

THE WINDMILL

2020 CDBG Workshop

The 2020 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application workshop is scheduled for February 19th in Ankeny. Again, this program will offer large grants for local governments (cities and counties) for infrastructure, facilities, and housing. These grant applications are likely to be due in May and June. Three major programs will be awarded funds:



- Community facilities, such as childcare, senior and special needs, and quasi-medical facilities, plus storm water management projects
- Downtown revitalization building façade grants
- Owner-occupied housing rehabilitation grants

If you have interest in grant funds for any of these activities, please contact Joel or Jeremy at your SICOG office.

Homeland Security Grant Program



The purpose of HSGP is to support state and local efforts to prevent terrorism and other catastrophic events and to prepare the nation for the threats and hazards that pose the greatest risk to the security of the United States. HSGP provides funding to implement investments that build, sustain, and deliver the 32 core capabilities essential to achieving the National Preparedness Goal (NPG) of a secure and resilient nation. HSGP supports core capabilities across five mission areas of prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery based on allowable costs. Many local entities may qualify and the program can fund lots of different projects and equipment. The pre-application process is fairly simple and we look to help a few of our cities with the pre-application this month. Contact Jeremy or Joel for assistance. *(See "Grant Opportunities" on page 6)*

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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 last name@sicog.com



A View From the First Tee



Happy New Year! I know that every article that is written at this time of year starts out that way. Because of that, I will write and say it also! It was an excellent 2019 with your organization (SICOG) assisting with many projects and many grant applications.

Welcome! This time of year (due to recent elections) we welcome newly elected public officials and thank those departing for their years of dedicated service to the citizens of Southern Iowa. Please remember that SICOG is here to help whoever we can. Just give us a call and we will discuss any situation with you.

Speaking of money, Ryan Roof, CPA of the Faller, Kincheloe & Co, PLC, Des Moines, IA, is completing our agency-wide audit of SICOG and its affiliated organizations for the year ended September 30, 2019. The audit will show the expenditures and revenues for SICOG and its wholly affiliated organizations. The audit is completed annually and includes our Housing Revolving Loan Fund, Industrial Loan Fund, Industrial Revolving Loan Fund, Community Revolving Loan Fund, EDA Assistance Grant, State Assistance Grant and all administrative contracts and sub-recipient agreements. A copy of the audit report will be available in the near future and will be posted on our web site.



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

Speaking of even *MORE* money, see the **Report on Applications / Projects** below:



Final 2019 Totals

TOTAL Submitted	\$4,220,801
TOTAL FUNDED	\$2,299,225
TOTAL Denied	\$518,133
PENDING	\$1,026,349
SUCCESS RATE	54.5%

From 1972 to December 31, 2019 SICOG has assisted with \$165,829,050 in funds awarded to our member communities and counties.

Here are my top 5 highlights of 2019:

1. Visit to the motherland – Poland
2. Having youngest daughter, husband and grandkids live with us while building their new house
3. Missing my 50th high school reunion
4. Consistently beating Joe Myhre at golf even though he is 6 years my junior
5. Oldest daughter’s engagement and planning a wedding

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 am very grateful to the individual organizations and financial institutions that joined the "Partnership Program 2019" and I’m looking forward to carrying our partnerships into 2020. **Thank you for your continued support!**

SICOG Executive Board Meeting of December 3, 2019

Chairman Christensen called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. with the following members present: Christensen, Davidson, Fitch, Lesan, McCann, Trickey, Twombly, Waddle and Zabel. Staff present: Ostroski and Brimm.

McCann made a motion to approve the agenda. Twombly seconded the motion, all ayes. Motion carried. Trickey made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 1, 2019 meeting. Waddle seconded the motion, all ayes. Motion carried.

Waddle made a motion to approve the financial reports for the months of October and November. Fitch seconded the motion, all ayes. Motion carried.

Twombly made a motion to authorize Ostroski as the manager of the rehabilitation project for the SICOG building through Creston’s Downtown Revitalization grant. Trickey seconded the motion. All ayes, motion carried.

Other items discussed included: EDA-RLF Semi-annual Reports, EDA PEER Review, Audit, CDBG Report, Grant Report, Budget – New Contracts, CDBG Housing Inspector, Empower Rural Iowa – Task Force, Distribution of Funds, CEDS, Housing Trust Fund, Election Results, and State Legislature.

Twombly made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:01 p.m. McCann seconded the motion, all ayes. Motion carried. Minutes Submitted by Brimm

CAT Program Possibly Re-opening Soon

In late 2019, the IEDA Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT) applications were suspended due to running out of funding. They are tentatively re-opening the program for the April funding round to accept new applications from which the Enhance Iowa Board can award with the next fiscal year allocation. See the grant list for details on eligibility and what this funding includes. SICOG has been very successful with this program. Please contact Joel or Jeremy for assistance.

