

THE WINDMILL

2018 FEMA Assistance to Fire Grants



The 2018 Assistance to Firefighters Grants program, commonly known as the AFG for Fire Grant, is now open. This program will again offer millions of dollars for the purchase of firefighting equipment, personal protective equipment, vehicles, training, and other activities. Based on information gained from the AFG website <https://www.fema.gov/assistance-firefighters-grant> there will be only a few minor changes to the program this year. It appears that the grant will still be paying 95% of the cost. If your fire department needs help, please contact our office for assistance at no charge with the application process. Please contact Jeremy or Joel for assistance by October 10th to make sure there is adequate time to prepare a competitive application. Applications are due October 26th. Also, begin to obtain at least three quotes on the equipment or training you want to buy.

On a related note, Prescott Fire has been funded its request for firefighting equipment and personal protective equipment (PPE). The \$45,390 award will purchase enough sets of turnout gear to get all 20 members up to standards and replace hundreds of feet of hoses. Prescott is only responsible for \$2,269. Congrats to Prescott

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A View From the First Tee

Hope you all enjoyed the “View from the First Tee” in last month’s newsletter. Sometimes it is useful to look back to see if you are going forward. I believe that SICOG is still concentrating on its core mission of assisting our members. As with any organization, sometimes there are members that feel underserved. I understand. Sometimes there are members that are unsatisfied but do not voice their displeasure. I understand. SICOG tries very diligently to be all things to all members. Most of the time we succeed, but occasionally (about every five years by my recollection) there is disappointment.



I suggest and encourage cities contemplating applying for a CDBG project, either Housing or Sewer/Water, that it is time to get started. Call our office if you want your very professional staff to assist with the submission of an application; we are here to assist you. As has been the case for 45 years, we are working for YOU.

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.



Timothy Ostroski

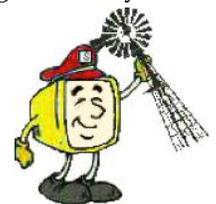
It has been nearly a year since I last reported on our grant activity. I mention this because I had a request at a Rotary Club presentation to include in this column a nine-month report on SICOG’s achievements for our member cities and counties.

TOTAL Applications Submitted	\$8,318,471.48	
TOTAL FUNDED	\$5,079,215.00	<i>(that’s over a 60% success rate)</i>
TOTAL Denied	\$1,889,946.48	
PENDING	\$1,349,310.00	

Speaking of “What have we done for you lately”, so far this year your staff has placed on the COMPLETED PROJECT spread sheet, 185 separate and distinct projects ranging from grants to planning projects. Next month, I will write about all of the active projects we are working on for our members and also the retirement of Mrs. Becky Nardy.

Golf season is winding down and I must tell you that I have played my share of holes this year. All golf season long I hit long drives, my chips have been close, and the putter has just been magical this year. I joined the Senior Tour this past year. I had to lie about my age. It was interesting.

Does anyone remember “E-MAIL” man? He is the icon we used when the “SICOG Windmill” was delivered back some 20 years ago. Notice the icon had a little delivery hat and was holding a little windmill.



Some of you may have heard that my BIG project for the summer was to paint our garage. Well that turned out to be paint the garage, paint the south and west side of the house, trim both the garage and house, replace the floor on the front porch and wash a gazillion windows. One thing I can tell you is, the wooden extension ladder I purchased 35 years ago is now eight times heavier.

SICOG Executive Board Meeting of September 4, 2018

Chairman Karl McCarty called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 4, 2018 at the SICOG office in Creston. The following members were in attendance: Christensen, Davidson, Lesan, McCann, McCarty, Price, Trickey, Tullberg, Waddle and Zabel. Staff present: Ostroski and Brimm. McCann made a motion to approve the agenda. Lesan seconded the motion, all ayes. Motion carried. McCann made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 3 and August 7, 2018 meetings. Waddle seconded the motion, all ayes. Motion carried.

Tullberg made a motion to approve the financial reports for the months of July and August. Zabel seconded the motion, all ayes. Motion carried. Tullberg made a motion to accept the budget for FY 19, as presented. Lesan seconded the motion. All ayes, motion carried.

