THE REVIEW

The Region XII Council of Governments Newsletter December 2017

CALENDAR

December

25 & 26 - **Christmas Holiday;** Office Closed

January

1 - **New Year's Day;** Office Closed

10- **RDC Loan Review Comm.;** 11:30 AM, COG Board Room

11 - **Executive Board Meeting;** 12:30 PM, COG Board Room

February

7 - **RDC Loan Review Comm.;;** 11:30 AM, COG Board Room

8 - **Executive Board Meeting;** 12:30 PM, COG Board Room

15 - **RWIB** 5:30 PM, COG Training Room

19 - President's Day; Office Closed

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Marty Danzer, Chair
Carroll Co. Supervisor

Eric Skoog, Vice Chair,
Crawford Co. Supervisor

Ranell Drake, Secretary
Sac Co. Supervisor

John Muir, Treasurer
Greene Co. Supervisor

Rick Thompson
Audubon Co. Supervisor

Jack Lloyd
Guthrie Co. Supervisor

Region XII RLF Assists Agren

Region XII Development Corporation assisted with the expansion of Agren, Inc. in 2010. Agren (Agriculture and Environment) is a private consulting firm dedicated to helping agriculture find profitable solutions to environmental challenges. Their vision for precision conservation encompasses a whole-farm solution that enhances both ag productivity and sustainability. They strive to develop simple software tools to optimize proven water management and erosion control practices to field locations where they are most needed. By equipping service providers with precision technologies for creating and evaluating soil and water management solutions, they have opened the door to an entirely new service offering in agriculture. Agren's leadership consists of Jamie Ridgely (Rockwell City), Stan Buman (Carroll), and Tom Buman (Carroll).

Region XII Development Corporation (RDC) currently has over $800,000 available in its business revolving loan fund. RDC provides loans to businesses located in Audubon, Carroll, Crawford, Greene, Guthrie, and Sac counties. The revolving loan fund was created to assist new or existing businesses with development and expansion. The funds may be used for land acquisition, expansion, building construction or renovation, equipment, inventory and working capital. The business must leverage other financing first as the RLF program is intended to be used for gap financing. The program aims to create or retain jobs, therefore all applicants must include information on jobs to be created or retained by the proposed project. For more information on applying, contact Tami Lehmann at tlehmann@region12cog.org or 712-775-7802.

COG Receives Additional Business Loan Funds

Region XII COG received $500,000 from USDA-Rural Development that will be used to make loans to businesses that create or retain jobs in the region. This loan will be coupled with $126,000 in match money from the six county board of supervisors, bringing the total capital base of Region XII's business loan fund to over $4 million.

Since first establishing the fund in 1995, Region XII has helped businesses create in excess of 1,100 jobs while investing tens of millions of private funds in Audubon, Carroll, Crawford, Greene, Guthrie, and Sac Counties.

Region XII will not compete with private lenders, typically financing the gap between the total needed and available equity plus a commercial loan. Any business in the region, whether new or existing, is eligible to apply as long as jobs are being created or retained as a result of the loan. The applicant is required to contribute 10% of the project cost in cash or equity brought into the project, and all financing can't be obtained from a commercial lender. Loan proceeds may be used for buildings, equipment, and working capital. Region XII coordinates with the county economic development organizations and the SBDC in readying companies to apply, and applicants typically are working with one or both of these entities prior to application. Those interested in more information may visit the Region XII's website by clicking HERE or contact Tami Lehmann at 712-775-7802.

Region XII Surface Transportation Projects

Region XII COG is preparing the 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). These funds are available to any city or county in Region XII (Audubon, Carroll, Crawford, Greene, Guthrie or Sac Counties).

Region XII has approximately $4,000,000 in Surface Transportation Block Grant funds (STBG) available for projects. Projects that are eligible include roadway construction and reconstruction, operational improvements, safety programs, and traffic management and control. STBG funds can also be used for transit projects and other ride-share projects. Roadways that are eligible for funding must be classified as a major collector of higher on the federal functional classification system. The STBG Application and Federal Functional Classification Maps can be viewed HERE.

The sponsoring governmental agency must provide at least 20% of the total project cost in cash. Applications are due by 4:00 PM on February 9, 2018.

Western Iowa Transit New Drivers

Western Iowa Transit has recently added part-time employees to fill transit driver vacancies throughout our region. Dale Murley of Sac City has joined the Sac County team of drivers that provide public transit services in and around Sac County. Larry Blake of Manning will be assisting with our South Carroll County Services while Tim Austin of Westside will be working in both Crawford and Carroll Counties. Robbie Grundmeier of Carroll is our most recent hire and will be working out of our Carroll office.