2020 Derelict Building Grant

The due date for this popular grant is approaching in February. This grant funds three kinds of projects: environmental testing, renovation, and deconstruction for communities under 5,000 population to improve the attractiveness and appearance of their community. It provides funds to address neglected commercial or public structures that have been vacant for at least 6 months. The program’s main focus is landfill diversion through recycling and reuse of building materials and the elimination of hazards. Renovation projects get the building on the path to productivity as a commercial, public, or mixed-use space (residential property, such as a house, is not eligible). Deconstruction results in a clear site.

IDNR and its partners are willing to hold a regional DBP workshop before the 2021 funding round. If there are enough interested cities for a workshop, we can request that a training be held in our area at no cost to you. Please let Stu or Jeremy know if you are interested.



February 4, 2020
SICOG Executive Board Meeting, 1:00 p.m.
SIDG Board Meeting immediately following

February 17, 2020 – SICOG office closed for President’s Day

February 19, 2020
CDBG Application Workshop, Ankeny

February 20 – 21
ICOG 2020 Staff Training, Grinnell

March 25
Annual Legislative Breakfast, Des Moines



ATURA Transportation Planning

SICOG serves as transportation planning staff to the five-county ATURA Transportation Planning Affiliation Region (Adams, Adair, Taylor, Ringgold and Union Counties)

The next meeting of the RPA/ATURA Policy Board will be held on Tuesday, January 13, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. at the Pizza Ranch in Creston. The public is invited to attend. Action items on the Agenda include election of officers and applications for Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funding. Additional information related to this meeting may be found at:

www.sicog.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/ATURA-Policy-Board-Agenda-01-13-20.pdf

TAP Grant Application Due February 15

The Local Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Grant is due February 15th. Eligible entities for this program include local governments, regional transportation authorities, transit agencies, or natural resource or public lands agencies. Non-eligible entities may partner with eligible entities as well.

Eligible projects under this program include the construction of trails, viewing areas, various community improvement activities (streetscaping, historic preservation and rehabilitation of historic transportation facilities, vegetation management), some storm water projects, and safe routes to schools' projects.

There is a required local match of 20 percent with this grant for all projects. If you have any questions, please contact Stu Burzette by email at burzette@sicog.com or by phone at 641-782-8491.



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
- TS Bank of Corning
- Union State Bank of Greenfield
- Union State Bank of Winterset

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

Wellmark Foundation Announces its 2020 MATCH Grant Funding Rounds

The very popular Wellmark Foundation MATCH program is back this year. The Large MATCH Grant provides competitive grants up to \$100,000 for wellness and healthy food programs. **This grant application is due in February, so the time to start is now.** Last year we helped the City of Osceola receive \$100,000 for a new park they are building. This grant is very competitive. Later this spring, the Small MATCH Grant will be available, so stay tuned to *The Windmill*. The Small MATCH grant is less competitive (a higher percentage of applications is awarded).

Favorable initiatives – projects they want to see for either program:

- Edible orchards
- Community gardens and greenhouses
- Food preparation methods
- Farm/field/garden-to-table projects, including education
- Policies or councils working to create access to healthy foods and nutrition education
- Public playground structures and spaces
- Outdoor recreation and sport courts or fields
- Swimming pools, splash pads or aquatic centers with open access to the public
- Trails, including links, spurs and connectors
- Safe Routes to School plans and infrastructure
- Accessible and safe walking paths or routes
- Share-the-road plans and infrastructure
- Bike-share program infrastructure

Assistance to Firefighters Grants Update

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant application period is anticipated to open in the near future. **As this application window will likely be about four weeks, you should prepare now to develop a competitive application.** To assist with this process and to make sure you are eligible to apply, you should start by taking these initial steps:

- **SAM.gov registration:** Update your city or department's SAM.gov registration. SAM.gov registration must be renewed annually. Incomplete or inactive SAM.gov registration will automatically disqualify your fire department.
- **Complete a Needs Assessment:** Review your equipment, gear, and vehicle needs and condition. The most competitive applications will have completely documented the existing condition of equipment and why your department needs to update it, or add it to your inventory.
- **Obtain an informal cost quotation.** Please note that once awarded, a formal bidding process will need to be completed.



