



Improvements done by NIACOG's Housing Trust Fund.

NIACOG NEWS

VOLUME 33 ISSUE 6

November– December 2021



ARPA and Housing

What are you doing with your American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds? One option is to use the funds to improve your community's aging housing stock. Since the funds utilized for housing must benefit low-to-moderate income recipients, you might consider utilizing your local Housing Trust Fund to deliver housing improvements to your community. The two Housing Trust Funds in the NIACOG region are the NIACOG Housing Trust Fund and Homeward, Inc. NIACOG typically targets households under 60% AMI, and Homeward assists households under 80% AMI. (ARPA housing projects must focus on households under 60% AMI or those in a qualified Census Tracts) Projects can be tailored to your community needs. (New construction, rehab, etc.)

The Housing Trust Funds have experienced impacts due to COVID. The unprecedented cost increases in building materials and lack of product availability has impacted the number of households being served in communities. Partnering with the trust funds would enable them to do what they do best and assist LMI households while improving your housing stock.

If partnering with the Housing Trust Funds to expend your ARPA funds sounds intriguing, reach out to Heidi at the NIACOG off or Cheryl at the Homeward, Inc. office to determine whether or not your priorities align with theirs. This is an opportunity to get creative and identify your community's housing needs.

CALENDAR

November

Nov. 11– Veterans Day
Office Closed

Nov. 19– City Clerk's Meeting
9:30AM

Nov. 25-26– Thanksgiving
Office Closed



December

Dec. 7– Pearl Harbor
Remembrance Day

Dec. 9– Executive Board
Meeting 12:00 PM

Dec. 24– Christmas
Office Closed

Dec. 31– New Years
Office Closed

American Rescue Plan Act—Flexible Uses and Calculation for ‘Lost Revenue’

The most flexible use of American Rescue Plan Act funding is offered by a category referred to as ‘Lost Revenue’ or ‘Recoupment’. This category allows the expenditure of funding on almost any government services expenditure. To determine whether a community can take advantage of this flexible approach depends on whether the community can demonstrate that they had less than a 4.1% increase in revenues. The following instructions and the worksheet after it can assist with this calculation.

STEPS FOR CALCULATING LOST REVENUE

Step 1: Identify actual revenues collected in the base year. Include all general revenue, but exclude refunds, correcting transactions, proceeds from debts, utilities, insurance trusts) AND include transfers of funds from the state to local government, but exclude federal transfers of funds and recovery funding)

Step 2: Estimate the counterfactual revenue. Use the calculation worksheet link below OR manually calculate Counterfactual revenue, which is equal to **base-year revenue * [(1 + growth adjustment) ^ (n/12)]**, where n is the number of months elapsed since the end of the base year to the calculation date, and growth adjustment is the greater of 4.1% and the recipient’s average annual revenue growth in the three full fiscal years prior to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Step 3: Identify actual revenue collected over the past 12 months as of the calculation date.

Step 4: Calculate the reduction in revenue, which is equal to the counterfactual revenue (from Step 2 above) less the actual revenue. Note: If actual revenue (from Step 3 above) exceeds counterfactual revenue, the extent of the reduction in revenue is set to zero for that calculation date.

CALCULATION WORKSHEET: A worksheet to guide you through the calculation process can be found at the following link: https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwi2_92ZveDyAhWbKs0KHcFiBaYQFnoECBAQAAQ&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.masc.sc%2FSiteCollectionDocuments%2FFinance%2FGFOA-Rev-Calculator.xlsx&usq=AQvVaw0S3dW7JX2vaLWhayDc4Wcs

GENERAL REVENUE COMPONENTS: For a detailed diagram of revenue to include as ‘General Revenue’, refer to Page 42 of the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Frequently Asked Questions (AS OF JULY 19, 2021) [SLFRPFAQ.pdf \(treasury.gov\)](#).

