

Ready to Apply?

To be ready to apply for a grant application requires planning ahead.

Identification: Before considering a grant application, a project must first be selected—not vice-versa.

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?

Costs: Who will prepare the cost estimates? Is an architect or engineer needed or required? 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 submitting an application for funding.

Please contact us for more information.

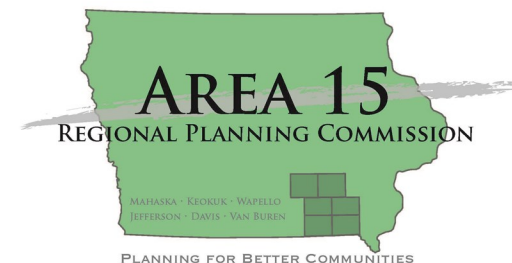
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Grant Writing & Administrative Services





Grant Writing

Grant money is essential for many community projects. Communities often seek grants 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 grant writing 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.

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 Grant 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 (SAFETEA-LU)
- Revitalize Iowa's Sound Economy (RISE)
- FEMA Fire Grant
- USDA Rural Development
- Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)
- FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)

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.

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 Proposals or bids for administration.

