

LENDING NEWS – FINANCING FOR SMALL BUSINESS

E.C.I.A. Business Growth, Inc. was recently awarded a \$133,000 Grant from the Iowa Department of Economic Development from the Opportunities and Threats Program. This will provide the majority of the local match dollars required by the \$500,000 RLF Recapitalization Grant that was awarded to E.C.I.A. Business Growth, Inc. by the Economic Development Administration in 2009.

The US Small Business Administration continues to pay for most of the lender and loan processing fees on 504 and 7a Guaranteed loans that was included in the ARRA Stimulus Funding. The fee reductions and 90% Guarantee continues until March 28, 2010, unless extended by Congress. For Example on a \$2,000,000 SBA 504 project, a business would save \$17,000 in SBA fees.

Recent loans approved by the E.C.I.A. Business Growth, Inc. Board of Directors include:

- \$1,995,000 SBA 504 loan for Sajni Lodging, Inc. (Hampton Inn) of Muscatine
- \$182,000 SBA 504 loan for Elmira Cellars, Inc. of West Branch
- \$555,000 SBA 504 loan for Oak Street Commercial Cabinets, Inc. of Monticello
- \$395,000 SBA 504 loan for Yogi's, Inc. of Monticello
- \$2,000,000 SBA 504 loan for Five Seasons Hospitality, Inc (Homewood Suites) of Cedar Rapids
- \$176,000 SBA 504 loan for Bourek Properties, LLC (Animal Health Clinic) of Dyersville
- \$293,000 SBA 504 loan for Waterford Family Practice, PC of Davenport
- \$174,000 ECIA Regional RLF loan for North Cedar Recycling, Inc. of Stanwood
- \$250,000 EDA-RLF loan for Premier Tooling & Manufacturing, Inc. of Peosta
- \$221,000 EDA-RLF loan for American Concrete Pumping, Inc. of Manchester

For more information on the loan program please contact Jerry Schroeder, Economic Development Director or Matt Specht, Business Development Coordinator at 563-556-4166.



Return Service Requested

East Central Intergovernmental Association
7600 Commerce Park
Dubuque IA 52002
563.556.4166



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news **Alert**

AccessmyFuture.com “Hear Us Out” CD wins Impact Award

Dubuque365 announced ECIA’s “Hear Us Out” Music CD was nominated by the public and awarded a 365 Impact Award for making the greatest Impact in Media for 2009. These awards were created by Dubuque365 to celebrate efforts in the Dubuque area which have made a positive impact on our community’s success and prosperity. “Hear Us Out” was developed to coincide with the website launch of Prosperity Eastern Iowa’s AccessmyFuture.com and was given away as a free gift to those who signed up on the site. AccessmyFuture.com is a resource for 14-25 year olds providing an interactive career exploration experience, scholarship and apprenticeship information, information on 2-year and 4-year programs, listings and descriptions of high demand occupations, resume and cover letter samples, email etiquette, on the job videos, and links to job websites throughout the region. Visit AccessMyFuture.com to see our award-winning project!



ECIA staff Matt Specht, Jerry Schroeder, Candace Eudaley, Marla Quinn and Holly Specht at the awards ceremony
Photo courtesy of Ron Tigges Digital Dubuque

EIRHA awarded \$11,099 for water project

Through the State of Iowa I-JOBS Green Urban Stormwater program, Eastern Iowa Regional Housing Authority (EIRHA) has been funded \$11,099 to build a rain garden for its low-income housing development project in Dyersville, Iowa. The intent of the rain garden is to improve the water quality and reduce runoff from urban stormwater. The State of Iowa awarded 17 grants across the state to help Iowa organizations design and build projects that benefit water quality. The proposed rain garden will be approximately 1,238 square feet in size and will divert an estimated 121,600 gallons of stormwater annually.

Buyer Supplier Expands North

Prosperity Eastern Iowa’s Buyer Supplier Program has seen unprecedented growth in the past year and in doing so attracted the attention of other communities and regions along the Mississippi River. The Northeast Iowa Business Network (NIBN) will join the Buyer Supplier program thanks to funds from the Iowa Department of Economic Development. The expansion will include additional marketing of the program not only to existing businesses in the new 9 county region, but to individual consumers as well. In December 2009, there were 111 companies registered with the program. Our goal for the year is to increase that number to 222, a 100% increase in participation, through partnerships with local chambers of commerce and increased communication with businesses in the region. A baseline study will be conducted to determine potential sales leakages and to estimate expected multiplier effects. Counties involved are: Allamakee, Clayton, Delaware, Dubuque, Fayette, Howard, Jackson, Jones, Winneshiek, and the cities of DeWitt, Marion and Springville. Welcome NIBN companies and partners! For more information on the program visit www.prosperityeasterniowa.org

Dubuque Metropolitan Area Transportation Study ● Eastern Iowa Regional Housing Authority
Region I Employment and Training ● ECIA Regional Planning Affiliation ● ECIA Business Growth, Inc.
Eastern Iowa Regional Utility Services System ● Eastern Iowa Development Corporation
Delaware, Dubuque, and Jackson Regional Transit Authority ● Prosperity Eastern Iowa

ECIA Adds New Employees

The Transportation Department recently hired Daniel Fox to assist with Safe Routes to School, the Bike & Pedestrian Program and the Long Range Planning Program. Dan will be graduating in May from the University of Iowa Urban and Regional Planning Masters program and also has a bachelor's degree in Geography. Dan is currently working as a Map Delineator at the Johnson County Auditor's Office and previously worked as a teaching assistant for the GIS course at the University of Iowa Geography department.