REGION XII COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Partnership Program

The COG's Partnership Program is an opportunity for private, non-government businesses and organizations to become a part of the COG's mission to provide various needed services to the region's cities and counties. The Partnership Program philosophy is that all groups making up a community, including non-government entities like local businesses, are essential to promoting, advancing, and developing the community. The COG appreciates the investments made so far this year by the 2017 Partners listed below. For more information on the Partnership Program, contact Rick Hunsaker at rhunsaker@region12cog.org. This list is up to date as of December 19, 2017.

SILVER MEMBERSHIP - $500

Audubon County Econ. Development, Audubon
Bank Iowa, Denison
Home State Bank, Jefferson
Iowa Corn Processors, Glidden
Iowa State Bank, Sac City
Mid-Iowa Insurance & Real Estate, Carroll
POET Biorefining, Coon Rapids
Quality Food Processors, Denison
Raccoon Valley REC, Glidden
United Bank of Iowa, Carroll

BRONZE MEMBERSHIP - $250

Agri-Drain, Adair
AMVC, Audubon
Audubon State Bank, Audubon
Badding Construction, Carroll
Bruner, Bruner & Reinhart, Carroll
Carroll Area Development Corporation, Carroll
Carroll County State Bank, Carroll
Commercial Savings Bank, Carroll
Community State Bank, Paton
Coon Rapids Municipal Utilities, Coon Rapids
Denison Municipal Utilities, Denison
Drees Company, Carroll
Exchange State Bank, Exira
Farmers State Bank, Yale
Farner Bocken Company, Carroll
GCDC, Jefferson
The Graphic Edge, Carroll
Guthrie County State Bank, Guthrie Center
Holmes-Murphy, West Des Moines
Iowa Savings Bank, Carroll
Marne & Elk Horn Telephone Co., Elk Horn
Principal Fin. Group-Matt Ramaekers, Carroll
Snyder & Associates, Atlantic
St. Anthony Regional Hospital and Nursing Home, Carroll
Sundquist Engineering, Denison
Templeton Savings Bank, Templeton
Templeton Telephone Company, Templeton
West Central Iowa Rural Water Association, Manning
Western Iowa Networks, Breda
Westside State Bank, Westside

COG Housing Inc. Awarded Housing Trust Fund Dollars

On December 6, 2017, the Iowa Finance Authority Board of Directors approved nearly $7.4 million in FY 2018 Local Housing Trust Fund Program grants to Iowa's 25 certified Local Housing Trust Funds. As part of this award, COG Housing Inc., an affiliate of Region XII COG, was granted $262,007 to support housing improvements across the 6 county region. These funds, when combined with local matching funds, will assist low to moderate-income families with owner-occupied housing rehabilitation, down-payment assistance, new affordable housing unit construction, and emergency assistance. The COG Housing Trust Fund is assisted by the following local governments and businesses that provided local matching funds for the 2018 Housing Trust Fund.

2018 Housing Trust Fund Match Sponsors

Audubon County
Availabank, Carroll
City of Breda
Carroll County
City of Carroll
City of Casey
City of Coon Rapids
Crawford County
City of Denison
City of Early
City of Glidden
City of Lake View
City of Manning
City of Panora
City of Scranton
City of Wall Lake
Commercial Savings, Carroll
Farmers State Bank, Yale
Greene County
Guthrie County
Iowa State Bank, Sac City
Landmands Bank, Audubon
Sac County
United Bank of Iowa
Iowa Savings Bank, Carroll
Templeton Savings Bank, Templeton
Westside State Bank, Westside

City of Glidden Restarts Senior Meal Delivery Program

Previously, the Elderbridge Agency on Aging had provided in-home meal delivery to residents within the city, but after low enrollment, the program was discontinued. The City of Glidden and the Glidden Ralston School District has teamed up to once again provide in-home meals to home-bound community members. A grant from the Albert Kruger Charitable Trust has allowed the program to start and provide meals to senior citizens at little to no cost. November was the city's first month and 25 volunteers delivered 168 meals to 14 residents. The City continues to seek grant funding to allow the program to continue into the next year.

Did You Know?

Andy Williams, who first recorded and is well known for his rendition of "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year" is from Wall Lake, in Sac County.

Williams

Region XII Transportation Alternatives Projects

Region XII Transportation Alternatives applications will be accepted through February 9, 2018 until 4:00 PM. Region XII has approximately $400,000 in regional transportation alternatives funds available for projects. Funding for these projects may not be available until federal fiscal year 2020 or later depending upon the amount requested. These projects may include recreational trails, highway turnouts, overlooks, safe routes to schools and historic preservation of transportation related structures. (Please see the application form for a full list of eligible projects). The sponsoring agency must provide at least 20% of the total project cost.

