



A Bright Look Ahead™

# The Update

Serving Cass, Fremont, Harrison, Montgomery, Page,  
Pottawattamie, and Shelby Counties

**SWIPCO · Southwest Iowa Planning Council-Region XIII**

May 2010

## **CDBG HOUSING REHABILITATION AWARDS ANNOUNCED**

The Iowa Department of Economic Development recently announced awards for owner-occupied housing rehabilitation projects through the Community Development Block Grant -Housing (CDBG-HSG) fund.

Two cities in southwest Iowa received funding for projects.

The city of Avoca received \$378,000 for rehabilitation of ten single-family, owner-occupied units in the southwest portion of the city.

The city of Griswold received \$388,000 for the rehabilitation of ten single-family, owner-occupied units in an area from Main Street to Fifth Street.

These projects assist cities in bringing single-family, owner-occupied housing units, within the target area, up to minimum housing quality standards. This can include repair/replacement of various items including roof, windows, siding, furnace, air conditioner, electrical, plumbing, foundation, interior

repairs, etc.

The grant is provided to homes in the form of a five-year forgivable loan. If the homeowner lives in the house for five years following the completion of the project, the loan is 100% forgiven.

If your city is interested in applying for a CDBG housing rehabilitation project, please contact Jeremy Middents at 1-866-279-4720 or [jeremy.middents@swipco.org](mailto:jeremy.middents@swipco.org).

## **TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ACTIVITIES APPROVED**

The Regional Planning Affiliate 13 (Cass, Fremont, Montgomery, and Page Counties) Policy Board reviewed and approved several transportation planning activities on April 8.

The FY2011-2014 Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) was one of the plans approved. The TIP allocates local, state, and federal funding for various highway improvement projects and other transportation related grant funds such as Transportation Enhancement, Safe Routes to School, or State Recreational Trails. This programming is the first step necessary for a highway improvement or transportation project to proceed through state and federal funding approval and beginning construction.

The FY 2011 Passenger Transportation Plan (PTP) also was approved at the April 8 meeting. The PTP coordinates area transit services and health and human service agencies to develop projects necessary to meet the transit needs of clients and residents. The PTP also covers the RPA 18 area including Harrison, Mills, Pottawattamie, and Shelby counties. Proposed projects include replacement of SWITA transit vehicles, expansion of the City of Atlantic taxi coupon program, additional service hours for the City of Harlan taxi, and the construction of a bus storage facility to protect SWITA vehicles.

Three transportation enhancement projects received funding through RPA 13. The City of Red Oak will receive

\$74,240 to pave Section 1 of the Red Oak Trail System. The IDNR/Lake Anita State Park is receiving \$34,450 to complete the Lake Anita Trail. Nishna Valley Trails is receiving \$46,743 for an engineering study to link Schildberg Recreational Area to the T-Bone Trail.

Finally, the FY 2011 Transportation Planning Work Program (TPWP) was approved. The TPWP outlines how regional transportation planning funds are to be utilized throughout the fiscal year and includes such items as the above listed activities and special transit projects and local trails plans.

Contact Courtney Harter at 1-866-279-4720 or [Courtney.harter@swipco.org](mailto:Courtney.harter@swipco.org) for more information.

**EMPLOYMENT HANDBOOKS AVAILABLE**

The Iowa Association of Regional Councils, along with Von Bokern Associates, is offering the latest edition of *The Employment Law Handbook* to Iowa cities and counties.

This handbook is a personnel summary guide for

Iowa cities and counties and addresses issues relating to Hiring, Workplace Administration, and Termination for public employers.

The original handbook was written in 1995 and has been updated 3 times, previously in 2005. Since that

time many human resource issues have changed dramatically. Some of these changes include Age Discrimination, ADA, FLSA, FMLA and numerous other issues of concern.

The updated copies are available for \$125 by con-

tacting Tammy DeBord at 712-243-4196.



