

# THE ORGANIZATION

## *East Central Intergovernmental Association*



East Central Intergovernmental Association (ECIA) is a membership supported organization comprised of local governmental bodies in five counties: Cedar, Clinton, Delaware, Dubuque, and Jackson.

The mission of ECIA is to work with member governments, their citizens and others to empower communities and enhance the quality of life throughout the region.

ECIA exists because of the need for local governments facing similar problems to cooperate in finding solutions. Through ECIA, local government members share resources that they could not afford individually. The cooperative effort of neighboring governments also means greater efficiency and quality in solving regional problems.

The key purposes of ECIA are to

- provide benefits to members;
- provide a forum for discussion, exchange and dissemination of ideas amongst members;
- administer federal and state programs, provide administrative expertise, provide staffing expertise to member governments;
- provide knowledge, awareness of opportunities;
- provide needed services to a wide range of people and entities;
- provide a vehicle to reach more people within the region;
- assist with improving the quality of life for citizens;
- maintain accessibility to services at affordable rates;
- provide information to policy makers, both state and local; and
- assist in the maintenance of local control and decision making.

The services and programs provided by ECIA cover five broad categories: Community Development, Economic Development, Housing Assistance, Employment and Training, and Transportation and Planning.

# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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ECIA assists in community development by providing management assistance in several vital areas.

## *Grant & Loan Applications*

ECIA assists local governments obtain grants and loans through federal and state agencies. These funds are critical to funding projects such as water, wastewater, and storm sewer systems, housing rehabilitation, homeownership assistance programs, community facilities and services projects, streets and curb/gutter, recreational facilities, libraries, group homes, daycare facilities and imminent threat and/or emergency projects. ECIA has assisted local governments in obtaining more than \$77 million in Federal grants and loans in projects totaling nearly \$118 million since 1975.

## *Grant Administration*

ECIA administers grants for local governments. This assistance is especially important regarding the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Program, which involve compliance with complex State and Federal regulations.

## *Technical Assistance*

ECIA provides assistance and information to public officials concerning preparation of budgets, financial reports, city codes and ordinances, personnel policies, comprehensive and land use plans, zoning ordinances, annexation and disincorporation petitions, incorporation, community builder plans, housing needs assessment studies, hazard mitigation programs and plans, Response 2020 plans, and special studies related to the general well-being of the community.

# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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## *Utility Billing and Accounting Systems Services*

Through the development of an accounting template, ECIA enhances the financial capabilities of small cities by downloading the template for their use. The template uses the state-mandated chart of accounts and enables cities to generate budget and financial reports in state-required formats. The software can also be used to generate utility billing invoices. ECIA provides on-site training in the use of the software, and offers continued maintenance and support.

## *Building Inspections*

ECIA provides inspections for building, electrical, and mechanical codes to assist cities in ensuring quality construction standards are being met.

## *ECIA Data Center*

ECIA is a U.S. Census Depository. In this capacity, the agency maintains and distributes to its members census information and other documentation issued by both the State and Federal governments.

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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ECIA was designated as a Regional Economic Development District in 1978 by the U.S. Department of Commerce and the Governor of Iowa. This designation means that ECIA is a focal point for economic development assistance in the region.

E.C.I.A. Business Growth, Inc. was established in 1983 as a non-profit Certified Development Corporation (CDC) for the purpose of promoting the expansion of area businesses and the creation of new jobs. E.C.I.A. Business Growth, Inc. operates business loan programs including the SBA 504 program and several Revolving Loan Funds (RLFs): Economic Development Administration Revolving Loan Fund, Jackson County Revolving Loan Fund, Dubuque County Intermediary Revolving Loan Fund, and ECIA Regional Revolving Loan Fund. The RLFs were capitalized from various sources including the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

A Board of Directors governs the CDC, and ECIA provides staff and services. Since 1983, the Board of Directors has approved \$32,604,579 in loans resulting in the creation or retention of 3,912 jobs.

### *SBA 504 Program*

The SBA 504 program is a loan program that ECIA provides in cooperation with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and the local banking community. ECIA is currently providing 10- and 20-year fixed rate loans to businesses. ECIA will finance fixed assets such as land, buildings, and equipment. The downpayment on each loan application can be as low as 10%.

