



Region XII Completes Housing Rehabilitation Project in Coon Rapids

Region XII received \$850,000 from the Iowa Home Grant Program for the acquisition and rehabilitation of 5 houses. The first house, located in Coon Rapids, was recently completed and sold to an income eligible, first-time homebuyer. The house was donated to Region XII and seemed a good fit for the program. Rehabilitation included new roof, siding, windows, all interior finishes, mechanical and electrical systems, a completely new bathroom and removal of a wall to make the kitchen and dining space more appealing. On the exterior the original front porch was opened back up to blend in the other historical homes located on the street. Sale proceeds will become part of a revolving fund to acquire and rehabilitate future homes and continue preservation of existing housing stock for years to come.



Before



After

March

- 12 - RPA TAC
10:00 AM, COG Training Room
- RDC Loan Review Comm.
11:30 AM, COG Training Room
- 19 - Mid Iowa Dev. Fund
3:00 PM, Virtual
- 20 - Executive Board Meeting
12:30 PM, COG Training Room

April

- 9 - RPA TAC
10:00 AM, COG Training Room
- RDC Loan Review Comm.
11:30 AM, COG Training Room
- 10 - Executive Board Meeting
5:00 PM, COG Training Room
- Policy Council
6:00 PM, COG Training Room

May

- 7 - RDC Loan Review Comm.
11:30 AM, COG Training Room
- 8 - Executive Board Meeting
12:30 PM, COG Training Room
- 26 - Memorial Day;
Office Closed

TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

Region XII to Host Planning and Zoning Workshop

Date: March 18, 2025

Time: 5:00 PM Registration & Meal, 5:30 PM Program

Location: ACED Office, 800 Market Street, Audubon, IA 50025

Cost: \$20.00 (includes dinner)

To Register: [Click Here.](#)

The Introduction to Planning and Zoning for Local Officials workshop is a session designed to introduce the basic principles of land use planning and development management to elected officials, planning and zoning officials, and board of adjustment members without formal training in the subjects. Using case scenarios in a highly-interactive format, the workshop highlights issues frequently faced in the land use process, such as the roles and responsibilities of the planning and zoning commission, the board of adjustment, and the elected council and board of supervisors. It also will highlight legal issues frequently faced by local officials, such as variances, special uses, nonconforming uses, spot zoning, hearing procedures, and conflicts of interest.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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NEW STAFF

Shannan Potts has recently joined Region XII as a Regional Planner. Shannan has a background as a grant writer for several Sac and Calhoun County organizations. Shannan and her husband Rod live on a farm near Lytton and have 7 children. In her spare time, she likes to bike and run and also enjoys cheering on her kids at various races. Shannan is excited to expand her knowledge of local programs to benefit the community.



Potts

City of Panora Implementing 5-2-1-0 Healthy Choices Grant

The City of Panora was selected as a 5-2-1-0 grant recipient in July 2024. After creating an action plan, the committee began implementing the projects that were approved by Iowa Department of Health and Human Services. One of these projects included purchasing and donating games to the Panora Library. These games are now available for residents to check out! Grant committee members Sue Bump and Courtney Hodges, with library staff, Kim Finnegan and Nancy Armstrong are pictured to the right.



Western Iowa Transit New Driver

Margaret Gruba of Arcadia joined the WIT team on February 19th. Margaret has been a school bus driver for two local school districts for the past 5 years and is trained in wheelchair securement and transportation of persons with special needs.

FY 25 Q2 Western Iowa Transit Stats
25,551 Rides
190,521 Revenue Miles

2024 Region XII 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. Partners listed below. For more information, contact Rick Hunsaker at rhunsaker@region12cog.org. This list contains all partners as of December 31, 2024.

