

Caleb Knutson

To: Caleb Knutson
Subject: Mid-Iowa Planning Alliance Newsletter

From: Caleb Knutson <cknutson@mid-iowaplanning.org>
Sent: Monday, August 8, 2022 7:30 AM
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MID-IOWA Planning Briefing

August 2022

mid-iowaplanningalliance.org

Greetings, 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.

UPDATE: MIPA Staff

Good DAY!

July was another busy month here at MIPA.

Community visits are still a focus (will be for the foreseeable future). These have been very beneficial for me, as it gets me in the community, familiar with staff, their projects, and the lay of the land. In July I was able to Visit Maxwell, Ankeny, and Altoona. Empower Rural Iowa and the Iowa Rural Development Council had our quarterly joint meeting in Winterset. Please continue to keep an eye out for my "MIPA Visit" emails, or if you don't want to wait, please shoot me an email.

I was also fortunate enough to attend National Association of Development Organizations' (NADO) July Stronger Districts Stronger Regions conference in Kansas City. Discovering that NADO is there to support our new economic development district was welcomed news. It was incredibly helpful meeting and learning from Economic Development Districts from all over the county. Some came from as far as California. The conference focused on strengthening economic resilience, using data as your friend/ally, and positioning our regions for success. The highlight for me was hearing in person Dr. Dell Gines of the Kansas City Federal Reserve speak on Entrepreneurial Ecosystems.



As always if you need anything, or have any questions please reach out cknutson@midiowaplanning.org or 515.334.0075.

Caleb

UPDATE: Destination Iowa Grants Awarded

We are pleased to report that during the second round of Destination Iowa funding it was announced that the MIPA assisted application from the City of Colfax was awarded \$400,000 for improvements to Quarry Springs Park. Funding will be used to create a new 30-site RV campground, modern shower house and bathrooms, and an ADA-accessible dock. Click [here](#) for the announcement.

Congratulations to the City of Colfax!

If your community is currently working on or considering a Destination Iowa grant please reach out for assistance from MIPA.

UPDATE: OCIO Broadband Community Engagement *IMPORTANT*

The State of Iowa Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) just released the official OSIO Broadband Map, a copy of which can be found [here](#). The new map provides a more detailed view than prior maps, identifying the broadband service available at homes and businesses across Iowa as reported by broadband providers. Locations with slower broadband speeds – defined by relevant federal guidelines to be slower than 100 upload/20 download – may be eligible for future grant funding opportunities issued by Governor Reynolds’ Empower Rural Iowa Broadband Program.

The publication of the map commences a 30-day challenge process where the public, broadband providers, and communities throughout Iowa can submit information to the OCIO wherever they believe the map incorrectly reports broadband service data.

The Map may be challenged by communities, communication service providers, or residents. Residents challenging the map must be residents of the State of Iowa, reporting the conditions of service at their place of residence or business. Communities include city/county governments, school districts, consortia of political subdivisions, non-profit organizations representing communities, and regional entities. Communication Service Providers include entities that provide broadband service. **Only one challenge form may be submitted per communication service provider or per community.**

Representatives from the OCIO office previously reached out to MIPA staff to ask for assistance in distributing the Map and associated materials and to offer assistance to communities or anyone who would like to challenge the Map.

Challenges are due **September 1**.

It is important to challenge the map if you think it is incorrect or if there are service issues that have gone previously unidentified as it will open up funding to address those issues.

If you and/or your community are interested in submitting a challenge, please reach out to MIPA for assistance. We are happy to help communities through this process.

UPDATE: August Executive Committee Meeting Scheduled

The August MIPA Executive Committee Meeting has been scheduled for **August 25th at 10 am** as a hybrid meeting. The physical location will be at 420 Watson Powell Jr Way with a Zoom option - [Link](#).

USDA Rural Development director for Iowa Theresa Greenfield will be present to discuss existing and upcoming Rural Development programming. Officials from the Denver Office of the Economic Development Administration will also be present to greet board members and discuss EDA programming.

All current board members and members of the public are welcome to attend.

FUNDING: Mid-America Trade Adjustment Assistance Center (TAAC) – Cost Share Grant Funding for Manufacturers

The Trade Adjustment Assistance for Firms (TAAF) is a federal grant program funded through the Economic Development Administration (EDA), U.S. Department of Commerce. The program assist U.S. manufacturers by paying a portion of professional consultant expenses and industry-specific expert services to improve their business competitiveness.