### *Economic Development Administration Revolving Loan Fund*

The EDA Revolving Loan Fund was funded by a \$375,000 grant from EDA and a \$125,000 local match, and was recapitalized with grant and local match funds of \$425,000. Businesses from all five counties are eligible to apply for loans up to \$200,000 at a low interest rate. The primary objective of the program is

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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private sector job creation and capital formation for expansion or start-up projects and has a goal of creating or retaining one job for each \$15,000 lent.

### *Jackson County Revolving Loan Fund*

The Jackson County Revolving Loan Fund targets manufacturing and service industries in Jackson County who need financing for fixed assets such as land, buildings, and equipment. This fund has a goal of creating or retaining one job for each \$15,000 lent.

### *Dubuque County Intermediary Revolving Loan Fund*

The Dubuque County Intermediary Revolving Loan Fund was funded by a \$1,000,000 loan from USDA and a \$250,000 Dubuque County match. Businesses in Dubuque County outside the City of Dubuque are eligible to apply for loans up to \$225,000 at a low interest rate. The fund requires that one job be created or retained for each \$15,000 lent.

### *ECIA Regional Revolving Loan Fund*

The ECIA Regional Revolving Loan Fund was funded by a \$750,000 loan from USDA and a \$187,000 local match from E.C.I.A. Business Growth, Inc. and each of the five member counties. For-profit businesses from all five counties are eligible to apply for loans up to \$187,000 at a subsidized interest rate. The regional fund targets manufacturers and has a goal of creating or retaining one job for each \$50,000 lent.

### *Additional Programs*

ECIA staff also assists member governments and economic development organizations with the recruitment and retention of industry through its grant writing and servicing expertise for such programs as CEBA, CDBG EDSA, CDBG PFSA, RISE, TIF and EDA Public Works grants.

*E.C.I.A. Business Growth, Inc., is an equal opportunity provider.*

# HOUSING ASSISTANCE

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The mission of the Eastern Iowa Regional Housing Authority (EIRHA) is to provide decent, safe, sanitary and affordable rental housing for eligible families and to provide opportunities and promote self-sufficiency, homeownership opportunities and economic independence for Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) participants and public housing residents.

## *Public Housing*

The Public Housing program provides housing owned and maintained by EIRHA. EIRHA owns and manages 166 rental units in Clinton, Delaware, Dubuque and Jackson Counties. These public housing units consist of apartments, duplexes and single-family homes to provide housing for low-income families, seniors, and persons with disabilities. Participants in the program pay a minimum of 30% of their adjusted income toward rent and utilities or \$50, whichever is greater. Monthly rental payments are made directly to EIRHA.

## *Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher*

The Section 8 HCV program subsidizes rents using properties owned by private landlords. EIRHA is authorized to assist 883 households with rental assistance in a six-county region. Participating households pay a minimum of 30% of their adjusted income toward rent and utilities or \$50, whichever is greater. The rental unit must pass a Housing Quality Standard inspection and fall within the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Payment Standard Schedule.

## *Family Self-Sufficiency*

The Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program is designed to promote employment and offer an opportunity to save money among families receiving housing assistance through the Section 8 HCV or Public Housing programs.

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## *Elderly Self-Sufficiency*

This program is designed to promote self-sufficiency to elderly individuals who participate in the Section 8 HCV or Public Housing programs through social activities, emotional support, and connecting them to appropriate resources in the community.

## *Public Housing Homeownership*

Through the EIRHA Homeownership program, EIRHA will sell public housing units to first-time home buying low-income households participating in one of our housing programs.

## *Section 8 HCV Homeownership*

Regulations permit Public Housing Authorities to use a portion of their HCV funding for homeownership assistance. Monthly rental assistance can be used to assist households with a portion of their mortgage payment rather than a portion of their monthly rent.

## *Eastern Iowa Regional Housing Corporation*

The Eastern Iowa Regional Housing Corporation (EIRHC) is a not-for-profit subsidiary of EIRHA, established under the provisions of Chapter 504A of the Iowa Code. Its purpose is to promote the general social welfare of eligible occupants of rental housing as determined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Iowa Finance Authority (IFA), and Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED) regulations. EIRHC currently owns and manages ten USDA-funded elderly housing units.

## *Eastern Iowa Development Corporation (EIDC)*

The Eastern Iowa Development Corporation (EIDC) is a wholly-owned for-profit subsidiary of EIRHC. EIDC is the general partner of the Eastern Iowa Regional Partnership (EIRP) which owns and manages a Low Income Housing Tax Credit 24-unit housing development in Peosta, Iowa, for low- to moderate-income households.

# EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

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## *Region 1 Employment and Training*

ECIA administers the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) in Dubuque and Delaware Counties, providing employment and training opportunities for low-income people and other special groups. WIA offers assistance through classroom, pre-employment, and on-the-job training, and offers financial incentives to businesses who participate in on-the-job training.

## *Adult and Dislocated Worker Programs*

The vision for Iowa's Workforce Development System is to provide an efficient, effective, and convenient system for job-seekers to find jobs; employers to locate new workers; and job-seekers and employers to access information that will assist them in developing their career and business plans.

## *Youth Programs*

Eligibility for the Youth Program (age 14-21) is based on household income guidelines and other criteria. An array of services are available including tutoring, study skills training, and drop-out prevention strategies; alternative secondary school offerings; summer employment opportunities linked to academic and occupational learning; work experiences including internships and job shadowing; occupational skill training; leadership development opportunities; support services; adult mentoring; post-program services; and comprehensive guidance and counseling.

## *Promise Jobs Program*

The Promise Jobs Program is Iowa's 'welfare reform' program. This program assists welfare recipients in the development and implementation of an individualized plan for achieving self-sufficiency. Placement, training and support services are provided.

*EEO/AA Employers/Programs*

# TRANSPORTATION AND PLANNING

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ECIA provides transportation planning and technical assistance to ECIA clients. The ECIA transportation planning staff serve as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Dubuque urbanized area and Regional Planning Affiliation 8 (RPA) in Iowa. As such, the ECIA transportation planners provide services to the Clinton Municipal Transit Administration, Dubuque Keyline and Project Concern, the Regional Transit Authority.

The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) organizes and oversees the long range planning and development of the multimodal transportation system. According to the locally set priorities, the MPO develops the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the investment of Federal transportation dollars. The MPO Planning Process has been a requirement of receiving federal funds for transportation improvements for all urbanized areas with more than 50,000 population since 1962.

## *What does an MPO like the Dubuque Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (DMATS) do?*

Approves goals and plans for the development of a seamless transportation system for the safe and efficient movement of people and goods within and between modes of transportation (roads, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, transit, rail, water and air).

Encourages and fosters cooperation between local, regional, state and federal agencies to discuss transportation issues and plans.

Examples of DMATS projects include the U.S. Highway 20 Corridor Study, Julien Dubuque Bridge Capacity Improvements Study, and the IA 32 (SW Arterial) planning and programming.

# TRANSPORTATION AND PLANNING

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## *What does a Regional Planning Affiliation (RPA) do?*

ECIA is also designated as Regional Planning Affiliation 8 (RPA) in the State of Iowa. The RPA organizes and oversees the planning and development of the multimodal transportation system using Federal funds under the guidance of the State of Iowa.

The RPA process is not a federal requirement. Rather, it is a process that the State of Iowa created to give local elected officials input into the transportation development process outside the Metropolitan Planning Organizations.

The RPA identifies transportation improvements and prepares plans for the development of all parts of the transportation system (roads, trails, transit, rail, river transportation and air) in the rural area.

The RPA staff also coordinates the activities of local, regional, state and federal agencies to develop transportation improvements.

Examples of RPA projects include the U.S. Highway 30/67 improvements through Clinton, transportation modeling and land use studies for member communities, and project management for facility improvements.

## *Planning Services*

ECIA offers Comprehensive Planning, Zoning, and Subdivision Ordinance assistance to member governments. These services are enhanced through the use of computer mapping and Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

# TRANSPORTATION AND PLANNING

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## *Comprehensive Planning*

State law requires that city and county zoning ordinances be made in accordance with a Comprehensive Plan. Main components of a Comprehensive Plan update include Future Land Use Plan, Future Land Use Plan Map, and Land Use Development Policies.

## *Planning and Zoning/Subdivision Ordinances*

ECIA assists cities and counties in amending zoning and subdivision ordinances to address development, nuisance, and interpretation issues.

## *Travel Demand Modeling*

ECIA offers Traffic Demand Forecast modeling using data about a region's road system, local land use plans, population, and employment forecasts to identify areas in which transportation improvements are needed. It predicts how much traffic can be expected on the roads in an area and improvements that may be necessary to provide increased capacity.

## *Geographical Information Systems (GIS)*

ECIA offers GIS mapping services. GIS combines layers of information to give a better understanding of a location. The layers of information that are combined depends upon the purpose, such as finding the best location for a new business, analyzing environmental damage, capturing a view of crimes in a city to detect patterns, or to use in community planning.

