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# NIACOG

## NEWS

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Vol. 18 No. 6

NORTH IOWA AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

December, 2007

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### GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

The following grants and deadlines are for grants that our members may want to consider. NIACOG has the staff and experience to assist those communities wanting to pursue these and other grants. Many other grants are available on an 'open window' basis. Please contact NIACOG for further assistance regarding these grants and other possible opportunities.

Grants are listed by: Source/Program, Funding (Uses, Eligible) Applicants - **Due Date**

- Surface Transportation Projects (Streets, highways, bridges) Local governments - **December 7**
- HUD Brownfield Economic Development Initiative (Provide local communities grants and loans for redevelopment of Brownfield sites) Local governments - **December 24**
- Solid Waste Alternatives Program (Programs to encourage landfill alternatives) Local governments, non-profits, for-profits - **December 31**
- Community Attraction and Tourism (Tourism, recreation infrastructure projects) Local governments, non-profits - **December 31**
- Statewide Recreational Trails (Recreational Trails) Local governments - **December 31**
- HRDP Documentary Collection Grant (Document preservation) Local governments, non-profits, museums - **January 15**

### CONGRATULATIONS CHARLES CITY - ONE OF IOWA'S GREAT PLACES



The Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs recently announced that Charles City has been designated as an Iowa Great Place. Iowa Great Places is a program that calls on state agencies to partner with Iowans by combining state resources with local assets to make Iowa's communities, neighborhoods, districts and regions great places where people want to

live, work, and raise a family. Congratulations Charles City!

### WATCH FOR YOUR ECONOMIC CENSUS FORM

Chances are, yours is one of the 52,000 businesses in Iowa that will receive a 2007 Economic Census form from the U.S. Census Bureau in December. Forms go to all but the very smallest businesses in this tally done once every five years.

The forms ask for basic information like your location, employment, payroll, and sales by type of product or service. Businesses that receive a form are required by law (Title 13, U.S. Code) to respond.

Businesses, communities, and governments use Economic Census data for planning and market development. Statistics are published for more than a thousand industries as well as for states, counties, cities and metropolitan areas at [business.census.gov](http://business.census.gov).



Federal Reserve Board Chairman Ben Bernanke has called this census "indispensable to understanding America's economy."

### 2010 CENSUS - KEY DATES\*

- December 2007, Economic Census
- January 2008-2010, Annual Boundary and Annexation Survey
- Early 2008, Local Complete Count Committees Formed (suggested)
- March 2008, LUCA materials must be returned to the Census Bureau
- Summer/Fall 2008, Training for Participant Statistical Areas Program
- Late 2008, Limited number of Local Census offices open
- April 2009, Address canvassing (listing) begins
- Summer 2009, Participant Statistical Areas - deadline for return of materials
- Late 2009, Remaining local census offices open
- Mid March 2010, Questionnaires mailed to households
- April 1, 2010, Census Day
- Late April 2010, Non-response follow-up begins
- December 31, 2010, Delivery of population counts to the President for reapportionment
- April 2011, Redistricting population and housing counts to state legislatures

\* Scope of all activities and timing may change based on Congressional funding.

## AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

As the Census Bureau website announces, "America is changing, and so is the census!" The Census Bureau is implementing a new program named the 'American Community Survey' that will provide more current data for cities, counties, etc. throughout the United States.

This new program replaces the long form of the decennial census with an ongoing survey process. Since the long form is currently completed only once every 10 years, long-form information becomes out of date. And, decision makers are reluctant to rely on it for that reason.

The American Community Survey will provide the data communities need every year instead of once every ten years. The data will be similar to that previously collected on the long form including economic, social, and housing data.

For cities and counties having between 20,000 and 65,000 in population, it will take three years to accumulate a large enough sample to produce data. For cities, counties, and census tracts with less than 20,000 in population, it will take five years to accumulate a large enough sample to produce data. Once the first round of sample data is collected, though, the Census Bureau will release three- to five-year averages every year for those areas.

By 2010, the American Community Survey will release data for all areas, and it will be cross tabulated with various characteristics, for all counties, cities, and census tracts in America.

Data is already being collected via mail. And, to ensure a high level of participation Census Bureau staff is following up with those who do not respond. The survey will include approximately three million households.