TAAF partners with manufacturers by offering grant funding from \$30,000 (75/25 cost share) up to \$150,000 (50/50 cost share) to implement strategic projects that are focused on improving a firm's international operations and competitive abilities.

Eligible firms are U.S. manufacturers who have been in business for two years and have experienced a 5% decline in employment and sales in at least 25% of a product line.

[Click here](#) for additional information. If you have any questions or are interested in applying please reach out and we will be happy to assist you through the process.

FUNDING: Multiple Grant Opportunities

Several funding opportunities are outlined below that MIPA members and associated organizations may want to consider. 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	Due Date
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)
Main Street Challenge Grant	Grant for building renovation or other project implementation that improves the downtown area (Eligible; Main Street Iowa communities).	August 15
RISE Local Development Grant	Funding to provide road/street access to expand business opportunities (Eligible: local governments)	August 15
Certified Local Government Program	Program that funds projects related to historic preservation, such as National Register nominations, education projects, surveys, planning for preservation, and other planning projects (Eligible: recognized Certified Local Governments, which are registered local governments with active historic preservation commissions).	August 15
CDBG Water and Sewer Program	Water and wastewater capital improvements: plants, mains, lagoons, pumps, towers, etc. (Eligible: local governments)	August 15 (next quarterly round)
IDNR Water Recreation Access Cost-share Program	Provides funds for constructing and improving boat access facilities to Iowa's lakes and streams. Projects can include boat launching ramps, docks, and related infrastructure (Eligible: local governments)	September 1
IDNR Solid Waste Alternatives Program	Program to encourage landfill alternatives – recycling, diversion, new technologies, new manufacturing processes, etc. (Eligible: local governments and certain nonprofits)	September 1
Iowa's Nonprofit Innovation Fund	\$20 million investment to assist nonprofit organizations meet the increased demand for resources following the COVID-19 pandemic. It provides grants to help nonprofits that have struggled to invest in much-needed infrastructure. The program provides a maximum award of \$3 million, with a minimum request of \$500,000. Eligible expenses for the infrastructure projects include construction costs, acquisition, site development, and engineering and architectural services.	September 1 (date may be flexible, depending on how fast funds go)
IEDA Destination Iowa Program	Destination Iowa is an ARPA \$100 million pool of funds that consists of four funding programs. These are: Economically Significant Development Fund, Outdoor Recreation Fund, Tourism Fund, and Creative Placemaking Fund. The first three funds are more traditional in nature and include capital projects that address these three areas. The creative placemaking pool funds a small number of very large placemaking projects on a long-term basis (Eligible: local governments and certain nonprofits, with some exceptions).	September 1
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)	November 1 (if funds remain after July round)

	and certain nonprofits).	
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

**[Empower Rural Iowa](#) has their grants applications will open up July 1st on [IowaGrants.gov](#)
The application deadline is September 1st.**

Rural Child Care Market Study Program

The Rural Child Care Market Study Grant program seeks to support the use of data and analysis by rural communities to determine the specific needs and solutions for their area.

Rural Enrichment Grant Program

The Rural Enrichment Grant Program supports small quality of life projects that will create meaningful results in rural communities.

Rural Housing Assessment Grant Program

The Rural Housing Assessment Grant program supports the use of publicly available, online information through the “Profile of Iowa” tool and rural community efforts to interpret publicly available hard data to implement changes through development codes, local ordinances and housing incentives specific to individual community needs.

Rural Innovation Grant Program

The Rural Innovation Grant program supports creative, non-traditional ideas that focus on current issues and challenges faced by rural communities associated with the themes of community investment, growth and connection.

Rural Leadership Grant Program

The Rural Leadership Grant program provides training, mentorship and funding to rural communities and regions initiating leadership programs.

Rural Return Program

The Rural Return Grant program seeks to support creative programming that attracts new residents to move and/or work in rural communities.

Rural Scale-Up Program

The Rural Scale-Up Grant program aims to support the replication and spread of creative solutions that are addressing current issues and challenges faced by rural communities. This program is a result of the Governor’s Empower Rural Iowa Initiative.

As ever, please feel free to reach out if you have any thoughts, questions, or ideas.

Best,
Caleb

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