THE REVIEW

The Region XII Council of Governments Newsletter August 2026

CALENDAR

September

7 - Labor Day;
Office Closed

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

16 - **Mid Iowa Dev. Fund**
3:00 PM, Virtual

17 - **Executive Board Meeting**
12:30 PM, COG Training Room
COG Housing
1:30 PM, COG Training Room

October

7 - **RPA TAC**
10:00 AM, COG Board Room
RDC Loan Review Comm.
11:30 AM, COG Training Room

8 - **Executive Board Meeting**
5:00 PM, COG Training Room
Policy Council
6:00 PM, COG Training Room

November

11 - Veteran's Day;
Office Closed

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

12 - **Executive Board Meeting**
12:30 PM, COG Training Room

26 & 27 - **Thanksgiving Holiday**
Office Closed

EXECUTIVE BOARD

John Muir, Chair
Greene Co. Supervisor

Ranell Drake, Vice Chair
Sac Co. Supervisor

Stephanie Hausman, Treasurer
Carroll Co. Supervisor

Steve Smith, Secretary
Guthrie Co. Supervisor

Don Mosinski
Audubon Co. Supervisor

Dave Muhlbauer
Crawford Co. Supervisor

Kevin Reese selected as IPTA Driver of the Year

Kevin Reese was nominated as Western Iowa Transit's Iowa Public Transit Association Driver of the Year recipient. Kevin is a full-time driver in Carroll and was selected for this award by the transit and maintenance staff. He has been employed by Region XII for five years and trains new drivers along with his normal transportation duties. Kevin does everything with a positive attitude and transports clients in a safe and courteous manner. Kevin received his award at the IPTA Driver of the Year banquet at Prairie Meadows in Altoona in June.



Above L to R: Kevin Reese, WIT Driver of the Year, and Matt Cleveland, WIT Director

COG Completes Acquisition-Rehabilitation Project in Churdan

The COG recently partnered with Churdan 2.0 and Habitat for Humanity in the acquisition and rehabilitation of a vacant property located at 604 Sand Street in Churdan. Churdan 2.0 is a 501(c)(3) organization with a mission of improving housing and business within the community. Churdan 2.0 acquired the house and then donated the property to Region XII for participation in the Habitat for Humanity Housing Renewal Program (HRP). Priorities of the HRP program are to expand alternative housing options by providing gap funding to acquire and rehabilitate existing housing stock. Housing rehabilitation remains a lower cost alternative to new construction in small rural communities.

The house underwent extensive rehabilitation with replacement of all major components, including roof, siding, windows, kitchen and bathroom updates and replacement of the mechanical systems. Upon completion, the home was sold to an eligible homebuyer whose income was at or below 120% of area median income ($79,080 for a one-person household in Greene County).





NEW STAFF


Dominick

Ruby Dominick has joined XII as a Regional Planner. Ruby is originally from Sioux City, Iowa and graduated in May from Iowa State University with a Community and Regional Planning Degree. In her free time, she enjoys listening to music, working out and being with her family and friends. She is excited to learn new things and meet new people.

Region XII Council of Governments Honored with 2026 Impact Award from the National Association of Development Organizations

July 21, 2026 – Region XII Council of Governments based in Carroll has recently been recognized with a 2026 Aliceann Wohlbruck Impact Award from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) for Open Meetings and Open Records Training for Elected and Appointed Officials.

The Iowa Legislature in 2025 required all new elected officials and board members of public bodies to receive at least 1 hour of training on the state's open meetings and open records laws. Because training through the state was limited and other entities charged for the service, Region XII COG along with three other Iowa's COGs became certified to provide the training so small towns officials would have easy access. The COGs provide in-person options, flexible scheduling, on-site training, drop-ins, and certificate issuance within 24-48 hours. The four COGs (Iowa Northland Regional COG, East Central Iowa COG, SIMPCO, and Region XII COG) consulted with one another while planning presentations and project rollout.

According to Chris Whitaker, Region XII Local Assistance Director, "this project demonstrates how COGs react to immediate needs of local governments, how we can tailor services to specifically reach underserved communities."

The Impact Awards are presented in memory of Aliceann Wohlbruck, NADO's first executive director, who was a lifelong advocate for regional solutions and rural economic development. For more information, contact Local Assistance Director Chris Whitaker at 712-775-7811 or cwhitaker@region12cog.org.

