

THE REVIEW

The Region XII Council of Governments Newsletter

September 2017

CALENDAR

October

11 - RDC Loan Review Comm.;
11:30 AM, COG Training Room

12 - Executive Board Meeting;
5:00 PM, COG Board Room

November

8 - RDC Loan Review Comm.;
11:30 AM, COG Board Room

9 - Executive Board Meeting;
12:30 PM, COG Board Room

10- Veteran's Day Observed;
Office Closed

23 & 24 Thanksgiving Holiday;
Office Closed

December

6 - RDC Loan Review Comm.;
11:30 AM, COG Board Room

7 - Executive Board Meeting;
12:30 PM, COG Board Room

25 & 26 Christmas Holiday;
Office Closed



**EMPLOYER
EDUCATOR
SUMMIT**

2017 Employer Educator Summit to be held October 4, 2017

Fifty percent of Iowa's jobs require works with middle skills, but only 33% of our workforce has those skills. Join Western Iowa Advantage to learn more about the middle skills gap and how our education system and business community can work together to develop citizens who possess the right skills for our changing society.

The Employer Educator Summit agenda will feature a number of speakers and round table discussions, all the while playing up this year's theme of creating a "Recipe for Workforce Success."

The Summit will be held at the Stables at Copper Ridge in Denison. The program will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The tentative agenda is:

Finding Your Recipe- *Welcome, Evan Blakley*

Gathering Ingredients- *Future Ready Iowa, Beth Townsend*

Mixing it Up- *Success Story Panel: Businesses, Workforce Warrior Award Recipients*

A Little of This, a Little of That- *Communications, IowaWORKS Staff*

Kick it Up a Notch- *Keynote, Brenda Clarke Hamilton*

Not Just Your Family Dinner- *Lunch & roundtable discussions*

It's All in the Presentation- *Keynote, Brenda Clarke Hamilton*

Keep Your Fork- *Success Story Panel: Educators, Workforce Warrior Award Recipients*

Dish It Up- *Closing, Evan Blakley*

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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John Muir, Treasurer
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Rick Thompson
Audubon Co. Supervisor

Jack Lloyd
Guthrie Co. Supervisor

To view more information about this year's Employer Educator Summit, or to register, click [HERE](#).

Four Cities Awarded CDBG Housing Rehabilitation Grants

IEDA announced their annual CDBG awards in mid-July. The cities of Auburn, Jefferson, Menlo and Scranton will each receive CDBG grants for owner occupied housing rehabilitation and will work with the COG to run the programs. Total CDBG funds for the four projects is \$777,500. Grant funds will be used to provide upgrades to homes owned by low to moderate-income families in the recipient communities. These upgrades may include roof replacements, new siding and windows, metal wrapping of exterior trims, or mechanical and electrical upgrades.

CDBG programs for the cities of Lytton and Glidden were successfully closed as of June 30, 2017. The City of Panora will close its program on September 30, 2017. These three programs had originally planned to provide assistance to 24 homes; however, 29 homes were assisted with the program funds over the last three years.





Madden Places Third at State Transit Rodeo

Western Iowa Transit had one driver compete in the annual Transit Rodeo being held at the summer IPTA meeting in Des Moines on June 3rd, 2017. Bert

Madden of Carroll competed and placed 3rd in the Light Duty Bus Division. The Rodeo is a competition that tests drivers in a number of transit driving skills including an obstacle course, backing, and curb side parking as well as loading and securing wheelchairs.



WIT Places with 2 Rural Transit Photos

The Iowa Department of Transportation holds a yearly photography contest showcasing the state's transportation systems. There are three divisions: urban, small urban, and rural, which WIT entered. Photographers are encouraged to showcase the system's services and facilities. WIT entered two pictures, both taken by Mike Rath, into the contest, and placed with each. Placing 2nd, was a picture of the WIT bus dropping off a senior citizen to Hy-Vee for a weekly shopping trip. Placing 3rd is the picture shown, which showcases the new graphics on a new light-duty bus before it hit the road for service.



Western Iowa Transit New Drivers

Western Iowa Transit has recently added new employees to fill transit driver vacancies throughout our region. Paul Ransom Sr. of Charter Oak, has joined the Crawford County team of drivers that provide public transit services in and around the communities Crawford County. Geri Shirbroun of Bayard, will be working primarily in Southern Carroll County and Guthrie County. Both of our new drivers come to us with considerable driving experience and will be additions to our team of drivers.