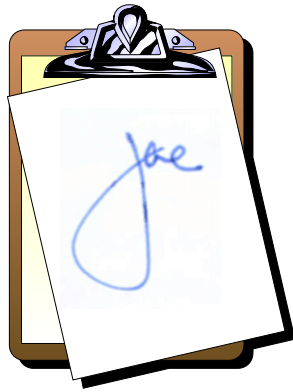
More information about the American Community Survey is available at [www.census.gov/acs](http://www.census.gov/acs).

## NORTHWOOD CAT APPLICATION

The City of Northwood recently submitted a Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT) funding application for a proposed Northwood RV Park and Shelter development in the Swensrud Park area. The project was recently awarded over \$180,000 from the FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation 2007 project funds administered through Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division.

The project also received a commitment of \$6,000 in cash and \$6,000 in-kind through the use of equipment and labor from the Worth County Board of Supervisors and the County Engineer. Mayor Bob Perry was present at the CAT meeting to provide information and answer any questions from the committee. While an award was not made at that meeting, Mayor Perry was tasked with providing additional information and will attend the December meeting where an award may be made. NIACOG staff assisted with the FEMA and CAT applications.

## DIRECTOR'S NOTES



I will begin by congratulating all the successful candidates in the 2007 general election. Unfortunately, there has to be winners and losers. For those that were not successful, please accept our personal thank you for your commitment and dedication to our agency. For those successful incumbents, congratulations again and we

look forward to your continued support and valued relationship.

Several cities will soon begin their budget workshops so I will take the opportunity to remind our membership of the annual inflationary adjustment the NIACOG Board of Directors enacted in 2004 for NIACOG membership dues based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI). As a result, of a 2.8% increase in the CPI for last year, the FY 2009 membership dues will increase from 54¢ per capita to 56¢ per capita. Please adjust your annual budgets to reflect this slight increase in membership.

Since this is the last newsletter of 2007, the Staff and I would like to wish everyone a safe and joyous holiday season. Happy Holidays from NIACOG!

## MUNICIPAL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

Attention all newly elected mayors and council members, experienced mayors and council members, city clerks and city administrators you will all benefit attending this years Municipal Leadership Academy. Leaders in city government can't make good decisions for the citizens they serve without understanding the basics of how city government works. MLA will help city officials understand the local, state and federal regulations that govern their decisions.

Topics that are covered in the series include but are not limited to the following: municipal law, city finance and budgeting, land use and zoning basics, employment and personnel issues, and meeting procedures.

Cities are able to make connections to resources and to other cities for ideas and experience. MLA part one will help newly elected officials learn where to go for answers and connects them to other cities so they are able to learn from veteran city officials. Laws and regulations change regularly. MLA aims to give participants the most up to date information and to alert them to possible trends. Part three particularly deals with current legislative issues that may affect cities, and time is reserved to talk about the hot topics facing cities today.

For more information call 515-244-7282 and mention the Municipal Leadership Academy or log onto [www.iowaleague.org](http://www.iowaleague.org) and click the MLA link for more information.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

Two of NIACOG's member cities have submitted Community Development Block Grant, Water Sewer fund applications for the 2008 round.

The City of Floyd submitted an application for \$300,000 for water treatment system replacement with an estimated total cost of over \$640,000. The City of Floyd has been very proactive in addressing their water issues. You may recall that the City of Floyd was successful in receiving CDBG funds for a water tower and main replacement project in 2004. Water pressure and volume have greatly improved as a result of the City investment at that time. The City's existing treatment system is very old, has far outlived its useful life and is in dire need of replacement. City leaders and residents have been very willing to pay higher rates to be assured an adequate, safe water supply and to address an issue that is not going to go away. The City of Floyd has already procured engineering services for the design and construction management of the project.

The City of Fenton submitted an application for \$300,000 for a sanitary system installation project with an estimated total cost of over \$2,000,000. Fenton is an un-sewered community and like many communities in north Iowa and throughout the State has received notification from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources that they are in violation of wastewater discharge requirements. The City of Fenton has already procured engineering services for the design and construction management of the project.

On a CDBG related note, the City of Nora Spring is expected to be taking bids soon for their water treatment project that was awarded CDBG funds in March of 2007. The City eagerly anticipates progress on the project.

