

# THE WINDMILL

## COPS - School Violence Prevention Program

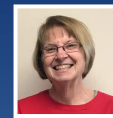


In October, the City of Creston, in collaboration with the Creston Community School District (CCSD), was awarded a \$500,000 grant through the U.S. Department of Justice C.O.P.S (Community Oriented Policing Services) School Violence Prevention Program. With these funds, CCSD will build on existing efforts to ensure the safety of students and staff in and around school property. The grant, coupled with a significant match from CCSD, will provide the district with numerous updates to their safety infrastructure including a shooter alert system, panic button system, lighting upgrades, communications systems (paging and two-way radios), and metal detectors at all buildings. There were 202 eligible applications received from jurisdictions in 44 states. Ninety-one awards were made to states, counties, cities and tribes totaling \$24,499,983. The City of Creston was the only applicant awarded in the State of Iowa and one of only a handful to receive the full \$500,000 award. SICOG assisted with the application.

Congratulations to the City of Creston and the Creston Community School District on receiving this award and for their continued efforts in making significant safety improvements in the schools.



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# Congratulations on your retirement, Becky!!

Becky Nardy began working for the Southern Iowa Council of Governments on August 21, 2000 as Office Manager. During this time, she was the first contact for the organization, either on the phone or when people came in the front door. As the lead contact for the First-time Homebuyers Loan program, Becky worked with many borrowers, loan officers, realtors and attorneys. She also verified contractor payrolls for Davis Bacon compliance on CDBG construction projects. In addition, she attended the ATURA Transportation meetings and prepared the minutes of the meetings.



On October 12, 2006, Becky was promoted to the position of Transportation Planner. She was responsible for the preparation and updating of all of the planning documents for the 5-county transportation planning area and maintained the records for all of the road and bridge projects and bus purchases within the area. Becky worked with county supervisors and engineers, IDOT staff, and Southern Iowa Trolley directors over the next twelve years.

Becky also completed the annual Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the Economic Development Administration. This involved gathering information from all of the cities, counties, economic development groups and other groups within the 8-county region.



She provided grant administration for several housing rehabilitation projects. This included meeting with homeowners, reviewing bid specifications, working with contractors, attending city council meetings and preparing the reports for the state and loan documents to close out the projects.

Becky was also successful in writing grant applications for several projects within the region.

She was willing to assist other staff members when needed and was always ready to go the extra mile to make sure projects were completed correctly and on time.

Becky will be greatly missed by all who worked with her, but at the same time we wish her many years of doing what she wants in retirement!!

**Thank you for your 18 years of dedication with SICOG, Becky!**

## SICOG Executive Board Meeting of October 2, 2018

Chairman Karl McCarty called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 2, 2018 at the SICOG office in Creston. The following members were in attendance: Christensen, Davidson, Lesan, McCann, McCarty, Minnick, Riley, Trickey, Tullberg, Twombly, Waddle and Zabel. Staff present: Ostroski and Brimm.

Twombly made a motion to approve the agenda. Christensen seconded the motion, all ayes. Motion carried. Lesan made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 4, 2018 meeting. Trickey seconded the motion, all ayes. Motion carried.

Waddle made a motion to approve the financial reports for the month of September. Zabel seconded the motion, all ayes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Waddle to approve the increase in membership dues for FY20 by 2½ cents/per capita. Davidson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Twombly, aye – McCarty, aye – McCann, aye – Christensen, aye – Price, absent – Minnick, aye – Zabel, aye – Riley, aye – Waddle, aye – Trickey, aye – Davidson, aye – Tullberg, aye and Lesan, aye. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Trickey to approve the Resolution regarding the operations of the EDA-RLF program. Twombly seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Twombly, aye – McCarty, aye – McCann, aye – Christensen, aye – Price, absent – Minnick, aye – Zabel, aye – Riley, aye – Waddle, aye – Trickey, aye – Davidson, aye – Tullberg, aye and Lesan, aye. Motion carried.

Other items discussed included: Audit, Grant Report, Budget, Golf Invitational, non-payment of local dues and State Legislature. Tullberg made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:19 p.m. McCann seconded the motion, all ayes. Motion carried.

Minutes Submitted by Brimm

## EDA Community Catalyst Building Remediation Program is Back

One of the most popular grants in the region, in early 2018, was the Iowa Community Catalyst Building Remediation Program, which was offered for the first time this past winter. This fall, the IEDA has opened a new funding round. This time, there will be \$1.8 million available, with \$1.2 million of that going to towns of less than 1,500 people. Because this program is funded with State rather than Federal dollars, there are not many regulations, such as environmental requirements, prevailing wages, and the like.

Like last year, only Cities can apply, but Cities do not need to be the property owner. Up to \$100,000 will be granted per project for work such as building renovations, façade and roof work, interior remodeling, and related activities. The building impacted must be deteriorated or otherwise underused, but does not have to be abandoned. The building owner must partner with the City to agree on the scope of work for the building to become an economic asset. Cities must provide some matching funds, but they do not necessarily need to be cash, nor do they need to be substantial. However, the match must be competitive, as it is compared directly to other applicants.

