

NIACOG NEWS

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Sept. – Oct. 2018

NIACOG STAFF

641.423.0491

Email– first letter of first name followed
by last name @niacog.org (i.e.
jmyhre@niacog.org)

Joe Myhre — Ext. 11
Executive Director
Jodi Wyborny — Ext. 10
Administrative Assistant
Kris Urdahl — Ext. 12
Fiscal Officer

Chris Diggins — Ext. 15
Local Assistance Director
Myrtle Nelson — Ext. 16
Senior Planner
Matt O'Brien — Ext. 14
Regional Planner
Steve Wendt — Ext. 13
Community Dev. Planner

Kevin Kramer — Ext. 17
Transit Administrator
Teresa Collins — Ext. 22
Operations Manager
Todd Hull — Ext. 24
Maintenance Supervisor

CONGRATULATIONS MASON CITY!

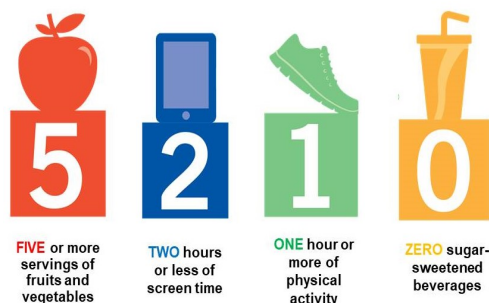
In partnership with the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), Mason City has been selected as a recipient of 5-2-1-0

Healthy Choices Count grant funding. With this funding, Healthy-Mason City will continue to work with Healthy Hometowns powered by Wellmark. Wellmark will be facilitating a Visioning meeting with the 5-2-1-0 steering committee developed by Healthy-Mason City and NIACOG. The steering committee includes Cerro Gordo Public Health, Mason City Community Schools, Mercy Medical-Center North Iowa, and the City of Mason City Parks and Recreation along with others. The outcome of the Visioning and future steering committee meetings will be action and sustainability plans for implementing 5-2-1-0 within Mason City.



5-2-1-0 is a messaging campaign for promoting healthy lifestyle choices for Iowa's children, youth and families. The campaign will focus on the following sectors: early childhood, schools, worksites, after and before school programs, and healthcare sites. Within those sectors, the grant funding will be used to improve policies and environments that support healthy choices. The overall strategies for success that will be used by Healthy-Mason City and the 5-2-1-0 steering committee and sectors will be the following:

- Limit unhealthy choices for snacks and celebrations; provide healthy choices.
- Limit or eliminate sugary drinks; provide water.
- Prohibit the use of food as a reward.
- Provide opportunities to get physical activity every day.
- Limit recreational screen time.
- Participate in local, state, and national initiatives that support healthy eating and active living.
- Engage community partners to help support healthy eating and active living.
- Partner with and educate families in adopting and maintaining a lifestyle that supports healthy eating and active living.
- Implement a staff wellness program that includes healthy eating and active living.
- Collaborate with Food and Nutrition Programs to offer healthy food and beverage options.



Contact Matt O'Brien at mobrien@niacog.org or 641.423.0491, ext. 14 with questions or comments about 5-2-1-0.



HOUSING REHAB GRANT AWARDS IN THE REGION



In May of this year, two cities in the NIACOG region submitted CDBG Iowa Housing Fund grants to the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA).

These are the Cities of Charles City, and Garner. Both cities applied for funds that would assist in the rehabilitation of 6 homes which, initially, is the maximum performance target allowed by the IEDA. NIACOG staff assisted both cities in completing their grant applications and is pleased to announce that both applications were awarded. Both cities received their official award letters from the IEDA in July. The City of Charles City was awarded \$232,700 and the City of Garner was awarded \$239,900.

Administration of both programs is now underway by NIACOG staff. The environmental review process for both grants is nearing completion and it is expected that both grants will be given release of funds by the IEDA later on this month. NIACOG staff looks forward to continuing to work with both communities throughout the course of their rehabilitation programs. Both grants were given an effective contract date with the IEDA of August 8, 2018, and an end date for completion of August 31, 2021.

The CDBG Housing Fund, officially known as the CDBG Residential Housing Sustainability Program, provides funding from the U.S. Department of HUD in order to expand or retain the supply of decent, safe, affordable, and livable housing for low and very low-income households in Iowa through single family owner-occupied rehabilitation programs. Work on the homes that are rehabilitated through the CDBG Housing Fund typical includes new roof shingles, new siding, new windows, update of electrical systems, new furnaces, lead hazard reduction activity and, if the budget allows, radon mitigation.

retired. The retirement took effect July 31, 2018.

