



DEPT OF COMMERCE INVITES APPLICATION FROM RPC

In May 2020, the U.S. Department of Commerce invited the designated Economic Development Districts (EDD's) to apply for federal funding dedicated to economic relief due to the Coronavirus. These funds were an appropriation by Congress to be used to "prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus...including necessary expenses for responding to economic injury as a result of coronavirus," as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act. Area 15 RPC submitted two separate applications including 1) a Partnership Planning Grant and 2) a new Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) to alleviate sudden and severe economic dislocation caused by the coronavirus pandemic. Both of these applications were submitted to the Denver, CO region office of EDA for review. Currently all applications for Iowa are pending award announcements. More to come!

The Area 15 Regional Planning Commission is conducting our **annual survey** of membership communities. Your responses provide valuable information so RPC can best assist your community or county with project planning and funding. The online survey:

www.mysurveygizmo.com/s3/5602811/Survey-for-City-and-County-Representatives-2020

-or- you can request a printed copy by calling 641-684-6551. Thank you for your participation!

COVID-19 RESPONSE GRANTS

RPC recently assisted several county members to apply for CDBG Funds to Support Infectious Disease Response grants through the Iowa Economic Development Authority. This program was funded through the \$2 trillion Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security Act. Funding was made available for primary purpose of job training for health care workers, testing and diagnosis, childcare services, and meal delivery service. Below is the list of projects assisted by RPC staff and awarded in Region 15:

- **Jefferson County.** Award \$23,500 to assist with expansion of two local food program and establish a new program for drive through meal services.
- **Van Buren County.** Award \$6,727 to expand emergency food relief and Snack-In-A-Sack program.
- **Wapello County:** Award \$12,000 to expand the food box program for seniors.
- **Wapello County.** Award \$8,636 to purchase mobile hand sanitizing stations and sanitizing equipment to be loaned to community groups hosting various events.

HOLLY BERG RECEIVES PROMOTION

Congratulations to Holly Berg for excellence in planning work and a well-deserved promotion to Senior Planner at Area 15 Regional Planning Commission. Holly started work at Area 15 RPC October 2016. Through her work and volunteering she demonstrates outstanding leadership on her projects including grantwriting and administration, strategic planning, Opportunity2, and more. Holly is also involved in the community, serving on the city council for Ottumwa, and as the past president of the Central Iowa Tourism Board. Holly is an important part of our 5-member team which has a combined 68 years of employment at Area 15 RPC.

KEOSAUQUA 5-2-1-0

In 2018, the community of Keosauqua received funding from the Iowa Department of Public Health to support the 5-2-1-0 Healthy Choices Count! campaign. 5-2-1-0 is a health-focused movement for children in Iowa encouraging them to eat and play the right way by focusing on the importance of four habits:

- 5 or more servings of fruits and vegetables
- 2 hours or less of screen time (television, computer, video games, phones, etc.)
- 1 hour or more of physical activity
- 0 (or reduce) sugar-sweetened beverages - drink more water

After the successful application, Area 15 RPC staff worked with community representatives to develop a plan to promote 5-2-1-0 in the community which included implementation of healthy snack distribution in schools, water bottles for day care children, play equipment for sports fields, and more.

In 2019, Keosauqua was awarded a second year of funding which just concluded. As part of the project, the City was able to add in crosswalks and SLOW signs to improve pedestrian accessibility. Working with Engage Keosauqua, a pocket park downtown is being added with hopscotch, community garden, and gathering spaces. Books on healthy living were purchased for summer reading participants through the Keosauqua Public Library, and a water bottle filling station installed in the Van Buren County Courthouse.

Area 15 is excited to continue this work in Year 3 with Keosauqua, and starting work with Ottumwa who will be joining the program as well this year!

To learn more about how you can get your community, workplace, school, health care clinic or child care site involved in 5-2-1-0, visit www.iowahealthieststate.com.



Crosswalks improve safety and promote pedestrian activity



Water bottle filling station in the Van Buren Co. Courthouse

OTTUMWA AWARDED GRANT TO IMPROVE ACCESS AT INDUSTRIAL PARK

The City of Ottumwa received an award of \$142,347 from the USDA's Rural Business Development Grant to widen the curve at the intersection of North Court Street and Fox Sauk Road. Greater Ottumwa Partners in Progress (GOPIP) is purchasing a small parcel of land from the Iowa National Guard that will be needed for the improvement. The route consisting of North Court Street and Fox Sauk Road serves as the primary access to the industrial park, and the intersection is functionally obsolete due to the design and traffic volume. This grant will widen the curve at the intersection to improve maneuverability and improve safety for trucks and large vehicles. Completion of this improvement will allow for two-way movement of traffic through the curve without interruption. The City of Ottumwa and Greater Ottumwa Partners in Progress partnered with the Area 15 Regional Planning Commission for the grant application. Area 15 is proud to assist making this project a success!

