



# THE REVIEW

The Region XII Council of Governments Newsletter

March 2021

## CALENDAR

### April

- 7 - **RPA TAC**  
10:00 AM, COG Training Room  
**RDC Loan Review Comm.**  
11:30 AM, COG Training Room
- 8 - **Executive Board Meeting**  
5:00 PM, COG Training Room  
**Policy Council**  
6:00 PM, COG Board Room

### May

- 12 - **RDC Loan Review Comm.**  
11:30 AM, COG Training Room
- 13 - **Executive Board Meeting**  
12:30 PM, COG Board Room
- 19 - **MIDF Board Meeting**  
3:00 PM, COG Board Room

### June

- 9 - **RPA TAC**  
10:00 AM, COG Training Room  
**RDC Loan Review Comm.**  
11:30 AM, COG Training Room
- 10 - **Executive Board Meeting**  
12:30 PM, COG Board Room

*All meetings are virtual until further notice*

## Region XII Small Business Webinar Series Continues

Region XII received special CARES Act Funding from the Economic Development Administration to assist with recovery and look towards future growth and opportunities after the COVID-19 pandemic. Part of this effort includes offering free webinars focused on assisting small businesses within the region. The series began in February and will continue through at least the middle of April. The COG is working to ensure that this series benefits small businesses to the best extent possible, and is accepting topics for future webinars. Any questions or ideas for webinars can be directed to Lauren Mortensen at [lmortensen@region12cog.org](mailto:lmortensen@region12cog.org) or 712-775-7814.

### Future Webinars:

Do You Know Where Your Customers Are? - March 24 @ 7:30 am - [Register Here](#)

I Have a Facebook Business Page...Now What? - March 31 @ 7:30 am - [Register Here](#)

Square Solutions: Tools to Run Your Business- Even When it is Not Business as Usual -  
April 7@ 7:30 am - [Register Here](#)

Economic Development 101 - April 14 @ 7:30 am - [Register Here](#)

## Region XII Development Corporation Receives CARES Act Funds

Region XII Development Corporation was awarded \$2,024,000 in CARES Act Recovery Assistance funds to capitalize a revolving loan fund for businesses. Of this, \$1.84M was available to loan to businesses in Region XII's six county region. To date, this funding has assisted 4 new business start-ups and 6 business expansions. Approximately \$500,000 is still available from the Cares Act fund. Region XII has additional funding sources available with slightly different terms and requirements. For more information, please contact Tami Lehmann at [tlehmann@region12cog.org](mailto:tlehmann@region12cog.org) or 712-792-9914.

Click [HERE](#) to view the CARES ACT Fact Sheet/Program Guidelines.

## COG Housing Development Assistance

Council of Governments Housing (COGH) is the local housing trust fund for Audubon, Carroll, Crawford, Greene, Guthrie and Sac Counties. COGH may award up to \$50,000 for projects that create new housing units in the counties of Audubon, Carroll, Crawford, Greene, Guthrie, and Sac in Iowa. A new unit may be one that is newly constructed or one that rehabilitates a vacant unit or converts previously non-housing space into a housing unit. The maximum amount of funds awarded will be \$25,000/unit, although applications asking for less will be scored more favorably. Assistance may come in the form of a forgivable loan (a loan that has no payments and a principal balance that will recede over time) or a zero-interest loan.

### [Download the COG Housing Development Application](#)

Questions regarding this application shall be directed to  
Rick Hunsaker, Executive Director at 712-775-7800 or [rhunsaker@region12cog.org](mailto:rhunsaker@region12cog.org)  
Chris Whitaker, Local Assistance Director at 712-775-7811 or [cwhitaker@region12cog.org](mailto:cwhitaker@region12cog.org)

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

Eric Skoog, Chair  
*Crawford Co. Supervisor*

Jack Lloyd, Vice Chair  
*Guthrie Co. Supervisor*

Ranell Drake, Secretary  
*Sac Co. Supervisor*

John Muir, Treasurer  
*Greene Co. Supervisor*

Rick Thompson  
*Audubon Co. Supervisor*

Rich Ruggles  
*Carroll Co. Supervisor*



Officials from Wellmark® Blue Cross® and Blue Shield® announced the return of the Wellmark Set the Pace Challenge. The challenge encourages Iowans to develop sustainable, healthy habits throughout 2021 — starting with participating in the virtual Grand Blue Mile presented by Wellmark that runs April 17 through 25.

