

THE WINDMILL



End of 2019 Grant Briefs

There are many things going on in the grant world right now, and we wanted to keep you updated on the many opportunities. Don't forget to look at the grant list later in the newsletter, as there are many new additions this month.

First, congrats to the City of Fontanelle, which was awarded \$300,000 in CDBG funds in the last funding round for wastewater lagoon upgrades to meet new effluent regulations. The City will be undertaking a \$2 million project to address these needs and allow the city to grow. SICOG will be busy in Fontanelle in 2020 with administering the sewer and housing CDBG grants. Fontanelle is our featured community this month.

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is a great resource for groups that want to grow their existing museum. Most of these are not brick and mortar grants but can offer funding for staffing, strategic planning, and design services. The webpage for these grants is www.ims.gov/grants If you find something interesting, SICOG is here to help.

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SICOG Staff

Timothy Ostroski	Executive Director
Judy Brimm	Finance Director
Jeremy Rounds	Regional Planner
Joel Lamb	Regional Planner
Stu Burzette	Transportation/Regional Planner
Nancy Groth	Office Manager

Contact Us

Southern Iowa Council of Governments
101 E. Montgomery Street
Creston, Iowa 50801-2406
Phone: 641.782.8491
Fax: 641.782.8492
Email: sicog@sicog.com
Internet: www.sicog.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/SICOG
To email individual staff, use lastname@sicog.com



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The Assistance to Firefighter Grant Program is not yet open, but will be any time. If you have interest in this program, please contact SICOG now. Do not delay, as we may get swamped with requests at the last minute and cannot accommodate all of them. Once the grant is open, it could be a mere four weeks before the grant is due.

Almost all of SICOG's towns need housing. Yet, few of them take practical action to add to the housing stock. There are some grant programs opening in early spring that will be able to help by providing grants and forgivable loans to Cities and to homeowners and property owners who will build new and rehab existing housing. Contact SICOG if you want to talk about possible housing projects.

Numerous SICOG communities have expressed interest in our assistance with grant dollars for parks and recreation. There are several funding sources for parks and recreation. However, to be competitive for the bigger State grants, we recommend that Cities and Counties have a strong vision for their recreation and perhaps even complete a local or regional recreational plan. The plan might include a survey that identifies needs and shortfalls as well as maps showing underserved areas. Further, a park or recreation project should be unique. Simply replacing a bathroom or some playground equipment probably will not go very far, but adding something unique, such as pollinator habitat and a specially designed handicap playground element, will make the entire project more attractive to funders. Contact SICOG for assistance.

We want to point out funding for derelict buildings. The Community Catalyst Grant funds \$100,000 for redevelopment projects of underused buildings. Most of SICOG's towns should consider applying for this fund. To date Lenox, Clearfield, and Adair have received grants, and we want to submit more of them. While the deadline is very soon, the EPA has brownfields grants. If you have a significantly contaminated site, contact SICOG for assistance or at least advice on the best funding. Also, the IDNR recently opened a new round of Derelict Building Grants to fund building renovations and deconstruction with a reuse plan.

Finally, if your community wants to apply for downtown building façade improvements, now is the time to talk with SICOG about that program. We would be glad to sit down with the city council, etc., to discuss any of these programs and other resources to address your issues.



Events Calendar

November 11, 2019

Veterans Day; SICOG office will be closed

November 12, 2019

RPA / 14 ATURA Policy Board Meeting, 1:00 p.m., Junction Café, Bedford

November 24 & 25

SICOG office will be closed for Thanksgiving

December 3, 2019

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

December 14, 2019

Municipal Leadership Academy, Van Meter (see article)

And some gave all. Thank you for your service, Veterans.



2020 Housing Rehab Grant PROPOSED Changes

For many years the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) has offered funds to local governments to implement a local housing rehab program that completes comprehensive rehabilitation projects to owner-occupied homes. The funds will be available again in 2020 for Cities to apply, but changes are very likely.

While final decisions on these changes will not be finalized until January, the housing program will likely be split up into five new categories, none of which are whole-house rehabilitation. Cities will potentially be able to choose from any of the following categories for their housing improvement application:

- Exterior house improvements – Repair/Replace gutters, roof, ventilation, window replacement, siding replacement, foundations, entry stairways
- Energy efficiency improvements, including energy audit, smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, radon mitigation, smart thermostat, air sealing, insulation, lighting, electrical, water heater, heating/cooling appliances, water conserving fixtures, cement board siding, and energy efficient windows
- Homebuyer assistance – Up to 50% of required down payment, reasonable closing cost, lead paint mitigation, and radon mitigation. (existing homes, not new construction)
- Architectural barrier removal (for elderly/disabled) – Handicapped accessibility ramps, grab bars, widening doorways, modifying bathrooms/kitchens
- Upper Story Conversion – These projects focus on redevelopment of vacant upper stories in vacant downtown buildings

The program is still competitive and will require property owners to meet income requirements. If you have interest in improving your city by offering any of these programs to your residents, please contact SICOG to get your name on the list. We'll keep you updated as changes occur to the popular Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.



