

THE WINDMILL

Historical Resources Development Program Grants Awarded



Recently, the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs (IDCA) awarded two Historical Resources Development Program (HRDP) grants to projects in the SICOG region. SICOG staff assisted in the preparation of applications for the restoration of the cupola of the Bedford/Taylor County Round Barn and a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) nomination for the Winterset City Park. These projects are designed to preserve historical resources.

The Round Barn is owned by the Taylor County Historical Society and located at the Taylor County Museum in Bedford. This NRHP structure, built over 100 years ago, is one of only a few remaining round barns in Iowa and is a popular site for weddings and many other events. The failing cupola roof system put it in danger and the Society had to close access to the building last fall. The grant of \$50,000 will pay roughly half the costs of restoring it and adding some structural elements to prevent the problem from recurring.

Winterset City Park is a wonderful historic and natural landscape. Over the past few years, several parties have performed analysis of buildings and other elements of the park in preparation of nomination as a Historic Place. This nomination, upon completion, will open the way for grant funding and other incentives to preserve contributing structures and landscapes. Only a few parks and landscapes in Iowa are listed in the NRHP, so this project is unique. The \$9,600 grant will fund a preservation consultant, who will lead volunteers in the preparation of the nomination.

The HRDP grant is due annually in April. Contact SICOG for assistance with your historic preservation, museum, or documentary collection preservation project. We are experienced with this grant.

SICOG Staff

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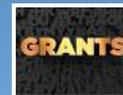
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A View From the First Tee

Providing low cost quality homes is a concern of the SICOG region and of many other rural areas in Iowa. I want to share the article below, written by Matt O'Brien, which outlines an approach to address this need.

Homes For Iowa Launches Project

This article is a reprint from The North Iowa Area COG Newsletter - Matt O'Brien

Homes for Iowa, Inc., is a recently formed nonprofit with the mission of providing low-cost quality homes for rural areas in need of workforce housing while also providing incarcerated individuals a highly-valuable trade skill and/or certified apprenticeship credit. On June 20, 2019, Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds and Lt. Gov. Adam Gregg were on hand for the official launch of the Homes for Iowa project at the Newton Correctional Facility and the commemorative driving of the first nails.

"In Iowa, we believe in second chances and building futures. Homes for Iowa is a common-sense solution that will close the housing gap in rural Iowa while bringing a new pool of talent to the workforce and open doors for Iowans on the road to redemption," said Gov. Kim Reynolds. "Once again, Iowa's powerful public-private partnerships are coming together to make this concept a reality that will benefit Iowans."

"Homes for Iowa is a creative way to solve multiple problems at once. It will help close a gap in our workforce, transition offenders back into society, and move the needle on the rural housing shortage," said Lt. Gov. Gregg. "This is yet another step in empowering the rural parts of our state."

The Newton Correctional Facility will be home to the project that will start building affordable housing and provide inmates with job training to use once they are released from incarceration. Inmates will gain valuable skills through the program that can translate to successful careers in the construction industry where there exists high demand for skilled tradesmen.



The Iowa Finance Authority has awarded Homes for Iowa \$1.2M to assist in the construction of the first 20 homes that will soon be under construction. The Iowa Council of Governments will oversee the local process of obtaining a home and will work with potential buyers through the project closeout. The COG's may also be a resource for down payment assistance.

The first four homes are to be delivered to Marshalltown as a way to help with housing shortages caused by the July 2018 tornado. As the project ramps up, we will keep you posted as to the availability of getting homes designated for southern Iowa. Stay tuned...



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



Executive Board Meeting of June 4, 2019

Chairman Christensen called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. with the following members present: Birt, Christensen, Davidson, Fitch, McCann, Riley, Twombly, and Waddle. Staff present: Ostroski and Brimm.

McCann made a motion to approve the agenda. Riley seconded the motion, all ayes. Motion carried. McCann made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 7, 2019 meeting. Birt seconded the motion, all ayes. Motion carried. Fitch made a motion to approve the financial reports for the month of May. Twombly seconded the motion, all ayes. Motion carried.

