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# NIACOG NEWS

Vol. 31 No. 5

NORTH IOWA AREA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Sept. - Oct. 2020



The **Regional Planning Affiliation 2 (RPA 2)** is in the process of updating the RPA 2 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) for the Region which includes Cerro Gordo, Floyd, Franklin, Hancock, Kossuth, Mitchell, Winnebago and Worth Counties. This plan will include all modes of transportation and the regional priorities for each mode of transportation.

NIACOG developed a survey to gather information on transportation usage, priorities and concerns. Anyone interested in taking the online survey can go to <a href="https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NorthIowa">https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NorthIowa</a> Transportation or you can complete a hard copy of the survey (call for a copy) and e-mail it to <a href="https://cdiggins@niacog.org">cdiggins@niacog.org</a>, fax it to (641) 423-1637 or mail it to NIACOG, 525 6th St. SW, Mason City, IA 50401.

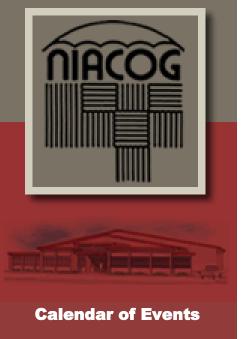
All surveys are to be completed and returned by September 30, 2020. Please forward the survey to anyone that would be interested in participating.

If you have any questions contract Chris at (641) 423-0491 Ext 15 or <u>cdiggins@niacog.org</u>. Thanks for your participation!

#### **CONGRATS, RUDD!**

Congratulation to the City of Rudd on the recent award of \$300,000 in CDBG Water/Sewer Funds for the construction of a new water treatment facility project.

If your City is interested in a potential CDBG Water, Sewer or Community Facilities and Services project, do not hesitate to contact Chris at NIACOG so that whole process of CDBG funding can be explained and no steps or opportunities in the process are missed.



#### September

7th	Labor Day	NIACOG Office Closed
14th	NIACOG Brd. Mtg.	Virtual @ 7 pm
25th	City Clerk's Assoc. Mtg.	Virtual @ 9:30 am

#### <u>October</u>

12th	NIACOG Exec. Brd. Mtg.	NIACOG Office @ Noon
14th	Hazmat Mtg.	Location TBD @ 1 pm
14th	Trans. Policy Brd. Mtg.	NIACOG Office @ 2:30 pm

## HOW CAN WE MAKE OUR FUTURE HEALTHIER?

**ENCOURAGE KIDS TO LIVE 5-2-1-0!** 



The communities of Mason City (in its 3rd year) and Hampton (in its 2nd year) are receiving funding from the State of Iowa to market the 5-2-1-0 Healthy Choices Count message and help implement projects compatible with the message. Mason City will be receiving \$4,000 to use directly on projects and marketing while Hampton will be receiving \$8,000. The funding will be administered by NIACOG.

The long-term goal of 5-2-1-0 is to help reduce the significant rates of heart disease, stroke, obesity, high blood pressure, diabetes, and cancers within Iowa's communities. The message is foremost being marketed towards Iowa's children 2-18 years of age; however, the message also applies to adults.

What does 5-2-1-0 stand for?

- 5 or more servings of fruits and vegetables per day.
- No more than 2 hours of unproductive screen time per day.
- 1 or more hours of vigorous physical activity per day.
- O sugary drinks more water!

During the previous fiscal year, 5-2-1-0 funds were used towards the following in the Mason City community to fund all or part of each individual project cost:

- Mason City Chamber of Commerce Bumper Bubble Soccer Balls.
- Newman Catholic Schools Deluxe Public Bike Repair Station with Outdoor Air pump/gauge located adjacent to the Trolley Trail.
- Cerro Gordo Public Health Sickeningly Sweet Campaign Facebook ads with the following purchased to emphasize negative effects of sugar on body: diabetes glucose wands; "How much sugar?" test tube display; blood triglycerides sample packets; fat replicas and 1-lb. and 5 lb. muscle

replicas.

- Main Street Mason City Partnership with Climb n' Crawl project (including sanitizing kiosk and interactive wall panel(s)) and Home for the Holidays.
- City of Mason City/Parks and Recreation Canvas bags for giant yard games (chess, checkers, jenga, and connect-4).
- Fruit and Veggie Tracking Bracelets
- YIELD (Youth Investing Energy in Leadership Development) - Fruit trees for "Trees for the Town: Flooding Our Community with Fruit".
- Cerro Gordo Public Health Printing and binding of sixty 5-2-1-0 healthy recipe books to distribute to childcare providers.

