

May 2020

East Central Iowa Council of Governments

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Newsletter

[IEDA Housing Programs Released](#)

The Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) has released program details for their upper story conversion, owner-occupied rehabilitation and home buyer assistance programs. This year only the homeowners or renters have to meet low-to-moderate income criteria. The city or its targeted area do not have to meet that criteria. IDEA will begin reviewing applications for the owner-occupied rehabilitation and home buyer assistance programs on July 1 until funding is exhausted. Applications for the upper story conversion program are competitive and due July 31. Learn more here. Contact Community Development and Housing Director [Tracey Achenbach](#) for more information. [More information about Housing Programs.](#)

[EDA Announces CARES Act Recovery Assistance](#)

The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) has released their Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for their supplemental appropriation from the CARES Act. According to the EDA examples of projects that may be eligible include, "economic recovery planning and preparing technical strategies to address economic dislocations caused by the coronavirus pandemic, preparing or updating resiliency plans to respond to future pandemics, implementing entrepreneurial support programs to diversify economies, and constructing public works and facilities that will support economic recovery, including the deployment of broadband for purposes to support telehealth and remote learning for job skills." This funding is expected to be allocated very quickly. If you have a potential grant idea, contact Executive Director [Karen Kurt](#) . [More information about EDA CARES Act Recovery Assistance.](#)

[Applications Being Accepted for State Recreational Trails Program](#)

Iowa DOT will accept applications for the State Fiscal Year 2021 (SFY 2021) application cycle of the State Recreational Trails (SRT) program on July 1, 2020. Due to COVID-19, the Legislature has not yet appropriated any funds toward the program for this fiscal year. If funds are provided when the Legislature returns to complete the session, applications received by July 1 will be reviewed and considered for SFY 2021 funding. As allowed by administrative rules, Iowa DOT may also announce subsequent application deadlines as warranted. Contact Transportation Director [Mary Rump](#) for more information. [More information about the State Recreational Trails Program.](#)

[Unwanted Waste Becomes Personal Protective Equipment Through Iowa Waste Exchange](#)

Did you know that ECICOG supports the Iowa Waste Exchange (IWE)? The IWE matches businesses with excess waste to individuals or organizations who are seeking those materials in order to reduce waste in our landfills. Read about a recent match with Iowa City's Fab Lab that helped them to produce personal protective gear for area nursing homes, medical offices and ambulance services. Contact [Alicia Presto](#) for more information about the Iowa Waste Exchange. [More about the Iowa Waste Exchange.](#)

Funding Opportunities

[IEDA Workforce Housing Tax Credits](#)

The Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) announced today it has opened a new application round for the Workforce Housing Tax Credit program. Approximately \$10 million in tax credits is available for this application round and is only open for the Small Cities' Set Aside component. IEDA's Workforce Housing Tax Credit program provides tax benefits to developers to provide housing in Iowa communities, focusing especially on those projects using abandoned, empty or dilapidated properties. [Click here for more information.](#)

[IEDA Opportunities & Threats Program Helps with Immediate Needs](#)

Communities can apply for CDBG funds to help with immediate needs for disadvantaged communities as a result of COVID-19. Examples of funded activities include: job training to expand the pool of health care workers; providing additional testing, diagnosis or other services at a fixed or mobile location; new or expanded child care services by a non-profit organization; expanded meal delivery service for quarantined individuals; creating wifi hotspots for individuals without internet service. [Click here for more information.](#)

[Iowa Great Places Grant](#)

Due: June 6, 2020

The Iowa Great Places program seeks to recognize communities that take action to enhance their local places while staying true to the qualities that makes them unique. Designated communities have demonstrated a vision that values their cultural assets while challenging themselves to set realistic goals for advancing their quality of life. The program goals are to cultivate the unique and authentic qualities of Iowa neighborhoods, districts, communities and regions in order to make them great places to live and work through professional development training; technical assistance opportunities; a network of vibrant communities and passionate leaders; and access to other state and local resources. [Click here for more information.](#)

[More Funding Opportunities](#)

[Getting Back on Track after COVID-19](#)

ICR NEXT is a webinar series focused on helping our region thrive together post-pandemic. The initiative is driven by ICR IOWA, and includes a series of five webinars hosted throughout the month of May on topics including workforce, community development and economic growth. Sign up for upcoming events and find more resources on their site! [More about ICR NEXT.](#)

[We're Here to Help!](#)

While our office will remain closed through the month of May, staff remains committed to serving our region and is still working hard and available to help!

[Contact our staff here.](#)