Sean O'Malley joined ECIA as a maintenance manager in the Housing Department. His responsibilities will include routine repair work, cleaning, preventive maintenance, annual/renewal inspections, move-in and move-out inspections, emergency maintenance, lawn care and snow removal at rental properties owned by the Eastern Iowa Regional Housing Authority/Corporation. O'Malley formerly worked at First Supply, Dubuque. Please join us in welcoming Dan and Sean to ECIA!



USDOT Awards Historic Millwork District \$5.6 Million

The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) announced that Dubuque's Historic Millwork District Revitalization was awarded \$5.6 million through the TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) Discretionary Grants Program, a lead program of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009.

The grant application was submitted by the City of Dubuque with support from partners including: Dubuque County, Dubuque Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (DMATS), the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), Region 8 Regional Transit Authority (RTA), East Central Intergovernmental Association (ECIA), Greater Dubuque Development Corporation (GDDC), Dubuque Area Chamber of Commerce, Dubuque Main Street (DMS), the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque, the Historic Millwork District property owners, and IBM.

"This is a tremendous boost for our community and we are extremely grateful to the USDOT and Secretary LaHood. We also recognize Senator Harkin for his advocacy with Secretary LaHood and the White House on behalf of the Dubuque proposal. We are also very grateful to Senator Grassley and Congressman Braley for their support," said Dubuque Mayor Roy D. Buol. "This project is a great example of the interconnectedness of transportation, housing, and jobs, a priority of the USDOT and the Obama administration."

Dubuque's Historic Millwork District Master Plan is a critical component of the region's sustainable economic development strategy, which encourages more people to live and work in or near the center city. The plan calls for the redevelopment of 1 million square feet of historic millwork/warehouse space into a mixed-use development of more than 700 housing units and 300,000 square feet of retail/commercial space. An estimated 1,000 residents will live in the Historic Millwork District at full build-out and the district's revitalization plan will create 900 new jobs and enhance the local tax base by \$77 million dollars. The TIGER grant will help leverage \$145 million in private investment in the Historic Millwork District. For additional information on plans for the Historic Millwork District, visit www.cityofdubuque.org/millworkdistrict.com.

This article was contributed by the City of Dubuque

Dubuque County Receives Energy Grant

The Iowa Office of Energy Independence (OEI) has selected Dubuque County to receive an Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant in the amount of \$202,992.00. Dubuque County is also contributing \$240,000 for a total of \$442,992.00. The funding will be used for the following projects: replace windows, update lighting, and HVAC systems at the Julien Care Facility.

The funding for this award was authorized through the Iowa Office of Energy Independence, which is funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) also known as stimulus funds.

For more information regarding the Energy Grant, contact Larry Nagle at ECIA at 563-556-4166.

There's Still Time to Mail in your Completed Census Forms!

Participating in the census is required by law for everyone living in the United States, and the public is encouraged to promptly mail back their 2010 Census forms that were delivered in mid March. The only civic event that includes every person in the country, the Census is the basis for America's representative democracy, ensuring that Congress is fairly reapportioned every 10 years between the states. Census counts are also used to redraw state and local legislative boundaries so that political representation is fairly distributed across their changing populations.

"When you receive your 2010 Census, please fill it out and mail it back," Census Bureau Director Robert M. Groves said. "It's one of the shortest forms in our lifetime with just 10 questions very much like the questions James Madison and Thomas Jefferson helped craft on the very first Census."

As America has grown and become more complex and more diverse, it has become more challenging over the decades to get a complete count of the population. The 2010 Census faces special challenges during the current economic downturn, including the housing crisis which has resulted in higher rates of vacant housing that must be visited to ensure a complete count.

The Census Bureau estimated that if every household completed and mailed back their census form, taxpayers could reduce the cost of taking the census by \$1.5 billion. The Census Bureau saves about \$85 million in operational costs for every percentage point increase in the nation's participation rate by mail.

"It costs the government just 42 cents for a postage paid envelope when a household mails back the form," said Groves. "It costs \$57 to send a census taker door-to-door to follow up with each household that fails to respond."

Completing the 2010 Census questionnaire is simple and safe. The census mailing package included a cover letter, the 2010 Census form and a postage-paid return envelope. The 10 questions are basic and should take about 10 minutes to complete. The Census Bureau will also be staffing more than 30,000 Questionnaire Assistance Centers around the country where people can get help with their forms in multiple languages. Locations of the centers are being publicized locally and can also be found on www.2010census.gov. These locations are temporary and may change based on levels of local assistance needed by residents.

All census responses are confidential; they are protected by law and not shared with anyone. The Census Bureau takes extreme measures to protect the identity of individuals and businesses. By law, the Census Bureau cannot share respondents' individually identifiable answers with anyone, including tribal housing authorities, other federal agencies and law enforcement entities. All Census Bureau employees take the oath of nondisclosure and are sworn for life to protect the confidentiality of the data. The penalty for unlawful disclosure is a fine of up to \$250,000, imprisonment of up to five years or both.

Safe Routes to School Receives Grant

ECIA's Transportation Department received a \$100,000 grant for the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program to complete planning for Clinton and Delaware County School Systems. SRTS is a national effort dedicated to fighting increases in childhood obesity and inactivity. ECIA staff will work with schools and parents to promote walking and biking to and from school safely. The outcome of the plan is a list of projects that will help address safety and security issues in the region and to encourage more children to walk and bike to school.

Currently, ECIA staff is working on implementing a SRTS program for the Western Dubuque and Jackson County Public and Parochial School Districts. Staff is also in the final stages of developing a SRTS plan for the Dubuque Community School District, Holy Family School District and the City of Clinton Public and Parochial School District.

For more information regarding the SRTS program, please visit the SRTS website www.EastIowaSafeRoutes.org.

