



April 2022

**WE ARE
HIRING**
SOUTHERN IOWA
COUNCIL OF
GOVERNMENTS

Positions Available:
**Executive Director
Regional Planner
Planning Technician**

101 E. Montgomery St
Creston, IA 50801
www.sicog.com

Visit our website for job descriptions and application instructions www.sicog.com

COVID CDBG Awards

As a result of the pandemic, CDBG received a \$21 million allocation to be used for several different CDBG-eligible activities throughout Iowa. The funds could be applied for until exhausted. During this period, SICOG was able to apply for and receive funding for the following projects.

- \$500,000 for the \$1 million in façade improvements for 8 downtown buildings or 10 facades in Osceola. This grant was funded as part of a partnership among the City of Osceola, SICOG, Osceola Chamber Main Street, and various building owners.
- \$200,000 façade renovation for 1 building for the City of Corning, who owns the historic building. The city acquired from an unresponsive owner a few years ago. The goal is to resell the property, once renovated, for private tax-generating mixed uses.
- \$425,000 for a \$575,000 water main replacement in Uptown Creston. This project will install a 6" PVC water main in place of a 4" cast iron pipe, likely with lead and/or asbestos, that was installed over 100 years ago.
- There are several CDBG applications pending totaling over \$10 million. In Corning, Creston Osceola and Afton

These are all the grant applications SICOG will submit for this COVID program, due to the requirement that these projects must be completed by May 2023. Few other projects are likely to be funded from this program. If any other projects that can be completed on time come to our attention, please contact us to discuss your project. Other funding sources may also be available. SICOG has several other applications pending through various grant sources.

Planner's Desk

One of the results of the COVID pandemic was the elevation to the mainstream of the concept known as tactical urbanism. This is a concept of using temporary projects and changes to the built environment to test whether permanent improvements can or should be made. For example, one of the most popular forms of tactical urbanism, which can be carried out in any community, is a parklet. A parklet is temporary street furniture, which can be permanent but is also somewhat portable. Last summer, a wooden seating area was placed in front of Hot Air Brewing in Creston, which was popular daily and especially when the brewery hosted special events. Such amenities offer social distancing by allowing patrons to eat and drink outside. Other amenities include things like pop-up public spaces and art projects. Temporary bike lanes and traffic calming projects are other examples.

Most communities in the SICOG region can successfully implement projects of this nature, and grants are available. These kinds of project are popular with younger people we all want to see move into our communities. They can set a community apart and make it feel more vibrant, hip, and modern, all while retaining or even enhancing the unique history and character of the community.



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 project, please contact us.

Source/Program	Funding Uses	SICOG Due Date
FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program	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)	Floating (NOIs as soon as possible)
Wellmark Foundation MATCH Grants	\$50,000 for access to healthy foods (food programs, community gardens, etc.) (Eligible: local governments and certain nonprofits)	August 1 for access to food
Iowa Economic Development Authority Iowa Preservation Historic Tax Credits	Offers tax credits up to 25% of development costs to developers who sensitively rehabilitate historic buildings to offer them new life. Iowa offers this tax credit program to ensure character-defining features and spaces of buildings are retained to help create distinct and vibrant communities (Eligible: for-profit developers).	May 1
Iowa Economic Development Authority Enhance Iowa Sports Tourism Grant	Projects that market or promote sporting events in Iowa. Eligible sporting events include professional, collegiate and amateur level sporting events that occur in Iowa. Promotion/marketing activity can occur for up to two years. The grant funds various size projects but is targeted to major events that will attract people to the region and state (Eligible: local governments and certain nonprofits).	May 1
Iowa Economic Development Authority Rural Childcare Market Study Grant	Seeks to support the use of data and analysis by rural communities to determine the specific needs and solutions for their area. Funding will empower communities to partner with a third party to assess their current child care market environment and develop strategies (eligible: Local governments, 501c3 and 501c6 nonprofits, public and private schools, and institutions of higher education).	May 1
Iowa DOT and Living Roadways Trust Fund – LRTF Grants	Supports integrated roadside vegetation management (IRVM) programs; and educates the public on the benefits, use and care of roadside vegetation, including native plants. Grants can be awarded for specialized equipment to accomplish IRVM operations; roadside plantings that demonstrate the best management practices of IRVM; inventories of roadside vegetation; and research, education, and public awareness concerning IRVM issues (eligible: local governments).	May 1
Iowa DOT State Recreational Trails Grant	Establish recreational trails throughout Iowa. The program is restricted to the acquisition, construction or improvement of recreational trails open for public use or trails which will be dedicated public use upon completion. This grant is very competitive, so SICOG is interested in major projects, especially those that connect one trail to another or connect two communities or destinations (Eligible: local governments and certain nonprofits).	May 1
RISE Local Development Grant	Funding to provide road/street access to expand business opportunities (Eligible: local governments)	May 1
USDA Conservation Innovation Grant	50-50 grants to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies in conjunction with agricultural production. Funds pilot projects, field demonstrations, and on-farm conservation research (Eligible: "all non-federal entities.")	May 1
CDBG Water and Sewer Program	Water and wastewater capital improvements: plants, mains, lagoons, pumps, towers, etc. (Eligible: local governments)	May 1 (next quarterly round)
IEDA Enhance Iowa Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT) Grant	Funds for capital projects, such as trails, libraries, community centers, pavilions, entertainment venues, museums, recreational facilities, and more (Eligible: local governments and certain nonprofits)	Anticipated May 1
REAP Open Spaces Program	State funding for recreation, conservation, and outdoor resources projects, including land acquisition and development. Funding is available up to 100% of the costs. (Eligible: local governments).	June 1
CDBG Community Facilities and Services	This annual competitive program offers grants to assist communities for a variety of projects including day care facilities, senior centers, vocational workshops and other community services such as storm water projects. (Eligible: local governments)	Ongoing, until funds run out
Iowa Historic Preservation Tax Credits – small projects	Up to 25% of project cost in the form of a State tax credit to offset the costs of the building rehabilitation or restoration. Project must affect a designated historic building on the National Register of Historic Places. Projects can have eligible costs up to \$750,000. (Eligible: property owners – governments can partner to mobilize the project)	Ongoing
ITC/ IRDC "Power of Connection" Community Grant Program	Grants up to \$5,000 for capacity building, strategic planning, studies or assessments for a variety of community programs and issues (Eligibility: rural communities)	Ongoing
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
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.

