Derelict Building Grants Announced

The Iowa Department of Natural Resource's Financial and Business Assistance program (FABA) has a Derelict Building Grant program for cities and counties under 5,000 in population. Grant funds can be used for asbestos testing and abatement, environmental assessments, and building deconstruction and renovation. Any commercial or public building owned by the city or county is eligible.

The maximum award for deconstruction or renovation is $50,000, with a 50 percent local match. Deconstruction projects must meet the minimum goal of a 30 percent landfill diversion by weight. Smaller grants are available for the other activities.

Applications are due every February. Among the 21 grants awarded recently, three were in Region XII, six in the remainder of Iowa Waste Exchange Area 1, and three by Shelly Codner of Iowa Waste Exchange Area 2, both administered by the COG. The grant recipients were Glidden, Guthrie Center, Rippey/East Greene CSD, Manson, Hawarden, Hull, Mapleton, Pocahontas, Southern Cal Community Schools, Roland, Collins, and Ackley. Sam, Shelly and Fred provided technical assistance in varying degrees for the above projects.

Due to the competitiveness of the program, Region XII staff encourages potential applicants to conduct their asbestos testing prior to applying for grant funds. If your city has a potential project, contact Chris Whitaker, Local Assistance Director, for assistance.

Pictured: The Glidden recipient of the Derelict Building Grant. The former newspaper publishing facility will be repurposed into a community wellness center.
**Region XII Staff authors Six Successful CDBG Applications**

On April 29, IEDA announced the 2014 CDBG Fund Awards. Region XII COG staff submitted 3 Water and Sewer applications in November and each of these applications was successful. The following projects were awarded CDBG Water/Sewer program funds: City of Breda, Water Tower Construction ($300,000); City of Ralston, Water System Improvements ($79,000); and the City of Schleswig, Water System Improvements ($300,000).

Region XII COG staff authored 3 successful CDBG Housing Fund applications for housing rehabilitation. The funded projects included: City of Glidden (10 projects); City of Lytton (4 projects); and the City of Panora (10 projects).

Staff recently attended the CDBG workshop and will begin working with these cities in the upcoming weeks to sign CDBG administration and technical assistance contracts and start their community projects.

**Personnel Policies**

The COG has been assisting the Cities of Breda and Glidden and the Carroll County Solid Waste Management Commission with revisions to their personnel policies. In all cases the documents were still enforceable but had not been updated for many years. The COG reviewed each document and provided recommended changes to the Councils.

Generally, the process is an inexpensive way to freshen the policies and familiarize elected officials with employee benefits and other practices of the city or subdivision as an employer that otherwise may not receive attention.

Should your community desire similar assistance, you may contact Rick at rhunsaker@region12cog.org.

**Western Iowa Transit Driver of the Year**

Patrick Coil of Jefferson has been selected as the Region XII Council of Governments “Driver of the Year.” Patrick has driven for Region XII for over 7 years. In that time span, he has a perfect driving record and has had no documented incidents or complaints in regard to his driving or customer service. Patrick accepts all driving assignments without complaint and is eager to provide after hours and weekend services if requested.

The “Driver of the Year” awards will be officially presented at the annual IPTA meetings, June 18-21, in Davenport, Iowa.
COG Housing receives Housing Trust Fund Grant for 2014

COG Housing Inc. has received the Housing Trust Fund Grant for 2014. The $305,674 grant awarded will allow COG Housing to continue to assist residents in the Counties of Audubon, Carroll, Crawford, Greene, Guthrie and Sac with their housing needs.

The $76,419 match for this grant is provided by County Supervisors of the COGH’s six member counties, local banks and other funding available to Region XII COG such as the Federal Home Loan Bank.

Housing Trust Fund assistance includes owner occupied home repairs, down payment assistance, and prevention of foreclosure. The amount and type of assistance is determined by income verification.

Those applicants whose incomes are to be determined extremely low will receive grants. Other applicants may receive assistance in the form of half-loan and half-grant, and others with higher incomes will receive a low interest loan.

For more information, call JoAnn Olberding at 712-792-9914.

Iowa Waste Exchange uses Earth Month to Promote Services

The Iowa Waste Exchange (IWE), a program of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources’ Financial and Business Assistance section is administered by Region XII Council of Governments. Due to the diligence of Area Resource Specialists located throughout the state, IWE has been one of the nation’s premier waste exchange programs since 1990.

In addition to providing no cost, confidential business and technical assistance to Iowa’s businesses, municipalities, organizations, educational institutions and residents, Iowa Waste Exchange Area Resource Specialists also participate in waste reduction and recycling events and activities to foster public awareness in protecting and enhancing our natural resources.

Considering that the month of April was Earth Month, Area Resource Specialists around the state were afforded multiple opportunities to serve in community outreach capacities. Some of these events and activities included:

- Performing and providing support for various waste sorts at educational institutions and businesses;
- Organizing the logistics and facilitating a Milk Jug Recycling Contest for area elementary schools and serving as a mentor for various students in preparation of Earth Day exhibitions at their respective schools;
- Organizing and implementing various “Make and Take” upcycling workshops;
- Planning and participating in various Community Clean Ups and Earth Day Rallies;
- Assisting in the implementation of Vermicomposting activities; and
- Providing waste reduction, recycling and green cleaning programs and presentations.

