

READY TO APPLY?

To be ready to apply for a grant application requires planning ahead. Most importantly, this includes:

Project identification. Before considering a grant application, a project must first be selected—not vice-versa. This involves identifying community needs and gathering consensus to select the best alternative to address those needs.

Project scope.

What are the details of the project? Where will it occur? What are the major activities to complete the project? When will it start? When will it be finished? Who are the partners? Who will own, operate, and maintain?



Success is all in the planning!!

Cost estimating. Who will prepare the cost estimates? Is an architect or engineer needed or required?

Financial planning. How much will the project cost? Where will the money come from? Is the money immediately available? Will there be loans, donations, or fundraisers? Will the project occur without grant funds?

HOW TO GET STARTED

Once a project has been identified, it is most helpful to contact the RPC immediately. This will allow RPC staff time to research grant opportunities and any requirements. Because many grants operate on deadlines, timing can be vital. Some grant applications require extensive writing, and public process before submittal. Some projects can take months of planning before being ready to submit an application for funding. Please contact us for more information.



Planning For
Better Communities

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GRANTWRITING AND ADMINISTRATION SERVICES

Expanding Community Investment.



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GRANTWRITING AND ADMINISTRATION

Grant money is essential to many community projects. Communities often seek out grants in order to help pay for or reduce the cost of projects. Because grant money is often limited, and in high demand, the application process can be extremely competitive. This is why knowledgeable grantwriting and project development skills are essential to achieving success.

The Area 15 Regional Planning Commission staff has over 40 years experience and expertise in preparing grant applications on behalf of our membership and their affiliate partners. The RPC provides grant writing services to members at no cost if the RPC is selected as the administrative entity for the awarded grant project.



Grant money can be essential to a project.

WHAT IS A GRANT?

Grants are monetary awards to individuals, businesses, organizations, and government bodies. Sources include State and Federal government, trusts, businesses, and organizations. Filling out an application is a normal part of securing grant funds. Some applications are very short, while others require extensive research and writing.

COMMON PROGRAMS

Although there are many grant programs available, below is a list of common programs available for community projects:

- Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)
- Historic Preservation (CLG, HRDP)
- Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT)
- Housing Rehabilitation (CDBG/HOME)
- EDA Public Works/Planning
- Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP)
- Transportation (TEA-21)
- Revitalize Iowa's Sound Economy (RISE)
- FEMA Fire Grant
- RACI—Prairie Meadows
- USDA Rural Development

GRANT ADMINISTRATION

Upon award, many grants require administration. This may include, but not be limited to: Environmental Review & Clearances, Section 106 Historical Review & Clearances, Procurement, Labor Standards & Compliance, Civil Rights/Fair Housing, Acquisition, Relocation, Financial reporting, Requests for Funds, Performance Reports, Monitoring Visits and Project Close-out Reports.



Administration requires knowledge and experience.

Most State and Federal grant programs allow grant funds to cover the cost of administration. Therefore the cost of administration does not come out of the local jurisdiction's budget. Additionally, the Iowa Department of Economic Development and US Department of Commerce recognize the RPC as a qualified grant administrative entity. Based on this recognition, communities can select the RPC without having to solicit Requests for

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