Waddle made a motion to approve the Resolution that includes the IPAIT option for depositories. Price seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Twombly, absent - McCarty, aye - McCann, aye - Christensen, aye - Price, aye - Minnick, absent - Zabel, aye - Riley, absent - Waddle, aye - Trickey, aye - Davidson aye - Tullberg, aye and Lesan, aye. Motion carried.

Other items discussed included: Audit Review, Budget Committee, EDA-RLF Risk Rating, Building Repairs, Grant Report, Budget and IPAIT. Christensen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:33 p.m. Waddle seconded the motion, all ayes. Motion carried. Minutes Submitted by Brimm

Adair Receives \$1.32 Million USDA Grant

The City of Adair was recently awarded a \$1.32 million in USDA grant funds and \$2 million in USDA loan funds for a water treatment plant upgrade. The existing plant is operable but has a chronic problem with its inability to treat hard water produced from two deep wells located west of town. The City originally sought funding, also from the USDA, three years ago to address the problem through reverse osmosis, but that part of the project was postponed when some other issues with the plant started to surface. The other elements of the previous USDA-funded project were done, such as replacement of some of the water mains, water tower improvements, and an emergency generator for the pumps at the water wells. Since the completion of that report covering the work begun in 2015, additional testing and investigations by the Iowa DNR starting in December 2015 have indicated an increase in concerns regarding high ammonia and nitrite levels nearing or exceeding the maximum contaminant level (MCL).

The City of Adair collaborated with SICOG, the USDA Area Office in Indianola, and Snyder & Associates Engineers of Atlantic to prepare the plans for the project and submit the application.



October 11 - 12
Iowa Trails Summit, Panora

October 25
Future Ready Iowa Regional Summit, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.,
Southwestern Community College, Creston

October 25
Local Road Safety Workshop, 7:30 a.m. to 2:30, Prairie Meadows Event Center, Altoona

November 6
SICOG Executive Board Meeting, 1:00 p.m.
SIDG Executive Board Meeting to follow

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



Attention Cities! Funding to Assist Homeowners with Home Repairs

Owner-occupied housing rehabilitation remains a very popular and greatly needed activity in most of SICOG's cities. Cities can apply for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for rehabilitation of up to six homes of low-to-moderate income homeowners. The program can provide approximately \$25,000 - \$32,000 per home and will cover administration costs of the grant. These grants are very competitive, but SICOG can help interested cities through the application process.

There were a few changes to the program last year, and we have changed our process for applying for these funds. In the past we recommended a minimum match of \$3,000 per home (\$18,000 from the City to rehabilitate 6 homes). The main change is that the City is NO LONGER required to commit any matching funds if they receive the grant.

We must do much more work up-front, before the application is even submitted, in order to be competitive. SICOG is looking at a two-phase application process. The first phase involves discussions with your city leaders about the pre-application process, the collection of pre-application forms from homeowners, and the determination of a target area for the program. There is no fee for this phase. The end result is that we will know if your city is competitive enough to go to the second phase. The goal is to complete this phase during 2018 and make a recommendation about proceeding with an application by January 1, 2019. Applications are due in the spring.

The second phase will involve a committed partnership between the City and SICOG. Mandatory steps will require considerable time and effort by both City staff and SICOG staff. Many of these activities were formerly accomplished after a CDBG grant was awarded to a City and were paid for with grant funds. However, in order to be more competitive, they must now be undertaken during the application process. That is why SICOG requests a fee not to exceed \$4,500 be paid by the City to SICOG for these activities. Beyond this fee, the City should incur only a few incidental costs if the grant is awarded.

Phase two steps include the following main activities for which SICOG will provide guidance and direct the City in accomplishing:

- ◆ City conducts an income survey of the target area (door to door canvassing likely required)
- ◆ SICOG completes Tier 1 environmental review
- ◆ SICOG and the City market the CDBG program to residents living in the target area
- ◆ SICOG conducts full application intake with income verification from eligible homeowners

We are hoping for strong applications to submit next spring. If your City has a considerable need for owner-occupied housing rehabilitation, please contact Joel Lamb or Jeremy Rounds to begin the first phase. We are here to assist you and will be happy to meet with your City Council or a committee to discuss the program and activities involved in it.

