



Cedar, Clinton, Delaware, Dubuque & Jackson Counties

East Central Intergovernmental Association

A Regional Response to Local Needs

Community & Economic Development, Employment & Training, Housing, Transit & Transportation

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Governor's Awards Honor Iowa Environmental Leaders

ECIA was recognized as one of twenty Iowa organizations to receive Environmental Excellence awards from Gov. Terry E. Branstad. These awards are the premier environmental honors in Iowa.

"On behalf of all Iowans, I would like to congratulate these organizations for their leadership and innovation in protecting Iowa's natural resources," said Gov. Branstad. "These awards serve as a small token of appreciation for their commitment to preserve Iowa's precious natural resources for future generations of Iowans to enjoy."

The awards program recognizes comprehensive environmental programs by organizations and businesses, along with special project awards in water quality, air quality, waste management, habitat restoration and development, energy efficiency and renewable energy, and environmental education.

The East Central Intergovernmental Association (ECIA) was recognized with an Environmental Excellence Award for the Petal Project, a regional green business certification program. Describing the achievements and active participation of the Dubuque business community in the Petal Project was one of the main components of the application. Petal Project businesses are leading the sustainability movement in Iowa and include Welu Printing, Loras College, Calico Bean Market, St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Four Mounds Bed and Breakfast, Dubuque Bank & Trust, Clarke University, IIW Engineers and Surveyors, Premier Tooling & Manufacturing, and the Finley Hospital.

The awards are sponsored by the Governor's Office, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, the Iowa Department of Economic Development, the Iowa Department of Education, the Iowa Department of Public Health and the Iowa Waste Reduction Center

Petal Project Receives DMASWA Grant

On September 7th the Dubuque Metropolitan Area Solid Waste Agency (DMASWA) board awarded the Petal Project green business certification program a grant for nearly \$25,000. These funds will be used to provide staff support to Petal Project participating businesses and to recruit additional organizations to join the program. Visit the Petal Project website – www.petal-project.com – to learn more about the program and the DMASWA grant.



Single Family New Production 3

In January 2011, ECIA was awarded a Single Family New Production 3 grant for their Workforce Housing Program (WHP) in the amount of \$2,447,727 from the Iowa Department of Economic Development to assist with down payment costs for moderate income qualifying households to construct 54 single family houses and town homes in several locations in the city of Dubuque. The maximum selling price of the newly constructed homes is \$180,000 with at least one-half of the homes being sold for \$150,000 or less.

To qualify, all homebuyers must have incomes not exceeding 100% of the Dubuque County Median Income for their family size and a minimum of 51% of the homebuyers must be at or below 80% of the Dubuque County Median Income. In addition families must attend pre and post housing counseling sessions.

The ECIA staff has been working diligently to secure homeowners for the 54 selected lots. To date, all 54 homes have been purchased. Construction of all houses and townhomes is projected to be completed by January 2012.

The Eastern Iowa Regional Housing Corporation entered into a contract for services with the Developers to provide the homebuyers with housing counseling services throughout the duration of the build-out and for two years after occupancy. EIRHA staff has provided housing counseling certification services and continues to work on a weekly basis with the new homeowners in order to guide them through the process.

The WHP has been a team effort between the ECIA Administration, Community Development and EIRHA staff. Utilizing the expertise of all the departments has been the driving force for the success of the program.

EIRHA Awarded \$240,000 for ROSS Elderly Self-Sufficiency Grant

The Eastern Iowa Regional Housing Authority (EIRHA) was awarded a three year grant in the amount of \$240,000 through the Resident Opportunity and Self Sufficiency (ROSS) Service Coordinator program. The purpose of the grant is to provide the Public Housing Authority with the provision of Service Coordinator funding to assist the Public Housing elderly and disabled residents to help improve living conditions and enable residents to age-in-place. This position will coordinate supportive services and other activities designed to help the residents remain independent.