PLATINUM MEMBERSHIP - \$2,000

GOLD MEMBERSHIP - \$1,000

The Andersons Marathon Holdings LLC, Denison
Dakota Business Finance, Sioux Falls

SILVER MEMBERSHIP - \$500

Bank Iowa, Denison
Commercial Savings Bank, Carroll
Greene County Medical Center, Jefferson
Guthrie County REC, Guthrie Center
Holmes Murphy & Associates, Waukee
Home State Bank, Jefferson
Iowa Corn Processors, Glidden
Iowa State Bank, Sac City
Jefferson Telecom, Jefferson
Mid-Iowa Insurance & Real Estate, Carroll
Midland Power Cooperative, Boone
New Way, Scranton
Peoples Bank, Clive
Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative, Glidden
United Bank of Iowa, Carroll

BRONZE MEMBERSHIP - \$250

Agri-Drain Corporation, Adair
Audubon County Economic Development Corporation, Audubon
Audubon State Bank, Audubon
Badding Construction, Carroll
Bauer Built Manufacturing, Paton
Bruner, Bruner, Reinhart & Morton, LLP, Carroll
Carroll County Growth Partnership, Carroll
Coon Rapids Municipal Utilities, Coon Rapids
Core-Mark Midcontinent, Carroll
Crawford County Memorial Hospital, Denison
Denison Municipal Utilities, Denison
Drees Company, Carroll
Farmers State Bank, Lake View
Farmers State Bank, Yale
Ed M. Feld Equipment Company, Carroll
First State Bank, Lake View
Game One, Carroll
Greene County Development Corporation, Jefferson
Guthrie County Hospital, Guthrie Center
Guthrie County State Bank, Guthrie Center
Iowa Savings Bank, Carroll
Iowa Trust, Panora
JEO Consulting Group, Carroll
Marne & Elk Horn Telephone Company, Elk Horn
Panora Telecommunications, Panora
POET Biorefining, Coon Rapids
Principal Financial/Matt Ramaekers, Carroll
Sac Economic & Tourism Development, Wall Lake
Snyder & Associates, Atlantic
St. Anthony Regional Hospital, Carroll
Sundquist Engineering, PC, Denison
Templeton Savings Bank, Templeton
Templeton Telephone Company, Templeton
Veenstra & Kimm, West Des Moines
Wall Lake Lumber Company, Wall Lake
Western Iowa Networks, Carroll
Westside State Bank, Westside



Employees

25+ Years

Rick Hunsaker

Chris Whitaker

20-24 Years

Jill Anthofer

Mike Rath

15-19 Years

Shelly Codner

Tami Lehmann

Patrick Coil

10-14 Years

Christina Brown
Karla Janning

Mollie Scott
John Shymanski

5-9 Years

Paige Alesch
George Hunt
Bret Iversen
Tom Madsen
David Mahlberg

Lauren Mortensen
Dale Murley
Ashley Owen
Steven Page

Michael Powers
Kim Pudenz
Steve Scharfenkamp
William Sturm
Mark Thomsen

0-4 Years

Mary Altamirano
Rodney Ballard
John Bernholtz
Matt Cleveland
William Cramer
Mike Curnyn
Paige Harman

Jane Gross
Michael Hegstrom
Michelle Kooiker
Julie Larsen
Jeffrey Lee
Duane McClellan
Paul Neitzel
Brett Nieland

Linda Prince
Kevin Reese
John Reinart
Robert Riederer
Aaron Schulz
Scott Steffen
Mark Wiedemeier

Employees as of 12-31-2024

Thank You for Your Service!

