

# NIACOG NEWS

Vol. 22 No. 8

NORTH IOWA AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

September-October 2011

## SINGLE-FAMILY HOUSING FUND PROGRAMS



The single-family housing rehabilitation programs administered by NIACOG have been moving right along. A brief update on each project follows:



In 2011, the Cities of Thornton and Burt were awarded housing fund grants to finance the rehabilitation of eight homes in each

city. The environmental release of funds for both cities is expected later this month, and marketing efforts to potential applicants will follow.

Sheffield and Swea City were awarded 2010 housing funds. Four projects are underway or have been completed in both communities. The second phase of projects will be beginning soon in both cities. The Cities of Fertile, Britt, and Kensett were awarded housing funds in 2009. The Cities of Britt and Kensett both have one project remaining which will be underway soon. The City of Fertile will complete two additional projects.

All of these projects are funded by the State of Iowa's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) allocation under the Iowa Department of Economic Development's Housing Fund Program. Approximately 25% of the Iowa CDBG Program is directed to the Housing Fund annually. The goal of the CDBG program is to develop viable communities, by providing decent housing and suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities, for persons of low and moderate incomes.

## DEADLINE FOR STREET SIGNS DROPPED

A federal mandate that would have made street signs across the nation easier to read was just relaxed as the White House determined the regulatory burden on cash-strapped city and state governments was too much. The mandate would have required larger lettering and high-quality night time reflection on all street signs by 2018. The original mandate was part of the 2003 routine update of the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices, the 816-page guide for traffic signs, signals and the like that seeks to set common standards nationwide. Regulators gave local governments 15 years to bring their street signs into compliance.

The U.S. Department of Transportation dropped the deadline, instead saying that bigger, brighter street signs should be installed whenever current signs need replacement. This decision will allow cities and counties to balance their responsibilities and make the best use of taxpayer dollars without a mandated deadline.

## TRANSPORTATION HAPPENINGS

The Regional Planning Affiliation 2 Policy Board has approved the FY 2012- FY 2015 Transportation Improvement Program, or more commonly known as the TIP.

The Regional Planning Affiliation 2 is the same cities and counties as the NIACOG Region and is responsible for programming of federal transportation projects such as roads, bridges, Enhancements, transit, planning or other special transportation projects.

The RPA 2 FY 2012- FY 2015 TIP includes programing as follows:

Programming Year	Federal Aid	Total Programmed
2012	\$9,650,000	\$15,217,000
2013	\$19,917,000	\$26,418,000
2014	\$14,044,000	\$17,826,000
2015	\$6,576,000	\$9,133,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$50,187,000.00</b>	<b>\$68,594,000.00</b>

## **CDBG SUPPLEMENTAL DISASTER RECOVERY FUNDING UPDATES**

You may recall in previous newsletters, we provided information on several projects in the Region that were awarded CDBG Supplemental Disaster Recovery funds as a result of the 2008 flooding disasters. Here is another status update of those projects.

City of Wesley, Storm Sewer Improvements – The City of Wesley was **AWARDED \$688,320** to construct a detention basin and storm sewer relief tile to eliminate flooding and sewage backup as experienced during the 2008 flooding event. **This project is just beginning construction.**

City of Manly, Storm Sewer Improvements – The City of Manly was **AWARDED \$1,058,100** to be matched with \$150,000 from the Worth County Board of Supervisors and \$150,000 in local funds to install a 48” storm sewer to eliminate flooding and sewage backup as experienced during the 2008 flooding event. **This project is nearing completion.**

City of St. Ansgar, Storm Sewer Improvements – The City of St. Ansgar was **AWARDED \$375,000** for drainage improvements including ditch construction and cleaning, culver and storm sewer pipe installation to eliminate flooding and sewage backup as experienced during the 2008 flooding event. **This project is complete.**

City of Sheffield, Sanitary Sewer Improvements – The City of Sheffield was **AWARDED \$693,000** to replace approximately 850 feet of sewer main, line approximately 9,500 feet of sanitary sewer main and rehabilitate 30 manholes to eliminate flooding and sewage backup as experienced during the 2008 flooding event. **This project is nearing completion.**

City of Britt, Sanitary Sewer Improvements – The City of Britt was **AWARDED \$442,750** to install 1,700 feet of sanitary sewer main tile to eliminate flooding and sewage backup as experienced during the 2008 flooding event. **This project is nearly complete.**

City of Rockford, Storm Sewer Improvements – The City of Rockford was **AWARDED \$385,000** to replace 1,080 feet of deteriorated storm sewer and install 1,150 feet of new storm sewer to eliminate flooding and sewage backup as experienced during the 2008 flooding event. **This project is nearly complete.**