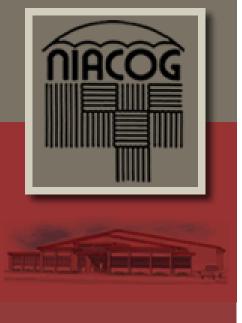
Also, during the previous fiscal year, 5-2-1-0 funds were used towards the following in Hampton:

- Franklin County YFC Goliath Warrior in-ground basketball hoop/pole.
- Hampton-Dumont Middle School -Activity Stations from TriActive USA

   Seated chest press; squat press; elliptical cross trainer; rowing machine; air strider.
- Franklin County Extension/
  Americorps Youth Gardening Club

   Local match for AmeriCorps Members, lumber, plants, white vinyl trellis pergola, hose, dump cart, water bottles, 71 gallon storage box, ground cover fabric/weed block, climbing cattle panels, locks, Pro TuffBin, 12 sets of gloves, stakes.
- Franklin County Family Focus -5210 Summer Challenge - includes tennis racquet, pickleball set, disc golf set, Star Wars fishing rod and reel, soccer ball, Dude Perfect fishing kit with casting game, and bocce ball set.
- Fruit and veggie tracking bracelets

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)



### NEW LIFT INSTALLATION



Construction has begun on the installation of a new bus lift in the shop area. Funding through the IDOT/CARES ACT has allowed Region 2 Transit the ability to install a larger lift. This funding will help to safely accommodate the new larger, and heaver transit buses.

#### **5-2-1-0 CONTINUED**

- Hampton-Dumont-CAL Elementary Schools – Back to School Art Path Package from TheSensoryPath.com.
- Hampton Preschool/Daycare through Partnership with i-Smile/ North Iowa Community Action: 100 Potter the Otter Tales About Water books and OralB Kids Electric Toothbrushes
- Hampton Farmers Market new location yard sign 2' by 3'.
- Franklin County Conservation 3 dog waste stations on Rolling Prairie Trail within Hampton City Limits.
- Franklin General Hospital Scale/ Binders/Thera Band Resistant Bands for pre-diabetes class with hospital dietician.
- La Luz Centro Cultural Freezer and storage shelves.
- Franklin County Wellness Center Youth Tennis equipment: racquets, racquet holder(s), balls, ball hopper.



For this fiscal year, NIACOG will be seeking community input on how to use the funds via a community questionnaire. After receiving input, NIACOG and various community partners will draft an action plan. If you are interested in providing input for either community, the survey links are below:

#### **Mason City:**

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ MasonCity 5210

#### Hampton:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ Hampton5210

If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact Matt O'Brien at mobrien@niacog.org or 6414230491, ext. 14.

## NEW LOANS FOR AFFECTED BUSINESSES

In response to continued COVID-19 virus mitigation, NIACOG has been awarded funds to disburse to businesses who have been affected.

The program offers 0% loan of up to \$125,000 (maximum of \$25,000 per job retained or created) with no payments due until July 1, 2022. The term of the loans are generally 3 to 7 years. The funding cannot duplicate recovery funding from other agencies.

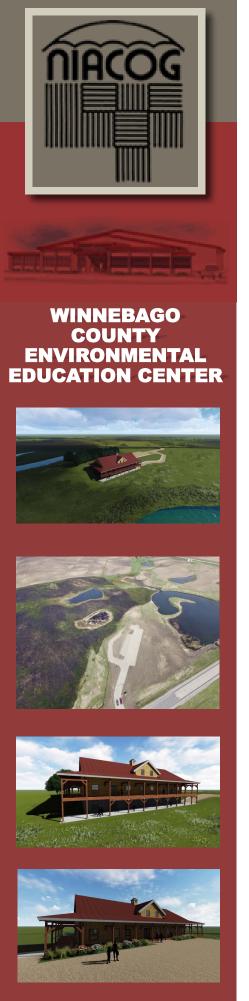


This funding may be used for working capital, purchase of machinery and equipment, and/or purchase of real property.

To apply, businesses should contact their local Economic Development Corporation/Commission for assistance with the application process. Approval of the NIACOG Board of Directors is required for all loans. Additionally, loans over \$25,000 also require the approval of the NIACOG Revolving Loan Fund Committee.

