,000 to purchase emergency equipment, such as Jaws of Life, AEDs, thermal imaging cameras, etc.	April 1, August 1, December 1
CDBG Community Facilities and Services Fund ^{1,2}	Grants for storm water projects and public facilities serving LMI persons, such as childcare facilities, sheltered workshops, and quasi-medical and senior facilities	April 19
CDBG Housing Sustainability Fund ¹	Grants for owner-occupied housing rehabilitation and weatherization	April 26
CDBG Downtown Revitalization Fund ¹	Grants for downtown building façade improvements	May 17
FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (nearly \$4,000,000 Iowa allocation) ²	Hazard mitigation plans and projects, including tornado safe rooms, building and utility retrofits, minor flood control projects, elevations and relocations of buildings in flood hazard areas and storm water management projects	Open ended

1 - Cities and counties

2 - Local governments, certain private and non-profit entities

3 - Local governments, first response agencies

4 - Limited to certain geographic area of region

5 - Local governments, NGOs, conservation boards, soil and water conservation districts, public water supply utilities, watershed management organizations

As always, SICOG provides this un-exhaustive list of grants to generate ideas about possible projects and provide funding guidance. Grant funding sources are increasingly interested in creative solutions to problems and many are willing to support not only construction, but also operations. If your community has a problem that outside funding might address, please contact your SICOG office. We would be glad to help and can attend a local meeting at no cost to discuss the project or idea.

Project Assistance – Iowa Initiative for Sustainable Communities

SICOG is available to provide various kinds of technical assistance. However, sometimes you may have projects that require extensive commitments of staff and labor beyond local capabilities. The University of Iowa Office of Outreach and Engagement is currently seeking an Iowa Initiative for Sustainable Communities (IISC) community partner for the 2019-20 academic year.

IISC is a campus-wide effort to enhance the capacity of rural and urban communities in Iowa to address the environmental, equity, economic, and cultural issues they face today and to help them plan for a sustainable future. The magnitude and depth of an IISC partnership makes it unlike any other resource or service offered at the University of Iowa. Whereas some partnerships might consist of a single project, IISC partnerships bring together faculty, staff, and students from across campus to complete 10-20 projects with the selected IISC community over the course of an academic year. More than 100 students from various disciplines will bring their talents, enthusiasm, and creativity to the partnership.

IISC community partners benefit from collaborations with the University of Iowa faculty, staff, and students from a wide range of departments across campus. Over the course of the year, over 100 students will work directly on projects identified by the community partners, contributing more than 10,000 hours of work.

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis until February 1st, 2019. Interested communities are encouraged to contact IISC Director Travis Kraus at travis-kraus@uiowa.edu or 319.335.2798 or contact SICOG to discuss more. A copy of the RFP and additional information is at <https://outreach.uiowa.edu/communities/iisc>

From the Planner's Desk



What is a Sustainable Community?

A sustainable community is one that is economically, environmentally, and socially healthy and resilient. It meets challenges through solutions rather than trying to meet one of those goals at the expense of others. It takes a long-term perspective and focuses on both the present and future.

A sustainable community's success depends upon its members' commitment and involvement through active and organized citizenship, effective leadership, along with responsible, caring and healthy community institutions, services, and businesses. A sustainable community manages its human, natural, and financial resources to meet current needs while ensuring that adequate resources are available for future generations.

As a result, there are many benefits to building a stronger, sustainable community, including:

- A better quality of life for the whole community without compromising the wellbeing of other communities
- Healthy ecosystems
- Effective governance supported by meaningful and strong citizen participation
- Economic security

In short, sustainable communities purposefully work to survive through intentional, planned actions. In Southern Iowa, we have some disadvantages and a history of population loss. However, by using these principles, we can meet the challenges and grow.



Source: <https://sustain.org/impact/definition-sustainable-community/>

Southern Iowa Council of Governments Executive Board

Karl McCarty	Adams County	Chairperson
Dan Christensen	Decatur County	Vice-Chairperson
Karen Zabel	City of Lenox Representing Taylor County	Secretary
Ron Riley	Union County	Treasurer
John Twombly	Adair County	
Marvin McCann	Clarke County	
Aaron Price	Madison County	
Lyle Minnick	Ringgold County	
Doug Davidson	Private Sector Representative	
William Trickey	Private Sector Representative	
Michelle Tullberg	Private Sector Representative	
Beth Waddle	Private Sector Representative	
Tom Lesan	Member - At - Large	



SICOG is a non-profit organization that provides and coordinates community and economic development services primarily through the delivery of planning services, technical program assistance, grant writing and administration to assist local governments and others in their efforts to improve the social and economic well-being of its eight county service area.

SOUTHERN IOWA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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