

RPC NEWSLINE

A monthly newsletter brought to you by Area 15 Regional Planning Commission

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Community Development Block Grants

The Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) manages the State Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program on behalf of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. Area 15 RPC can assist your community with project development for application to the following programs:

Community Facilities and Services:

This competitive program assists projects such as day care facilities, senior centers, vocational workshops, and storm water projects. Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis as funds are available.

Downtown Revitalization Fund:

This program can be used to rehabilitate blighted downtown buildings to provide economic opportunities for people, especially those of low- and moderate-income. Projects must meet the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Slum and Blight National Objectives.

Housing - Upper Story Conversion:

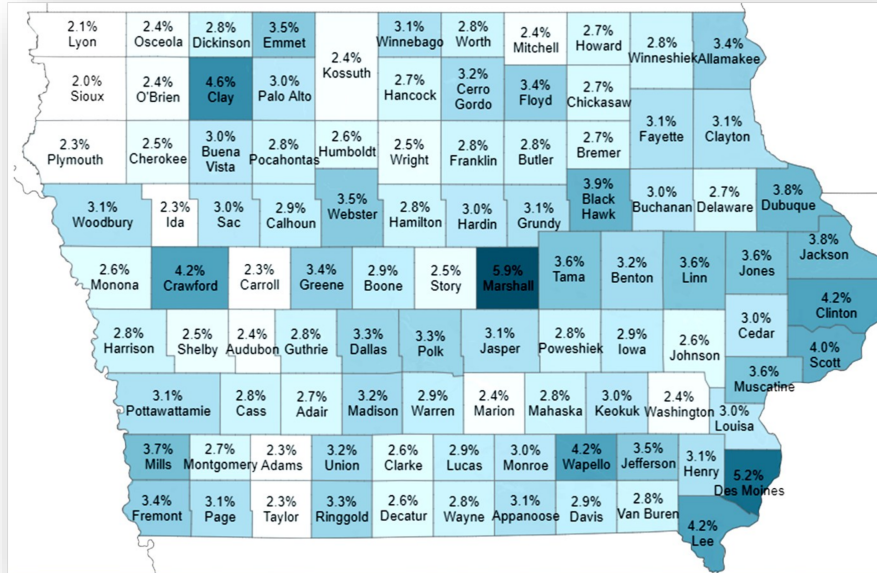
The purpose of this program is to assist communities with the conversion of existing downtown building space into new residential units. Area 15 RPC can assist your community with project development.

Water/Sewer:

This competitive program assists cities and counties with projects such as sanitary sewer system improvements, water system improvements, water and wastewater treatment facility projects, storm sewer projects related to sanitary sewer system improvements and rural water connections. Application deadlines are January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1.

All CDBG awards, except for the Downtown Revitalization program, are income-level dependent. Contact Brandon Dicks at 641-814-8404 to discuss potential projects in your community.

Regional Unemployment (July 2024)



Seasonally adjusted unemployment in the Area 15 region was 2.8% for July 2024, down 0.2 percent from a year ago. This change reflected similar pattern shown for the State of Iowa during the same period. “July’s report provides evidence of a tightening national economy, consistent with what we are seeing across the country,” said Beth Townsend, Executive Director of Iowa Workforce Development. Townsend also reported that Iowa’s employers continue to hire, and there are more than 56,000 jobs available at IowaWORKS.gov.

Upcoming Grants

Please note on DEADLINES to allow several weeks/months for planning to submit a quality/fundable application			
Program	Purpose	Deadline	Eligible Applicants
IDNR Water Recreation Access Cost-Share Program	Constructing or improving boat access facilities to Iowa’s lakes and streams. Projects can include boat launching ramps, loading/off-loading	September 30, 2024	Local governments and water body owners
IDNR Water Trail Cost-share Program	Infrastructure improvements along state designated water trails or water trails on track for state designation.	Ongoing	Local governments
IDNR Water Trail Planning Assistance	Planning for water trail development as navigable waters used by Iowans for boating, fishing, inner-tubing, paddling, wildlife viewing, etc.	December, 2024	Local governments
IEDA Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT)	Tourism, recreation, and entertainment capital projects, such as museums, libraries, swimming pools, trails, large recreational areas, amphithe-	Ongoing	Local governments, nonprofits
IDOT RISE Program	Funding to provide road/street access to expand business parks and development areas.	Ongoing	Local governments
IDNR Fish Habitat and Wildlife Habitat Promotion	Programs and projects to improve fishing and wildlife habitat.	November 30, 2024	County conservation boards
IDOT Highway Safety Improvement Program	Grants for low-cost systematic safety improvements in the \$10,000/mile range focusing on lane departure crashes	August 15, 2024	Local governments
Wapello County Foundation	Medical care and treatment, scientific research, rec facilities, education, public projects/quality of life	August 31, 2024	Tax exempt organizations, local governments
Keokuk County Foundation	Arts and culture, health, human services, community betterment, historic preservation, etc.	October 29, 2024	Tax exempt organizations, local governments
Davis County Foundation	Arts & culture, community betterment, education, recreation, youth development, health/human services	November 1, 2024	Tax exempt organizations, local governments

Homes for Iowa



Homes for Iowa, Inc. is a public-private partnership with Iowa Prison Industries. Homes are turn-key 2x6 stick-built construction. Available in 3-bedroom, 2-bath, 1,200sf for \$99,000 delivered or 2-bedroom, 1-bath, 1,000sf for \$83,000 delivered. Site work including grading, foundation/basement and utilities are responsibility of developer or homebuyer.

Area 15 DRG serves as the local coordinator for home orders in Davis



Area 15 RPC serves as the local coordinator for home orders in Davis, Jefferson, Keokuk, Mahaska, Marion, Van Buren and Wapello counties. Since inception in 2019, thirteen (13) homes have been delivered to our area. Two (2) of the 13 homes were purchased by homeowners. The remaining 11 homes were purchased by developers. We are currently taking orders for 2025. Please contact Matt at 641-814-8400.

Iowa DNR Derelict Building Program

The Derelict Building Program provides financial assistance to small communities to improve their attractiveness by removing derelict commercial and public buildings. The program is funded through the Iowa DNR Solid Waste Alternatives Program, projects must have a recycling or reuse component as the intent is to prevent building materials from going to the landfill.

Funding is available for Cities with populations of 5,000 or less to address derelict commercial or public buildings. Cities may use the funding to renovate or deconstruct derelict buildings including inspecting for and removing asbestos. To be eligible: the buildings must be commercial or public buildings that are owned by the city, are not on National Register of Historic Places, and have been vacant for six months or more. To have a successful application: cities should have a plan for reusing the site or building and identified reuse opportunities of the building materials of the derelict structure.

The next application deadline is **February 28, 2025**, if your city is interested or has questions contact Chris Kukla at or 641-814-8401.

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