Information generated from GIS offers improved management of a community and its resources, allowing for more accurate and better informed decision making. GIS can be used as a management and communication tool when used to map land parcels, utilities, streets, and roadways, as well as thematic and reference maps.

## REGIONAL TRANSIT

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The ECIA assumed management of the Region 8 Regional Transit Authority in January 2006.

### *Region 8 Regional Transit Authority (RTA)*

The RTA is one of sixteen regional transit systems in the state of Iowa and is a non-profit service organization located in Dubuque. The RTA serves the transportation needs of any residents in Delaware, Dubuque and Jackson Counties . RTA operates 17 buses, two standard vans, and utilizes numerous privately owned automobiles operated by volunteers.

People from all walks of life ride the RTA for work, school, shopping, daycare, medical appointments, and other errands. RTA vehicles are equipped to service all people, including the elderly and people with disabilities.

RTA provides service to the cities and rural areas of Delaware, Dubuque, and Jackson Counties. Many cities have daily service within their city and to other cities, while others have service several times per week.

In addition, RTA provides service to Iowa City, Coralville, Cedar Rapids, Waterloo, and the Quad Cities. These destinations must meet minimum ridership guidelines, so advance preparation is suggested to ensure that enough riders are available.

RTA operates daily, Monday through Friday, on a regular basis. RTA may be available on weekends for pre-arranged trips, or for special event transportation service where handicapped-accessibility is required.

For more information on the RTA services, call 563-588-4592 (Dubuque), 563-652-5127 (Maquoketa), 563-927-6039 (Delaware) or 1-800-839-5005.

*This insert was developed using grant funds from the Dubuque Racing Association.*

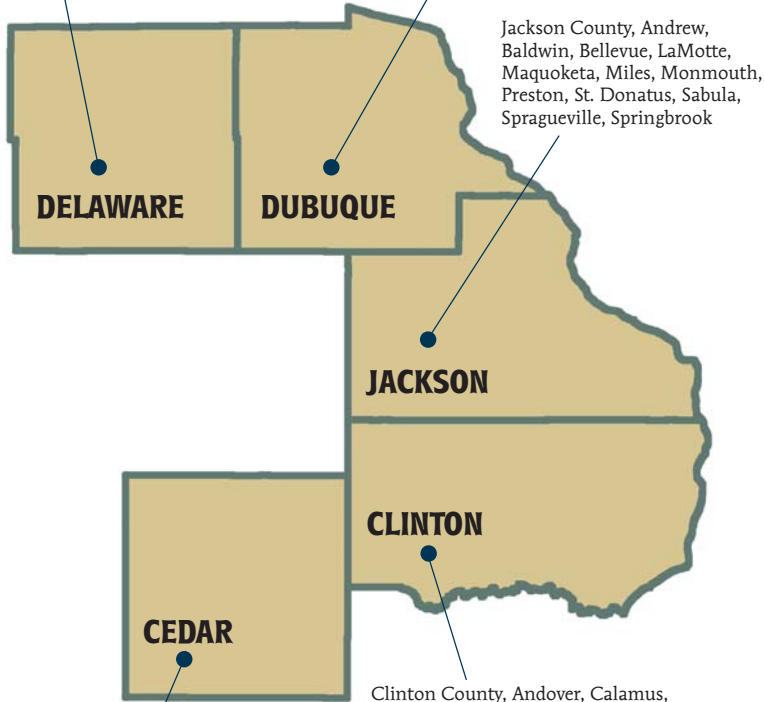
# THE REGION

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Delaware County, Colesburg, Delaware, Delhi, Dundee, Earlville, Edgewood, Greeley, Hopkinton, Manchester, Masonville, Ryan

Dubuque County, Asbury, Balltown, Bankston, Bernard, Cascade, Centralia, Dubuque, Durango, Dyersville, Epworth, Farley, Graf, Holy Cross, Luxemburg, New Vienna, Peosta, Rickardsville, Sageville, Sherrill, Worthington, Zwingle



Jackson County, Andrew, Baldwin, Bellevue, LaMotte, Maquoketa, Miles, Monmouth, Preston, St. Donatus, Sabula, Spragueville, Springbrook

Cedar County, Bennett, Clarence, Durant, Lowden, Mechanicsville, Stanwood, Tipton, West Branch

Clinton County, Andover, Calamus, Camanche, Charlotte, Clinton, Delmar, DeWitt, Goose Lake, Grand Mound, Lost Nation, Low Moor, Toronto, Welton, Wheatland