REGION XII

COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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 Partnership Program philosophy is that all groups making up a community, including non-government entities like local businesses, are essential to promoting, advancing, and developing the community. The COG appreciates the investments made so far this year by the 2017 Partners listed below. For more information on the Partnership Program, contact Rick Hunsaker at rhunsaker@region12cog.org. This list is up to date as of September 5, 2017.

SILVER MEMBERSHIP - \$500

- Audubon County Econ. Development**, Audubon
- Bank Iowa**, Denison
- Home State Bank**, Jefferson
- Iowa Corn Processors**, Glidden
- Iowa State Bank**, Sac City
- Mid-Iowa Insurance & Real Estate**, Carroll
- POET Biorefining**, Coon Rapids
- Quality Food Processors**, Denison
- Raccoon Valley REC**, Glidden
- United Bank of Iowa**, Carroll

BRONZE MEMBERSHIP - \$250

- Agri-Drain**, Adair
- AMVC**, Audubon
- Audubon State Bank**, Audubon
- Badding Construction**, Carroll
- Bruner, Bruner & Reinhart**, Carroll
- Carroll Area Development Corporation**, Carroll
- Carroll County State Bank**, Carroll
- Commercial Savings Bank**, Carroll
- Community State Bank**, Paton
- Coon Rapids Municipal Utilities**, Coon Rapids
- Denison Municipal Utilities**, Denison
- Drees Company**, Carroll
- Exchange State Bank**, Exira
- Farmers State Bank**, Yale
- Farner Bocken Company**, Carroll
- GCDC**, Jefferson
- The Graphic Edge**, Carroll
- Guthrie County State Bank**, Guthrie Center
- Holmes-Murphy**, West Des Moines
- Iowa Savings Bank**, Carroll
- Marne & Elk Horn Telephone Co.**, Elk Horn
- Principal Fin. Group-Matt Ramaekers**, Carroll
- Snyder & Associates**, Atlantic
- St. Anthony Regional Hospital and Nursing Home**, Carroll
- Sundquist Engineering**, Denison
- Templeton Savings Bank**, Templeton
- Templeton Telephone Company**, Templeton
- West Central Iowa Rural Water Association**, Manning
- Western Iowa Networks**, Breda
- Westside State Bank**, Westside

Tyson Transition Center Scheduled to Close

Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) directed that the Tyson Transition Center close on September 30, 2017 due to budget concerns, and without financial resources, the COG has made plans to do so. The Transition Center was originally scheduled to serve those affected by the Tyson Plant closing in August of 2015 for 6 months, but the high usage of the Center influenced additional federal funding for an additional 18 months. Earlier this year it was expected that the Center would be allowed to remain open until July 2018 because of the usage and need, but unfortunately this was not the case. The Center will remain fully staffed through September 30th to ensure full operation and a smooth transition to other service locations. Those who are currently using the Center may receive services at the Carroll IowaWORKS Center.



Because of the large number of users, both from the Tyson dislocation and among the general public, the COG, IWD, Chamber & Development Council of Crawford County (CDC), and Denison City Council are working together to find a location in Denison where IowaWORKS Staff will serve those who cannot travel. The COG and IWD have committed to have three Carroll-based staff members provide services two days per week in a new location is donated space can be identified. Access to all IowaWORKS programs would be available. Many options have been discussed, including a plan to create a new business “Incubator” co-located with IowaWORKS services. At this time, no new location has been secured but local officials are working to find a suitable space by the end of the month.

IowaWORKS, of which the COG is part, is proud of the services provided to the customers of the Tyson Center and looks forward to continue services in a new venue.

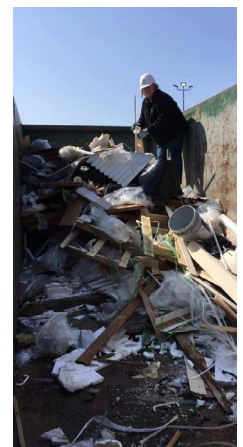
City of Scranton’s School Memorial Park Project nearing Completion

Scranton’s old school playground was recognized by the city as an area which needed improvement. The park had no name, and equipment that was potentially dangerous to the children who utilized it. Community donations as well as grants from The Wellmark Foundation, ICAP, Black Hills Energy, Alliant Energy, Poet Biorefinery and the Greene County Community Foundation made the purchasing of new playground equipment possible. Over 75 volunteers assisted with the playground installation. City officials wanted community input on the park name, and after all entries were debated, the park was renamed Scranton School Memorial Park, and is located across from City Hall and the Community Center. Region XII assisted with grant writing for this project and anticipates a large community impact from the installation of the new equipment.