Upcoming Grants

Funding Program	Purpose	Deadline	Eligible Applicants
CDBG Water and Sewer Fund	Grants to assist cities and counties with sanitary sewer system improvements, water system improvements, water and wastewater treatment facilities, storm sewer projects related to sanitary sewer system improvements and rural water connections.	January 1, 2018 April 1, 2018 July 1, 2018 October 1, 2018	Local governments
Solid Waste Alternatives Program (SWAP)	Emphasis for selected projects is placed on tonnage avoided or reduced, sustainability and ability to replicate.	January 1, 2018	Local governments, public or private groups
Enhance Iowa CAT	Assists communities in the development and creation of multiple purpose attraction or tourism facilities.	January 15, 2018	Cities, counties, non-profit organizations or school districts in cooperation with a city or county
Water Recreation Access Cost-Share Program	Constructing or improving boat access facilities to Iowa's lakes and streams. Projects can include boat launching ramps, loading/off-loading docks and other structures to enhance use by the public.	January 30, 2018	Cities and Counties
Iowa DNR Shooting Sports Grant Program	The grant program supports the Department's Hunter Education Program, encourages hunters to become more proficient with firearms and archery equipment, promotes safe hunting and shooting practices, provides Iowa residents with safe shooting areas and supports law enforcement training.	February 1, 2018	Cities, Counties, and non-profits
Regional Surface Transportation Block Grant Program	Highway and roadway improvements on the federal aid system, highway safety improvements, park and ride areas, and public transit projects.	February 9, 2018	Cities and Counties
Regional Transportation Alternatives	Recreational Trails, Scenic Byway Improvements, and Historic Preservation of Transportation Related Structures	February 9, 2018	Cities and Counties
Paint Iowa Beautiful	Through a partnership with Diamond Vogel Paint of Orange City, Iowa groups can receive paint for community enhancement projects.	February 17, 2018	Public or private non-profit organizations
Wellmark Foundation	The Healthy Communities small grant program supports smaller projects under $25,000, that address environmental factors as well as social and economic conditions of a community that affect health.	March 1, 2018	Local Governments and non-profits
Keep Iowa Beautiful Beautification Grant	Beautification programs – flower, tree and shrub planting, painting & fix-up and general landscaping; public nuisance abatement; litter prevention and recycling education, implementation, and public awareness	March 15, 2018	Local governments and non-profit organizations in communities of less than 5,000 residents
Land and Water Conservation Fund	Conservation and recreation projects and land acquisition	March 15, 2018	Local governments
Build with Bags	Up to $2,000 for the purchase of benches, tables, or playground equipment made of recycled plastic	March 30, 2018	Local governments, non-profit organizations, service clubs
Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)	Provides grants for low-cost, systemic safety improvements in the $10,000/mile range, focusing on lane departure crashes.	Rolling	Couties
COG Housing Trust Fund	Owner-occupied home repairs, down payment assistance and foreclosure avoidance based upon income and need.	Rolling	Low income households
Small Town Sign Replacement Program	The program will provide up to $5,000 of signs and signposts per applying community on a first- come, first-served basis	Rolling	Cities
Traffic Engineering Assistance Program (TEAP)	Provides 100 hours of engineering assistance for operations and traffic safety issues	Rolling	Cities and Counties
Alliant Hometown Challenge Grants	Dollar-for-dollar match to local fundraising for one-time safety related projects for local response teams	Rolling	Local government, private non-profits

Recently Awarded Grants

Funding Program	Recipient	Amount	Project
Albert Kruger Charitable Trust	City of Glidden	$6,000	Senior Nutrition Prgram- In Home Meal Delivery
CDBG Career Link	Crawford County	$94,500	Commuter shuttle service from Denison to Midwest Industries
Louis Dreyfus - Greene County	Region XII COG	$5,000	606 Cedar (Jefferson) Demolition
USDA Housing Preservation Grant	Region XII COG	$27,373	Housing Preservation Grant
Iowa West Foundation	City of Carroll	$10,000	Kellan's Kingdom- Carroll's First All-Inclusive Playground
Housing Trust Fund	COG Housing Inc.	$262,007	Housing Trust Fund
Federal Home Loan Bank	Region XII COG	$200,000	Wall Lake Multi-family housing unit construction
Federal Home Loan Bank	Region XII COG	$403,450	Regional owner-occupied housing rehabilitation

Additional grants are available through private foundations and ongoing programs. If you are looking for funding for a specific project, please contact Chris Whitaker, cwhitaker@region12cog.org or 712-775-7811, for assistance in locating funding opportunities.

STAFF

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REGION XII
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint filing cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov