

THE WINDMILL

2019 FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grants

The 2019 Assistance to Firefighters Grants program, commonly known as the AFG or Fire Grant, is almost ready to open. This program will again offer millions of dollars for the purchase of firefighting equipment, personal protective equipment, vehicles, training, and other activities. Many towns in our region have contacted us since the beginning of the year for assistance with fire department needs, so now is the time to prepare. 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 September 20th to make sure there is adequate time to prepare a competitive application. Applications are likely to be due in late October or early November. In the meantime, begin to get at least three quotes on the equipment or training you want to buy.



Iowa Community Catalyst Grant Workshop

September 10th will be the date for a two-hour application workshop for the popular Iowa Community Catalyst Grant. This grant funds \$100,000 for building improvements to deteriorated buildings that, with investment, could be great again and could catalyze other development in your community. SICOG wants to help several of our towns apply for this funding. To learn more about it, plan to attend the session on September 10 at the Viking Center in Stanton from 1 to 3 p.m. or contact SICOG after the session if you cannot make it. We have helped three towns submit successful catalyst grants in the first two years of the program: Lenox, Clearfield, and Adair. We can help you as well. Please use the following link to register for the workshop: www.surveymonkey.com/r/CommunityCatalyst



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A View From the First Tee

SICOG’s website might just have something you want! We try very hard to keep our web site up-to-date, but sometimes we overlook what YOU need. If you have a suggestion about items to include on our web site, please drop me an email.

Speaking of available money! The SICOG Industrial Revolving Loan Program has funds available. We have money to assist businesses create new jobs. If you are aware of a project, please contact your SICOG Board Member or myself.

I recently gave a presentation to a local service club and thought I would highlight key points of SICOG’s activities from 1973 to the present (46 years in case you didn't want to do the math yourself):

- Grant dollars received by our member cities and counties, \$165,268,952
- Return on Investment (ROI), \$90.30 for each \$1 of local dues
- 1st Time Home Buyer Loans, made 693 – leveraging \$31,542,733 – 58.15% of our loans to LMI households (403 total loans to LMI households)

I was in Denver, CO the last week of August for a meeting hosted by the Economic Development Administration. This meeting was quite informative and I always enjoy meeting my peers from across 10 states, from Montana to Missouri. A sampling of the sessions that took place included broadband and economic development, getting the most out of the atomic development zones, getting the most out of opportunity zones, housing and community and economic development, marketing revolving loan funds, and lifting up communities through economic diversification.

The keynote speaker during lunch was U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce Economic Development - John Fleming, MD. He provided many insights on the activity of the EDA and brings much knowledge to the agency through his background.



Also, I had the opportunity to attend the Colorado Rockies game as they played against the Boston Red Sox. While the Colorado Rockies are not at the top of the chart (they are at the bottom) it was fun to watch the Boston Red Sox. The game was not a boring pitching door, but one filled with lots of good plays, home runs, and hits by both teams. Final score: Boston 10 - Rockies 6.

As many of you are aware, we continue our "Partnership Program," This is a program to expand our services and work efforts to our member area. Elsewhere in this newsletter, is a page identifying our current partners. I cannot express how grateful I am to the individual organizations, businesses, and financial institutions that have joined the "Partnership Program 2019."



*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 August 6, 2019

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

McCann made a motion to approve the agenda. Waddle seconded the motion, all ayes. Motion carried. Twombly made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 2, 2019 meeting. Minnick seconded the motion, all ayes. Motion carried. Trickey made a motion to approve the financial reports for the month of July. Riley seconded the motion, all ayes. Motion carried. Trickey made a motion to approve the bid from Faller, Kincheloe & Co. in Des Moines for a three-year contract. Lesan seconded the motion. All ayes, motion carried.

Other items discussed included: Employee Handbook, Vacancy on Executive Board, Grant Report, Budget Committee, SICOG Annual Golf Invitational, State Legislature, and Federal Legislature.

McCann made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:36 p.m. Waddle seconded the motion, all ayes. Motion carried. Minutes submitted by Brimm.