**GRANT APPLICATIONS DEADLINE**

<b>Grant</b>	<b>Funding Uses</b>	<b>Eligible Applicants</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
Iowa West Foundation (IWF)	Construction or modification of structures in natural disaster areas	Local Governments	July 1
Community Attraction & Tourism (CAT)	Tourism and recreation infrastructure projects	Local Governments & nonprofits	July 15
River Enhancement Community Attraction and Tourism (RECAT)	Recreation projects around rivers and lakes within cities	Local governments & nonprofits	July 15
Federal Recreational Trails	Development & maintenance of motorized and non-motorized recreational trails	Local Governments & nonprofits	Approximately October 1
Safe Routes to School	For educational safety programs, sidewalks, crosswalks	Local governments	Approximately October 1
Statewide Transportation Enhancement	Enhance transportation through trails, historic, archeological, scenic, or environmental projects	Local governments	Approximately October 1
CDBG Housing	Housing rehabilitation, homeownership assistance	Local governments	Approximately November 15
CDBG Water/Sewer	Water & Sewer systems	Local governments	Approximately November 15
CDBG Community Facilities	Child care centers, community centers, homeless shelters, etc.	Local governments	Approximately December 15

## LEAD BASE PAINT TESTING PROGRAM

Southwest Iowa Planning Council (SWIPCO) now offers Lead Based Paint Testing for homes built prior to 1978 in southwest Iowa.

An average 6.1% of children under the age of 6 in southwest Iowa are diagnosed with lead poisoning, and the main source is lead based paint. This is well above the national average of 1.6% and the state aver-

age of 5.9%.

According to Jeremy Middents, SWIPCO Housing Director, "we identify lead based paint risks for southwest Iowa, which helps the high number of children with elevated blood lead levels. This program will identify hazards that cause lead poisoning.

Testing is completely safe and reliable; no surfaces

will be disturbed in the testing process. A certified Lead Inspector/Risk Assessor will use an X-Ray Fluorescence (XRF) device to test painted surfaces and soil surrounding the home.

SWIPCO will provide a complete report with details of the test results, condition of painted surfaces, and potential presence of lead base paint within two weeks of testing. If lead is

detected, actions that can be taken to reduce hazards will be included with the report.

SWIPCO is providing this service at a minimal fee, with a discount for income qualified families.

For more information please contact Jeremy Middents at 1-866-279-4720 or jeremy.middents@swipco.org.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

To  
Jeremy Middents  
Housing Director  
May 28

### Save the Date!

Southwest Iowa Planning Council  
35th Annual Meeting  
THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 30!  
Fountains Ballroom  
Glenwood, IA

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

To  
Christy Bates, Transit Assistant  
May 21  
THREE YEARS!!

## CEDS IMPLEMENTATION

In 2009 SWIPCO completed the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), an economic development plan for the southwest Iowa region. The plan outlined several overall goals for the region, specifically: Educate the southwest Iowa workforce to meet the demands of the 21st century; develop the housing stock necessary for economic development; develop the infrastructure necessary for economic growth; finance development; encourage growth in the recreation and tourism industries; and facilitate cooperation and collaboration among economic development groups.

SWIPCO has been actively working to implement these goals through a number of projects. These include Economic Development Set Aside grant applications for two industries in our region. In addition to the traditional grant writing and planning, SWIPCO also is working directly with local non-profit groups to develop strategic plans for their organizations. These plans help them be more effective organizations and focus their resources on more specific goals. These include the Cass County Tourism Council and the Cass County Cultivators, a local foods advocacy group. Also, SWIPCO partnered with the City of Anita and the

Anita Development Corporation to work on a strategic plan for development in Anita, which is focused on housing and infrastructure. Currently, these activities are occurring predominantly in Cass County, but SWIPCO staff is available to work with groups throughout the region to help them achieve the goals outlined in the 2009 CEDS plan. If your organization would like the assistance of SWIPCO to develop a plan or work to develop and implement a project, please contact us. We'd be happy to work with you and your local economic development groups to find a solution that is right for you.

## MANAGING YOUR INFRASTRUCTURE SEMINAR

Southwest Iowa Planning Council is sponsoring FREE seminars for city and county officials throughout southwest Iowa. HB Calvert, Dennis Siders, and Mike Brownfield with Midwest Assistance Program are presenting the program.

