



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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New ECIA Website Launched

The new ECIA website has been redesigned to help visitors find the resources and contacts they need. The site was created by ECIA staff, with a focus on ease of navigation and improved searchability. The site's homepage welcomes visitors with bold new colors, a clean uncluttered design, and rotating images from ECIA history. The new www.ecia.org is easier to use, reflects our diverse range of programs, and provides simplified access to meeting documents, newsletters and annual reports.

Kelley Wins Women's Leadership Network, Women of Achievement Award

The Women of Achievement Awards were designed to recognize and honor tri-state area women who have already, or aspire to, provide significant contributions in their professional roles or in the community. "The Women in Achievement Award is a high point in my career. Being nominated by Cindy Streinhauser, a woman I admire and view as a role model for all women and then being supported by a team of women at ECIA that I deeply admire and respect is the ultimate honor for me. I love what I do because of the people I have been fortunate enough to surround myself with everyday. Without their support and belief in me, I would not be as spirited and confident as I am in my leadership role. The Women of Achievement Award is really not just for me but for them too as we are a team that works great together to make great things happen!" Kelley Deutmeyer, ECIA Executive Director. Kelley won the Organizational Impact category.

EIRHA Receives ROSS Public Housing FSS Grant

The Department of Housing and Urban Development awarded the Eastern Iowa Regional Housing Authority \$66,746 to support one regular full-time Coordinator for the FY 2010 Resident Opportunities and Self-Sufficiency (ROSS) Public Housing Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program.

The FSS program provides funding for PHAs to pay for the salary and fringe benefits for a program coordinator who will work with participating families to link them to the supportive services they need to achieve self-sufficiency. This position will work with the 164 public housing residents to increase homeownership opportunities and to motivate families to achieve a higher standard of living and economic status.



McElroy-Anderson Joins ECIA

Kelsey McElroy-Anderson has joined ECIA as the Regional Economic Development & Sustainability Coordinator. Kelsey is originally from Winthrop, Iowa in Buchanan County. Kelsey is a 2009 graduate of Loras College with a degree in politics and minors in economics, international studies, and public relations. She is currently finishing the final component of her MPA program at the University of Kansas with an expected graduation date of Spring 2012. Kelsey has worked in public affairs at the Mid-America Regional Council in Kansas City, as an intern at ECIA, the City of Dubuque, DMASWA, and Dubuque 2.0. Kelsey is excited to be back at ECIA working with the Prosperity Eastern Iowa initiatives.



2011 CDBG and IDED Housing Fund Awards Announced

The Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED) recently announced the 2011 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and IDED Housing Fund awards. The IDED awarded public works and community facilities awards to 40 communities across the state totaling over \$13 million. ECIA assisted four communities with applications that received awards totaling over \$1.8 million toward projects totaling over \$3.13 million.

The cities of Bennett, Clinton, and Holy Cross will complete upgrades to their existing wastewater treatment facilities. The City of Manchester will construct a new childcare building to replace one severely damaged in a July 2010 flood.

The city of Manchester will also receive an IDED Housing Fund grant to assist ten homeowners with rehabilitation needs. ECIA also assisted several cities with HOME Program applications to the Iowa Finance Authority (IFA) for funding to assist homebuyers in their communities. IFA assumed the administration of the HOME Program in 2010 and intends to announce the 2011 awards in June.

For information on the CDBG, IDED Housing Fund, or HOME programs contact Mark Schneider at (563) 690-5770 or 1-800-942-4648.



Governor's Awards Honor Iowa Environmental Leaders

The East Central Intergovernmental Association (ECIA) will be recognized as one of 20 Iowa organizations to receive Environmental Excellence awards from Gov. Terry E. Branstad August 1. The awards are the premier environmental honors in Iowa.

Governor Branstad stated, "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.

ECIA was recognized with an Environmental Excellence Award for the Petal Project, a regional green business certification program. The following are recent investments and achievements of local businesses that were featured in the application:

- Dubuque Bank & Trust installed an air exchanger, made lighting upgrades and instituted a paperless fax system, all of which will provide energy and cost savings.
- Premier Tooling & Manufacturing, Inc filters water from its floor scrubbers and part washers, reusing it in mop buckets and parts washer. On average, 39,000 gallons are recycled each year.
- IIW Engineers and Surveyors, P.C. invested in replacement of (8) 1992 vintage HVAC units for newer models with 14 SEER rating which will provide energy and cost savings.
- Finley Hospital has decreased the use of natural gas over the past five years by 4,986 MMBTU per year and decreased electric usage over the same period, by 2,040 KWH per year despite an increase in the number of pieces of equipment that require electricity.

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.



The
petal
Project

RTA Cookbooks Are Now Available

When you think of groups that produce a cookbook as a way to raise money, the likely organizations that come to mind are either churches or, churches. It never occurred to Mark Munson, Regional Transit Authority (RTA) Director of Transit, that he'd have to dig down deep into his recipe box and contribute his favorite dishes, in an effort to make up for the shortage of State funding to transit organizations. "Honestly, I hated the idea," said Munson, when staff approached him about it in the fall of 2010, "but they ran the numbers and we decided to go for it." The bus drivers, staff, city clerks, mayors, and others from the RTA region and area contributed recipes. 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, Gazpacho Summer Soup, Poppy Seed Chicken Pasta Salad, Pancho Villa Baked Tilapia, Cinnamon Swirl Protein Bread. "It's like a school fundraiser for transit, the two drivers that sell the most will receive a prize," Munson added.

