

Caleb Knutson

From: Andrew Collings
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To: Andrew Collings
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Attachments: CAOD ACP Speakers slide deck Post Transition.pdf

MID-IOWA Planning Briefing

May 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: Introducing Caleb Knutson

¡Hola!
Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Caleb, and I am your new Senior Planner for MIPA. I look forward to collaborating with all your communities on their projects. My goal is to spend time in each of your communities. Be on the lookout for an email from me for a visit day. I want to get to know your community.

A little about me personally: I am your typical geriatric millennial. I live in rural Iowa with Anjuleah (Spouse), and our three children. My wife and I also operate our family's startup coffee shop in Story City. At Iowa State University I studied Criminology & Criminal Justice, as well as Community and Regional Planning. Presently I serve on the Empower Rural Iowa Grow Task Force, Iowa Commission of Latino Affairs where I am the Chair, and the Iowa chapter of American Planning Association Board, as well as the APA Iowa DEI Committee Co-Chair.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out cknutson@dmampo.org or 515.334.0075.



UPDATE: MIPA Services Available

Membership in MIPA has its privileges. As a member of MIPA you receive free grant writing services for all types of grants that can benefit your community. Monthly emails will include a list of upcoming grants that may be of interest to your community or might relate to an upcoming project. Please reach out to us if there are any questions or if you think there is even a remote possibility for your project to qualify for grant funding. MIPA staff will be able to work with you to determine grant eligibility and develop/write the grant application so that your community can access funding.

If a grant opportunity requires administration MIPA can also provide those services.

Although we try and include grants that we think are relevant, there are many other types of funding opportunities that you may come across that we don't have listed here. Please reach out if you have something you've come across, we will provide grant writing for those opportunities as well.

MIPA also offers a host of other technical services that communities can take advantage of. If it is a smaller request, such as making a map or providing some demographics research, it can most likely be done at no additional cost to members. If your community is interested in larger requests, those can be provided for an additional fee. Examples include:

- Comprehensive Plans
- Zoning Ordinances and Maps
- Urban Renewal Plans
- Sidewalk and Trails Planning

Although these services would be extra because MIPA is here to serve its member communities, costs for these services would be at a much reduced rate compared to other consultants and would be just enough to cover costs.

If you are interested in anything mentioned in this email please reach out. We are here to serve you and the Mid Iowa region.

UPDATE: OCIO Broadband Community Engagement

The State of Iowa Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) is responsible for administering Governor Reynold’s Empower Rural Iowa Broadband programs that include:

- Grants
- Mapping
- Coordination

New federal funding will be made available soon and in order to secure as much funding for Iowa and the Mid Iowa region, the OCIO will be preparing broadband maps that will need local community input. If there are areas identified as having access to broadband on the map but don’t have it in real life, those areas will continue to not receive broadband access. Therefore, it is very important to review the maps once they are made available to ensure they are as accurate as possible.

This will also allow the OCIO to challenge the FCC maps and show greater need for broadband funding for the region.

MIPA staff will coordinate with the OCIO to ensure communities are part of the engagement process. Also through this process, the OCIO will issue “Invitation to Qualify” or ITQs. While not a grant opportunity, it does offer a way to identify areas for future funding. MIPA staff will also help communities complete their ITQs to ensure readiness for funding.

Be on the lookout for future MIPA communications regarding this opportunity.

UPDATE: FCC Affordable Connectivity Program

The Affordable Connectivity Program is a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Program that provides a discount on monthly broadband bills for qualifying low-income households. Eligible households can receive:

- Up to \$30/month discount for broadband service and associated equipment rentals; and
- A one-time discount for \$100 for a laptop, desktop, or tablet purchased through a participating provider. Participating consumers pay a \$10 to \$50 co-pay

Household eligibility can be determined numerous ways. Attached to this e-mail is additional documentation related to this grant opportunities for households.

Please feel free to forward onwards to those who might be interested.

If you have any questions, please reach out to MIPA staff and we can follow-up with additional information.

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
Destination Iowa	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.	Ongoing
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.	June 13
Iowa Living Roadway Trust Fund	Working through many partners in Iowa, the Living Roadway Trust Fund supports integrated roadside vegetation management and educates the public on the benefits, use, and care of roadside vegetation, including native plants. Counties and cities are eligible.	June 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
State Workforce Housing Tax Credit Program	This program provides tax benefits to developers to provide housing in Iowa communities, focusing especially on those projects using abandoned, empty, or dilapidated properties. There is a total of \$25 million available. There is an additional developer tax initiative up to \$150,000 in value.	June 15
Iowa Women's Foundation Building Community Childcare Solutions Grant	OPENS JUNE 1. This grant funds innovative solutions to childcare issues in a community (Eligible: local governments and certain nonprofits).	June 15
CDBG Water and Sewer Program	Water and wastewater capital improvements: plants, mains, lagoons, pumps, towers, etc. (Eligible: local governments)	July 1 (next quarterly round)
State Recreational Trails Program	The state trail program provides funds for recreational trails and trail-related projects. The funding can be used for the acquisition of property, new trail construction, or maintenance and improvement of existing trails.	July 1
Solid Waste Alternative Program (SWAP)	SWAP works to reduce the amount of solid waste generated and landfilled in Iowa. Financial assistance is available for a variety of project, including source reduction, recycling, and education.	July 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 and certain nonprofits)	July 15 (next quarterly round)
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
Traffic Safety Improvement Program (TSIP)	The TISP's intent is to distribute funds for roadway safety improvements, traffic control devices, research, studies, or public information initiatives. Cities and counties can submit applications for up to \$500,000 per project.	August 15

REAP – City Parks and Open Spaces	This program's intent is to protect open spaces, in turn enhancing lowa residents' quality of life, supporting economic development efforts, and taking precautions to care for the environment. REAP City Parks and Open Spaces funds are typically used for parkland expansion and multi-purpose recreation developments. Because these grants do not require a local match, the program is competitive.	August 15
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

FUNDING: Multiple DOT Opportunities

The United States Department of Transportation has made several large transportation grants available called the **Safe Streets for All** grant, the **Reconnection Communities** grant, and the **Bridge Investment Program**. Application deadlines will be available soon.

- Funds for the fiscal year 2022 SS4A grant program are to be awarded on a competitive basis to support planning, infrastructure, behavioral, and operational initiatives to prevent death and serious injury on roads and streets involving all roadway users, including pedestrians; bicyclists; public transportation, personal conveyance, and micromobility users; motorists; and commercial vehicle operators.
- The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law established the new Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) discretionary grant program, funded with \$1 billion over the next 5 years. The program's funds can support planning, capital construction, and technical assistance to equitably and safely restore community connectivity through the removal, retrofit, mitigation, or replacement of eligible transportation infrastructure facilities that create barriers to mobility, access, or economic development. The RCP program supports Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg's Equity Action Plan to expand access and opportunity for underserved, overburdened, and disadvantaged communities and the Fiscal Year 2022-2026 U.S. Department of Transportation Strategic Plan.
- Projects to replace, rehabilitate, preserve or protect one or more bridges on the National Bridge Inventory. Projects to replace or rehabilitate culverts to improve flood control and improve habitat connectivity for aquatic species. Other key provisions include at least 50% of funding reserved for certain large projects; option for multi-year funding agreements, and a different process for funding projects ≤\$100 M cost.

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

Thank you,

Andrew Collings



Andrew Collings, AICP | Principal Planner

Des Moines Area MPO | 420 Watson Powell, Jr. Way, Suite 200, Des Moines, IA 50309

515.334.0075 | acollings@dmampo.org | www.dmampo.org