These seminars include such topics as operations and maintenance plans, managing your infrastructure, hiring a professional, when to ask ques-

tions, and tips on financial record keeping.

All city clerks, councilmen, mayors, county supervisors, and public works officials are encouraged to attend this great seminar, with plenty of information for everyone.

According to MJ Broomfield, SWIPCO Executive Director, “the demands placed on small communities causes as much, if not more, anxiety to our small community leaders as it

does to their counter parts in larger communities. We want to provide all the help and information needed to help them make informed decisions, and that is what these seminars are about.”

A free breakfast is served before each remaining meeting, at 8 a.m. The seminars begin at 8:30 and will finish by noon. The remaining two seminars are listed below with dates and locations. If

you were unable to attend the seminar held in your county, we strongly encourage you to attend one of the two remaining seminars.

Please RSVP by Wednesday May 19 for both seminars.

For more information, or to RSVP, please contact Ryan Fincel at 1-866-279-4720 or [ryan.fincel@swipco.org](mailto:ryan.fincel@swipco.org).

Date	Time	Location	Address
May 25	8:30 a.m.	Carson Community Center	316 S. Commercial St., Carson, IA, 51525
May 26	8:30 a.m.	Mills County Engineers Office	403 Railroad Ave., Glenwood, IA, 51534

### What people in Southwest Iowa are saying about these seminars...

**Lynda Cruickshank, Fremont County Economic Development Chair**, had this to share. “I am thrilled that the Fremont County Supervisors attended this training to demonstrate their commitment to planning for the future. Any city council member who cares about their community should make every effort to attend this type of program. The material covered and the consultant available at the training were excellent– and free!”

**Byron Harris, Shenandoah City Administrator**, said, “This seminar was extremely interesting. It had many valid points that I can use in my community. Those officials and cities that didn’t take advantage of this opportunity miss out on beneficial information that is vital to our communities. Every city has some type of ongoing project, big or small. Public officials have the duty and obligation to be part of any type of training that assists them in making better informed decisions. This seminar was well worth my time and I would sign up again in the future.”



**Faithfully serving the needs  
of our counties and cities for 35 years!**

## HMGP EXTENSIONS & FEMA MONEY AWARDED

A grant deadline has been extended, and additional FEMA money was awarded to the state of Iowa.

The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) deadlines for projects requesting funding through the 2008 disaster

declaration DR-1763 is extended to November 1, 2010.

In addition, FEMA disaster funding was awarded as part of the Presidential disaster declarations DR-1877 and DR-1880. These disaster

declarations are the result of severe winter storms and snow that occurred in our state in the winter of 2009/2010. The deadline for applications for DR-1877 is January 24, 2011 and DR-1880 is February 28, 2011.

Interested parties should submit a project specific Notice of Interest form to [hsemd.mitigation@iowa.gov](mailto:hsemd.mitigation@iowa.gov).

For a complete list of eligible projects and applicants please contact John McCurdy or Courtney Harter at 1-866-279-4720.

## IOWA LEAGUE OF CITIES SMALL CITIES WORKSHOP

The Iowa League of Cities is hosting a Small City Workshop in Anita on June 8.

SWIPCO staff will present the first topic; small city economic development. Staff from the League of Cities will present the second topic; city council and staff relations.

The workshop will take place at the Anita Community Center and begins at 5:30 p.m. It is expected to finish by 8 p.m.

Registration is \$30/person for league members and \$40/person for non-members. A third registration is free with two paid

registrations. Dinner is included in the registration fee, as well.

Registrations are due to the League of Cities by June 1.

For more information, or to download a registration form, please go to [www.iowaleague.org](http://www.iowaleague.org).



## PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Southwest Iowa Housing Trust Fund is in their 2010 Partnership drive.

The Partnership Program is a large part of the SWIHTF. The contributions made by the partners leverage the state and federal grant funds received.

Partners are counties, cities, real estate agencies, banks, contractors, and anyone that believes in our mission to "improve affordable housing

options in southwest Iowa."