RTA Black Tie Bowling “Fun-raiser”

Mark your calendars for the 3rd Annual Delaware, Dubuque and Jackson County Regional Transit Authority (RTA) Black Tie Bowling “fun-raiser” scheduled for Saturday February 25, 2011 at the Diamond Jo Cherry Lanes. ECIA Mobility Coordinator Bridget Bartlett has organized a team of volunteers from agencies and drivers throughout the Delaware, Dubuque and Jackson County area to put together what we hope will be our biggest fundraiser ever. This years goal is \$20,000. Sponsorships are Platinum - \$2,000, Gold - \$1,000, Silver - \$500 and Bronze - \$250. Moonlight bowling, prizes and delicious appetizers will highlight what is bound to be a fun evening for people who want to support the RTA. Proceeds help the RTA fund service to disadvantaged individuals and families who rely on the RTA as their primary if not sole source of transportation. The RTA is a non-profit corporation so donations may be tax deductible. If you are interested in sponsorship, donating a gift or volunteering, please contact Bridget Bartlett at (563) 690-5761. Hope to see you in February!

Single Family New Production 2

In the summer of 2010, ECIA was awarded a Single Family New Production grant in the amount of \$1,461,164 from the Iowa Department of Economic Development to assist with down payment costs for moderate income qualifying households to construct 41 single family homes in several locations in ECIA's 5 county region (Cedar, Clinton, Delaware, Dubuque and Jackson Counties) including the City of Dubuque. To date, there are a total of 15 homes remaining to be purchased in the cities of Clinton, Cascade, Worthington, Maquoketa, Miles and Stanwood.

Prior to submitting the application, ECIA had to identify all lots, floor plans and purchase price of each home. The maximum selling price of a newly constructed home will be \$180,000 with at least one-half of the homes being sold for \$150,000 or less. All homebuyers must have incomes not exceeding 100% of the County Median Income for their family size and a minimum of 51% of the homebuyers must be at or below 80% of the County Median Income. The homes will range from 993 square feet to 1,560 square feet with grant funds providing up to a 25% subsidy for the down payment for qualified homebuyers. The subsidy will be secured with a five year receding forgivable loan. For example a home selling at \$150,000 would receive a \$37,500 down payment.

Interested parties may contact Gail Kuhle, Supportive Services Manager at 563-690-5710 or visit www.ecia.org for program information and downloadable application.



RTA Cookbooks Available For Holiday Gift Giving

Needing a gift idea for the upcoming holidays, birthday, or any occasion? The RTA is selling cookbooks with recipes submitted from members of the community to raise funds for the RTA. The cookbook, "Recipes from the Region-from our Tables to Yours" has everything from down home cooking to comfort food to vegetarian to gourmet. Unique recipes include: Health Munchies, Tex-mex Chicken Stew, Sweet Potato Casserole, Seafood Lasagna, and Christmas Crunch.

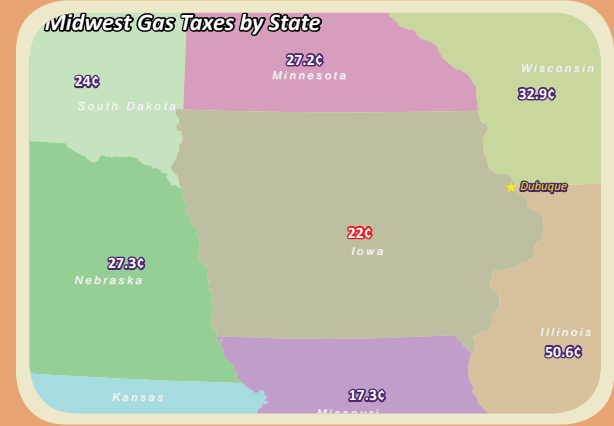
"Recipes from the Region" can be purchased for \$15.00 each or two for \$25.00 at Callico Bean on Bluff Street in Dubuque, Groovy Grounds in Dyersville, Developing Alternative Choices (DAC)-2 locations in Maquoketa, or you can contact Stacey Carpenter at ECIA at 563-556-4166.

