

NIACOG NEWS

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Nov. – Dec. 2018

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLANNER



NIACOG is seeking a long-term employee to: administer grant-funded projects, assist in preparation of city/county planning documents, administer revolving loan funds, keep financial records, provide technical assistance to city/county governments, inspect homes, and market programs. Required skills include proficiency with Microsoft Word and Excel, public speaking, math skills to keep financial records and analyze research data, and writing skills to complete grant proposals and draft narratives for planning documents. Other helpful assets include familiarity with: mortgages, home repair methods, housing codes, web page management, PowerPoint, GIS, and Publisher. The position requires a bachelor's degree or equivalent education/experience. Starting salary of \$34K-\$38K with full benefits including IPERS. Send resume to: Myrtle Nelson, NIACOG, 525 6th St. SW, Mason City, IA 50401.

WINTER MAINTENANCE TRAINING AVAILABLE

The Iowa Chapter American Public Works Association (APWA) is offering a winter maintenance training program in Fort Dodge on November 7th. This is an excellent opportunity to learn about new technology and methods to save money and protect the environment by effectively treating pavement with reduced materials during winter events. Who should attend? Snow plow operators, supervisors, and others associated with winter maintenance..

The cost of this all-day training is \$50, including breakfast and lunch. For more information or to register for this training please go to https://events.bizzabo.com/2018_APWA_Winter_Maintenance/home





FUNDING OPPORTUNITY FOR LIFTS PROGRAM

laura.hutzell@iowadot.us or 515-239-1066.

COMMUNITY CATALYST BUILDING REMEDIATION

The Linking Iowa Freight Transportation (LIFTS) program is a \$1.3 million grant funding opportunity to improve Iowa's multimodal freight transportation system. The purpose of the LIFTS program is to provide grants for projects that help meet the changing demands on Iowa's multimodal freight system. The program will provide funding for freight projects that have economic and public benefit by enhancing the shipment of freight, but are typically ineligible for state or federal highway funding. The funding program is designed to: (1) Enhance economic development by improving the multimodal freight transportation system. (2) Provide flexible funding for the changing demands of the freight transportation system. (3) Enhance the ability to provide competitive transportation options for shipment of products and moving goods. (4) Provide incentives to alternate modes for economic development opportunities.

Through the Community Catalyst Building Remediation Program, the Iowa Economic Development Authority will provide grants to communities for the redevelopment, rehabilitation or deconstruction of buildings to stimulate economic growth or reinvestment in the community. Strong applications will show the potential of catalytic economic growth in the community; improve appearances & safety; make use of underutilized property, exhibit appropriate design standards; and be well-funded. Economic growth may include the creation of additional jobs, growth of new or existing businesses, development of new housing units, increase property values, or potential population growth.

The LIFTS Program is open to transportation providers/users, cities, counties, planning organizations and any other entity interested in freight transportation. The program requires that projects funded by the LIFTS Program be carried out under the same rules and procedures as a highway project on a federal-aid highway.

Funding:

- \$1.8 million available, with \$1.2 million of that going to towns of less than 1,500 people
- Maximum grant: \$100,000

Eligibility:

- Funds available for the rehabilitation of one commercial building per community or two buildings with same ownership that are adjacent
- Deconstruction is allowed in dire situations or for safety reasons
- City must be the applicant and provide financial and/or in-kind resources

Applicants will fall under one of two categories. (1) Public applicants or public-private partnerships which will be eligible for 80% grant funding. (2) Private applicants which will be eligible for 50% grant funding.

The required pre-application is fairly simple and just lays out the concept and goals of the project. It is due November 14th. Once invited for a full application, it is due December 14th. If you submit a pre-application before the deadline, your invitation for a full application is likely to be sooner, thereby giving you more time to prepare and submit a full application. Contact Matt O'Brien at NIACOG with any questions or comments.

Applications will go through a review/scoring process and a recommendation will be presented to the Iowa DOT Commission for approval with final awards expected in May 2019. All applicants must submit a Minority Impact Statement along with their application. Applications must be postmarked or emailed by 5:00 p.m. on December 10, 2018.

For more information or specific questions, please contact Laura Hutzell at

Calendar of Events

November

12th	NIACOG Brd. Mtg.	7:00 @ Bennigan's in CL
12th	Veterans' Day	NIACOG Office Closed
22 & 23	Thanksgiving	NIACOG Office Closed

December

10th	NIACOG Exec. Brd. Mtg.	Noon @ NIACOG Office
25th	Christmas	NIACOG Office Closed





U.S. DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION ANNOUNCES \$366.2 MILLION



U.S. Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao announced that the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) will award \$366.2 million

in grants to improve the safety and reliability of America's bus systems and enhance mobility for transit riders. A total of 107 projects in 50 states and territories will receive funding from FTA's Buses and Bus Facilities Infrastructure Investment Program

"These grants will help rebuild and modernize bus systems across the country for greater safety," said Secretary Chao.

The funding supports projects to replace, rehabilitate, and purchase buses and related equipment, as well as projects to purchase, rehabilitate, and construct bus-related facilities

"Bus transportation is the most widely available form of public transportation across the country," said FTA Acting Administrator K. Jane Williams. "These grants are a significant step in achieving the Administration's goal of rebuilding our nation's transportation infrastructure."

Among the projects selected to receive funding locally:

- Region 2 Transit System will receive \$658,300.00 to replace eight older buses
- Mason City Transit will receive \$284,235.00 to replace three older buses.

Demand for FTA's Buses and Bus Facilities Infrastructure Investment Program far exceeded available funds, as FTA received applications for 339 eligi

ble projects totaling approximately \$2 billion in funding requests, from a total of 255 applicants. Project proposals were evaluated based on criteria outlined in the Notice of Funding Opportunity. The selected projects will receive fiscal year 2018 funds.

Federal public transportation law (49 USC § 5339(b)), as amended by the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, authorizes FTA's Grants for Buses and Bus Facilities Infrastructure Investment Program through FY2020.

In Fiscal Year 2018, FTA has awarded more than \$15 billion in funding through both formula and competitive grant programs to support public transportation.

NIACOG RECEIVES ICAP GRANT

NIACOG has been notified that their funding request to Iowa Communities Assurance Pool (ICAP) for \$1,000 has been approved for the purchase of security cameras. NIACOG will be replacing all of its outdated analog security cameras with new high resolution 4k digital cameras.

The ICAP Grant is a special initiative in celebration of ICAP's 30th Anniversary and provides up to \$1,000 towards the purchase of select loss control or risk management items.

NIACOG is extremely appreciative of ICAP's grant award and looks forward to its continued relationship with ICAP as its property and casualty coverage provider.

DID YOU KNOW?
"Jingle Bells" was originally a Thanksgiving song.

Happy Thanksgiving!