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
- Clarke County State 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!

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
USDA Rural Energy For America (REAP) ²	Renewable energy construction and energy efficiency improvements for business enterprises	October 31; April 1, 2019
FEMA Assistance for Firefighters Grant ⁴	Purchase fire equipment, personal protection equipment, training, station modifications, wellness programs, and vehicles	October 26 (See article)
IDNR Wildlife Diversity Funds ¹	Grants for research, habitat management, and environmental education supporting non-game wildlife.	November 1
Arts Build Communities Grant Program ³	A financial (\$10,000) and technical assistance program that brings artists and State universities into communities to help with creative problem solving	November 1
Branching Out Program ³	Tree planting projects	November 1
Iowa Community Catalyst Building Remediation Program	Building improvements, redevelopment, and adaptive reuse projects impacting underused, vacant, deteriorated, or otherwise underperforming buildings	November 14
Iowa West Foundation ⁵	Community development, economic development, education, and human needs projects	November 15
Empowering Adair County Foundation ⁶	Projects focused on the following priorities in Adair County: tourism and beautification, public services, economic well-being, recreation, arts, culture, and entertainment.	November 15
IDNR Fish Habitat Program and Wildlife Habitat Promotion ¹	Programs and projects to improve fishing and wildlife habitat.	November 30
Alliant Energy Hometown Safety Grants ⁴	Grants up to \$2,000 to purchase emergency equipment, such as Jaws of Life, AEDs, thermal imaging cameras, etc.	December 1; April 1, 2019; August 1, 2019
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
Solid Waste Alternatives Program ¹	Programs to encourage landfill alternatives - recycling, diversion, new technologies, new manufacturing processes, etc.	January 2, 2019
Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT) ³	Tourism, recreation, and entertainment capital projects	January 15, 2019
FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (nearly \$4,000,000 Iowa allocation) ¹	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 - Local governments

2 - Private business & related organizations

3 - Local governments & non-profits

4 - Response agencies

5 - Local governments & non-profits serving Adams & Taylor Counties

9 - Local governments & non-profits serving Adair County

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 just 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.

IEDA, Once Again, Offers Community Catalyst Grant

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.

As in 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 to a scope of work for the building that makes it 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 does need to 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 14th. Once invited for a full application, it is due December 14th. If you submit a pre-application before the deadline, your invitation for a full application is likely to be sooner, thereby giving you more time to prepare and submit a full application. IEDA is willing to provide comments on ideas during the pre-application stage.

SICOG hopes that numerous towns under 1,500 people, as well as larger towns, consider this program. If you have a building in your community that needs investment, contact Jeremy, Joel, or Marcus and we would be glad to discuss with you. We'll use our experience - from two funded projects in Lenox and Clearfield this past spring - to give an honest assessment of the potential.

SWCC Champions at the SICOG Golf Invitational

The SWCC team won the first place trophy at the SICOG Golf Invitational held at the Lenox Country Club. Pictured left to right: Tom Lesan, Matt Somers, and Jared Knutstrom. Not pictured: Doug North.





Community of Murray

SICOG and Murray have partnered to secure federal, state and foundation grants for numerous capital and infrastructure projects.

What unique characteristics are you proud of in Murray?

- Community pride
- Murray school system
- Clarke County Freedom Rock and Honor Wall

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

- Murray has received \$2.3 million in grant money in the last three years

Tell us about a successful project/partnership in Murray.

- Murray Development, Murray Rec Committee and the City of Murray have worked together to raise \$800,000 to complete Phase 1 of the Murray Recreation Complex

What projects are you working on now in Murray?

- Murray is currently installing 6 miles of water mains and new services to each home
- Installing new storm water culverts and bioswales to help with flooding
- Murray Recreation Complex will break ground in spring of 2019 and a streets plan will be ready in the spring as well

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

- At home or visiting or neighbors, relatives, and friends in Murray

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

- <https://www.murrayia.org/>



Southern Iowa Council of Governments Executive Board

Karl McCarty	Adams County	Chairperson
Dan Christensen	Decatur County	Vice-Chairperson
Karen Zabel	City of Lenox Representing	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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