

Caleb Knutson

From: Caleb Knutson
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2023 12:46 PM
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Cc: Andrew Collings
Subject: MIPA Newsletter

MID-IOWA Planning Brief

January 2023

midiowapanningalliance.org

Greetings, we are pleased to share the Mid-Iowa Planning Briefing, a grant funding opportunity notice by the Mid-Iowa Planning Alliance for Community Development for its members, partner organizations, and jurisdictions of the seven-county Mid-Iowa region.

Update from MIPA Staff:

Greetings,

This month Alex Smith from EDA came to the Mid-Iowa region to discuss economic needs and how EDA can help bolster economic activities for our members. His time was limited, but we were able to visit Newton to recap ongoing efforts and discuss plans for future projects in Jasper County. Thank you to the folks in Newton who were great hosts. Below is a picture from the visit Legacy Plaza in Newton.



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

Thanks,
Caleb

ISSUE: Benefits of Membership

Budgeting season is upon us, and we wanted to take this opportunity to remind our members of the benefits and services available as part of their annual dues. MIPA is a lean organization and is working hard to keep membership fees affordable (\$0.15 per capita for FY23) while also filling a need in your community. There are dozens of projects going on in the MIPA region and it is impossible for our small staff to be aware of everything. MIPA staff relies on local knowledge and information for upcoming projects.

Benefits:

- Free grant writing
- Free technical assistance (Have a question? Just call!)
- Contract labor for planning and zoning projects
- Staff are Certified Grant Administrators for state and federal dollars.

The intent is that MIPA staff can fill gaps and assist with community needs. Because the organization is young and staff is limited, we rely on member communities to make us aware of specific needs and projects.

FUNDING: Multiple Opportunities

Several funding opportunities are outlined below that MIPA members and associated organizations may want to consider. MIPA has the staff and experience to help communities submit the best possible applications for these funds. As always, please feel free to contact us to explore other potential funding sources for your projects. ***REMINDER*** MIPA dues pay for grant writing services.

Source/Program	Funding Uses	Grant Application 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)
IDOT RISE Grant	RISE funds roadway improvements to facilitate economic development projects, such as expanding businesses, industrial/commerce parks, etc. (Eligible: local governments)	February 1
National Trust Preservation Fund	Small grants up to \$5,000 for historic preservation planning and outreach activities – not for construction. Funds can be used for nonprofit salaries, consulting fees, speaker fees, mailing costs, educational materials mailings, and related costs (Eligible: local governments, certain nonprofit organizations)	February 1
FEMA Fire Grant – Assistance to Firefighters Grant (See article)	Up to 95% grant funding for purchase of fire equipment, PPE, vehicles, training, and related activities (Eligible: fire departments and non-affiliated EMS agencies)	February 10
Paint Iowa Beautiful	Award of donated paint for community projects, which can be about anything (Eligible: non-profits, local governments, community groups)	February 10
Small Community Transportation Funding	The Central Iowa Transportation Planning Alliance (CIRTPA) is making approximately \$250,000 available of Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funding for road or bridge projects. (Eligible: cities under 5,000 in population)	February 13
Wellmark Foundation Built Environment MATCH Grants (see article)	Up to \$100,000 Safe and healthy environments for people to be active (trails, parks, playgrounds, other recreational projects) (Eligible: local governments and certain nonprofits)	February 15
Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership (RFHP)	Large Grants will fund educational programming and outreach about challenges to public lakes, management activities, and fish habitat enhancement projects (Eligible: local governments)	February 15
Iowa Great Places	A designation program that also has a funding component for projects that occur in Iowa Great Places communities, which can be cities and counties. The projects will be cultural and entertainment projects that attract tourists and create a greater sense of place (Eligible: local governments)	February 17, 2023 for Re-designation, March 10 for New Designation
IDNR Derelict Building Grant (see article)	Grant to help fund the rehab or removal of derelict former commercial and industrial buildings; can include environmental	February 24