BLOOMFIELD WATER/SEWER PROJECT UPDATE

The City of Bloomfield is nearing completion of their \$600,000 Community Development Block Grant 2018 water and sewer systems improvement project. The project replaced and cleaned water and sewer mains to reduce water main breaks, water losses, and ensure safe, reliable drinking water for residents as well as eliminate sanitary sewer overflows. Construction began in June 2019 and will be substantially complete this month.

Infrastructure improvements continue in Bloomfield with an update to the wastewater treatment plant. Area 15 RPC assisted the City with application and administration of a Clean Water State Revolving Loan (SRF). The project includes conversion of lagoon cells and installation of four SAGRs (submerged attached growth reactors). The project will provide additional ammonia removal and disinfection to meet EPA mandates and IDNR permit limits. The project will ensure the continued health and well-being of residents and local waterways. Construction began this spring and is projected to be completed fall 2021.

UPCOMING GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Please note on DEADLINES to allow several weeks/months for planning to submit a quality/fundable application			
Program	Purpose	Deadline	Eligible Applicants
IEDA Community Attraction and Tourism	Tourism, recreation, and entertainment capital projects, such as museums, libraries, swimming pools, trails, large recreational areas, amphithe-	October 15, 2020	Local governments, nonprofits
IDOT RISE Local Development	Funding to provide road/street access to expand business parks and development areas.	September 1, 2020	Local governments
Small Town Sign Replacement Program	Up to \$5,000 of signs and posts per community on a first-come, first-served basis.	On-going	Cities
FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grants	Purchase fire equipment, personal protection equipment, training, station modifications, wellness programs, and vehicles.	To be announced	Fire departments and non-affiliated fire and
Alliant Energy Hometown Safety	Grants up to \$2,000 to purchase emergency equipment, such as Jaws of Life, AED's in public buildings, thermal imaging cameras, etc.	September 1, 2020	Communities served by Alliant Energy
IEDA CDBG Water and Sewer Program	Water and wastewater improvements: plants, mains, lagoons, pumps, towers, etc.	October 1, 2020	Local governments
Solid Waste Alternatives IDNR	Programs to encourage landfill alternatives – recycling, diversion, new technologies, new manufacturing processes, etc	July 1, 2020	Local governments and solid waste agencies
IEDA CDBG Sustainable Community Demon-	Innovative and creative projects to support community sustainability. Projects may include green energy and streetscape.	Open	Local governments
Fish Habitat Program and Wildlife Habitat	IDNR Programs and projects to improve fishing and wildlife habitat.	Last working day in November each year	County conservation boards
IDNR Water Trail Enhancement	Infrastructure improvements along state designated water trails or water trails on track for state designation.	November, 2020	Local governments
Water Trail Planning IDNR	Planning for water trail development as navigable waters used by lowans for boating, fishing, inner-tubing, paddling, wildlife viewing, etc.	September, 2020	Local governments
Derelict Building Grant IDNR	To address neglected commercial or public structures that have been vacant for at least six months.	February, 2021	Cities under 5,000 population
Davis County Foundation	Arts & culture, community betterment, education, recreation, youth development, health/human services	November 1, 2020	Tax exempt organizations, local governments
Jefferson County Foundation	Educational, cultural and charitable purposes benefiting Jefferson County	June 1, 2020	Non-profit organizations
Keokuk County Foundation	Arts and culture, health, human services, community betterment, historic preservation, etc.	Last working day in October each year	Tax exempt organizations, local governments
Mahaska County Foundation	Arts & culture, community betterment, education, recreation, youth development, health/human services	February 2021	Tax exempt organizations, local governments
Van Buren County Foundation	Arts and culture, health, human services, community betterment, historic preservation, etc.	March 2021	Tax exempt organizations, local governments
Wapello County Foundation	Medical care and treatment, scientific research, rec facilities, education, public projects/quality of life	August 2021	Tax exempt organizations, local governments

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