After completing a RFP in March 2018, the transit system received no response. NIACOG and Charles City staff then contacted each invited party to discover why they had not submitted a RFP. After several discussions and negotiating with the City of Charles City, Circle K Communications of Charles City agreed to participate in a joint effort with the City of Charles City. The City will employ the drivers and Circle K will provide the dispatching and operational support. NIACOG provided three new accessible transit vehicles and will cost share the operational support with the City of Charles City.



NIACOG's Transit Administrator, Kevin Kramer, Operations Manager, Teresa Collins and Driver Dean Graven have been to Circle K's facilities to train the newly hired drivers and dispatchers on the various aspects of the transit service operation.

The service will operate Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and officially went into operation August 1st. Tickets to ride can be purchased at either Charles City Hall or from Circle K Communications. All services are open to the general public, including commuters, shoppers, students, seniors, persons with disabilities and travelers of all types. The bus will pick you up at your door and deliver you to your job, medical appointment, meal site, school, bus depot, airport or favorite shopping center.

24-hour advance reservations to schedule a trip are requested. To contact Charles City Public Transit, call (641) 715-1314.



NEW TRANSIT SERVICE IN CHARLES CITY

After 29 years, Region 2 Transit System's contract provider in Charles City, Jolene Hagarty d.b.a Charles City Transit

Calendar of Events

September

3rd	Labor Day	NIACOG Office Closed
10th	NIACOG Brd. Mtg.	Bennigan's, Clear Lake @ 7 pm
12-14th	League of Cities Con- ference	Council Bluffs
21st	City Clerks Mtg.	NIACOG Office @ 9:30 am

October

8th	NIACOG Exec. Cmmte.	NIACOG Office @ 12:00 pm
10th	Hazmat	NIACOG Office @ 1 pm
10th	Trans. Pol- icy Brd.	NIACOG Office @



NOTICE OF FUNDS AVAILABILITY

	Winnebago	Worth	Mitchell
Kossuth	Hancock	Cerro Gordo	Floyd
Humboldt	Wright	Franklin	Butler

The State of Iowa will receive FEMA disaster funding under the *Hazard Mitigation Grant Program* (HMGP) as part of Presidential disaster declaration DR-4386-IA (June 6-July 2, 2018) as a result of severe storms, straight-line winds and flooding that occurred in our State this summer.

Project Types

The State is making available HMGP funds for those eligible hazard mitigation project types that will reduce or eliminate losses from future natural disasters, **including but not limited to:**

- Construction of tornado safe rooms (Multi-functional community or school safe room projects are highly encouraged)
- Acquisition, structural relocation or elevation of buildings located in a special flood hazard area
- Structural and non-structural retrofitting of existing public buildings, facilities, or utilities to protect against wind, ice, or flood hazards
- Minor structural hazard control or protection projects such as storm water management (e.g., culverts, floodgates, retention basins)
- Localized flood control projects, such as floodwall systems, that are designed specifically to protect critical facilities and do not constitute a section of a larger flood control system
- Development of multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plans and plan updates

Eligible Applicant

Potentially eligible applicants include:

- State agencies and local governments
- Federally recognized Indian tribal governments, including State-recognized Indian tribes, and authorized tribal organizations
- Private nonprofit (PNP) organizations or institutions that operate a PNP facility as defined in the 44 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 206.221(e).

The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) requires a FEMA approved local hazard

mitigation plan prior to FEMA awarding HMGP project funds. **Funding will be limited to sub-applicants with an approved local hazard mitigation plan at time of award.**

Applicants with proposed projects located in a FEMA-identified Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) are eligible for funding only if the jurisdiction in which the project is located is participating in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). There is no NFIP participation requirement for projects located outside of the SFHA.

Funding & Cost Share: Est. Funding \$3,253,427

This is a cost share grant program which means that awarded grants will be funded as follows:

- Federal (FEMA) share of total eligible costs – 75% maximum
- Non Federal share of total eligible costs – 25%
- State of Iowa – 10% (typical)
- Local – 15%

Iowa Code 455B.262A [effective 6-30-2011]; State participation in funding financial assistance (10% State cost share) for a flood related disaster requires participation in the NFIP for a city or county with an effective FEMA published flood insurance map that identifies a SFHA. To determine NFIP participation please visit: <http://www.fema.gov/cis/IA.html>.