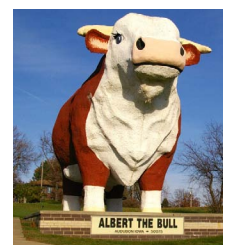
Region XII Entry Wins NADO Photography Contest

The National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) holds a photography contest with categories focusing on different subjects. One photo is chosen among all entries, based on votes through Facebook, as the “People’s Choice.” This year’s winner was the picture shown featuring Shelly Codner, IWE Specialist, during a waste sort. Shelly received over 200 votes.



Did You Know?

Audubon’s Albert the Bull will be making a television appearance in February 2018. Albert will be featured in a Cenex Commercial during Superbowl LII.



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.	October 1, 2017 January 1, 2018 April 1, 2018 July 1, 2018	Local governments
Solid Waste Alternatives Program (SWAP)	Emphasis for selected projects is placed on tonnage avoided or reduced, sustainability and ability to replicate.	October 1, 2017 January 1, 2018	Local governments, public or private groups
Federal Rec Trails Program	Acquisition, construction or improvement of recreational trails and related facilities	October 1, 2017	Cities and Counties
Enhance Iowa CAT	Assists communities in the development and creation of multiple purpose attraction or tourism facilities.	October 15, 2017 January 15, 2018	Cities, counties, non-profit organizations or school districts in cooperation with a city or county
Peter Kiewitt Foundation	Community development and recreation projects.	October 15, 2017	Local governments and nonprofit organizations within a 100 mile radius of Omaha Nebraska.
Branching Out	Tree Planting	November 1, 2017	Cities served by Alliant Energy.
Iowa West Foundation	Community development, economic development, education and human needs projects.	November 15, 2017	Local governments and non-profit organizations in Audubon, Carroll and Crawford Counties.
Regional Surface Transportation Block Grant Program	Highway and roadway improvements on the federal aid system, highway safety improvements, park and ride areas, and public transit projects.	January 1, 2018	Cities and Counties
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	April 20, 2018	Cities and Counties
CDBG Downtown Revitalization Program	Provides grants to communities for a variety of projects and activities contributing to comprehensive revitalization in historic city centers.	April 27, 2018	Cities and Counties
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	April 2018	Local governments and nonprofits along the UP Railroad
CDBG Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation Program	Owner-Occupied rehabilitation for single family homes being used as the principal residence.	May 4, 2018	Cities and Counties
BNSF Foundation	The Foundation is dedicated to supporting the communities we serve and in which our employees live, work, and volunteer. Your organization, or program, should exist in or serve a community near one of BNSF's rail lines to be eligible to apply for grants.	Ongoing	Cities, Counties, non-profits
Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)	Provides grants for low-cost, systemic 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 of 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.	Ongoing	Local Governments, private non-profits

Recently Awarded Grants

Funding Program	Recipient	Amount	Project
CDBG Water/Sewer Fund	City of Manning	\$304,000	Sanitary Sewer Main Replacement
CDBG Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation	City of Auburn	\$164,000	Auburn Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation
CDBG Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation	City of Jefferson	\$245,000	Jefferson Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation
CDBG Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation	City of Menlo	\$204,500	Menlo Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation
CDBG Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation	City of Scranton	\$164,000	Scranton Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation
Timmerman Charitable Trust	City of Glidden	\$2,000	Park Shelter Improvements
Timmerman Charitable Trust	City of Carroll	\$5,000	Kellan's Kingdom- Carroll's First All-Inclusive Playground

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 or 712-775-7811, for assistance in locating funding opportunities.

Please Note: CDBG application deadlines have changed. Water and sewer fund applications are due on a quarterly basis (January 1, April 1, July 1, October 1); housing fund applications are due May 4, 2018; community facilities and service applications are due April 20, 2018; and downtown revitalization applications are due April 27, 2018. These changes are due to funding notices on the national level.

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