SWIHTF works toward that mission in numerous ways, including housing repairs; mortgage buy down assistance; purchase, rehab, and resell; rental repair; and demolition of blighted property.

To become a Partner, or for more information, please contact Jeremy Middents at [swipco@swipco.org](mailto:swipco@swipco.org) or 712-243-4196.

### LEVELS OF PARTICIPATION

Diamond Membership ~ \$1,000+

Gold Membership ~ \$600-\$999

Silver Membership ~ \$300-\$599

Bronze Membership ~ \$100-\$299

*SWIHTF is a tax exempt non-profit 501(c)(3) organization*

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

- **Hamburg**— Hamburg Kiwana’s Club is sponsoring the Culpepper-Merriweather Circus Wednesday May 19th. Shows are at 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. For tickets or more information please call Hamburg City Hall at 712-382-1313.
- **Atlantic**— The Atlantic Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring Pianopalooza on Thursday May 20 in the city park. A free dinner will be served from 5-7 p.m., and the concert will be 6:30-8:30 p.m. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets for an evening of free entertainment!
- **Elk Horn**— Elk Horn is celebrating their 100th birthday at their annual Tivoli Fest celebration May 29 and 30. Activities include a parade with best decorated human powered vehicle contest, beard & mustache contest, centennial bonnet contest, Danish folk dancing, entertainment stage, tours of the Danish windmill and museum, numerous vendors, and lots of Danish food. For more information visit [www.elkhorniowa.com](http://www.elkhorniowa.com).
- **Clarinda**— Clarinda is celebrating their 35th Annual Glenn Miller Festival June 10-13. Included in the festivities this year is the Grand Opening of the Glenn Miller Birthplace Museum. Other activities include big band concerts, stage shows, Glenn Miller Orchestra, and a big band dance. For more information visit [www.glennmiller.org](http://www.glennmiller.org).
- **Nishnabotna Water Trail Grand Opening**—This exciting event starts in Avoca and ends in Macedonia. Activities include the Pancake Man, ribbon cutting, sand castle building, river race, and kayak demonstrations. For a complete list of activities, more information, or to register for the River Race, please go to [www.carsonia.com](http://www.carsonia.com).



## DATES TO REMEMBER

- SWIHTF meeting, Tues. May 18 at 10 a.m. in Atlantic
- SWIPCO Policy Council Meeting is Thurs. May 27 at 1:30 p.m. in Atlantic
- SWIPCO Policy Council meeting Thursday June 24 at 1:30 p.m. in Atlantic
- SWIPCO Budget Committee meeting is Thurs. May 27 at 11 a.m. in Atlantic
- SWIPCO/SWITA offices closed on Mon. May 31 in observance of Memorial Day
- SWIPCO/SWITA offices closed on Mon. July 5 in observance of Independence Day
- June 20 is Father’s Day

### SWIPCO Policy Council

#### Cass County

Frank Waters

Dave Jones

#### Fremont County

Earl Hendrickson

Pat Shull

#### Harrison County

Gaylord Pitt

Sherman Struble

#### Mills County

Richard Crouch

#### Montgomery County

Donna Robinson

Brad Wright

#### Page County

James Richardson

Byron Harris

#### Shelby County

James Burmeister

Terry Arentson

#### Pottawattamie County

Lynn Grobe

#### At-Large

Dorothy Duran

Karen Goehring

Mike Kolbe

MJ Broomfield	Executive Director	Kelly Davis	Transit Coordinator	Sarah Jespersen	Transit Assistant
Mike Albin	Community Development	Tammy DeBord	Administrative Assistant	Karen Mauer	Finance Manager
Christy Bates	Transit Assistant	Ryan Finsel	Community Coordinator	John McCurdy	Community Development
Jeff Beckner	Transit Director	Mark Hansen	Fleet Mechanic	Jeremy Middents	Housing Director
Crystal Cappel	Finance Director	Sandy Hansen	Housing Specialist	Dave Riedemann	Housing Programs Administrator
		Courtney Harter	Community Development	Teresa Wright	Transit Assistant