**The required pre-application is fairly simple and just lays out the concept and goals of the project. It is due November 14<sup>th</sup>. Once invited, the full application is due December 14<sup>th</sup>.** IEDA will review and comment on pre-applications and offer suggestions to improve competitiveness. If you have a building in your community that needs investment, contact Jeremy, Joel, or Marcus and we would be glad to discuss it with you.



**November 12**

SICOG office will be closed in honor of Veterans' Day

**November 14 & 15**

CDBG Procurement Training (14<sup>th</sup>) & CDBG Application Workshop (15<sup>th</sup>),  
9 a.m., Courtyard by Marriott, Ankeny

**November 22 - 23**

SICOG office will be closed for Thanksgiving

**December 4**

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





**FUTURE READY IOWA** was created to connect more Iowans with rewarding careers and good paying jobs with Iowa employers. The initiative has a goal of 70 percent of Iowa’s workforce

having education or training beyond high school by 2025. During the fall of 2018, summits were held in ten locations across Iowa, bringing together key stakeholders in education, business, economic development and community leaders to create local strategies that ensure all Iowans are future ready. Locally, Tim Ostroski participated in the summit held at SWCC in Creston on October 25th.

Future Iowa Ready alliance strategies include:

- Establish and enhance funding options for our workforce
- Strengthen Iowa’s skilled workforce; expand opportunities
- Expand work-based learning experiences in high-demand careers
- Prepare students and adult learners for a changing world
- Engage the business community and other regional collaborations



Future Ready Iowa’s vision is for an Iowa where every job is filled and every worker is fulfilled!

**FIND YOUR PATH. PLAN YOUR ROUTE. MAKE YOUR MARK.**

## STBG SWAP Funds

*SICOG serves as transportation planning staff to the five-county ATURA Transportation Planning Affiliation region (Adair, Taylor, Union, Ringgold and Adams Counties).*

Towns with populations under 5,000 and public transit agencies from the RPA 14 / ATURA region may apply for regional Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Program funds distributed to the region through the Iowa Department of Transportation. Regional STBG funds can cover up to 80% of the cost of repairs to federal functional classification or farm to market roads under city jurisdiction. Cities may also apply for STBG funds for up to 80% of the cost of repairs or replacements of city bridges or a limited number of other eligible transportation projects, such as trails construction.

Applications must be submitted to the SICOG office before the end of the calendar year. Interested applicants are encouraged to contact Marcus Amman 641.782.8491 at SICOG to determine if their project is eligible for these funds. STBG funds were previously federal funds, but are now swapped with state funds, making them easier for cities to use. However, there are a number of hoops that remain in order for cities to utilize these funds. Applications are available online or can be requested from Amman: <http://www.sicog.com/affiliates/atura/funds>

## 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 Winterset

*SICOG and Winterset have had a very fruitful partnership in securing federal, state and foundation grants for numerous capital and infrastructure projects.*

What unique characteristics are you proud of in Winterset?

- We have one of the few complete Squares in the State of Iowa, with all four sides completely surrounded by storefront buildings
- Winterset was recently named as 1 of the 50 most picturesque communities in the country by *House Beautiful* magazine

What is Winterset's claim to fame?

- Winterset is the birthplace of John Wayne
- We are also well known for our Covered Bridges from which a bestselling book was written. Subsequently, a movie was filmed in and around Winterset featuring Clint Eastwood and Meryl Streep

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

- The story goes that the founding fathers gathered to decide a name for their newfound town. Supposedly, all agreed on the name Summerset, but as they looked out the window at the ongoing snowstorm, they realized Winterset was the right name

Tell us about a successful project/partnership in Winterset.

- In 2005, Winterset began the first of multi-phase projects to improve the streetscape for the downtown. Improvements totaling over \$5 million include new streetlights with underground wiring, new sidewalks with brick inlay, new storm sewers, new street surfacing, inlaid brick pedestrian crosswalks, and brackets on the street light poles for hanging flower baskets
- The Courthouse Square was recently listed on the National Park Service Register of Historic Places
- With the City's investment in downtown areas, businesses are thriving and we have very low vacancy rates

What projects are you working on now in Winterset?

- We have 17 downtown buildings included in the downtown façade project, which is a partnership of City, owners, the Historical Preservation Group, and the State.
- We are constructing a new storm sewer system
- We have relocated the 1911 historic Jurgensen Bridge and are repurposing it as a pedestrian bridge to cross the spillway at Cedar Lake, our water supply reservoir

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

- Such a tour would begin at our "new" City Hall, the former 1903 Carnegie library building, which was renovated in 2002, and then a trip around the downtown Square to visit the Court House. Next would be the George Washington Carver Park, John Wayne Museum, the City Park to see the Cutler-Donahue covered bridge, hedge maze, Clark Tower and a monument to the Delicious Apple first discovered growing in Madison County. Other spots to tour include the Madison County Historical Society complex, the Dr. Bevington house and a drive by the Henry Wallace house here in Winterset.

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

- The City's website is <https://cityofwinterset.org> and the City is on Facebook as well.



