

# THE WINDMILL

## State of Iowa Receives FEMA Disaster Funding



The State of Iowa will receive FEMA disaster funding under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) as part of the Presidential disaster declaration DR-4421-IA (March 23, 2019) as a result of severe storms and flooding that occurred in our State this spring.

### Project Types

The State is accepting Notice of Interests (NOIs) for those eligible hazard mitigation project types that will reduce or eliminate losses from future natural disasters, including but not limited to:

- ❖ Property Acquisition/Elevation, electric utility hardening, detention basins, warning sirens
- ❖ Elevate/protect wastewater lift stations, backup generators
- ❖ Tornado Safe Rooms, small flood barriers

### Eligible Applicants

Potentially eligible applicants include:

- ❖ State agencies and local governments
- ❖ Federally recognized Indian tribal governments, including State-recognized Indian tribes, and authorized tribal organizations
- ❖ Private nonprofit (PNP) organizations or institutions that operate a PNP facility as defined in the 44 Code of Federal Regulations

*Please see page 3 for information on Cost Share, Iowa Individual Assistance Grant Program, and Disaster Case Management.*

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## A View From the First Tee

I guess I was correct when I wrote in last month’s newsletter that there would be NO MORE SNOW until next year!

**News Flash:** The State of Iowa will receive FEMA disaster funding under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) as part of the Presidential Disaster Declaration DR-4421-IA (March 23, 2019), to address the severe storms and flooding that occurred in our State this spring. Counties in the SICOG area included are Adair, Decatur, Madison and Union; other counties may be added.

On March 26, 2019, SICOG’s Board of Directors held its 45th annual meeting. The meeting was the start of our 46th year. Yes, it was 45 years ago on September 12, 1973, that the Southern Iowa Planning Agency incorporated. It has been a rewarding history with over **\$166,000,000** dollars being brought into the area through the grantsmanship and technical assistance this agency has provided to our members.

I would like to thank the members of the SICOG County Boards, the SICOG Project Board, and the SICOG Executive Board for all of their hard work, dedication, and commitment to this area over the past year. At our annual meeting, the election of officers for 2019-2020 took place.

The newly elected officers are:

**Dan Christensen - Chairperson (Decatur County);**

**John Twombly- Vice Chairperson (Adair County);**

**Karen Zabel - Secretary (Taylor County); and,**

**Ron Riley - Treasurer (Union County).**

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to outgoing board members, Aaron Price and Karl McCarty, for their years of dedicated service.

The 34<sup>th</sup> Annual SMART Economic Development Conference will be held on Thursday, May 9, 2019 at the Community Choice Credit Union Convention Center, Des Moines, Iowa. Registration and the breakfast buffet begin at 7:30 AM. "Welcome" will start at 9:00 AM. Director Debi Durham will be present, as well as many economic development experts from around the country.



*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.*

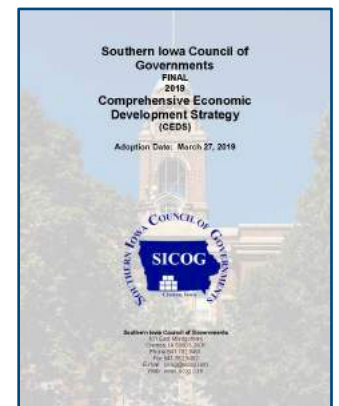


*Timothy Ostroski*



Finally, we have completed two documents that you may be interested in viewing. The first is the “Annual Report 2018”; the second is “CEDs - Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy”. These documents can be found on our web site: <http://www.sicog.com/publications/>

For important informational news about the region and SICOG activities, I would highly recommend reading the remainder of this newsletter.



Continued from page 1...