CALCULATION NOTES: In calculating the loss there are a few things to keep in mind according to the U.S. Treasury FAQ:

- Recipients are permitted to calculate the extent of reduction in revenue as of four points in time: December 31, 2020; December 31, 2021; December 31, 2022; and December 31, 2023. This approach recognizes that some recipients may experience lagged effects of the pandemic on revenues.
- Recipients should calculate revenue on an entity-wide basis. This approach minimizes the administrative burden for recipients, provides for greater consistency across recipients, and presents a more accurate representation of the net impact of the COVID- 19 public health emergency on a recipient’s revenue, rather than relying on financial reporting prepared by each recipient, which vary in methodology used and which generally aggregates revenue by purpose rather than by source.
- Audited financial are not required. Where audited data is not available, recipients are not required to obtain audited data. Treasury expects all information submitted to be complete and accurate. See 31 CFR 35.4(c).

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ARPA Recoupment 101 Continued...

Recipients should use their own data sources to calculate general revenue, and do not need to rely on published revenue data from the Census Bureau. Treasury acknowledges that due to differences in timing, data sources, and definitions, recipients' self-reported general revenue figures may differ somewhat from those published by the Census Bureau.

Recipients may provide data on a cash, accrual, or modified accrual basis, provided that recipients are consistent in their choice of methodology throughout the covered period and until reporting is no longer required.

Your City has a revenue loss, now what??

According to U.S. Treasury FAQ 3.8, if there is a loss, funds may be used for government services such as:

- Maintenance of infrastructure or pay-go spending for building new infrastructure, including roads
- Modernization of cybersecurity, including hardware, software and protection of critical infrastructure
- Health services
- Environmental remediation
- School or educational services
- The provision of police, fire and other public safety services

Excluded uses:

Funds cannot be used for debt service, replenish rainy day funds or similar reserves, make pension deposits or pay settlements and judgments.



Butchery Innovation and Revitalization Fund.

Governor Kim Reynolds passed the Butchery and Revitalization fund into Iowa legislature and was signed on June 9, 2021. This fund offers \$750,000 to be appropriated to the expansion, refurbishing or establishing of a butchery facility. These facilities could include: small-scale meat processing, licensed custom lockers, and mobile slaughter units.

Each business may be granted up to \$50,000 and requires \$50,000 of matching funds from a private source.

Application deadline is November 15, 2021.



Funding Available for Rural Communities

In October, Governor Reynolds and the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) have announced four new competitive grants for rural populated communities with 20,000 people or less.

The four grants are:

Rural Innovation Grant Program- This grant provides up to \$200,000 to rural communities that face challenges with a focus of community investment, growth and connection.

Rural Housing Assessment Grant Program- Provides up to \$100,000 to support changes to developmental codes, local ordinances and housing incentives specific to the needs of the community as states by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

Rural Child Care Market Study Grant Program- First Children's Finance is partnering with IEDA to help fund up to \$100,000 to collect data and analysis of rural community child care markets and develop strategies to empower the communities.

Rural Return Program- Up to \$100,000 to support the creation of a program to attract new residents to come and work or live in the rural community.

Applications are being accepted until December 1, 2021. Application and guidelines can be found on iowagrants.gov.



Paint Iowa Beautiful Grant Program Open for 2022 Applications

Keep Iowa Beautiful and Diamond Vogel Paint are pleased to announce the 2022 Paint Iowa Beautiful program. The program provides free paint to a wide variety of community projects throughout Iowa. Administered through Keep Iowa Beautiful with the paint provided by the Diamond Vogel Paint Company.