As part of the challenge, the community in Iowa with the highest percentage of its residents participating in the virtual Grand Blue Mile — measured by the number of registrants for a given ZIP code against its total population — will be awarded \$10,000 to use on a project that promotes safe, inclusive and accessible places in which to be active, such as a park, playground or trail.

In 2019, the City of Odebolt won the Set the Pace Challenge and used the \$10,000 to complete updates to their city pool!

More information can be found [HERE](#).

## Region XII Fiscal Year 2020 Audit Released

John D. Morrow, Certified Public Accountant, Wall Lake, Iowa today released an audit report on Region XII Council of Governments, Inc., Carroll, Iowa.

John D. Morrow CPA reported the organizations had revenues of \$7,072,226 for the year ended June 30, 2020, which was a 19.2% increase from the prior year. Support included \$4,395,436 from Federal and state agencies; \$2,227,124 from public support, fees, contributions, matching funds, etc; \$208,064 from loan repayments; and \$241,602 from interest from invested funds and loans.

Expenditures for the organizations totaled \$6,972,681, an 18.8% increase from the prior year. Program expenditures administered by the organizations included \$3,268,013 for Rural Transit programs and planning, \$175,622 for Workforce Development and workforce related programs, \$1,261,313 for affordable housing and housing assistance programs, \$41,310 for Western Iowa Advantage Partners, and \$2,226,423 for other state and local programs.

A copy of the audit report is available for review on the Office of the Auditor of State's website or the Region XII Council of Government's administrative office.

## Region XII 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 COG appreciates the investments made so far this year by the 2021 Partners listed below. For more information on the Partnership Program, contact Rick Hunsaker at [rhunsaker@region12cog.org](mailto:rhunsaker@region12cog.org). This list is up to date as of March 15, 2021.

### **GOLD MEMBERSHIP - \$1,000**

**Availa Bank**, Carroll  
**Quality Food Processors**, Denison  
**Scranton Manufacturing/New Way**, Scranton

### **SILVER MEMBERSHIP - \$500**

**Guthrie County REC**, Guthrie Center  
**Iowa Corn Processors**, Glidden  
**Iowa State Bank**, Sac City  
**Mid-Iowa Insurance & Real Estate**, Carroll  
**Midland Power Cooperative**, Jefferson  
**Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative**, Glidden  
**United Bank of Iowa**, Carroll  
**Wall Lake Lumber Company**, Wall Lake  
**West Central Iowa Rural Water Association**, Manning

### **BRONZE MEMBERSHIP - \$250**

**Agri Drain Corporation**, Adair  
**American Home Shield**, Carroll  
**Audubon County Economic Development**, Audubon  
**Audubon State Bank**, Audubon  
**Badding Construction**, Carroll  
**Breda Telephone Corp. DBA Western Iowa Networks**, Breda  
**Bruner Bruner & Reinhart**, Carroll  
**Carroll Area Development Corporation**, Carroll  
**Chamber & Development Council of Crawford County**, Denison  
**Commercial Savings Bank**, Carroll  
**Community State Bank**, Paton  
**Coon Rapids Municipal Utilities**, Coon Rapids  
**Core-Mark DBA Farner-Bocken**, Carroll  
**Corn Belt Telephone**, Wall Lake  
**Denison Municipal Utilities**, Denison  
**Drees Company**, Carroll  
**Exchange State Bank**, Exira  
**Ed M Feld Equipment Company**, Carroll  
**Farmers State Bank**, Yale  
**First State Bank**, Ida Grove  
**Greene County Development Corporation**, Jefferson  
**Guthrie County State Bank**, Guthrie Center  
**Holmes Murphy & Associates**, West Des Moines  
**ICE Technologies/CCI Technologies**, Carroll  
**Iowa Savings Bank**, Carroll  
**Iowa Trust & Savings Bank**, Panora  
**JEO Consulting Group, Inc.**, Carroll  
**Marne & Elk Horn Telephone Company**, Elk Horn  
**MER Engineering**, Fort Dodge  
**Panora Telecommunications**, Panora  
**Principal Fin. Group-Matt Ramaekers**, Carroll  
**St. Anthony Regional Hospital and Nursing Home**, Carroll  
**Snyder & Associates**, Atlantic  
**Sundquist Engineering**, Denison  
**Templeton Savings Bank**, Templeton  
**Templeton Telephone Company**, Templeton  
**Wild Rose Casino & Resort**, Jefferson