	studies, asbestos testing, environmental remediation, etc. (Eligible: local governments with less than 5,000 population)	
USDA Rural Business Development Grant	Applications will compete in two separate categories, business opportunity grants and business enterprise grants, for use in funding various business and community projects that serve rural areas. (Eligible: local governments and some nonprofits)	February 28
BOOST Pilot Program (see article)	IEDA grant used to further projects that moving towns and businesses in the next step of growth (Eligible: local governments, 501c3 and c6 organizations, schools, higher educational institutions)	March 1
IDNR Land and Water Conservation Fund (see article)	Outdoor recreational facilities, campgrounds, playgrounds, open spaces, and wildlife areas (Eligible: local governments)	March 15
CDBG Water and Sewer Program	Water and wastewater capital improvements: plants, mains, lagoons, pumps, towers, etc. (Eligible: local governments)	March 15 (next quarterly round)
Alliant Energy Foundation Community Grants Program	Grants for playgrounds, health and wellness projects, public safety, education, culture and arts, and other local needs (Eligible: local governments and non-profits in communities served by Alliant Energy)	March 31
Iowa Cultural and Entertainment Districts	A designation program designed to showcase and market creative spaces, cultural amenities, and entertainment options in a relatively compact area (Eligible: local governments)	May 1
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: Assistance to Firefighters Programs Status Update

The FY 2022 AFG, SAFER and FP&S application periods have opened.

In preparation, it is recommended that you ensure that you are registered with the System for Award Management (SAM.gov). **SAM registration must be renewed annually, and failure to register or maintain active status will prevent your organization from applying.** For those new to SAM.gov, it is imperative that you start now as this process can take up

to four weeks to complete. Registering for an account in SAM.gov is **FREE**. You do not need to contract with an outside entity to register. If you need help with your SAM.gov registration, please let us know.

The objectives of the AFG Program are to provide critically needed resources that equip and train emergency personnel to recognized standards, enhance operational efficiencies, foster interoperability, and support community resilience. Last year over \$414 million was awarded to 2,500 agencies nationwide. There is a 15% local cost share requirement for the AFG Program.

The objectives of the SAFER Program are to assist local fire departments with staffing and deployment capabilities to respond to emergencies and assure that communities have adequate protection from fire and fire-related hazards. Local fire departments accomplish this by improving staffing and deployment capabilities, so they may more effectively and safely respond to emergencies. With enhanced staffing levels, recipients should experience a reduction in response times and an increase in the number of trained personnel assembled at the incident scene. Last year over \$560 million was awarded to 500 agencies nationwide. There is no cost share or match for the SAFER Program.

The objectives of the Fire Prevention & Safety Grant Program are to provide critically needed resources to carry out fire prevention education and training, fire code enforcement, fire/arson investigation, firefighter safety and health programming, prevention efforts, and research and development. The FP&S Program provides financial assistance directly to eligible fire departments, national, regional, state, local, tribal and non-profit organizations such as academic (e.g., universities), public health, occupational health, and injury prevention institutions for fire prevention programs and supporting firefighter health and safety research and development such as clinical studies that address behavioral, social science, and cultural research.

Keep in mind these funds are popular and are more competitive than ever. As the funding levels continue to decline and equipment costs rise, fewer and fewer grants are given. MIPA remains available to assist.

Please call Caleb or Andrew to discuss applying for these funds.

FUNDING: Derelict Building Grant Program

The Derelict Building Program is available for Iowa towns of 5,000 or fewer residents to address neglected commercial or public structures that have sat vacant for at least 6 months. The application deadline is Friday, February 24 for applicants who are seeking funding assistance with conducting asbestos inspections, asbestos abatement, structural engineering analysis, phase I and phase II site assessments, building deconstruction and building renovation expenses.

DBGP funding is awarded annually on a competitive basis with cash matches required. Please note that diversion from the landfill is a key element of the grant program. Any entity that applies for a grant for demolition work, in particular, shall show they have a plan to divert debris from the landfill.

Please call Caleb or Andrew for additional information.

FUNDING: BOOST Pilot Program

The Iowa Economic Development Authority created a new program this year. The BOOST program aims to provide teams of experts to assist passionate community and business leaders in developing intentional plans for next step growth. This pilot program is designed for rural communities, nonprofits, or employers to receive personalized technical assistance for identifying and implementing action steps to launch into the next stage of success. BOOST has two tracts which target either communities or businesses.