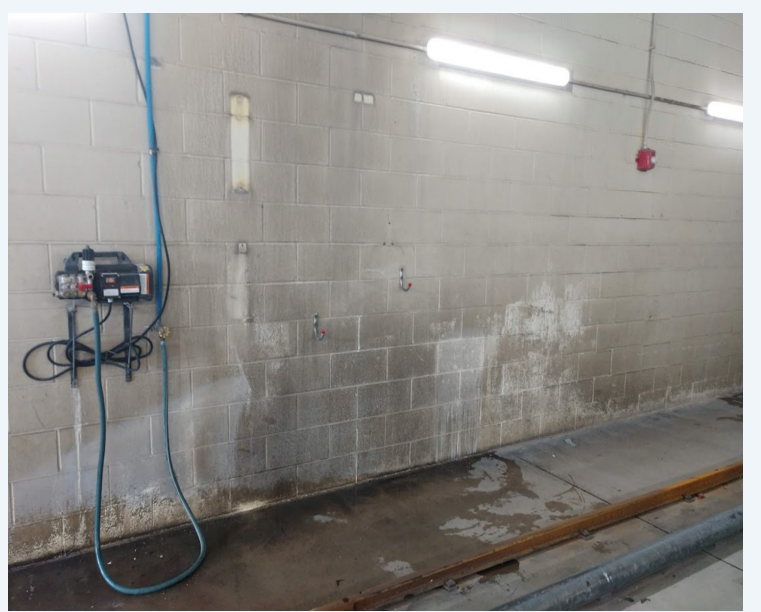
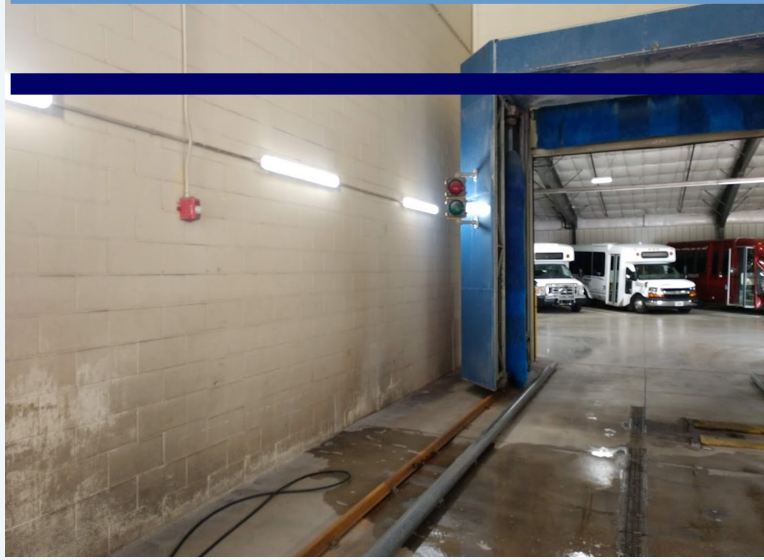
"The partnership with Keep Iowa Beautiful allows Diamond Vogel to assist and work with many local volunteers that help build communities, making Iowa a great place to live," said Doug Vogel, Vice President, Marketing, of the Iowa based company. "This is a great opportunity for Iowans to improve the attractiveness of their community."

Kevin Techau, Executive Director of Keep Iowa Beautiful added, "The Paint Iowa Beautiful program helps increase our assistance to communities, neighborhoods, historic projects and volunteer organizations improve attractiveness and beauty across Iowa."

In the 19-year partnership with Keep Iowa Beautiful, Diamond Vogel has awarded over 11,860 gallons of paint for 1,132 community projects in Iowa.

The online grant application is now open to Iowans and can be completed and submitted by February 14, 2022.