The federal funding is being provided through the Economic Development Administration (EDA); however, three rules are being excluded that are normally required under our existing Revolving Loan Fund including: minimum interest rate, a 'turn down' letter from a bank, and a percentage of funds required to be contributed to the project by the business owner.

Questions may be directed to Joe Myhre at the NIACOG office.



## CONGRATS, WINNEBAGO COUNTY!

Winnebago County has been awarded \$250,000 in Community Attraction and Tourism Grant funds from the Enhance Iowa Board towards the County's planned Environmental Education Center (WCEEC). The project, led by the County Winnebago Conservation Board and its Executive Director, Robert Schwartz, has an anticipated construction start date of Fall 2020 and opening date of early 2021. The successful grant application was prepared by NIACOG staff. The WCEEC has been a long-term goal of the County since 2011.

The two level, 7,680 sq. ft. WCEEC will be constructed on a Winnebago County owned site located at 41600 Hwy 69, Leland, Iowa 50453. The site is centrally located in the County with easy access and short distance from all surrounding communities. The WCEEC will target residents throughout Winnebago County, the state of Iowa, and visiting public from surrounding states. As an "anchor" promoting environmental education and outdoor recreation, the WCEEC will increase the public's awareness in the importance of protecting and enhancing our natural resources.

The building will house interpretative displays, conservation and wildlife studies, wildlife exhibits, cultural history and more. It will include easy access to restored prairie, wetlands and an outdoor amphitheater located on same site as the WCEEC. The WCEEC will also provide observation decks, recreational trails, classroom and group learning spaces to educate visitors on the valuable Prairie Wetlands of north-central Iowa.

# Census 2020

The daunting task of counting the United States population every decade plays an important role in determining the amount of seats each state has in the House of Representatives as well as helps determine how billions of federal dollars will be spent in the coming years.

The count for the 2020 Census is underway and Iowa ranks #6 nationwide in regards to responses. The state of Iowa has a 69.1% self-response rate so far as the Census Bureau starts its process of canvassing homes.

NIACOG's 8-county region self-response rate by county:

Cerro Gordo: 65.9% Floyd: 68.9% Hancock: 68.9% Winnebago: 70% Worth: 69.1%

NIACOG's 8-county region is above 50% in response rate in all counties. Mitchell County is ranked #16 in response rate according to the Census Bureau.

The Census Bureau has also begun the process of reaching out to households who haven't responded. Census takers started reaching out on July 16<sup>th</sup> to a select number of areas and have been adding areas in the following weeks. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, census takers have completed training on safety protocols and will be required to wear face masks and follow local public health guidelines. Nationwide, 75% of households have responded to the Census, with 16% through Census takers and 64% via self-response.



## PLANNING & ZONING WORKSHOP

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach will be providing online planning and zoning workshops this fall. The cost to participate is \$45 per registrant or \$35 each if a city or county registers five or more.

The dates and times for these workshops are:

- Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2020, 1-4 pm
- Tuesday, Oct. 13, 2020, 1-4 pm



The Introduction to Planning and Zoning for Local Officials workshop is a threehour session designed to introduce the basic principles of land use planning and development management to elected officials, planning and zoning officials, and board of adjustment members without formal training in the subjects. Using case scenarios in a highly-interactive format, the workshop highlights issues frequently faced in the land use process, such as the roles and responsibilities of the planning and zoning commission, the board of adjustment, and the elected council and board of supervisors. It also will highlight legal issues frequently faced by local officials, such as variances, special uses, nonconforming uses, spot zoning, hearing procedures, and conflicts of interest.

Details about registering can be found at the link below:

https://www.extension.iastate.edu/ communities/intro-planning-andzoning-workshops



The Community Visioning Program provides small Iowa communities (fewer than 10,000 residents) with the planning and design resources needed to make meaningful transportation improvements to the local landscape during and following completion of a visioning process. The goal is to integrate landscape planning and design with sustainable action to empower community leaders and volunteers in making sound, meaningful decisions.

The visioning process would need to be anchored by a committee of local residents. This committee would work closely with technical experts from Trees Forever, a private-sector land-scape architect, and the Iowa State University Department of Landscape Architecture to create a transportation enhancement plan reflecting the values and identity of the community.

Throughout the process, the committee identifies and investigates the physical and cultural dimensions of landscape issues, sets goals for change, and develops implementation strategies for meeting community goals.

Information about applying can be found here:

http://www.communityvisioning.org/apply/