## HousingIowa Awards Recognize Innovative Housing Initiatives and Leaders

### *Summit Ridge, Wall Lake Recognized*

DES MOINES – The Iowa Finance Authority recently recognized outstanding housing initiatives and leaders through the 13th annual HousingIowa Awards.

The HousingIowa Awards recognize outstanding programs, projects and professionals for leadership and innovation in advancing housing opportunities for Iowans. The award categories include: Innovation, Multifamily, Single-Family, Special Needs Development, Legislative Friend of Housing and the Kay Anderson Friend of Housing Award.

HousingIowa Award nominations are accepted each year and an independent panel of judges determines the statewide award winners.

**Single-Family Development:** GNB Community Development Corporation, Grundy Center

GNB Community Development Corporation (CDC) was established to create affordable housing for low to moderate income individuals in rural communities by revitalizing current homes or building new affordable homes. The GNB CDC completed its first home rehabilitation project in Conrad in 2019.

**Multifamily Development:** Full Circle Communities, Fifteenth Street Apartments, Dubuque

Full Circle Communities transformed an underutilized historic former three-story school building into 36 mixed income rental homes targeting veterans and persons with disabilities. Residents of the Fifteenth Street Apartments in Dubuque have access to on-site services including employment assistance, job training, financial education and counseling, among other amenities.

**Innovation Award:** City of Iowa City, South District Homeownership Program

The City of Iowa City created the South District Homeownership Program to allow the purchase, rehabilitation and sale of duplexes to existing, eligible renters in the neighborhood or others meeting the eligibility criteria. The first duplex renovated through the program was sold to two buyers who had rented in the neighborhood for a combined total of more than 21 years, prior to purchasing a home through the program.

**Special Needs Development:** Region XII Council of Governments (COG), Summit Ridge Apartments, Wall Lake

The Region XII COG developed the Summit Ridge Apartments in Wall Lake as a response to a local housing need for rental homes for seniors in the rural community. The newly constructed apartments include a total of five new construction rental units including a duplex and a triplex.

**Legislative Friend of Housing:** Senator Mark Lofgren, Muscatine

Senator Lofgren was recognized with the Legislative Friend of Housing Award for his contributions to advancing housing opportunities in Iowa through legislation and advocacy efforts. Senator Lofgren has a long history of introducing and supporting legislation to address housing needs throughout the state. He was a leader in the creation of the partnership between the Iowa Councils of Governments and the Newton Correctional Facility to build affordable homes through the Homes for Iowa Program in addition to his recent work advancing housing priorities on the Governor's Empower Rural Iowa Taskforce.

**Kay Anderson Friend of Iowa Award:** Sister Mary Ann Vogel, Congregation of the Humility of Mary, Davenport

Sister Mary Ann Vogel with the Congregation of the Humility of Mary in Davenport has worked to end homelessness in her community for more than 30 years. She was a founding member of Humility of Mary Housing for single mothers and their children who were experiencing homelessness and played a critical role advocating to take over a local emergency shelter to ensure that it could remain operational. Sister Mary Ann Vogel's work has impacted the lives of thousands of Iowans in their time of need.

The Kay Anderson Friend of Iowa Award was created in honor of the late Kay Anderson, a long-time member of the Iowa Finance Authority Board of Directors and resident of Le Mars.

More information about the HousingIowa Award winners is available at [www.iowafinance.com](http://www.iowafinance.com).



## 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.	April 1, 2021 July 1, 2021 October 1, 2021 January 1, 2022	Cities and Counties
Solid Waste Alternatives Program (SWAP)	Emphasis for selected projects is placed on tonnage avoided or reduced, sustainability and ability to replicate.	April 1, 2021 July 1, 2021 October 1, 2021 January 1, 2022	Local governments, public or private groups
Peter Kiewitt Foundation	Community development and recreation projects	April 15, 2021 July 15, 2021 October 15, 2021 January 15, 2022	Local governments and non-profit organizations within a 100 mile radius of Omaha Nebraska.
Union Pacific Community Grant Program	Projects should support one of the following categories: Community and civic: projects aimed at improving and enriching the quality of life in the community, health and human services: projects that improve the level of health care or human services in the community	May 31, 2021	Non-profits along the UP Railroad
State Recreation Trails Fund (Iowa DOT)	Acquisition, construction or improvement of recreational trails	July 1, 2021	Local governments, non-profit organizations
Warren H. Timmerman Charitable Trust	Funding for projects in Carroll County	July	Local governments, non-profit organizations in Carroll County
Gilbert and Barbara Renze Charitable Foundation	Funding for projects in Carroll and Sac Counties	July	Local governments, non-profit organizations in Carroll and Sac Counties
Iowa West Foundation	Community development, economic development, education and human needs projects.	July 15, 2021 November 15, 2021 March 15, 2022	Local governments and non-profit organizations in Audubon, Carroll, and Crawford Counties
RISE Local Development Grant	Funding to provide road/street access to expand business parks and development areas.	September 1, 2021 February 1, 2022	Local Governments
Iowa Economic Development Authority	Business recovery related to COVID-19. Resources can be found at <a href="https://www.iowaeconomicdevelopment.com/businessrecovery">https://www.iowaeconomicdevelopment.com/businessrecovery</a>		Business, industry and local governments
Iowa Small Business Development Center COVID-19 Resources	Resources can be found at <a href="http://iowasbdc.org/covid-19/">http://iowasbdc.org/covid-19/</a>		Business and industry
Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)	Provides grants for low-cost, systematic safety improvements in the \$10,000/mile range, focusing on lane departure crashes	Ongoing	Counties
Small Town Sign Replacement Program	The program will provide up to \$5,000 for signs and signposts per applying community on a first-come, first-served basis	Ongoing	Cities
Traffic Engineering Assistance Program (TEAP)	Provides 100 hours of engineering assistance for operations and traffic safety issues	Ongoing	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 governments, private non-profits
New Cooperative Foundation	Enhancements to emergency and medical services in rural communities. Community events and celebrations as well as local civic betterment projects. Fundraising events in support of community programs and projects.	Open	Local governments, private non-profits
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 stormwater projects	Rolling	Cities and Counties

*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](mailto:cwhitaker@region12cog.org) or 712-775-7811, for assistance in locating funding opportunities.*

**Recently Awarded Grants**

Funding Program	Recipient	Amount	Project
Landus Foundation	Dedham Fire Department	\$750	Bunker Gear
CDBG Community Facilities	City of Glidden	\$500,000	Lil' Wildcats Childcare Center
CDBG Community Facilities	City of Manilla	\$500,000	Little Hawks Childcare Center
Carroll Community Foundation	City of Dedham	\$5,000	Dedham American Legion Renovations
Carroll Community Foundation	Ralston Firefighters Foundation	\$5,000	Replace 1974 Chevy Quick Attack Fire Truck
Carroll Community Foundation	City of Lanesboro	\$3,000	Upgrade Shelter House
DHS Child Care Grant	Little Hawks Childcare Center	\$101,240	Little Hawks Childcare Center
DHS Child Care Grant	Crawlda Regional Childcare Center	\$112,350	Crawlda Regional Childcare Center
Future Ready Iowa Child Care Challenge Grant	Crawlda Regional Childcare Center	\$10,000	Crawlda Regional Childcare Center

**STAFF**

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