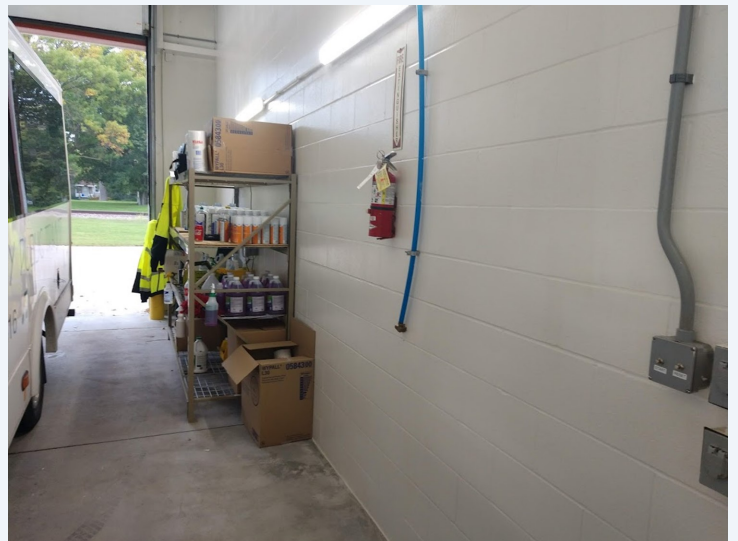
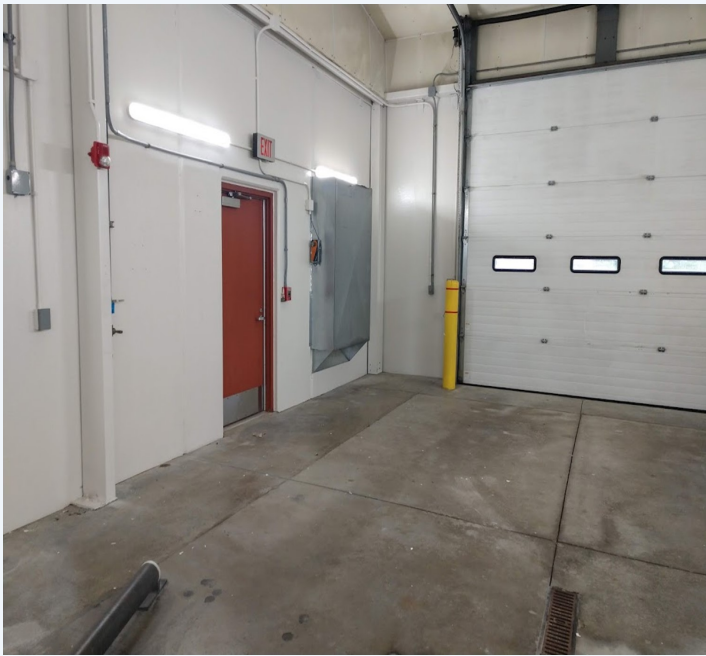




Wash Bay Before Renovations

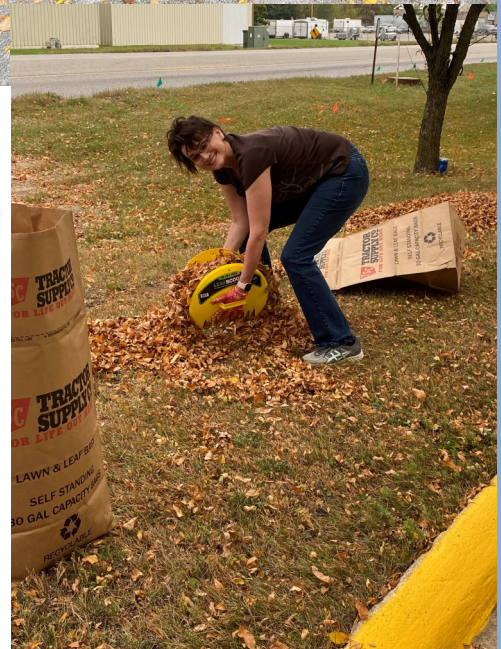


Wash Bay AFTER Renovations





A "Glimpse
behind the
curtain."





Once again this year, the Region 2 Transit System is accepting donations to “sponsor rides” as gift giving for the holiday season. Tickets can be purchased in books of ten for \$10.00, and they will be placed in a holiday card and given to our riders in need throughout the entire Region.

Donations can be left at the Dispatch office of the Region 2 Transit System at 525 6th Street S.W., Mason City IA. For more information, please contact Teresa Collins, Operations Manager @ (641) 423-0491 x222 or email: tcollins@niacog.org .