Twombly made a motion to accept and file the final Form 990. McCann seconded the motion, all ayes. Motion carried. Riley made a motion to accept and file the final audit report for the period ending 09-30-18. Davidson seconded the motion, all ayes. Motion carried. McCann made a motion to mail the letters to the auditing firms listed and request RFP for auditing services. Waddle seconded the motion, all ayes. Motion carried.

Other items discussed included: Personnel, Personnel Committee, Form 990 Review Policy, CEDS, Building Renovations, Grant Report, CDBG Update, State Legislature (COG Assistance) and SICOG Annual Golf Invitational. Twombly made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:44 p.m. Waddle seconded the motion, all ayes. Motion carried. Minutes Submitted by Brimm



SICOG Welcomes Stu Burzette!

Stu Burzette has joined the Southern Iowa Council of Governments as a Transportation/Regional Planner.

Stu expressed, "I am originally from Des Moines and a recent graduate from Iowa State University where I received a bachelor's degree in Environmental Science and Community & Regional Planning. I am excited to have an opportunity to use the skills I have developed over my four years there and to contribute to the success of the region. My professional interests include anything related to the environment and sustainability. In my free time, I like to watch sports or listen to music. I look forward to working with all of the SICOG partners."

Burzette may be contacted by calling the SICOG office or by email at burzette@sicog.com Welcome to SICOG, Stu!



July 9
RPA/14 ATURA Policy Board Meeting, Kramer's Café, 113 Broad St, Orient, 1:30 p.m.

July 16
Downtown Forum, City Hall, 101 N. Main St, Sigourney, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

July 17
Downtown Forum, Library Cultural Center, 401 N. Park Pl, Audubon, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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

August 19
CDBG Labor Standard Training, Courtyard by Marriott, Ankeny, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

August 20
CDBG Recipient Workshop, Courtyard by Marriott, Ankeny, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

September 4 - 6
2019 HousingIowa Conference, Doubletree by Hilton Hotel, Cedar Rapids

September 11
CDBG Environmental Training, September 11, Fred Maytag II Scout Center, Des Moines, 9 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



Downtown Forums - An Opportunity to Learn from Successful Downtowns!



All city and civic leaders are encouraged to register for and attend the free Iowa Downtown Forum in your area. The closest events are in Sigoourney on July 16 and Audubon on July 17.

The Iowa Downtown Resource Center will offer these all-day events. The day will include a self-assessment tool and discussion topics in five major areas – housing, historic preservation, diverse commercial, and more – characteristics that contribute to the success of a downtown. There will also be an overview of programs and grant opportunities for downtowns. Attendees will share experiences relating to the downtown forum discussion and communicate with other community leaders regarding the exciting things occurring in their commercial districts.

We plan to be in Audubon, but there is no substitute for your own attendance and participation. Registration is available at: <https://t.e2ma.net/message/yis9nc/ianbuf>

Public Hearing & Meeting Notice RPA 14 / ATURA Transportation Planning Affiliation

The Policy Board of the RPA 14 / ATURA Transportation Planning Affiliation (Adair, Taylor, Union, Ringgold, and Adams Counties) will meet at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, July 9, 2019 at Kramer's Café, in Orient, Iowa.

Action items on the agenda include:

- **1:30 p.m. Public Hearing** regarding the use of federal transportation funds: RPA 14 / ATURA Final FY2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- **Resolution** - consider approving and adopting RPA 14 / ATURA Final FY2020-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

The public is invited to attend and provide comments. Contact Stu Burzette at Southern Iowa Council of Governments at: burzette@sicog.com or 641-782-8491. For additional information: <http://www.sicog.com/atura-transportation-affiliation/>



RPA 14/ATURA
Transportation Planning Affiliation

2019 SICOG PARTNERSHIPS

PLATINUM (\$2,500)

- City of Osceola
- 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
- North Stone Apartments of Winterset
- 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

The Community of Afton

SICOG and Afton have partnered on multiple projects including the City Park's splash pad and basketball court, downtown building improvements, sidewalks, and recreational fields.

What unique characteristics are you proud of in Afton?

Afton is "Small Town Friendly." We have a lot of things to offer for such a small town with a population of only 845. We have a great mayor and council and they have been very proactive on making things happen in Afton! We built a new community center that opened in 2012, updated our entrance signage on the north and south side of town along Highway 169 & 34, added a splash pad to the park in 2015, and added new surface and hoops to the basketball court in the park. Our park is very busy in the summer and we receive many compliments from families who stop by and use the park. Afton has a great Recreation Board and they have updated everything at our ball field facility and keep it looking very nice. Our East Union Community School is located just east of Afton and is a combination of Afton, Arispe, Lorimor, Shannon City, and Thayer. Our school system is the best and we have wonderful teachers and administrators, along with a new elementary facility attached to the high school. We are all very proud of our little community and school!

What is Afton's claim to fame?

Our motto is "Meet you, greet you, and treat you on the Square." The Afton Community Club holds Lawn Chair nights every Tuesday in the summer with a meal and entertainment in the evening. They also sponsor a movie in the park at night in June and sponsor the car/truck show during the Pre-4th. The Afton Lion's Club holds the Pre-4th Celebration in the park every year offering meals, entertainment, inflatables, kids' games, and door prizes.

Can you tell us about a successful project or partnership in Afton?

Our most talked about project has been the splash pad in the park. We receive lots of calls from other communities every year wanting details on how we did our project and what the cost was. It took us 2 years of getting grants and holding fundraisers to make it happen, but the project has been very successful in bringing out-of-town people to our park as well as being used a lot by our residents.

What projects are you working on now in Afton?

We are currently working on renovating a small building that the local VFW gave us and making it into a new Wi-Fi gathering spot. Our other big project is fixing up our sidewalks. We worked on the East Filmore sidewalks in 2016 and it is now safe to walk from the middle of town east to connect to our walking trail that was completed in 2007. We are trying to do a large project on the west side of town now.

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

I would show them our town square with all the different businesses and the park in the middle with all the playground equipment, shelters, basketball court and splash pad. Next, I would take them by our walking trail and the fairgrounds on the way out to the East Union School and Afton Recreation Complex. I would make sure to drive them out by Lakeshore Golf & Country Club, which is a beautiful and challenging 9 hole golf course, and next to the Afton Lake, which has a small playground, dock, rock jetty and great fishing. I would take them north out of Afton four miles to Three-Mile Lake where there are 2 campgrounds, cabin rentals, gazebos/shelters, a lodge, fishing, boating/skiing and beach area for swimming. I would end with taking them to eat at one of our many fine restaurants where we could choose from Mexican/Italian/American, Barbeque, Bar & Grill, or deli & soup.

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

We have the best volunteer fire department! We are very proud of all our volunteer firefighters and are very lucky to have them. They are always training and updating equipment to keep the volunteers safe and provide the best fire and emergency response team around!

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

We have a website at www.aftoniowa.com and are on Facebook – you can like our page by searching for City of Afton.