TIF Reports Due December 1

December 1 marks the filing deadline for the Annual Urban Renewal Report. In 2012, legislation passed requiring that each levy authority with an active urban renewal plan and or each levy authority that received diverted Tax Increment Financing (TIF) revenues during the fiscal year needs to file an annual report by December 1 annually. Any amendments or changes to an urban renewal plan or map must also be uploaded before the final submission. December 1 is also the deadline for cities to certify new or changes of TIF debt revenue requests to the county auditor. Questions on the annual report or the debt certification forms should be directed to the Iowa Department of Management.

REAP Assemblies



Iowa's Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) assemblies will be held in late November and early December, giving all Iowans an opportunity to discuss their visions for Iowa's outdoor recreation, soil and water enhancement, historical resources and land management and more. In our region, the assembly will be on Tuesday, November 19, starting at 6:30 pm, at the Three Mile Lodge north of Afton in Union County. More information can be found here: https://www.iowadnr.gov/Conservation/REAP/REAP-Public-Participation/REAP-Regional-Assemblies?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

RPA 14 / ATURA Policy Board Meeting*Serving the Counties of:***ADAIR - TAYLOR - UNION - RINGGOLD - ADAMS****Date/Time:** Tuesday, November 12, 2019, 1:00 p.m.

Technical Committee meeting to follow

Place: Junction Café (804 Pollock Blvd, Bedford, IA)

Matt Chambers with the Iowa DOT will be present to discuss best practices for the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) and the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). He will be available to answer any questions.

Please Note: FY 2021 STBG grant applications are due on November 30th for all agencies.

If you have any questions, please contact Stu Burzette by email: burzette@sicog.com or call the SICOG office: 641.782.8491.

Municipal Leadership Academy (MLA)

With recent city elections, a significant number of newly elected city officials will be assuming office. Leadership in city government involves making policy decisions that affect the daily lives of citizens. **It is the duty of the mayor, council members and appointed staff to ensure the city fulfills its obligations under the law and effectively provides community services.**

The Municipal Leadership Academy is designed to help all city officials better understand their role in municipal government and how to effectively serve their community. The training offers a comprehensive overview of city government and is presented by the Iowa League of Cities and the Iowa State University Extension. Both newly elected and veteran mayor and council members will benefit greatly from participating. MLA is an excellent training opportunity for city staff, including city administrators, city clerks, and other city officials. **All city officials are welcome!**

The closest workshop in the SICOG area will be held in Van Meter on Saturday, December 14th. **For additional information, other dates / locations, and registration, visit: www.iowaleague.org**

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 Electric 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!



SICOG and Fontanelle have partnered on multiple projects including: the 2019 CDBG housing rehabilitation program, the 2019 CDBG wastewater treatment facility improvement grant, and radar speed signs.



What characteristics make you proud of Fontanelle?

Fontanelle, population 672, is a small town with a sense of community togetherness. The Fontanelle Lion’s Club, Enterprise Club, Volunteer Fire Department, Friends of the Library, and community churches bring the citizens together with many activities they host throughout the year. Popular events include the 4th of July celebration and Pancake Days held on the second weekend of December, where past, present and future citizens of Fontanelle come together to visit, celebrate the holidays, and meet Mr. & Mrs. Claus. Another strong attribute of Fontanelle citizens, is that they are always willing to lend a helping hand when someone in our community is in need.

Please tell us about a successful project/partnership in Fontanelle.

The Fontanelle Enterprise and the 4-H Club raised money to put in new handicapped accessible playground equipment and a new digital community activity sign for Fontanelle’s park.

What projects are you working on now in Fontanelle?

Fontanelle is currently working with SICOG on a housing rehabilitation project. We are also working on a major upgrade on the city sewer lagoon.

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

Our first stop would be our amazing library with their STEM Program activities and then stroll through the Joy of Toys Museum. Next, would be a stop at the City Park, the outdoor Skating Slab, and a walk through Delmer Miller’s Tree Park. From there, we would visit the 16 Oaks event center and then go to Wreckers Or Checkers for a cold drink and pizza.

Name something people may not know about Fontanelle.

Fontanelle was founded over 150 years ago and served as the county seat of Adair County for three decades. Our town was named after Chief Logan Fontanelle of the Omaha Indian tribe to reflect the Native American heritage of the area.

Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/CityofFontanelle/



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 the SICOG office.**

Source/Program	Funding Uses	SICOG Due Date
EPA Brownfields Programs	Funds to address contaminated sites where the owner or former owner is not able to address the problem. The EPA program provides large grants for cleanups, assessments, and revolving loan funds for new businesses on those sites. (Eligible: local governments)	November 13
Iowa West Foundation	Community development, economic development, education, and human needs projects. (Eligible: local governments, nonprofits)	November 15
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 November 20
Iowa Dept. of Agriculture Water Quality Initiative Urban Conservation Projects	Design and installation of urban conservation practices, storm water projects, and the associated education and outreach about the practices. (Eligible: Cities, counties, county conservation boards, Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCDs), or other units of government, not-for-profit non-governmental organizations (NGO's) authorized by the secretary of state, public water supply utilities or watershed management authorities)	November 25 (for required pre-apps)
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
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)	December 1
Iowa Finance Authority Sponsored Project	Funding for Clean Water SRF participants to do water quality projects, such as rain gardens, bioswales, ditch and roadway improvements, and other projects that reduce flooding and the flow of nutrients in streams and waterways. (Eligible: SRF local government borrowers)	Pre-app December 1; full app February 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)	December 31
Derelict Building Program	Deconstruction or renovation of abandoned or other derelict buildings, and removal of environmental hazards, such as asbestos. (eligible: Cities under 5,000 population)	January 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 private entities)	January 31
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)	February 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)	February 1
Land and Water Conservation Fund	Outdoor recreational facilities, campgrounds, playgrounds, open spaces, and wildlife areas. (Eligible: local governments)	February 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
Small Town Sign Replacement Program	The program will provide up to \$5,000 for signs and signposts per applying community on a first-come, first-served basis. (Eligible: local governments)	Ongoing
Traffic Engineering Assistance Program (TEAP)	Provides 100 hours of engineering assistance for operations and traffic safety issues. (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 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.

From the Planner's Desk...

In October, two of our planners had the opportunity to attend the Iowa Chapter of the American Planning Association's annual conference. This year, they held the conference in Iowa City with the theme of **"Multiplicity: Planning for Communities in a State of Change."** The conference featured many sessions that allowed us, as planners, to expand our knowledge of contemporary planning methods, issues, and solutions. Below are short summaries of some of the most relevant sessions we attended.

Powering Up & Powering On: Large Scale Wind Development in Two Iowa Counties

- In this session, the presenters talked about how two counties in Northern Iowa managed the growth of wind turbines in their areas. The most relevant topic they discussed were the ways in which the wind turbines were allowed to be sited. For the most part, this was based on public participation and GIS (Geographic Information Systems) mapping. The GIS mapping made sure the setbacks satisfied the needs of the people most directly affected by the turbines by considering viewsheds, solar azimuth angle, and any possible noise. These types of restrictions and others could be included in zoning ordinances in our area.

Re-thinking Management and Operations of Transportation Systems

- This session covered sustainable and efficient ways to manage our transportation infrastructure. Many statistics were used in this session and all of them pointed to the conclusion that Iowa, and likely our region, has way too many roads for the amount of people we have. When we have too many roads, we are forced to spend a lot of money on maintaining them. Keeping good roads good and abandoning roads that are severely underutilized is a strategy that could fix this problem, but deciding which roads to abandon is a very difficult, and political task.

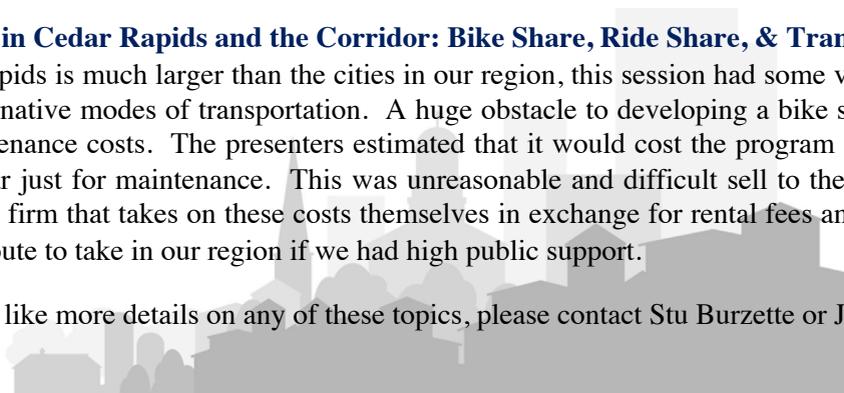
Beer, Broadband and Other Tales: The Building Blocks of Urban and Rural Communities

- This session was interesting and relevant to our communities. The speakers presented on the abilities of breweries and internet services to help revitalize small communities. Broadband helps businesses connect with the world while breweries are able to create a unique local amenity. This power is compounded by the fact that breweries are very popular and Iowa has not even come close to saturating its brewery market. There is space for every community in our region to open its own brewery and would undoubtedly be good for our regional economy as beer tourism continues to expand.

Shared Mobility in Cedar Rapids and the Corridor: Bike Share, Ride Share, & Transit

- While Cedar Rapids is much larger than the cities in our region, this session had some valuable information pertaining to alternative modes of transportation. A huge obstacle to developing a bike share program is the startup and maintenance costs. The presenters estimated that it would cost the program operators thousands of dollars per year just for maintenance. This was unreasonable and difficult sell to their residents so what they found, was a firm that takes on these costs themselves in exchange for rental fees and membership fees. This could be a route to take in our region if we had high public support.

If you would like more details on any of these topics, please contact Stu Burzette or Jeremy Rounds.



multiplicity

PLANNING FOR COMMUNITIES IN A STATE OF CHANGE

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

101 E. Montgomery Street
Creston, IA 50801-2406