Notice of Interest (NOI) & Application Process

Applicants must complete the appropriate (project specific) NOI form located in the EMGrantsPro grants management system. The NOI forms can be found using the following link: <http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org/grants/HMA.html>. **NOI's will be accepted on a continuous basis or until otherwise notified.**

The State hazard mitigation staff will review NOI's using basic eligibility criteria for HMGP projects outlined in 44 CFR 206.434 (c), project type and level of interest in relation to acceptance of a greater local cost share. Invitations to complete a full HMGP project application will be sent to qualifying sub-applicants for both new NOI's and previously submitted NOI's where limited funding was available. Invitation letters will identify a State Mitigation Project Officer who will work directly with the applicant. This Project Officer will contact the applicant to discuss the proposed project, the application requirements, and be available to provide technical assistance during the application development process if needed.

If you are located in a Presidential disaster declared county and have a project that will reduce or eliminate losses from future natural disasters, please contact Matt O'Brien at mobrien@niacog.org or 641.423.0491, ext. 14.

IOWA TOURISM GRANT

Applications are now available for the FY '19 Iowa Tourism Grant cycle. Applications are due by 4:00 p.m. on September 12th. Applications must be a tourism related entity based in Iowa, including a nonprofit or for-profit organization, city, county, or regional government or planning organization.



Funding awards range from \$500 to \$5,000 and require a 25% cash match. There is \$150,000 available statewide for the FY '19 grant cycle. All expenses must be directly related to the implementation of a tourism related marketing initiative, meeting, or event and be incurred during the fiscal year in which funding is being requested. To apply, go to: <https://www.traveliowa.com/industry-partners/grants/iowa-tourism-grants/>

If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact Nicole Shalla with the Iowa Tourism Office at nicole.shalla@iowaeda.com or 515.348.6258.

NIACOG HOUSING TRUST FUND - REGIONAL APPROACH

Regional funding is being pursued from the Federal Home Loan Bank grant to assist with owner-occupied home rehabilitation for all counties in our entire NIACOG region. Rehabilitation projects will include work items such as: roofing, siding, furnace/hot water heater, electrical, accessible ramps/bathrooms, etc. These projects must be a minimum of \$15,000 with an \$18,000 program-wide average. Contact Myrtle Nelson to add someone to the waiting list for this 2019 program. Full applications will be distributed to homeowners on the waiting list in December (after award of funds). Slots are limited, and we already have some names on the waiting list.



after



The NIACOG Housing Trust Fund was formed in 2011 at the request of the State because Cerro Gordo County was one of few counties not covered by a housing trust fund. Since that time the program has merged with Floyd County to grow the program

into a regional status within the guidelines of the State Housing Trust Fund.

The Cerro Gordo County program has raised over \$2.6 million to fund home repairs and new construction over the past 7 years. The largest funding sources for the program include the following:

- Federal Home Loan Bank - \$1,420,200
- State Housing Trust Fund - \$696,774
- Landlord matching funds - \$292,403.41
- United Way - \$72,875 (NIACOG region-wide funding)
- First Citizens Bank - \$42,500
- Wells Fargo Foundation on behalf of Wells Fargo Home Mortgage - \$42,000
- Cerro Gordo County \$20,000
- Principal Financial \$20,000

As part of the new regional Housing Trust Fund program, Floyd County has received an additional \$200,000 (appx.) from the State Housing Trust Fund over that past two years. The Floyd County funds are solely used for furnace replacement.

For 2018/19, NIACOG Housing Trust Fund continues to have funding available in Cerro Gordo County especially for larger projects averaging \$24,000. Limited funding remains for smaller projects averaging \$6,300 this year; however, a new allocation of smaller scale project funding will be available in 2019. We will also continue to have funding available for emergency repairs (\$2,000 maximum) throughout the entire NIACOG region, thanks to a grant from the United Way. Please note that funding is generally limited to people who are either over 62 or disabled and have low incomes. (\$28,500 is the limit for a one-person household.)

For more information about these programs, check out the NIACOG Housing Trust Fund's webpage at www.niacog.org/trustfund, or call/email Myrtle Nelson at 641-423-0491 x 16 or mnelson@niacog.org.



HAPPY
LABOR
DAY