2026 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 August 21, 2026.

PLATINUM MEMBERSHIP - $2,000

GOLD MEMBERSHIP - $1,000

The Andersons Marathon Holdings LLC, Denison
Commercial Savings Bank, Carroll
Home State Bank, Jefferson

SILVER MEMBERSHIP - $500

Bank Iowa, Denison
Bruner, Bruner, Reinhart & Morton, LLP, Carroll
Central Iowa Surveying, Jefferson
Crawford County Trust & Savings Bank, Denison
Dakota Business Finance, Sioux Falls
Greene County Medical Center, Jefferson
Guthrie County REC, Guthrie Center
Guthrie County State Bank, Guthrie Center
Holmes-Murphy & Associates, West Des Moines
Iowa Corn Processors, Glidden
Iowa State Bank, Sac City
Mid-Iowa Insurance & Real Estate, Carroll
Midland Power Cooperative, Boone
Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative, Glidden
United Bank of Iowa, Carroll

BRONZE MEMBERSHIP - $250

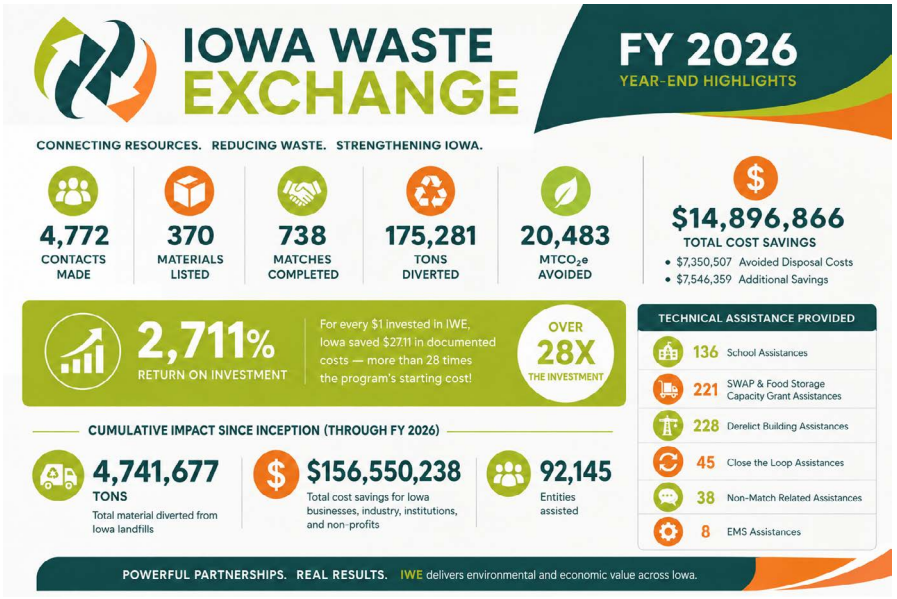
Audubon County Memorial Hospital & Clinics, Audubon
Badding Construction, Carroll
Breda Telephone Corporation dba Western Iowa Networks, Carroll
Carroll County Growth Partnership, Carroll
Community State Bank, Paton
Coon Rapids Municipal Utilities, Coon Rapids
Core-Mark Midcontinent dba Farner-Bocken, Carroll
Corn Belt Telephone, Wall Lake
Denison Municipal Utilities, Denison
Drees Company, Carroll
Farmers State Bank, Lake View
Farmers State Bank, Yale
Feld Fire, Carroll
First State Bank, Lake View
Game One, Carroll
Guthrie County Hospital, Guthrie Center
Iowa Trust, Panora
JEO Consulting Group, Carroll
Manning Regional Healthcare Center, Manning
Marne Elk Horn Communications, Elk Horn
Panora Telecommunications, Panora
Principal Financial/Matt Ramaekers, Carroll
St. Anthony Regional Hospital, Carroll
Snyder & Associates, Atlantic
Templeton Savings Bank, Templeton
Veenstra & Kimm, West Des Moines
Wall Lake Lumber Company, Wall Lake

IWE: Delivering Value Across Iowa

The FY2026 results of the Iowa Waste Exchange—a program of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources administered by Region XII Council of Governments—demonstrate what is possible when Iowa businesses, schools, nonprofits, industries and communities work together to keep valuable materials in use.

