



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ECICOG CELEBRATES CURRENT AWARDS AND MILESTONE OF OVER
\$2 MILLION IN AFFORDABLE HOUSING GRANTS TO SUPPORT LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

The East Central Iowa Council of Governments (ECICOG) and the Federal Home Loan Bank (FHLB) of Des Moines are hosting a celebration of ECICOG's recent awards totaling \$603,600 and the milestone of receiving over \$2 million in total awards through FHLB's Strong Communities Fund. Media are invited to join us for the celebration at the ECICOG office at 700 16th Street NE, Suite 301 in Cedar Rapids, IA on Friday, January 24th, 2014 from 1:00-1:30pm.

The recent funding awards are supported by three separate grants from Keystone Savings Bank, Hills Bank & Trust Company and Guaranty Bank & Trust Co. These funds will assist more than 75 homeowners in Benton, Jones, Iowa, Washington, Johnson and Linn Counties.

The award funds are part of a housing rehabilitation program that helps to assist low to median income home owners with housing repairs, including emergency repairs, exterior repairs and residential accessibility. This program not only helps individual homeowners, but also has a big impact on the communities where it is offered by preserving affordable housing, creating more job opportunities for contractors, and helping to put money back into the community.

The event will feature various representatives from ECICOG and other organizations discussing the awards and program, as well as David Jamison the Executive Director of the Iowa Finance Authority and John Harris from the Linn County Board of Supervisors also discussing information related to the program. At the end of the event there will be a check presentation for the awards and time for questions.

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About ECICOG

The ECICOG is an intergovernmental council established in 1973 under Chapter 28E and provided for under Chapter 28H of the Code of Iowa. Governed by a board of directors comprised of elected officials and private citizens, ECICOG was created to promote regional cooperation and to provide professional planning services to local governments in Benton, Cedar, Iowa, Johnson, Jones, Linn, Tama, and Washington Counties.