Happy Holidays

Devolutions

Wishing you and your family a Happy Holiday season from the team at NIACOG.

Cheers to the New Year!



Holiday Wassail

- 1/2 Gal apple cider
- 1 (46 fluid ounces) can pineapple juice
- 46 fluid ounces cranberry juice cocktail
- 1 orange, thinly sliced
- 5 cinnamon sticks
- 1 tablespoon whole allspice berries
- 1 tablespoon whole cloves

Pour apple cider, pineapple juice, and cranberry juice into a stockpot. Place orange slices, cinnamon sticks, allspice berries, and cloves in a muslin pouch or directly into the apple cider mixture. Bring apple cider mixture to a boil; reduce heat and simmer until flavors have blended, 15 to 20 minutes. Remove orange slices and spices before serving.

ALLRECIPES.COM



It is with great sadness that North Iowa Area Council of Governments announces the passing of our Board Chair James A. Erb on Friday November 5, 2021.

Jim was a Board member on NIACOG's Board for over 20 years. He has served as the Board Chair two times (2011-2012 & 2020-2021) in his time with our organization. Jim was also very involved in his community and surrounding communities around North Iowa. Jim's commitment and compassion to the Boards he served on is going to be missed.

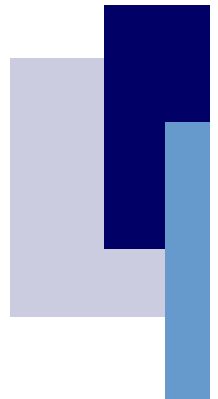


James A. Erb, 80, of Charles City, passed away Friday, November 5, 2021.

A funeral Mass for Jim Erb will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, November 12 at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Charles City with Father Tom Heathershaw officiating. Inurnment will be at a later date at St. Mary Catholic Cemetery in Roseville. A luncheon at the Columbus Club in Charles City will immediately follow the funeral Mass.

Friends may call from 5 to 8 p.m. Thursday, November 11, 2021 at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 106 Chapel Ln. in Charles City. Visitation will continue one hour prior to Mass on Friday.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the Charles City YMCA Foundation or TLC "The Learning Center" in Charles City in honor of Jim.



Grant opportunities for vacant or underutilized downtown buildings

Downtown Housing Grant

\$20 million in financial assistance is available for downtown housing through the Iowa Economic Development Authority. Eligible applicants for the newly created Downtown Housing Grant is specifically for any City with a population under 30,000. Projects creating up to nine rental units are eligible for between \$100,000 and \$300,000 dollars while projects creating 10 or more units are eligible for between \$100,000 and \$600,000. Project focus is on new upper story housing in existing downtown buildings. Vacant school buildings or other large underutilized buildings in the downtown area will also be considered. Example expenses include upper story rehabilitation, structural stabilization, exterior improvements, or code enforcement improvements. Please contact NIACOG staff if you have any questions about building eligibility. Applications are due January 31, 2022.



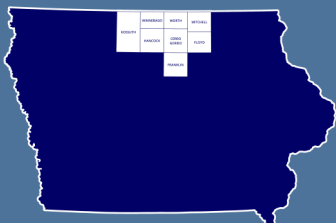
Community Catalyst Grant Opportunity

Does your community have an underutilized or vacant building that has the potential to become a “catalyst” to economic development? The Community Catalyst grant may be worth looking into. The state currently has \$1,000,000



budgeted though the allocation usually is increased every year due to the popularity of the program. IEDA recently conducted a workshop where IEDA staff explained the program. They indicated the ideal project would be located in the downtown and currently be vacant or underutilized. The goal of the program is to spur economic growth, increase property values, or increase housing opportunities. A strong application will have financial or in-kind support from the community. TIF or Tax Abatement can be used for local support. Pre-applications are due to the state by January 28, 2022 with full

applications upon invitation are due April 15, 2022. It will be expected that projects would begin soon after awarded.



North Iowa Area Council of Governments

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