Beyond the impressive environmental and economic impacts, each successful exchange represents a practical solution that reduces disposal costs, conserves resources and connects available materials with organizations that can put them to use.

Do you have surplus materials, need reusable items or want help identifying waste-reduction opportunities? Visit www.iowawasteexchange.org to locate your Area Resource Specialist or submit an online inquiry for assistance. IWE services are free, confidential and non-regulatory.



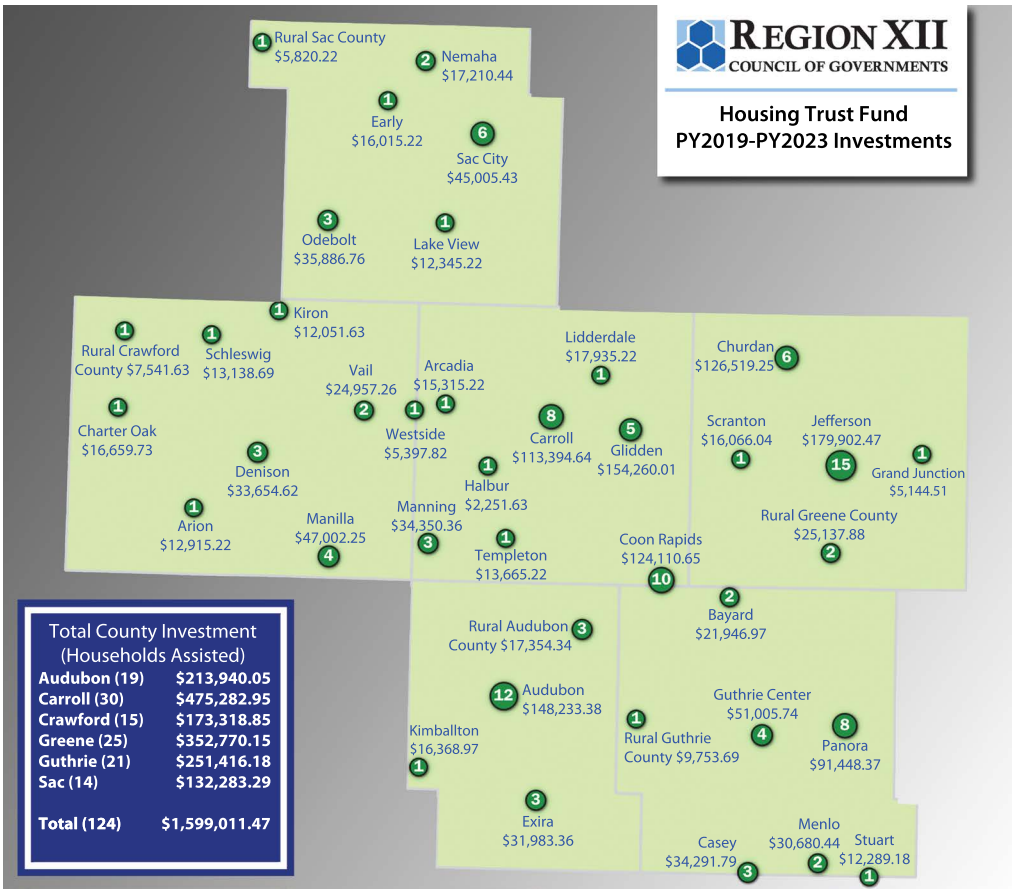
Housing Trust Fund Continues to Invest in Affordable Housing

With nearly $1.6 million in Housing Trust Fund assistance distributed since PY2020, this program continues to play an important role in developing and preserving affordable housing throughout the COG's six-county region.

These funds provide valuable support to low- and moderate-income households by helping homeowners address needed home repairs and assisting eligible homebuyers with down payment costs. The Housing Trust Fund also provides a resource for developers working to create and preserve affordable housing opportunities in our communities.

Because funding is limited, each of the six counties in the COG service area maintains a waiting list for assistance. Continued participation and use of the program helps ensure these funds remain available to address local housing needs and strengthen our communities.

Interested in receiving home repair assistance? Get on the wait list today by clicking HERE or contacting the COG office.