Transportation Related Grant Opportunities

The following five grant programs have quickly approaching deadlines. The Surface Transportation Block Grant Program is through ATURA and the rest are through the DOT, however, we are willing to help with any grant application your agency is thinking about pursuing.

Source/Program	Funding Uses	Deadline
Statewide Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)	Construction, planning & design of on-road and off-road trails of statewide or multi-regional impact. Eligible Applicants: Local governments, natural resource agencies, and schools (non-profits may partner with an eligible entity)	DOT Due Date: October 1
City Bridge Construction Fund	Construction or replacement of structurally deficient or functionally obsolete public roadway bridges. Eligible Applicants: Cities	DOT Due Date: October 1
Iowa Clean Air Attainment Program	Highway/street, transit, bicycle/pedestrian or freight projects; maintain Iowa's clean air quality/reduce emissions. Eligible Applicants: Cities or Counties (or they may co-sponsor for others)	DOT Due Date: October 1
Federal Recreational Trails Program	Provide & maintain Recreational trails and trail-related projects of statewide significance. Eligible Applicants: Public agencies, non-profit or private organizations (requires public agency co-sponsor)	DOT Due Date: October 1
Regional Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG)	Road or Bridge projects, transit capital improvements, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and transportation planning activities. Eligible Applicants: Agencies with public road jurisdiction, public transit responsibilities or transportation planning responsibilities	SICOG Due Date: November 30

For more information or any questions regarding these programs, contact Stu Burzette by email burzette@sicog.com or by phone 641.782.8491.



September 10

Iowa Community Catalyst Grant Application Workshop, Viking Center, Stanton, 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Future Ready Iowa Employer Summits – Various Dates & Locations:

September 11, Atlantic

October 1, Ottumwa

September 17, Ankeny

October 2, Pella

September 11

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

October 1

SICOG Executive Board Meeting, 1:00 p.m.

SIDG Executive Board Meeting to follow

Housing Trust Fund Meeting, 2:00 p.m.

FEMA Releases More Hazard Mitigation Funds

The Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department has issued a new funding notice for hazard mitigation funds. The latest round of funds is primarily for Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) funding, which is 75% federal and 25% local. The applications are due to the Iowa Homeland Security by the end of December. However, because the process of applying is not short, it is vital that communities work on applications right away. The following can be funded by PDM and Flood Mitigation grants:

- Construction of tornado safe rooms
- Acquisition, structural relocation, or elevation of buildings located in the floodplain
- Structural and non-structural retrofit of public buildings, facilities, and utilities to protect against wind, ice, or flood hazards
- Minor structures hazard control or protection projects, such as storm water management (such as culverts, floodgates, and retention basins)
- Localized flood control projects, such as floodwall systems to protect critical facilities
- Various flood activities related to a FEMA Flood Insurance protected property
- Development of multi-hazard mitigation plans

It should be noted that the State has a backlog of applications and the PDM grants are competitive. Only a well conceived project, one with identifiable life safety benefits, will be invited by the State. **Note that you must have a current hazard mitigation plan to qualify. If your county's plan is nearing expiration, now is the time to apply to get it updated.** If you have interest in any of these projects or need to know the status of your county's plan, please contact SICOG right away and we can discuss the pros and cons as well as the process in greater detail.

Fun Contest for Your Town

The Iowa Finance Authority and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources are hosting the Hometown Pride Water Tower Contest! In celebration of 2,000 State Revolving Fund (SRF) water quality loans made to Iowa communities. The contest challenges Iowa communities to show-off their hometown pride in a short video for a chance to win an artist redesign of your water tower. The deadline to submit videos to <https://woobox.com/tntobi> is September 30.



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 New Virginia

SICOG and New Virginia have partnered on multiple projects including: park improvements, grants for fire equipment, and wastewater system improvements. We are currently discussing local planning.

What unique characteristics are you proud of in New Virginia?