These activities provide an excellent opportunity to gauge community need with regard to recycled commodities. They also provide a vehicle to introduce the services of IWE to a larger demographic. Increasing our networks in this manner subsequently increases potential reuse opportunities and material matches.

If you are interested in a specific waste reduction or recycling presentation or activity, please contact Fred Kesten, (712) 792-9914, fkesten@region12cog.org or Shelene Codner, (319) 404-1942, scodner@region12cog.org.
### June 2014 Grant Update

**Upcoming Grants**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Program</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
<th>Eligible Applicants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rail Revolving Loan and Grant Program</td>
<td>Assistance to improve rail facilities that will create jobs, spur economic activity and improve the rail transportaiton system in Iowa</td>
<td>June 26</td>
<td>Local governments and business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Recreation Trails Fund (Iowa DOT)</td>
<td>Acquisition, construction or improvement of recreational trails</td>
<td>July 1</td>
<td>Local governments and non-profit organizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iowa West Foundation</td>
<td>Community development, economic development, education, and human needs projects</td>
<td>July 1 and October 1</td>
<td>Local governments and non-profits in Audubon, Carroll, and Crawford Counties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solid Wastes Alternatives Program</td>
<td>Emphasis for selected projects is placed on tonnage avoided or reduced, sustainability, and ability to replicate</td>
<td>July 1 and October 1</td>
<td>Local governments, public, or private groups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>River Enhancement CAT Grant (RECAT)</td>
<td>Funding for projects that improve recreation opportunities on or near rivers and lakes within cities</td>
<td>July 15</td>
<td>Local governments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT)</td>
<td>Recreational, educational, or entertainment attractions available to the general public</td>
<td>July 15</td>
<td>Local governments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Kiewit Foundation</td>
<td>Community development and recreation projects</td>
<td>July 15 and October 15</td>
<td>Local governments and non-profits within 100 miles of Omaha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union Pacific Community Grant Program</td>
<td>Projects that better the quality of life or health and human services within a community</td>
<td>August 15</td>
<td>Local governments and non-profits along the UP railroad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resource Enhancement and Protection (Iowa DNR)</td>
<td>City parks and open space; county conservation, including land acquisition, facility repair and upgrades, and equipment; and private/public open space acquisition</td>
<td>August 15</td>
<td>Local governments and County Conservation Boards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RISE Local Development Grant Program</td>
<td>Funding to provide road/street access to expand business parks and development areas</td>
<td>September 1</td>
<td>Local governments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alliant Energy Foundation Community Grant</td>
<td>Support for a wide array of cultural, educational, community, economic, and environmental projects</td>
<td>September 15</td>
<td>Local governments, private non-profits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alliant Hometown Challenge Grants</td>
<td>Dollar-for-dollar match to local fundraising for one-time safety related projects for local response teams</td>
<td>Rolling Cycle</td>
<td>Local governments, private non-profits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Recently Awarded Grants**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Program</th>
<th>Recipient</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Project</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Economic Development Set-Aside</td>
<td>Greene County</td>
<td>$265,000</td>
<td>Assist Scranton Manufacturing with Expansion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNR Derelict Building Grant</td>
<td>City of Glidden</td>
<td>$40,000</td>
<td>Glidden Wellness Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOME</td>
<td>Cities of Carroll and Nevada</td>
<td>$412,500 each</td>
<td>Down Payment Assistance with Rehabilitation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HOME</td>
<td>Region XII COG</td>
<td>$495,000</td>
<td>Down Payment Assistance with Rehabilitation for the cities of: Audubon, Breda, Manning, Perry, Schaller, Scranton, Templeton, Westside, Glidden, and Panora.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IEDA Housing Fund</td>
<td>Glidden, Panora, and Lytton</td>
<td>$397,000, $395,000, and $160,000</td>
<td>Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDBG Water/Sewer Fund</td>
<td>Breda</td>
<td>$300,000</td>
<td>Water Tower Construction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDBG Water/Sewer Fund</td>
<td>Ralston</td>
<td>$79,000</td>
<td>Water System Improvements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDBG Water/Sewer Fund</td>
<td>Schleswig</td>
<td>$300,000</td>
<td>Water Distribution System Improvements</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional grants are available through private foundations and ongoing programs. If you are looking for funding for a specific project, please contact Chris Whitaker at 712-792-7811 or cwhitaker@region12cog.org for assistance in locating funding opportunities.
SAVE THE DATE
SEPTEMBER 17, 2014

Mark your calendars for the 2014 Educators Conference.

Where are the skilled workers that will keep our communities moving forward?
They are currently in the K-12 school system. Help shape your community’s future
by helping shape the workforce of tomorrow. Join us to learn how the education
system and our business community can work together to develop citizens who
possess the right skills for our changing society.

WHAT
Employer Educator Summit
Sponsored by Western Iowa Advantage & Iowa Workforce

WHEN
8am to 1pm - September 17th, 2014

WHERE
Carrollton Inn - Carroll, Iowa

RSVP
Sarah Gomez
sgomez@midwestpartnership.com or 515-523-1262

“An innovative conference and a glimpse
into the future of local educators.”

Keynote Speaker: Lt. Governor Kim Reynolds

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