BOOST will dispatch 3-5 experts to meet with a local committee and discuss the existing conditions, assets, and anticipated needs. The Center for Rural Revitalization and supporting partners will then create an action plan and provide targeted financial support to launch next steps. The Center for Rural Revitalization within the Iowa Economic Development Authority understands that not all community and business needs are the same and each journey will be different. For this reason, the BOOST Program will assist to develop a flexible plan to meet local needs and allow for new opportunities that present themselves along the way.

Experts will look holistically at the strengths and weaknesses of a community and partner in the development of solutions. Leveraging the expertise of Empower Rural Iowa task force members, IEDA/IFA staff, and Iowa Rural Development Council partners, each community will work with a team to mentor and develop next steps.

Participants in BOOST receive the following:

- In-person meeting with the individualized BOOST Team and local committee
- Follow-up in person or virtual meetings as needed
- Recommendations resource document from the Center for Rural Revitalization
- Grant Award: \$10,000

Applicants are asked to establish a BOOST steering committee to guide the process. It is recommended that the committee be comprised of seven to 10 individuals, including elected officials, city staff, major employers, nonprofits, and local doers. Additional guidance can be provided by the BOOST Team.

Grantees will receive \$10,000 for eligible one-time project expenses incurred and expended within the eligible funding period. A match of at least \$5,000 cash is required.

Eligible applicants must be one of the following types of entities and must meet all of the related requirements.

Nonprofits:

- Federally tax-exempt nonprofit organization incorporated and physically located in Iowa.
- Physical location of the organization is defined as maintaining a current home office and registered agent address in Iowa defined by Iowa Code 490.501 as well as maintaining a primary staff presence physically located and working in Iowa.

Communities:

- Unit of local, county or federally-recognized tribal government physically located in Iowa
- Many jurisdictions in the MIPA region meet size requirements.

Please call Caleb or Andrew for additional information.

FUNDING: Wellmark Foundation MATCH Grants

The popular Wellmark Foundation MATCH grants are now available. This year two categories of grants are offered. This winter the Foundation will accept Built Environment Grants. Later in the year will be Access to Healthy Foods grants.

Examples of Build Environment Grant projects include:

- Pocket parks
 - Public playground structures and spaces
 - Outdoor recreation areas
 - Outdoor fitness/exercise stations
 - Sport courts, fields and courses
 - Waterway access, including kayak, canoe or peddle boat launch
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- Water improvement projects for public swimming areas
- Public swimming pools, splash pads or aquatic centers
- Trails, including links, spurs and connectors
- Bicycle repair stations
- Hydration stations
- Safe Routes to School plans and infrastructure
- Accessible and safe walking paths or routes
- Share-the-road plans and infrastructure, including safe crossing signs and lights
- Bike-share programs and infrastructure
- Wayfinding signage, trail makers

Completed Built Environment MATCH grant applications are due by 5 p.m. on Feb. 15. Requests can be as much as \$100,000. Proof of available match is required within 16 weeks of award, but match funds can come from any source. The Wellmark Foundation will distribute grant dollars in September. Grantees have until Dec. 31, 2025, to complete their project and use The Wellmark Foundation grant dollars.

Please call Caleb or Andrew for additional information.

FUNDING: Land and Water Conservation Fund – Grants for Outdoor Recreation

The Land and Water Conservation Fund, commonly known as LWCF or LAWCON, is a federal grant funneled through the Iowa DNR. It is always due March 15. As federal dollars, it requires historic and archaeological review and other requirements (no Davis-Bacon). Due to this, a grant application submitted this year will not actually start work until 2024. However, the grant is not nearly as competitive as other recreational grants, so it is a bit easier to get a project funded.

Project types are flexible, including but not limited to:

- Playgrounds and sport courts
- Open space development
- Water access
- Trails (recreational and nature)
- Nature centers and similar facilities that help people enjoy nature
- Habitat development projects

Normally, this grant is designed to enhance public spaces, not repair existing. Grants are dollar-for-dollar match up to a limit based on population size.

Please call Caleb or Andrew for additional information.

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