FY2026 Grant Awards

Grantee	Program	Project Description	Grant or Forgivable Loan Amount	Total Project Cost
Audubon County Sheriff	Byrne Justice Assistance Grant	License Plate Readers	$18,000	$24,000
Brayton Community Club	Audubon Co Community Foundation	City Hall Updates	$10,862	$14,142.59
Carroll Depot Centre	Timmerman Charitable Trust	Exterior Building Rehabilitation	$5,000	$35,000
Carroll Depot Centre	Union Pacific Foundation	Exterior Building Rehabilitation	$5,000	----
City of Arcadia	Carroll Co Community Foundation	Park Improvements	$12,000	$61,569
City of Auburn	Energy Infrastructure Revolving Loan Program	Electrical Line Replacement	$237,750	$317,000
City of Brayton	Omaha Community Grant	LED Sign	$1,405	$24,509
City of Coon Rapids	CDBG Water/Sewer Fund	Water System Improvements	$500,000	$1,100,000
City of Dedham	The Maschhoffs Impact	City Park Tennis Court Resurfacing	$1,000	---
City of Dedham	Timmerman Charitable Trust	Swing Set and Park Benches	$5,000	$30,000
City of Dedham	Carroll Co Community Foundation	Swing Set and Park Benches	$5,000	----
City of Denison	CDBG Opportunities and Threats Fund	Acquisition Rehab and DPA Program	$1,360,000	$1,420,000
City of Lidderdale	Timmerman Charitable Trust	New Playground Equipment	$8,000	$119,000
City of Manilla	FEMA Disaster Recovery	Tornado Recovery	$4,893	$4,893
City of Manilla	FEMA Disaster Recovery	Electrical Power Distribution Mitigation	$147,687	$147,687
City of Manilla	FEMA Disaster Recovery	Tornado Recovery	$7,710	$7,710
City of Manilla	5-2-1-0 Healthy Choices Count	Year 2 Program Development	$9,500	$9,500
City of Manning	Comprehensive Neighborhood Revitalization	Manning City Park Neighborhood	$1,750,000	$2,750,707
City of Menlo	Community Catalyst Building Remediation	501 Sherman (Menlo Bank)	$100,000	$305,410
City of Panora	5-2-1-0 Healthy Choices Count	Year 2 Program Development	$9,500	$9,500
City of Ricketts	USDA Community Facilities	Wastewater System Improvements	$900,000	$1,100,000
City of Stuart	Energy Infrastructure Revolving Loan Program	Electric System Update	$2,500,000	$4,927,000
City of Templeton	CDBG Water/Sewer Fund	Sanitary Sewer Improvements	$267,500	$515,000
City of Vail	Aureon	Playground	$500	$278,627
COG Housing, Inc.	Local Housing Trust Fund	Regional Housing Trust Fund	$412,942	$516,178
Crawford County Sheriff	COPS Grant	School Resource Officers (2)	$250,000	$685,506
Endow Glidden	Timmerman Charitable Trust	New Shelter House in City Park	$5,920	$7,400
Glidden Ralston Shooting Sports	Timmerman Charitable Trust	New Trap Thrower & Trap House	$3,000	$15,000
Greene County	CDBG Community Facilities	Paton-Churdan Early Learning Facility	$600,000	$2,154,812
Lake View Historical Society	Renze Charitable Trust	HVAC	$5,000	$12,745
Lake View American Legion	Aureon	Windows and Façade	$500	$28,148
Lake View American Legion	Renze Charitable Trust	Windows and Façade	$2,500	---
Lake View American Legion	Aureon (2)	Windows and Façade	$500	---
Lake View American Legion	Lake View Business Property Improvement	Windows and Façade	$4,624	---
Lake View American Legion	Sac County Endowment	Windows and Façade	$12,196	---
Lake View Stone Piers	Renze Charitable Trust	Stone Pier Restoration	$2,500	$10,000
Lidderdale Fire Department	FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant	SCBAs	$80,952	$85,000
Lytton Museum	Sac County Endowment	Electric Updates and Lighting	$6,779	$13,558
Lytton Public Library	CPPC Mini Grant	Summer Reading	$500	$500
Lytton Public Library	Renze Charitable Trust	Book Return Box	$4,000	$4,000
Manning Community Foundation	Timmerman Charitable Trust	Trinity Church Steeple & Egress Updates	$40,295	$50,090
Maple River Area Park	Timmerman Charitable Trust	Shelter House Painting	$2,500	$2,787
Maple River Area Park	Carroll Co Community Foundation	Swing Set and Park Benches	$3,000	$10,000
Paton-Churdan Early Learning Center	FRS Community Grant Program (WCCTA)	Construction of a New Daycare Center	$5,000	$2,154,812
Region XII COG	FHLB Affordable Housing Program	Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation	$622,170	$622,170
Sac Community Center	Renze Charitable Trust	Generator	$5,000	$104,720
Sac Community Center	Sac County Endowment	Locker Room Remodel	$9,923	$32,845
Third and Main Market	IEDA Rural Innovation	Grocery Store Discount Card	$2,640	$3,960
Wall Lake Fire Department	Renze Charitable Trust	Confined Space and High Angle Equipment	$3,000	$14,283