City of Bancroft, Sanitary Sewer Improvements – The City of Bancroft was **AWARDED \$566,000** to replace an undersized lift station, install 3,020 of undersized force main and replace the undersized lagoon inlet to eliminate flooding and sewage backup as experienced during the 2008 flooding event. **This project is nearly complete.**

City of Lake Mills, Storm Sewer Improvements – The City of Lake Mills was **AWARDED \$956,000** to be matched with \$150,000 in local funds to install 7,600 feet of 48” HDPE storm sewer pipe to eliminate flooding and sewage backup as experienced during the 2008 flooding event. **This project is under construction.**

## **DERELICT BUILDING GRANT PROGRAM**

The IDNR recently announced the creation of the Derelict Building Grant Program.

The program was established to assist small communities and rural counties in improving the attractiveness and appearance of their jurisdictions by providing them financial assistance to address derelict buildings. In accordance with the statutory requirement on how these funds are to be used the emphasis will be on landfill diversion through the recycling and reuse of building materials.

The eligibility requirements will entail the derelict building to reside in a town or unincorporated county area of 5,000 residents or less and require the building to be owned or in the process of being owned by the town or county. The program will provide the following:

- 100% reimbursement for a certified Asbestos Containing Material (ACM) inspection.
- 100% reimbursement, not to exceed \$5,000, for removing ACM. A 50% cost share is required for those costs exceeding \$5,000.
- 100% reimbursement not to exceed \$3,000 for conducting a Phase I Environmental Audit. Applicant is responsible for all costs exceeding \$3,000.
- 50% reimbursement not to exceed \$5,000 for conducting a Phase II Environmental Audit.
- **Building Renovation:** If the building is going to be renovated, 50% reimbursement not to exceed \$25,000 is available for offsetting costs related to removing materials for reuse, either at the site or offsite, or for recycling. The grant also compensates for the purchase and installation of reused or recycled materials that will be incorporated into the project.
- **Deconstruction:** If the building is going to be deconstructed, 50% reimbursement not to exceed \$50,000 is available for offsetting costs related to deconstruction. It is a goal of all deconstruction projects that 30% of the structure by weight be diverted from landfill disposal.

For every additional 10% of landfill diversion by weight above 30% that is documented upon completion of the project, the applicant cost share is reduced by 5% and grant award will increase accordingly. The maximum grant award for deconstruction projects shall not exceed \$75,000.

The program is funded by the DNR's Solid Waste Alternatives Program (SWAP) for the next three years. DNR is partnering with Keep Iowa Beautiful in the application and review process. For more information on the Derelict Building Grant Program, contact Scott Flagg at 515-281-4876/ [Scott.Flagg@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Scott.Flagg@dnr.iowa.gov) or Dan Schroeder at the NIACOG office.

## GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

GRANT	NEXT DEADLINE
Revitalize Iowa's Sound Economy	On-going
IFA Project Based Housing	On-Going
Hazard Mitigation Grant Program	On-Going
Economic Development Set Aside	Last Monday of Each Month
Federal Recreational Trails	October 1, 2011
Safe Routes to School	October 1, 2011
Statewide Transportation Enhancements	October 1, 2011
CDBG Water & Sewer	November 2, 2011
CDBG Housing	December 7, 2011
CDBG Community Facilities	January 4, 2012

## HAZARD MITIGATION PROGRAM

The State of Iowa will receive additional FEMA Disaster funding under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) as part of Presidential disaster declaration DR-4016-IA and DR-4018. The state is making available HMGP funds for those eligible hazard mitigation project types that will reduce or eliminate losses from future natural disasters, including but not limited to:

- Construction of tornado safe rooms (Multi-functional community or school safe room projects are highly encouraged),
- Acquisition, structural relocation or elevation of buildings located in a special flood hazard area,
- Structural and non-structural retrofitting of existing public buildings, facilities, or utilities to protect against wind, ice, or flood hazards,
- Minor structural hazard control or protection projects such as storm water management (e.g. culverts, floodgates, retention basins),
- Localized flood control projects, such as floodwall systems, that are designed specifically to protect critical facilities and do not constitute a section of a larger flood control system.

The State may provide up to 5% of the total HMGP funds for back-up power generation and severe weather warning systems at this time. Back-up power generation will be considered when providing a long term, comprehensive and independent solution to a critical facility. Critical facilities are all manmade structures and or other improvements that, because of their function, size, service area or uniqueness have the potential to cause serious bodily harm, extensive property damage or disruption of vital socioeconomic activities if they are destroyed, damaged or if their functionality is impaired. Critical facilities may include (fire stations, police stations, medical buildings, emergency

operations centers, emergency shelters, electric facilities, potable and waste-water facilities). Only fixed site permanent generators, non-portable, are eligible for funding consideration.