### Cost Share:

This is a cost share grant program, which means that awarded grants will be funded as follows:

- \* Federal (FEMA) share of total eligible costs - 75% maximum
- \* Non Federal share of total eligible costs - 25%
- \* State of Iowa - 10% (typical)
- \* Local - 15%

Applicants need not be located in a disaster area, but must complete the appropriate (project specific) NOI form located in the EMGrantsPro grants management system. The NOI forms can be found using the following link: [www.iowahomelandsecurity.org/grants/HMA.html](http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org/grants/HMA.html) NOI's will be accepted on a continuous basis or until otherwise notified.

## Governor Reynolds Issues Disaster Proclamation for Iowa Counties

The governor's proclamation allows state resources to be utilized to respond to and recover from the effects of this severe weather and activates the Iowa Individual Assistance Grant Program for qualifying residents along with the Disaster Case Management Program.

Residents in the following counties are eligible to apply for the Iowa Individual Assistance Grant Program and the Disaster Case Management Program: **Adair**, Audubon, Appanoose, Black Hawk, Bremer, Buena Vista, Butler, Carroll, Cass, Cerro Gordo, Cherokee, Chickasaw, Clay, Clayton, Crawford, Dallas, Davis, **Decatur**, Delaware, Dickinson, Emmet, Fayette, Franklin, Greene, Guthrie, Hamilton, Hancock, Hardin, Howard, Humboldt, Ida, Iowa, Kossuth, Lucas, **Madison**, Mahaska, Marshall, Mitchell, Monroe, Montgomery, O'Brien, Page, Palo Alto, Plymouth, Pottawattamie, Shelby, Sioux, Tama, **Union**, Webster, Winnebago, Winneshiek, Worth, and Wright.

## Iowa Individual Assistance Grant Program

The Iowa Individual Assistance Grant Program provides grants of up to \$5,000 for households with incomes up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level or a maximum annual income of \$41,560 for a family of three. Grants are available for home or car repairs, replacement of clothing or food and temporary housing expenses. Original receipts are required for those seeking reimbursement for actual expenses related to storm recovery. The grant application and instructions are available on the Iowa Department of Human Services website. Potential applicants have 45 days from the date of the proclamation to submit a claim.

## Disaster Case Management

Disaster Case Management is a program to address serious needs to overcome a disaster-related hardship, injury or adverse condition. Disaster case managers work with clients to create a disaster recovery plan and provide guidance, advice and referral to obtain a service or resource. There are no income eligibility requirements for this program; it closes 180 days from the date of the governor's proclamation. For information on the Disaster Case Management Program, contact your local community action association or visit [www.iowacommunityaction.org](http://www.iowacommunityaction.org)

If your jurisdiction is interested in submitting a Notice of Interest or if you have questions regarding these programs, please contact any of the following SICO staff at 641-782-8491 or via email:

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April 11-12  
Iowa Rural Development Summit, Grinnell

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

May 9  
SMART Economic Development Conference, Des Moines

May 14  
RPA/14 ATURA Policy Board Meeting, Primrose Restaurant, Corning, 1:30 p.m.



Scenes from SICOG's 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting



**2019 - 2020 Executive Board Officers**

Dan Christensen, Chairperson; John Twombly, Vice-Chairperson;  
Karen Zabel, Secretary; Ron Riley, Treasurer



**2019 SICOG PARTNERSHIPS**

**PLATINUM (\$2,500)**

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

**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
- Corning Municipal Utilities
- First National Bank of Osceola
- Gilbert True Value of Leon & Osceola
- 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
- City State Bank of Mount Ayr
- Clarke County Hospital
- Clarke Electrical Cooperative of Osceola
- Community Development Corporation of Greenfield
- Farmers & Merchants State Bank of Orient, St. Charles, & Winterset
- FNB Bank of Fontanelle & Greenfield
- Great Western Bank of Creston
- 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 Osceola

*SICOG and Osceola have partnered on multiple projects including: Osceola comprehensive plan; trails & sidewalk projects; Industrial Revolving Loans for business startups; CDBG water/sewer; downtown façade project; Healthy Iowans; Osceola depot renovation; police & fire department funding; Clay Park development.*

### What unique characteristics are you proud of in Osceola?

We are very proud of the way Osceola has continued to grow over the last four decades, bucking the trend that many of our peer cities are seeing outside of metropolitan areas throughout the state. Osceola's location along Highway 34 and Interstate 35 continues to be one of the keys to this success. The community also has a long history of aggressively seeking out development opportunities, which inspired Clarke County Economic Development Corporation's slogan, "A Can Do State of Mind." Osceola is proud that it has almost as many jobs (4,700+) as it does people.