New Virginia is a small town (population 489) in the southwest corner of Warren County and is located about 40 miles south of Des Moines and 20 miles southwest of Indianola. New Virginia was developed around a small band of pioneers, most of who were from the State of Virginia. The town of New Virginia was laid out in 1855 or 1856 but was not recorded until 1859. Businesses include a Post Office, the Tri-Corner Express newspaper, The Depot Restaurant, City State Bank, Lonnie's Barber Shop, Shear Serenity Hair Salon, West Street Design, Huston's Repair Shop, DSI Fabrication, Strange Electric & Performance and several other small businesses.

We also have several volunteer groups who provide wonderful activities for our community. The New Virginia Old Settlers group organizes an annual 3-day celebration during the second weekend of July. The Gerry Allen Memorial Park Board hosts two truck and tractor pulls each year. We have several youth groups within our community as well. Some of these include the Virginia Booster 4H, Clover Kids, Boy Scout Troop & Pack 119, Girl Scout Troop, and Methodist Youth Group.

What is New Virginia claim to fame?

New Virginia boasts the distinction of being the hometown of the world's first four-wheel drive vehicle. The inventor, Mr. Jesse F. Livingood, worked out of a corncrib on the family farm located three miles north of town. Ironically, Mr. Livingood would never profit from his inventions due to the fault of the U.S. Patent office. New Virginia is also the home of Iowa's 31st Governor, William S. Beardsley.

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

- The revitalization of the Lions Park has been a great attribute to our community. A group of volunteers worked together to replace the 40-year-old playground equipment with brand new equipment. We have also repainted the swing set and constructed a new shelter. We hope to continue with improvements to the park.
- With grant funding, we were able to replace and add missing street signs throughout our community.
- Another successful project within the community, was building the Gerry Allen Memorial Park Building. This building was the dream and vision of longtime residents Jr. and Betty Allen. They donated 7.2 acres of land in memory of their son Gerry Allen who passed away at an early age. The Allens wanted to give something back to the community in which they lived in. Their vision was to have a nice building in which families and friends could use to hold family reunions, weddings, meetings, youth activities and many other events. In 2013, that dream/vision became a reality for our town and the residents of New Virginia and surrounding communities.

What projects are you working on now in New Virginia?

We are currently working on storm sewer projects throughout New Virginia in order to improve our drainage within the City. We are also working on a handicapped accessible shelter in our Lions Park. We hope to add a few other improvements to the park as well.

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

We would begin by touring our local businesses along main street and continue on to visit our improved Lions Park as well as our Gerry Allen Memorial Park area. We would also visit the New Virginia Saddle Club's arena where they have horse shows.

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

Our original main street was located one street east of where our current main street now lies. These businesses were relocated due to fires that occurred on the original main street.

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

We have a Facebook page, *City of New Virginia*, where we post events and important City information. Our current website is: www.newvirginia.com/ However, we are creating a new and improved website to be completed soon. Please watch our Facebook page for more information on our new website and when it will be ready for use.



