

Caleb Knutson

From: Gunnar Olson
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To: Gunnar Olson
Cc: Andrew Collings
Subject: Mid-Iowa Planning Briefing



MID-IOWA PLANNING BRIEFING

April 2022

midiowaplanningalliance.com

Good morning. We are pleased to introduce the Mid-Iowa Planning Briefing, a newsletter by the Mid-Iowa Planning Alliance for Community Development for its members, partner organizations, and jurisdictions of the seven-county Mid-Iowa region. Today we will provide a brief update on the creation of an Economic Development District and share several funding opportunities.

UPDATE: Mid-Iowa officially designated as an Economic Development District

The EDA is now official. The Mid-Iowa region has been designated as an Economic Development District (EDD) by the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA).

Previously, the EDA designated the Mid-Iowa Planning Alliance for Community Development, aka MIPA, as the official supporting organization of the EDD. MIPA will offer its members and partner organizations a range of services, such as grant writing, grant administrations, technical support, and other planning services.

Forty-eight jurisdictions have joined MIPA as members thus far, and their collective populations represent more than 80 percent of the Mid-Iowa region's population. Additional jurisdictions may join later in the year, as well. More details are at midiowaplanningalliance.com/membership.

FUNDING AVAILABLE: Several Opportunities

Several funding opportunities are outlined below that MIPA members and associated organizations may want to consider. The MIPA "due date" is when the application should have all relevant information to MIPA to finish the application on time. MIPA has staff and experience to help communities submitting the best possible applications for these funds. As always, please feel free to contact us to explore other potential funding sources for your projects.

| Source/Program | Funding Uses | MIPA Due Date |
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| Destination Iowa (state allocation of American Rescue Plan Act) | A \$100 million investment to bolster the quality of life in communities and attract visitors and new residents. The new effort will provide grants to help communities move forward on transformational, shovel-ready attractions. Cities, counties, nonprofits and other organizations can apply from four separate funds: Economically Significant Development, Outdoor Recreation, Tourism Attraction and Creative Placemaking. An informational webinar is being held 10 a.m. Friday, April 15. | April 22 |
| Community Development Block Grant CARES Housing Conversion and Commercial Facade | There is still roughly \$10 million in funding available, but the clock is ticking rapidly. Applications are being sought for WIFI/broadband, public/community facilities and/or outdoor spaces, microenterprise assistance, food banks/programs, and daycare assistance projects. Please ensure that there is a tieback to preventing, preparing, and/or responding to the pandemic, and that the project can be completed before July of 2023 and meets all other requirements. Application deadline of April 30. | April 22 |
| EDA’s Build to Scale | The Economic Development Administration is now accepting applications for the FY22 Build to Scale (B2S) program, which is designed to invest in regional economies through scalable business startups. The program’s national competitions will deploy \$45 million to further technology-based economic development initiatives that accelerate high-quality job growth, create more economic opportunities, and support the next generation of industry leading companies. Deadline June 13. | May 20 |
| 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 |

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| 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 |

FROM AXNE'S OFFICE: Solicitation of 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. 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 us at MIPA for assistance or to discuss any projects.

For 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/1FAIpQLSdlfgkPqFnHrMipkGvsINART1JmAZstY8aBUVGCUPypZmz6TA/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=>

What's it for this Mid-Iowa Planning Briefing. As ever, please feel free to reach out if you have any thoughts, questions, or ideas.

Kind regards,

Gunnar Olson



Gunnar Olson | Communications and Strategy Manager
Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
420 Watson Powell Jr. Parkway, Suite 200, Des Moines, IA 50309
Phone: 515.334.0075 | Email: golson@dmampo.org
[website](#) | [facebook](#) | [twitter](#) | [linkedin](#)