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 DUE DATE
National Endowment for the Arts Our Town grant	Project based funding for projects that integrate arts, culture, and design activities (Eligible: local governments, nonprofits, arts organizations)	July 15
Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) program	Outdoor recreational projects, natural and recreational land acquisitions, trails, playgrounds, and related recreational infrastructure and open space projects (Eligible: local governments)	July 31
Iowa Certified Local Governments (CLG) Grant	Historic preservation activities, including National Register nominations, educational projects, surveys, planning for preservation, etc. (Eligible: local governments in good standing with Iowa CLG program)	August 1 (projected)
RISE Local Development Grant Program	Funding to provide road/street access to expand business parks and development areas (Eligible: local governments)	August 1
Traffic Safety Improvement Program	TSIP provides safety funds to cities, counties for site specific improvements, traffic control devices or studies (Eligible: local governments)	August 1
Iowa Sponsored Projects Program	Storm water, flood control, and water quality projects (Eligible: local governments with a clean water SRF loan in progress)	August 1
Alliant Energy Foundation	Community projects focused on environment, education, family needs and programs, and outdoor recreation (Eligible: local governments and nonprofits served by Alliant Energy)	August 15
Main Street Challenge Grant	Funds brick and mortar improvements to buildings and projects in Main Street Iowa communities as well as other construction projects in those districts. (Eligible: Main Street Iowa cities)	August 15
CDBG Water and Sewer Program	Water and wastewater capital improvements: plants, mains, lagoons, pumps, towers, etc. (Eligible: local governments)	September 1 (next quarterly round)
Solid Waste Alternatives Program	Programs to encourage landfill alternatives - recycling, diversion, new technologies, new manufacturing processes, etc. (Eligible: local governments and solid waste agencies)	September 1
Water Recreation Access Cost-Share Program	Constructing or improving boat access facilities to Iowa's lakes and streams. Projects can include boat-launching ramps, loading/off-loading docks and other structures to enhance use by the public. (Eligible: local governments and water body owners)	September 1
Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT)	Tourism, recreation, and entertainment capital projects, such as museums, libraries, swimming pools, trails, large recreational areas, amphitheaters, etc. (Eligible: local governments, nonprofits, some provide entities)	September 15
Iowa West Foundation	Community development, economic development, education, and human needs projects (Eligible: local governments and nonprofits in Adams and Taylor Counties)	October 1
FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (nearly \$4,000,000 Iowa allocation)	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 (Eligible: local governments and some nonprofits)	Open ended

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...

My Planning Philosophy

Seven and a half weeks ago I graduated college with a bachelor's degree in Environmental Science and Community & Regional Planning. Three and a half weeks ago I started my first job out of college as the new Transportation Planner at Southern Iowa Council of Governments. Throughout college, professors tried to guide myself and my classmates toward creating our own personal planning philosophies. My job as a research assistant for a project that focused on finding the keys to economic resilience in metropolitan, micropolitan, and small towns/rural areas played a huge part in developing my planning ideas and priorities as well.

Since half of my degree is in environmental science, my philosophy is influenced by environmental issues such as water quality, air quality, conservation, climate change, etc. However, a plan that only addresses environmental concerns will fail along with the community it is intended to help. This is true if you only consider the economic concerns or the social concerns of a community as well.

My planning philosophy is based on a sustainable planning idea that places complete sustainability at a center point between economic resilience, environmental resilience, and social resilience. Every plan should be an attempt to shift a community towards that center point with special emphasis on the economic, environmental, or social aspects depending on the needs of the community. In all cases, these three parts of life are interconnected and will rise together or fall together so addressing each issue is vital for community resilience.

I hope to be able use these ideas to improve the lives of residents of the communities I will be working with during my time with SICOG.

Stu Burzette

Iowa Retail Initiative Can Assist Rural Iowa Economy



The Iowa Retail Initiative is an Iowa State University Extension initiative to bring expertise and tools to rural Iowa small businesses, primarily in the retail sector. Three programs are offered: IRI Champions, IRI Coaching, and IRI Snapshots. These programs bring in various experts to assist local retailers.

The IRI Champions Workshop provides training and resources for community decision makers and small business supporters. In a session, participants will learn to assess existing and future retail needs, evaluate retail district amenities, maximize local social media, and identify retail niches. Interestingly, the very first IRI Champions Workshop was held in Lenox.

IRI Coaching works one-on-one with specific retailers, preparing them for success with technical assistance and training to tackle issues preventing business growth. Topics specific to each participating business are addressed.

IRI Snapshots trains local leaders to collect and analyze place-based information about their retail districts. Participants of this new tool can use tools to map their retail districts, inventory retail conditions, and employ collected data to drive decision-making.

More information can be obtained at: <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/communities/iri>

Southern Iowa Council of Governments Executive Board

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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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