Potentially eligible applicants include:

- State agencies and local governments;
- Federally recognized Indian tribal governments, including State-recognized Indian tribes, and authorized tribal organizations;
- Private nonprofit (PNP) organizations or institutions that operate a PNP facility as defined in the 44 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 206.221 (e).

The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) requires a FEMA approved local hazard mitigation plan prior to FEMA awarding HMGP project funds. If a community does not have an approved plan or is engaged in the planning process, there may still be an opportunity for them to be awarded HMGP project funds once the plan is approved. These communities are encouraged to submit a Notice of Interest (NOI) and potentially develop a project application. Applicants with proposed projects located in a FEMA-identified Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) are eligible for funding only if the jurisdiction in which the project is located is participating in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). There is no NFIP participation requirement for projects located outside of the SFHA.

Currently, the State has several HMGP funding opportunities still open. They will continue to accept and submit all eligible applications as long as funding is still available and the grant application period has not closed. The State Hazard Mitigation Officer will determine the disaster in which all applications will be funded under based on the remaining available funds. The cost share will be as follows:

- Federal (FEMA) share of total eligible costs 75%
- Non-Federal share of total eligible costs 25%
  - State of Iowa 10% (typical)
  - Local 15%

State participation in funding financial assistance for a flood related disaster requires participation in the NFIP for a city or county with an effective FEMA published flood insurance map that identifies a SFHA.



If you have any additional questions on a proposed project please contact Dan Schroeder at 641-423-0491 ext. 14 or [dschroeder@niacog.org](mailto:dschroeder@niacog.org) for further clarification and assistance.



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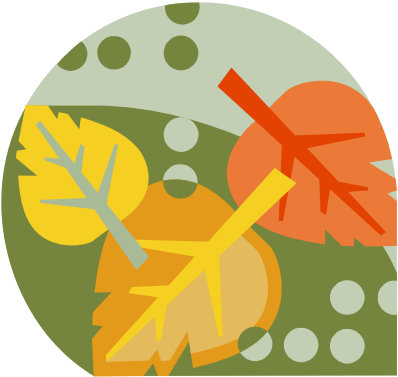
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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- Sept. 5 – Labor Day Office Closed
- Sept. 12 – NIACOG Executive Committee Mtg.  
NIACOG Office 11:30 a.m.
- Sept. 16 – City Clerks Association Mtg.  
NIACOG Office 9:30 a.m.
- Oct. 10 – NIACOG Board of Directors Mtg.  
Bennigan’s Grill Clear Lake 6:00 p.m.
- Oct. 12 – HAZMAT Mtg. NIACOG Office 1:30 p.m.
- Oct. 12 – Transportation Policy Board Mtg.  
NIACOG Office 2:30 p.m.

<b>NIACOG STAFF</b> <b>641-423-0491</b>		
<b>Joe Myhre</b>	<b>Executive Director</b>	<b>Ext. 11</b>
<b>Kevin Kramer</b>	<b>Transit Administrator</b>	<b>Ext. 17</b>
<b>Jodi Wyborny</b>	<b>Administrative Assistant</b>	<b>Ext. 10</b>
<b>Chris Diggins</b>	<b>Local Assistance Director</b>	<b>Ext. 15</b>
<b>Steve Wendt</b>	<b>Community Dev. Planner</b>	<b>Ext. 13</b>
<b>Dale Moe</b>	<b>Lead Mechanic</b>	<b>Ext. 24</b>
<b>Teresa Collins</b>	<b>Operations Manager</b>	<b>Ext. 22</b>
<b>Bonnie Lettow</b>	<b>Fiscal Officer</b>	<b>Ext. 12</b>
<b>Myrtle Nelson</b>	<b>Senior Planner</b>	<b>Ext. 16</b>
<b>Dan Schroeder</b>	<b>Regional Planner</b>	<b>Ext. 14</b>
<b>Laurel Clement</b>	<b>Planner</b>	<b>Ext. 27</b>
<b>Dana Heimbuch</b>	<b>Community Dev. Planner</b>	<b>Ext. 28</b>
<b>Cindy Johnson</b>	<b>Transit Clerk</b>	<b>Ext. 30</b>
Email – first letter of first name followed by last name @niacog.org (i.e. jmyhre@niacog.org)		



**ATTENTION! ATTENTION!**

Do you know of a company in your area that is growing, expanding, and adding employees? If so, they may be eligible for funding through the NIACOG Revolving Loan Fund (RLF). This is a great gap financing tool for companies trying to finance an expansion plan. Funding is limited to industrial expansion, and applicants must be from NIACOG’s eight-county region. For more information, please contact the NIACOG office.