"Recipes from the Region" can be purchased at Callico Bean on Bluff Street in Dubuque, Groovy Grounds in Dyersville, Developing Alternative Choices (DAC)-2 locations in Maquoketa, Manchester Central Point Coordinator or people can call Stacey at ECIA at 563-556-4166. The RTA is a non-profit organization that serves individuals in Delaware, Dubuque and Jackson Counties and gives 163,000 annual rides.

Advertising Space Available on the Jule and RTA

If you are a business or an organization looking for a different way to convey your message, think about advertising on a bus. The city of Dubuque, The Jule (formerly Keyline Transit) is replacing its entire fleet with four heavy duty, 12 medium duty, and 13 light duty buses. All vehicles are clean diesel and are set to arrive later this summer. Advertising space is still available on the sides of the medium and light duty buses for The Jule. Contact Gail Kuhle at 563-690-5710 for more information. The RTA also has advertising space available if you are looking for more of a regional impact. Options for bus advertising on the RTA fleet include the back and sides. Contact Bridget Bartlett at 563-690-5761 for more rate information.



Federal Transit Administration Recognizes the RTA for Excellence in Public Transit Service

The Federal Transit Administration awarded the Region 8 Regional Transit Authority their Excellence in Public Transit Service award at the Annual Iowa Public Transit Association Conference held this year at Lake Okoboji on June 23rd, 2011. The award recognized the RTA for increasing ridership by 9.83% and reducing costs per ride by 12.84% from FY 2009 to FY 2010. Director of Transit Operations, Mark Munson attributes the improved performance to a variety of factors. The RTA has worked aggressively working with local agencies and organizations to identify needs and create transportation solutions through coordination and innovation. The addition of a Mobility Coordinator position at the RTA has enabled the transit service to dedicate the time and energy necessary to inform and educate the communities in Delaware, Dubuque and Jackson counties of the quality services available. High profile marketing of the RTA through various fundraising efforts, put the spotlight on the benefits of RTA services and raised awareness of the RTA to a wide variety of new consumers. Dispatch and scheduling staff increased productivity by efficiently scheduling existing routes with new riders and maximizing schedules to mitigate sky high fuel and maintenance costs, and drivers stepped up to carry the increased ridership loads with professionalism, courtesy and safety, further raising the public opinion of the RTA service. It may be an overused phrase, but Munson says "it's all about teamwork". No one sector of the transit service can make such an impact on increase ridership and reduced costs in an economy such as the one we have been working in the past few years.

Expanding Opportunities Youth Grant Update

The Expanding Opportunities Youth Grant funded by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) was a collaborative effort of several organizations, agencies, and programs in northeast Iowa, southwest Minnesota and west central Wisconsin to provide activities and services for at-risk youth and youth offenders. The program, administered by ECIA in Dubuque and Delaware Counties of Iowa, provided a variety of services including skills assessment, career exploration, counseling, employment plan, high school completion, GED, work experience, occupational skills training, job search assistance, case management, and supportive services.

ECIA enrolled 30 youth participants in calendar year 2010 with the following outcomes:

- Seven completed Nurse Aide training and attained their Iowa Certified Nurse Aide License
- 11 participated in a paid work experience funded by the grant or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Summer Youth Employment Program
- Seven participated in GED at the Northeast Iowa Community College (NICC) Learning Center with one GED attainment
- 12 received their high school diploma from the Dubuque Community School District
- Eight entered full-time post-secondary education – seven at NICC in Peosta and one at Kirkwood Community College (KCC) in Cedar Rapids
- Six participated in pre-employment training classes through the Operation Employment Grant
- 13 began unsubsidized employment
- 16 received supportive service assistance for childcare, transportation, employment-related clothing, or testing fees

IFA Announces 2011 HOME Program Awards

The Iowa Finance Authority (IFA) announced their first ever HOME Program housing awards. IFA assumed the HOME Program administration for the state of Iowa in 2010 with 2011 being their first year to accept project applications and award grants.

IFA awarded all first-time homebuyers assistance projects. In the ECIA region, the City of Clinton will assist 10 homebuyers with a \$399,990 grant. The City of DeWitt will assist 6 homebuyers with a \$218,994 grant and Maquoketa will assist 7 homebuyers with a \$259,493 grant. All communities are matching the awards with additional local funding.

For information on the HOME program contact Mark Schneider at (563) 556-4166 or 1-800-942-4648.

Munson & Bartlett Presenters at National Workshop

Director of Transit Operations Mark Munson and Mobility Coordinator Bridget Bartlett recently shared their expertise as presenters at the Community Transportation Association of America's EXPO 2011 in Indianapolis, Indiana June 8, 2011. This year's EXPO featured a Mobility Management Conference attended by approximately 300 transit and mobility management attendees from across the country. Since ECIA created the Mobility Management position almost two years ago, CTAA Ambassador Margi Ness has participated in the local Mobility Management initiatives organized by Bridget Bartlett. Ness quickly recognized the best practices being developed in our region and recommended CTAA include Bartlett and Munson as presenters. The workshop discussions included how Bartlett created Transit Action Groups (TAGS) to engage area human service organizations and how she motivated these organizations to participate in transit planning, innovative problem solving and identifying opportunities for coordination between transit and human service providers. Persons interested in participating in the TAG should contact Bridget Bartlett at 563-690-5761.