### What is Osceola's claim to fame?

Osceola has a historic train depot, which continues to serve Amtrak as its busiest stop in Iowa. Lakeside Casino is also a major draw to the community. Osceola's commercial downtown district is on the National Registry of Historic Places.

### Tell us about a successful project/partnership in Osceola.

Several years ago, a committee made up of community members, city leaders, county officials, and development corporation representatives developed a Safe Routes to School sidewalk and recreation trail plan. While the entire plan looked daunting, the committee knew that success meant breaking the plan into pieces and making strategic connections year by year. Through grant writing, public funding, and private donations, the community has been able to see several miles of paved sidewalks and trails develop its way through the community. It is now possible to run/walk two miles around Q Pond City Park on an 8 foot wide concrete trail; or, take the almost three mile route between the Osceola Ball Field Complex and East Lake Park. As each new piece goes in, the community gets more and more excited.

### What projects are you working on now in Osceola?

Osceola's future ability to attract more industrial and commercial development depends on ensuring adequate utility infrastructure. The City is currently in the final design stages of a \$30 million wastewater treatment facility. The City is also a member of the Clarke County Reservoir Commission, a 28E group tasked with developing a new surface drinking water supply in Clarke County. The CCRC has less than 200 acres left to acquire before it will begin engineering the project.

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

We would start with our industrial parks, continue to the downtown district, and finish with our trail system and entertainment venues.

### What do you want people to know about Osceola that they might not already know?

In the last four years, we've had 56 new single-family homes built and 22 bi-attached dwellings. Osceola expects 16 condos and 15 additional single-family homes to be constructed in the next three years.

### Do you have a website or social media links for Osceola that you would like for us to share?

<http://www.osceolaia.net>

<https://clarkecountylife.com/>





## Approaching Grant Opportunities

The following are deadlines for popular grants our members and associated organizations should consider. **The SICOG due date is a date when the applicant should have all relevant information to SICOG to finish the application on time.** SICOG has the staff and experience to assist our communities 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	SICOG's Due Date
AARP Iowa Community Challenge Grants <sup>7</sup>	Various programs and projects that improve the quality of life for all ages, focused on "smart cities", alternative transportation, vibrant places, housing options, and more.	April 10
Iowa Cultural Heritage Project Grant <sup>2</sup>	Grants up to \$10,000 to support a community project that creates jobs for Iowans and provides access to a cultural heritage experience.	April 15
Iowa Cultural Affairs Capacity Building Grant <sup>2</sup>	Up to \$2,500 to build organizational capacity of cultural organizations to operate and provide programs for the community.	April 15
Iowa Great Places New Designations <sup>2</sup>	Applications for new designations and for projects in those newly designated communities. These grants can be substantial.	April 15
Iowa Arts Project Grant <sup>2</sup>	Grants up to \$10,000 to support the creation and presentation of new artwork, development of an arts experience or formation of an arts education program.	April 15
Ringgold County SCICF community grants <sup>2,4</sup>	Community development and improvements projects in Ringgold County and/or completed by Ringgold County entities.	April 20
Iowa's National Housing Trust Fund Round <sup>7</sup>	Production or preservation of affordable housing through the acquisition, new construction, reconstruction, and/or rehabilitation of non-luxury housing with suitable amenities - all units must target very low-income residents.	May 1
USDA Community Facilities Technical Assistance and Training Grant <sup>2</sup>	New program; funds organizations that assist with local partners in the process of planning and applying for USDA Community Facilities funds. The applicant serves as a grantee to make awards to sub-grantees.	May 15
Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines Affordable Housing Program <sup>2</sup>	Various housing capital projects, including homeowner and rental housing, rehabilitation, new construction, special needs housing, and others.	May 15
CDBG Water and Sewer Program <sup>1</sup>	Water and wastewater capital improvements: plants, mains, lagoons, pumps, towers, etc.	June 1 (Next quarterly round)
Solid Waste Alternatives Program <sup>1</sup>	Programs to encourage landfill alternatives: recycling, diversion, new technologies, new manufacturing processes, etc.	June 1
Wellmark Small MATCH Grant <sup>2</sup>	Matching grants up to \$25,000 for health and wellness projects.	June 1
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.	June 15
Iowa West Foundation <sup>2,4</sup>	Community development, economic development, education, and human needs projects.	July 1
Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) program <sup>1</sup>	Outdoor recreational projects, natural and recreational land acquisitions, trails, playgrounds, and related recreational infrastructure and open space projects.	July 31
Alliant Energy Foundation <sup>6</sup>	Community projects focused on environment, education, family needs and programs, and outdoor recreation.	August 15
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