## 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.**

<b>Source/Program</b>	<b>Funding Uses</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Iowa Community Catalyst Building Remediation Program <sup>1</sup>	Building improvements, redevelopment, and adaptive reuse projects impacting underused, vacant, deteriorated, or otherwise underperforming buildings	November 14 (See article)
Iowa West Foundation <sup>2, 4</sup>	Community development, economic development, education, and human needs projects	November 15
Empowering Adair County Foundation <sup>2, 4</sup>	Projects focused on the following priorities in Adair County: tourism and beautification, public services, economic well-being, recreation, arts, culture, and entertainment	November 15
Volunteer Generation Funds <sup>2</sup>	Grants up to \$35,000 for the establishment of and function of volunteer centers	November 27
IDNR Fish Habitat Program and Wildlife Habitat Promotion <sup>1</sup>	Programs and projects to improve fishing and wildlife habitat	November 30
Alliant Energy Hometown Safety Grants <sup>3</sup>	Grants up to \$2,000 to purchase emergency equipment, such as Jaws of Life, AEDs, thermal imaging cameras, etc.	December 1, April 1, August 1
HOME Program <sup>2</sup>	Homebuyer subrecipient, rental housing, and tenant-based rental assistance grants for housing projects	December 2
Urban Conservation Water Quality initiative Demonstration Project <sup>5</sup>	State IDALS funding for projects within municipalities, such as wetlands, bioretention cells, native landscaping, and other nutrient reduction practices	December 7 (See article)
Solid Waste Management Grant Program <sup>1</sup>	USDA funds to help with various solid waste projects including studies and implementation	December 31
CDBG Sustainable Community Demonstration <sup>1</sup>	Innovative and creative projects to support community sustainability. Projects might include green energy and streetscape projects	December 31
CDBG Water and Sewer Program <sup>1</sup>	Water and wastewater capital improvements: plants, mains, lagoons, pumps, towers, etc.	December 31
Solid Waste Alternatives Program <sup>1</sup>	Programs to encourage landfill alternatives - recycling, diversion, new technologies, new manufacturing processes, etc.	January 2, 2019
Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT) <sup>2</sup>	Tourism, recreation, and entertainment capital projects, such as museums, libraries, swimming pools, trails, large recreational areas, amphitheaters, etc.	January 15, 2019
Derelict Building Program <sup>1</sup>	Deconstruction or renovation of abandoned or other derelict buildings, and removal of environmental hazards, such as asbestos	February 21, 2019
Land and Water Conservation Fund <sup>1</sup>	Outdoor recreational facilities, campgrounds, playgrounds, open spaces, and wildlife areas	March 15, 2019
USDA Rural Energy For America (REAP) <sup>2</sup>	Renewable energy construction and energy efficiency improvements for business enterprises	April 1, 2019
FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (nearly \$4,000,000 Iowa allocation) <sup>2</sup>	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, then 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.

## Urban Water Quality Program Grant

If your community could benefit from a grant for storm water management or to address a deteriorating waterway, this program may help. The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) is offering a grant program that will fund various projects in your community. Projects might include, but are not limited to wetland development or protection, bioretention cells, native landscaping, and other approved nutrient reduction technologies and practices. The program is designed to help slow storm water runoff and protect water quality, but can also provide beauty and attract pollinators. Cities, counties, county conservation boards, soil and water conservation districts, non-profit organizations, water supply districts, and watershed management organizations can submit applications.

The pre-application process is open now and will remain open until December 7. Those invited to submit a full application will be notified in December and will be given until February 8th to do so. During the first four years of the program, 43 projects have been funded.

Making waterways and surfaces as natural as possible is a very popular practice these days, so having these assets in your community can attract new residents and businesses. Please contact SICOG for more information or to discuss your project idea.

## From the Planner's Desk

The logo for the Iowa American Planning Association (APA) features the letters 'APA' in a white, serif font, centered within a dark blue square.

In October, the **Iowa American Planning Association** held their annual conference in Council Bluffs. SICOG Planners Jeremy Rounds and Marcus Amman were in attendance. The conference is held in a different city in Iowa each year. It gives a chance for all planners in the state to hear about the progress made, both in the private and public sector, with planning issues around the state. There were thirty breakout sessions at the Mid-America Center and three mobile tours of the surrounding area. Over 200 planners were in attendance. The conference's theme focused on new planning techniques to encourage people to become emotionally engaged with the place they live. There has been a paradigm shift in how people want to be involved with their living environments and that shift drove the direction of the conference. The conference allowed for planners to discuss what is happening in their communities and share their insight on overcoming planning challenges.

Some of the other highlights, were changes in zoning practices being implemented, planning for storm water issues, and extensive transportation planning sessions. Mobile tours showcased public art and redevelopment projects in Council Bluffs. The breadth of design and planning expertise was astounding, both during the sessions and at the various displays. Ideas and concepts discussed will come into practice when working on local planning documents.

This conference also allowed for planners to obtain CM credits for AICP certification maintenance.



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## 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.*

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## SOUTHERN IOWA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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