

Information Resource

Area 15 Regional Planning Commission is an Iowa Council of Governments formed since 1974 by Iowa Code Chapter 28H. Area 15 RPC is recognized as a regional resource and liaison to State and Federal government agencies to promote community and economic development programs to the cities and counties served by the jurisdiction.

Examples of recent programs available include:

- *IEDA CDBG—Community Development Block Grants*
- *IDOT RISE—Revitalize Iowa's Sound Economy*
- *FEMA—Assistance to Firefighters Grants*
- *IDNR REAP—Resource Enhancement and Protection*
- *IEDA—Community Catalyst*
- *IDNR HRDP—Historic Resource Development Program*
- *IDNR Derelict Building Grant*
- *IEDA—Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT)*
- *IDOT STBG—Surface Transportation Block Grants*
- *County Foundation Grants*



How to Contact the RPC

The Regional Planning Commission staff are available to assist you with your next project.

Please stop in and see us or contact us by the means listed below.

Our office is located in downtown Ottumwa across from the Ottumwa Courier.

Our hours are 8:00am-4:30pm, Monday—Friday.



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Area 15 Regional Planning Commission



Planning for Better Communities



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WHAT IS THE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION?

The Area 15 Regional Planning Commission (RPC) is a voluntary association of local governments whose primary purpose is to cooperate in finding solutions to similar local problems and needs.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE RPC?

Any local government in the Federally designated Economic Development District (EDD) service area is eligible to participate. The service area includes: **Davis, Jefferson, Keokuk, Mahaska, Van Buren, and Wapello** counties.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF RPC MEMBERSHIP?

Through membership in the RPC, local governments can:

- Share local strategies for solving problems and developing opportunities.
- Share resources they could not afford individually.
- Coordinate the development of important regional projects that impact several local governments
- Have access to the services of a full-time professional staff.

PLANNING SERVICES

Economic Development

The RPC operates REDI Inc. a non-profit group formed to promote job growth and retention. RPC also produces a variety of economic development plans, many of which are used as supportive documentation for grant and loan applications.

Community Development

The RPC develops project applications, writes grants, prepares strategic and comprehensive plans, administers grants, and provides other support services needed to meet the changing needs of today's communities.

Tourism

The RPC offers assistance to prepare tourism plans and strategies and seek funds to implement such plans.

Transportation

The RPC operates RPA 15 which is a partnership with Iowa Department of Transportation to deliver regional transportation planning services and technical assistance for transportation related projects. RPC conducts transit planning for the area's 10-15 Transit and OTA public transit systems. Regional transportation planning is provided for five counties in the RPA 15 district including Jefferson, Keokuk, Mahaska, Van Buren, and Wapello.

Housing

The RPC operates the AHEAD Inc. a non-profit housing organization and partners with the Iowa Finance Authority annually to offer programs and services for affordable new and existing owner and rental housing construction and rehabilitation. RPC staff also work with local officials and developers to identify needs and funding opportunities. AHEAD Inc. offers first-time homebuyer loans. RPC staff also offer housing plans, needs assessments and surveys.

PLANNING SERVICES cont'd

Development Controls/Incentives

Area 15 RPC assists local governments with comprehensive plans, and zoning and subdivision ordinances to ensure orderly development.

RPC also prepares plans for development incentive programs such as Tax Abatement and Tax Increment Financing. These programs are administered in conjunction with Urban Renewal Plans and Urban Revitalization Plans. City Codification service is also available to keep cities compliant with Iowa Code.

Technical Assistance

The RPC is a joint partnership of cities and counties to provide professional planning staff and resources that otherwise would not be feasible individually. Grant writing is a frequent technical assistance request as professional grant research and writing maximizes the chances of a community's funding success. Area 15 RPC also provides supportive assistance in administering grants and loans.

Special Services

The RPC also provides assistance in regard to:

- Environmental Reviews
- Downtown Revitalization
- Strategic Planning
- City Codification
- Procurement of Professional Services (i.e. architect/engineering/other)