6 - Limited to communities served by company/organization

7 - Various types of non-profits only

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 our members discuss the project or idea.

## From the Planner's Desk...

### Planning is Vital for Housing Development

Housing development is a perennial challenge for any community. The sheer cost of development, the need for land and investors, the blurred boundary as to the local government's role in investing in private development, and the impact on the housing market are all concerns. Certainly, housing is a top need in our region, even in towns without a growing population. In fact, I would contend that the population is not growing in large part because housing needs are not met.

Sister organization NIACOG recently prepared an article addressing this issue. Their contention is that "readiness" will go a long ways to securing the much needed funding for housing. Readiness, therefore, relates to planning. The following are some reflective questions a local government should ask about itself and its community. Some of these are from NIACOG with additional items we added.

1. Does my downtown have vacant upper story spaces that could be remade into apartments or condos?
2. Is my community willing to support a project that is targeted at people who make less than \$50,000, or do I even know what market to target?
3. Do we have a project team that could work together in carrying off a project: builder/developer, banker, architect, grant administrator, government elected officials and staff, etc.?
4. Do we have a site currently in ownership or under the option to purchase that can be an immediate development opportunity?
5. Do we have an inventory of potential developable lots?
6. Would key players be willing to contribute financially: local governments, key investors, business and industry?
7. Do we understand our current housing needs: single or multifamily, owner-occupied or rental, rehabilitation/retrofit or new construction, cost point for saleable home and marketable rentals?
8. How does any new housing impact the existing housing stock and what kinds/styles of housing are suitable, given the existing stock and needs?
9. What are future workforce members seeking when they move to my community?
10. How well do the existing incentives my community use work to improve housing?

Certainly a housing study will help identify these issues. But more than a study is required. Much planning groundwork is needed to be able to approach out-of-town partners to get them involved in your community when more profit is possible elsewhere. Innovation is needed, both in the design of your housing programs and how you approach the issue. Being willing to consider unique ideas, such as tiny homes, special zoning provisions, fiber to every home, a gut rehab or historic building renovation incentive, and more, can bring about otherwise impossible development potential. Nearly every town has low-cost lots, tax abatement, and even TIF, but creativity backed by thoughtful planning, can result in your community standing out and that can attract housing that will really improve the local quality of life.

Have SICOG come and sit down with you to help answer these questions and talk about some unique ideas or look online to see what other visionary communities are doing to help themselves grow. Not all ideas have to cost a tremendous amount of local taxpayer dollars.

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## Southern Iowa Council of Governments Executive Board

Dan Christensen	Decatur County	Chairperson
John Twombly	Adair County	Vice-Chairperson
Karen Zabel	City of Lenox Representing Taylor County	Secretary
Ron Riley	Union County	Treasurer
Doug Birt	Adams County	
Marvin McCann	Clarke County	
Diane Fitch	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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