The RTA provides safe and reliable transportation and is open to the general public, primarily serving elderly, Head Start students, and disabled individuals. The RTA is a nonprofit organization, relying on grants and donations from the community to provide these critical services and gives 163,000 annual rides.

Governor Forms 2020 Citizens Advisory Commission

In spring of 2011, Governor Terry Branstad formed The Governor's Transportation 2020 Citizens Advisory Commission (CAC). The goal of CAC is to complete its legislatively mandated review of the sufficiency of the current and projected funding levels of Iowa's Road Use Tax Fund to meet the projected construction and maintenance needs of city, county and state governments. A vital part of the CAC's effort is seeking public input across Iowa on the current conditions of Iowa's public roadway system; the importance of roads to Iowans; and options to address funding shortfalls.

As a Council of Governments, ECIA has not taken a collective position on increasing the gas tax, however, we have been asked to research gas tax rates in surrounding states as a comparison to Iowa's current gas tax rate. The Map below is purely informational and shows the gas tax rates in seven states surrounding Iowa. If you have any questions or want more information, feel free to contact Chandra Ravada, Transportation Director at 563-690-5750.



RTA Initiates New Service in Jackson County

In August of this year, the RTA introduced expanded services into Jackson County at the request of residents along the Highway 64 corridor. Families with children attending Preston Schools have already jumped onto the service, with more than 50 students riding daily to and from school. Discussions are ongoing with Developing Alternative Choices (DAC) and Head Start to accommodate residents needing service from the county into Maquoketa, and more marketing and outreach is being developed to inform more and more residents of the valuable service. The RTA anticipates the expansion will generate more than 20,000 rides annually. With service open to the general public, interested parties are asked to call the RTA dispatch at 800-839-5005 for more information on scheduling and costs.

IowaWORKS Virtual Access Points

Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) closed 31 field offices throughout the state on August 31, 2011, including the Manchester, New Hampton, and Oelwein offices in IowaWORKS Region 1 and the Maquoketa office in IowaWORKS Region 9. In addition, IWD will be closing another five field offices on October 31, 2011, including the Clinton and Muscatine offices in IowaWORKS Region 9. Along with the Integrated Centers that remain open in Davenport, Decorah, and Dubuque to provide business services and serve members within these two regions, IWD has created over 150 Access Points in communities across the state. An Access Point is a virtual desktop with instant messaging capabilities. It offers job seekers, unemployed Veterans, and employers the opportunity to access services online in a user-friendly format. This creates increased availability to the many services offered by IowaWORKS. Access Points can be found at community colleges, private colleges, community action agencies, libraries, extension offices, county government offices, churches, and other locations. The ECIA office at 7600 Commerce Park in Dubuque has been serving as one of these sites. For a current listing of statewide Access Points, check the following link: <http://www.iowaworkforce.org/vap.pdf>.

EIRHA Receives Set-Aside Funding

The EIRHA was awarded Calendar Year 2011 renewal funding set-aside dollars. The categories EIRHA was eligible for included Category 1 Funding for Portability in the amount of \$60,595 and Category 2 Funding for Increased Leasing at the End of the Calendar Year in the amount of \$40,047. These funds will be used to assist additional families with rental assistance. The Housing Authority currently has a two year waiting list for services with 2,425 families currently on the list. With the infusion of the above dollars, it will further help reduce the waiting period for many families.

DeWitt-Hometown Rewards Program

The city of DeWitt has been selected to participate in Alliant Energy's new Hometown Rewards program, a two-year program focused on reducing energy use and improving the environment. This program starts with a community-wide greenhouse gas inventory to serve as a baseline for measuring success, followed by reduction goal setting, developing a strategic plan, implementing strategies and measuring results.

Candace Eudaley, ECIA Assistant Executive Director, will serve on the Hometown Rewards Climate Action Steering Committee. Committee members will shape DeWitt's approach to energy efficiency and sustainability. Committee members represent interests and expertise from education to finance, from development to community outreach, and from the public and private sectors. The Climate Action Steering Committee holds its first meetings in early October.