The City of Carpenter has been hard at work with their sanitary sewer system installation project. Although Carpenter was not successful in receiving CDBG funds due to receiving Watershed Improvement Review Board funds of \$500,000, the United States Department Agriculture - Rural Development did step forward with grant and loan funds that allowed the project to proceed. Design is well underway, with bid-letting expected some time in the Spring of 2008.



## TRANSPORTATION

The Regional Planning Affiliation 2 (RPA 2) will soon begin the process of programming transportation funds for the region. RPA 2 is allocated STP and Enhancement funds for regionally significant projects.



STP funds are generally used for roads, bridges, transit and planning. While the majority of funds are allocated to counties and cities over 5,000 in population, all cities with a federal aid eligible route are eligible to apply for these funds. We would encourage you to contact your county engineer to discuss your project.

Enhancement funds are used for projects that as the name implies, enhance the transportation system. Typically these funds have been used for trail projects, but have also been used for pedestrian/ beautification projects as well as street lighting.

**Enhancement funds** can be used for the following projects:

- Provision of facilities for pedestrians and bicycles.
- Acquisition of scenic easements and scenic historic sites.
- Scenic or historic highway programs.
- Landscaping and other scenic beautification.
- Historic preservation.
- Rehabilitation and operation of historic transportation buildings, structures, or facilities (including historic railroad facilities).
- Preservation of abandoned railway corridors (including the conversion and use thereof for pedestrian or bicycle trails).
- Control and removal of outdoor advertising.
- Archaeological planning and research.
- Mitigation of water pollution due to highway runoff.
- Provision of safety and educational activities for pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Establishment of transportation museums.

The above list is exclusive in that an Enhancement project **MUST** fall into at least one of these categories, and **MUST** be transportation related. Enhancement projects must be sponsored by a local government entity that will make a twenty-year commitment to maintain the project and provide, at least, the necessary 20% minimum, match for the project. Projects must be constructed to federal specification. Approval of the project from RPA 2 is conditional upon approval from the Iowa Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration.



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## **NIACOG Calendar of Events**

### **DECEMBER**

- 10- No NIACOG Board meeting
- 13- CDBG Community Facilities Applications Due
- 25- Christmas Holiday, NIACOG Office closed

### **JANUARY**

- 1- New Year's Day Holiday, NIACOG Office closed
- 14 NIACOG Board Mtg., Bennagin's, Clear Lake, 6:00 p.m.
- 9 HAZMAT mtg. @ NIACOG office, 1:30 p.m.
- 23 Iowa Association of Regional Councils (IARC) Legislative Breakfast, Des Moines, State capitol

## **A GIFT OF TRANSIT TICKETS**



Time to get into the spirit of the Holidays!!! This year in an effort to spread "Holiday Cheer" to those who matter most to us **"OUR CUSTOMERS"**.

You may purchase a book of tickets to give to a passenger(s) of your choice. We have a list of suggested passengers we feel are most in need of "Holiday Cheer". You may choose from the list or you may already have someone in mind. Please inform the NIACOG dispatch office at 641-423-2262 if you wish to participate. You will be given a Holiday card which you will need to sign and put the name of the person you wish to give the tickets to.

We will begin selling books of tickets on Friday, November 23rd. Holiday cards are free.

- WHITE tickets for CITY rides are \$10.00 per book (10 tickets/10 rides per book)
- PINK tickets for COUNTY rides are \$20.00 per book (10 tickets/10 rides per book)
- YELLOW tickets for REGIONAL rides are \$30.00 per book (10 tickets/10 rides per book)

Please invite others you think may want to participate. Help us make someone's Holidays a little more special this year!

### **NIACOG STAFF**

|                       |                                      |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Joe Myhre</b>      | <b>Executive Director</b>            |
| <b>Kevin Kramer</b>   | <b>Transit Administrator</b>         |
| <b>Jodi Wyborny</b>   | <b>Administrative Assistant</b>      |
| <b>Chris Diggins</b>  | <b>Local Assistance Director</b>     |
| <b>Steve Wendt</b>    | <b>Community Development Planner</b> |
| <b>Dale Moe</b>       | <b>Lead Mechanic</b>                 |
| <b>Teresa Collins</b> | <b>Operations Manager</b>            |
| <b>Bonnie Lettow</b>  | <b>Fiscal Officer</b>                |
| <b>Myrtle Nelson</b>  | <b>Senior Planner</b>                |
| <b>Dan Schroeder</b>  | <b>Regional Planner</b>              |