Congresswoman Axne's Office Issues Solicitation for Project Grants



For members served by Congresswoman Axne in Iowa's 3rd District, a notice has been sent out soliciting project proposals for Congressional submission. Axne's office, and presumably all members of Congress, can submit up to 15 local projects for consideration this year as part of the FY 2023 budget. Projects must fall within certain criteria for each specific federal program.

This is time sensitive as the application must be submitted by April 18. If you have a possible project, please carefully read about each funding program to see if your project qualifies as well as if matching funds are required. Please contact your SICOG office for assistance or to discuss any projects

Program details, the application form, and a PDF document outlining the process and rules can be found at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdfgkPqFnHrMlpkGvsINART1JmAZstY8aBUVGUPypZmz8TA/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&fir=0>.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Governor Kim Reynolds ★ Lt. Governor Adam Gregg

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Wednesday, April 6, 2022
CONTACT: Alex Murphy, (515) 802-0986, Alex.Murphy@Governor.Iowa.Gov

Gov. Reynolds announces \$100M investment in Iowa's quality of life and tourism
DES MOINES -- Gov. Reynolds today announced a \$100 million investment to bolster the quality of life in Iowa's communities and attract visitors and new residents to the state. The new effort, called Destination Iowa, will provide grants to help communities move forward on transformational, shovel-ready attractions. Cities, counties, nonprofits and other organizations can apply for Destination Iowa grants from four separate funds: Economically Significant Development, Outdoor Recreation, Tourism Attraction, and Creative Placemaking.

"Communities in all corners of the state are creating unique destinations that give visitors a reason to explore and residents a reason to stay," said Gov. Reynolds. Destination Iowa will help more communities across the state move forward in their efforts to boost tourism and economic growth while enhancing the quality of life for Iowans."

While Iowa saw a record number of Iowans and out-of-state travelers utilizing outdoor amenities such as state and county parks and recreational bike trails over the last two years, the hospitality industry in the State of Iowa experienced a 46.1% decrease in employment and there was an overall 29% decline in visitor spending as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Destination Iowa will provide new opportunities to create and invest in attractions that will raise Iowa's profile, welcome out-of-state travelers, and increase visitor spending while accelerating tourism's recovery. It will also spur local economies and contribute to efforts to recruit new members of Iowa's workforce.

Iowa has led the way in elevating its already unmatched quality of life through significant state investments in child care, broadband, housing and commercial aviation infrastructure projects, as well as a significant investment in the successful This Is Iowa ad campaign. This investment will build upon that momentum.

"Destination Iowa will inspire the kinds of attractions that Iowans take pride in and that will raise the positive profile of our state well beyond our borders," Gov. Reynolds said. Applications will be accepted starting May 9. Funded projects must be completed by June 30, 2026. For more information on Destination Iowa, visit iowaeda.com/destination-iowa/. Funding is being made available through the federal American Rescue Plan Act.



- April 17 - Easter
- May 3 - SICOG Executive Board 1:00 P.M.
- May 8 - Mothers Day
- May 10 - ATURA Board in Ringgold County 1:00 P.M.
- May 30 - Memorial Day - SICOG Office Closed
- June 7 - SICOG Executive Board 1:00 P.M.