The FY18 AFG program received over 10,000 applications, and only 1,834 awards were distributed. SICOG will help you apply for high-priority items, and we can help you prepare your application at no cost. **If your department is interested in submitting an application or you have questions regarding this program please contact Jeremy or Joel at your SICOG office this week.**

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 in submitting the best possible applications for these funds. **There are many other sources, so if you have a project, please contact us.**

Source/Program	Funding Uses	SICOG Due Date
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)	January 15
FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grants	Purchase fire equipment, personal protection equipment, training, station modifications, wellness programs, and vehicles. (Eligible: Fire departments and non-affiliated fire and EMS agencies)	Projected January 15 (see article)
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 (see article)
Iowa Foundation for Parks and Recreation Grant	Mini-grants for leisure facilities, activities, events, or programs to promote and improve leisure opportunities and amenities for citizens in small Iowa communities with a population of 10,000 or less. This is a new program. (Eligible: local governments)	January 20
Homeland Security Grant Program	Applying through the State of Iowa, this grant funds investments that address high-priority preparedness gaps across all core capabilities where a nexus to terrorism exists. Supported investments are based on capability targets and gaps identified during Iowa’s Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment process and assessed in the State Preparedness Report. (Eligible: local governments, nonprofits, schools and colleges, hospitals, and others)	Required Notice of Interest: January 20 (see article)
CDBG Water and Sewer Program	Water and wastewater capital improvements: plants, mains, lagoons, pumps, towers, etc. (Eligible: local governments)	February 1 (next quarterly round)
Wellmark Large MATCH Grant	Provides up to \$100,000 grants for wellness and fitness initiatives, focused mostly on infrastructure (buildings, trails, parks, edible orchards, etc.) and access to healthy food. (Eligible: local governments and some nonprofits)	February 1 (see article)
Land and Water Conservation Fund	Outdoor recreational facilities, campgrounds, playgrounds, open spaces, and wildlife areas (Eligible: local governments)	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
Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT)	Tourism, recreation, and entertainment capital projects, such as museums, libraries, swimming pools, trails, large recreational areas, amphitheatres, etc. (Eligible: local governments, nonprofits, some private entities)	February 15 (see article)
Iowa West Foundation	Community development, economic development, education, and human needs projects (Eligible: local governments, nonprofits in Adams and Taylor Counties)	February 15
Keep Iowa Beautiful Beautification Grant	Beautification programs – flower, tree and shrub planting, painting & fix-up and general landscaping; public nuisance abatement; litter prevention and recycling education, implementation, and public awareness (Eligible: Cities and non-profits in cities under 5,000 population)	March 1
Solid Waste Alternatives Program	Programs to encourage landfill alternatives – recycling, diversion, new technologies, new manufacturing processes, etc. (Eligible: local governments and solid waste agencies)	March 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)	March 1
Iowa Alliant Energy Hometown Safety Grants	Grants up to \$2,000 to purchase emergency equipment, such as Jaws of Life, AEDs, thermal imaging cameras, etc. (Eligible: Local governments and fires response agencies)	April 1, August 1, 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
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 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...

2020 Census Keys for Local Governments

The time has come. In 2020, America will get its chance to count every resident, regardless of citizenship or immigration status. Counting everyone is important! The 2020 Census will provide a snapshot of our nation – our population, where we live, and so much more.

The US Constitution mandates new census counts every ten years and is very important because the counts determine such things as congressional and state legislative districts. Participating in the Census is not only required by law, but it is critical in determining how more than \$590 billion per year in federal funding is allocated to communities for neighborhood improvements, public health, education, and transportation. In addition, state funds and sales tax are often allocated to cities and counties based on the decennial population counts.

There is more to census data than just funds distribution. Businesses use census data to decide where to build factories, offices and stores. Local government uses census data for public safety and emergency preparedness. Residents and nonprofits use data to support community initiative involving legislation, quality of life, consumer advocacy, and grant applications. Real estate developers use data to make decisions on housing construction and neighborhood revitalization. Economic developers should care about this count!

The questionnaire for the 2020 Census is said to be the shortest in history with only 10 questions. New technology will make it easier than ever to respond to the census. For the first time you will be able to respond online, by phone, and mail. Please encourage your residents to fill out the questionnaire and submit ASAP.

Counting every person living in the United States is a massive undertaking. Here is a look at some of the upcoming key dates along the way:

April 1, 2020 – CENSUS DAY! Every home will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census by April 1.

May 2020 – Census Bureau begins visiting homes that haven't responded to the Census to make sure everyone is counted. The best way to avoid a follow-up visit from a census taker is to ensure residents respond when the questionnaire is handed out.

December 2020 – apportionment counts are delivered to the President and Congress as required by law.

March 31, 2021 – the Census Bureau will send redistricting counts to states. This information is used to redraw legislative districts based on population changes.

For more information about how Census 2020 impacts your community visit:

<https://2020census.gov/en/community-impact.html?>

Contact SICOG if we can help in any way.

EVERYONE COUNTS!



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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Marvin McCann	Clarke County	
Diane Fitch	Madison County	
Lyle Minnick	Ringgold County	
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

101 E. Montgomery Street
Creston, IA 50801-2406