Upcoming Grants

Funding Program	Purpose	Deadline	Eligible Applicants
Audubon County Community Foundation	Quality of life projects in Audubon County	September 1, 2026 February 1, 2027	Cities, Counties, and 501(c)(3) nonprofits
Crawford County Community Foundation	Quality of life projects in Crawford County	September 1, 2026 February 1, 2027	Cities, Counties, and 501(c)(3) nonprofits
Iowa West Foundation	Grants focused on four core outcomes: Belonging, Financial Stability, Opportunity and Well-Being. Grants can be provided in one of four categories: Program Grants, Operating Grants, Capital Grants, and Launch Grants.	September 15, 2026 January 15, 2027 May 15, 2027	Local governments and non-profit organizations in Audubon, Carroll and Crawford Counties.
Federal Rec Trails Program	Acquisition, construction or improvement of recreational trails and related facilities.	October 1, 2026	Federal, state, or local government agencies, private individuals and organizations (if co-sponsored by a government agency)
Statewide Transportation Alternatives	Eligible project activities continue to include a variety of smaller-scale transportation projects such as pedestrian and bicycle facilities, recreational trails, safe routes to school projects, and community improvements such as historic preservation, vegetation management, and some environmental mitigation related to storm water and habitat connectivity.	October 1, 2026	Cities, Counties, School Districts, and 501(c)(3) Non-profits.
Community Tree Planting	Planting trees around parks, schools, libraries, community buildings, and streets. Projects must provide energy-saving benefits to the community.	November 15, 2026	Cities served by Alliant Energy
Fish Habitat Grant Program	Funding assistance is available to County Conservation Boards for land acquisition and development of fish habitat.	November 30, 2026	County Conservation Board
Community Foundation of Carroll County	Funding for projects in Carroll County	November 30, 2026	Local governments, non-profit organizations
Solid Waste Alternatives Program (SWAP)	Emphasis for selected projects is placed on tonnage avoided or reduced, sustainability and ability to replicate.	January 2, 2027 July 1, 2027	Local governments, public or private groups
Derelict Building Grant Program	The Derelict Building Program is available for Iowa towns of 5,000 or fewer residents' to address neglected commercial or public structures that have sat vacant for at least 6 months.	February 26, 2027	Cities under 5,000 population.
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.
Small Town Sign Replacment Program	The program will provide up to $5,000 (cities) or $10,000 (counties) for signs and signposts per applying jurisdiction on a first- come, first-served basis	First-Come First Served - Early to Mid January	Cities and Counties
Traffic Engineering Assistance Program (TEAP)	Provides up to 150 hours of free traffic engineering expertise to local units of government in the form of a traffic study. Studies identify cost-effective traffic safety and operational improvements as well as potential funding sources to implement the recommendations.	Funded year-round until resources are exhausted.	Cities and Counties

Recently Awarded Grants

Funding Program	Recipient	Amount	Project
Community Catalyst Building Remediation	City of Menlo	$100,000	501 Sherman (Menlo Bank)
CDBG Streetscapes	City of Coon Rapids	$250,000	Streetscaping
CDBG Roof Program	City of Manilla	$132,000	Roof Repair Program
CDBG Roof Program	City of Perry	$198,000	Roof Repair Program
Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP)	St. John Paul II - Annunciation	$62,134	Church Safety Improvements
Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP)	St. John Paul II - St. Joseph	$40,339	Church Safety Improvements
Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP)	St. John Paul II - St. Mary's	$43,616	Church Safety Improvements

Additional grants are available through private foundations and ongoing programs. Region XII COG will prepare city and county grant applications at no cost. 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

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REGION XII
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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