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
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 15
Iowa Tourism Grants	Grants from \$2,500 to \$5,000 to promote tourism in Iowa by funding tourism-related marketing initiatives, meetings and events that benefit both local economies and the state's economy. (Eligible: any tourism-related entity located in Iowa, including local governments, nonprofits, and regional agencies)	September 15
IDNR Dam Mitigation Grants and Water Trail Enhancement Grants	Planning and implementation of plans for river water trail projects, including dam mitigation to improve safety and connectivity. (Eligible: local governments and dam owners)	September 15
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
Empowering Adair County Foundation	Projects focused on the following priorities in Adair County: tourism and beautification, public services, economic well-being, recreation, arts, culture, and entertainment. (Eligible: Adair County entities, including local governments)	September 20
Volunteer Fire Assistance Grants	IDNR small grants for the purchase of wildland firefighting equipment, such as hoses, slide-in units, portable tanks and pumps, PPE, and communications equipment. (Eligible: fire departments)	October 1
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 Assistance to Firefighters Grants	Purchase fire equipment, personal protection equipment, training, station modifications, wellness programs, and vehicles. (fire departments and non-affiliated fire and EMS agencies)	Projected October 1
IDNR Wildlife Diversity Funds	Grants for research, habitat management, and environmental education supporting non-game wildlife. (Eligible: any wildlife management organization, including local governments)	October 10
Branching Out Program	Tree planting projects (Eligible: cities and areas served by Alliant Energy)	October 10
IDNR Fish Habitat Program and Wildlife Habitat Promotion	Programs and projects to improve fishing and wildlife habitat. (Eligible: county conservation boards)	November 1
Alliant Energy Hometown Safety Grants	Grants up to \$2,000 to purchase emergency equipment, such as Jaws of Life, AEDs in public buildings, thermal imaging cameras, etc. (Eligible: communities Alliant Energy serves)	November 1
Iowa Community Catalyst Building Remediation Program (catalyst grant)	Grants of \$100,000 for full building restoration of commercial or similar buildings, located in but not limited to downtown areas (Eligible: local governments)	Projected November 15
CDBG Water and Sewer Program	Water and wastewater capital improvements: plants, mains, lagoons, pumps, towers, etc. (Eligible: local governments)	December 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)	December 1
CDBG Sustainable Community Demonstration	Innovative and creative projects to support community sustainability. Projects might include green energy and streetscape projects. (Eligible: local governments)	December 1
Solid Waste Management Grant Program	USDA funds to help with various solid waste projects including studies and implementation. (Eligible: any local government in SICOG region)	December 1
Highway Safety Improvement	Provides grants for low-cost, systematic safety improvements in the \$10,000/mile range, focusing on lane departure crashes. (Eligible: local governments)	Ongoing

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...

Healthy HometownSM Powered by Wellmark

Hometowns are special. It's where community is created and nurtured and residents connect with each other. As someone who serves in a leadership role, you want to see your hometown thrive. But, what does that look like? Is it a vibrant, thriving downtown with restaurants serving healthy food, residents walking and biking where they go and connecting with their neighbors? Maybe it's attracting new people to visit – or live – because they heard it is a community that is putting health and wellness first. It's probably all of those things.



Healthy HometownSM Powered by Wellmark wants to help make those dreams a reality. Using proven strategies and techniques, Healthy Hometown assists communities just like yours in making the healthy choice the easy choice – improving the overall well-being of your residents. Healthy Hometown consultants work with communities, at no cost, to identify ways to make positive and lasting changes.

So, what does that mean? It means making healthy food readily and easily available. It means making it easier to walk or bike to the places you want to visit. It means creating a sense of community and belonging.

Why is this important?

In nearly 30 years, obesity among adults has increased **to nearly 35 percent**¹. As a result, citizens are experiencing more and more chronic health issues. This results in a diminished quality of life.

Improving quality of life starts with creating an environment that encourages and promotes a healthy lifestyle. Policy and built environment changes – whether changing vending options, implementing complete streets projects or passing nicotine-free park policy – have a big impact on creating sustainable changes in the community. And, these changes not only lead to healthier eating, but they also lead to greater physical activity and social connectivity. Increased social connectivity is a cornerstone of a thriving, attractive city – one that people are drawn to. Communities can't change habits, but they can guide residents to create better habits.

Changes like this will make your community an even more desirable place to live, work and play.

Get started now!

Join the more than 50 communities across Iowa and South Dakota, including Creston, Greenfield, Mount Ayr and Afton, which are working with Healthy Hometown to create meaningful and lasting changes.

Check out Healthy Hometown online at [Wellmark.com/HealthyHometown](https://www.wellmark.com/HealthyHometown) or email HealthyHometown@Wellmark.com to connect with a community health manager who can help you get started.

SICOG has been fortunate to collaborate with Wellmark toward their goal of bringing the successes of the Healthy Hometown framework to communities throughout our region. Representatives from Wellmark generously lend their expertise on healthy habits and environments and, more importantly, provide communities with practical steps to make healthy changes. If your community is interested in finding out more about Wellmark Healthy Hometown, please don't hesitate to reach out to them.



¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/obesity/data/adult.html>

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
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Doug Davidson	Private Sector Representative	
Vacant	Private Sector Representative	
William Trickey	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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