Upcoming Grants

| Funding Program | Purpose | Deadline | Eligible Applicants |
|---|--|---|---|
| AARP Community Challenge Grant | Grants to improve public places, housing, transportation, civic engagement, coronavirus recovery, focusing on diversity and inclusion improvements to the built and social environment of a community, and other elements that support people of all ages | March 5, 2025 | 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), 501(c)(6) nonprofits and government entities |
| Land and Water Conservation Fund | Conservation and recreation projects and land acquisition | March 14, 2025 | Local Governments |
| 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. | April 1, 2025 July 1, 2025 October 1, 2025 January 1, 2026 | Cities and Counties |
| Peter Kiewitt Foundation | Community development and recreation projects | April 15, 2025 July 15, 2025 October 15, 2025 January 15, 2026 | Local governments and non-profit organizations within a 100 mile radius of Omaha, Nebraska. |
| Iowa Community Cultural Grant | Project Grants create opportunities for the arts to flourish in Iowa by investing in projects that positively impact the vitality of the arts in the state, demonstrate public value, and support Iowa Arts Council funding priorities. Job Creation Grants provide funds to support the creation of quality jobs for Iowans that contribute to the cultural vitality of Iowa. | April 22, 2025 | Local governments, private non-profits |
| Iowa West Foundation | Community development, economic development, education and human needs projects | May 1, 2025 September 1, 2025 January 1, 2026 | Local governments and non-profit organizations in Audubon, Carroll and Crawford Counties. |
| Country School Grant Program | Provides up to \$5,000 per applicant for the preservation and maintenance of Iowa's one and two-room country schools. The funds may also be used for interpreting the history of country schools or for educational activities taking place in a country school. | May 1, 2025 | Local governments, private non-profits |
| Historical Resource Development Program | The Historical Resource Development Program provides funding for documentary collections, historic preservation and museums | May 1, 2025 | Cities, Counties and 501c3 Non-profits. |
| Build with Bags | Up to \$2,000 for the purchase of benches, tables, or playground equipment made of recycled plastic | May 2, 2025 | Local governments, non-profit organizations, service clubs |
| Union Pacific Community Grant Program | Projects should support one of the following categories: Safety, Workforce Development, Community Vitality, and Environmental Sustainability. | May 14, 2025 | Non-profits along the UP Railroad. |
| Solid Waste Alternatives Program (SWAP) | Emphasis for selected projects is placed on tonnage avoided or reduced, sustainability and ability to replicate. | July 1, 2024 January 1, 2026 | Local governments, public or private groups |
| 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 |
| New Cooperative Foundation | Enhancements to emergency and medical services in rural communities. Community events and celebrations as well as local civic betterment projects. Fundraising events in support of community programs and projects. | Open | Local governments, private non-profits |
| 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 stormwater projects | Rolling Cycle | Cities and Counties |
| IDNR Food Storage Capacity Grant | The competitive grant opportunity helps efforts to expand storage and cold storage of donated food. | Open | Food banks, food pantries, and other non-profit organizations. |

Recently Awarded Grants

| Funding Program | Recipient | Amount | Project |
|--------------------------------------|---|-----------|--|
| Southwest Iowa Community Foundations | Brayton Community Club | \$7,030 | Town Hall Renovations |
| Nonprofit Security Grant Program | St. John Paull II Parish - Holy Spirit Church | \$31,814 | Church Safety Improvements |
| Nonprofit Security Grant Program | St. John Paull II Parish - St. Lawrence Church | \$33,002 | Church Safety Improvements |
| Nonprofit Security Grant Program | St. John Paull II Parish - St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church | \$6,205 | Church Safety Improvements |
| Local Housing Trust Fund | COG Housing, Inc. | \$409,334 | Regional Housing Trust Fund |
| Federal Home Loan Bank | Region XII COG | \$622,170 | Regional Owner-Occupied Housing Rehab. |

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.

STAFF

ADMINISTRATION

Rick Hunsaker, Executive Director rhunsaker@region12cog.org
 Mark Thomsen, Fiscal Officer mthomsen@region12cog.org
 Julie Larsen, Fiscal Clerk..... jlarsen@region12cog.org
 Tami Lehmann, Revolving Loan Fund Administrator..... tlehmann@region12cog.org
 Scott Steffen, Loan Officer.....ssteffen@region12cog.org
 Mollie Scott, De-Cat Coordinator..... mscott@dhs.state.ia.us
 Michelle Kooiker, Executive Assistant mkooiker@region12cog.org

LOCAL ASSISTANCE

Chris Whitaker, Local Assistance Director cwhitaker@region12cog.org
 Lauren Mortensen, Economic Development Planner..... lmortensen@region12cog.org
 Paige Harman, Regional Planner.....pharman@region12cog.org
 Shannan Potts, Regional Planner..... spotts@region12cog.org
 Shelly Codner, Iowa Waste Exchange Program Manager scodner@region12cog.org
 Paige Alesch, Iowa Waste Exchange Specialist..... palesch@region12cog.org
 Karla Janning, Housing Programs Coordinator..... kjanning@region12cog.org
 Ashley Owen, Housing Specialist..... aowen@region12cog.org
 Brett Nieland, Housing Inspector.....bnieland@region12cog.org
 Aaron Schulz, Housing Inspector.....aschulz@region12cog.org

WESTERN IOWA TRANSIT

Matt Cleveland, Transit Director.....mcleveland@region12cog.org
 Mike Rath, Service Manager..... mrath@region12cog.org
 Jill Anthofer, Transit Assistant..... janthofer@region12cog.org
 Chris Brown, Office Assistant..... cbrown@region12cog.org

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