

ECIA Receives Funds for Flood Clean-Up

Iowa received approval of a Federal \$17 million National Emergency Grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to help rebuild the state's public facilities, infrastructure and parks across the state which were damaged by the severe weather and flooding that occurred in the state earlier this summer. ECIA has received \$286,451 through this grant to implement the emergency program in Dubuque and Delaware Counties.

Administered through Iowa Workforce Development, the emergency funds will be used to provide temporary employment for those who lost their jobs due to the flooding as well as other dislocated workers and unemployed Iowans. Projects include the clean-up, demolition, repair, renovation, and reconstruction of destroyed public structures, facilities, and lands within the affected communities. In addition, these funds may be used to perform work on the homes of economically disadvantaged individuals who are eligible for the federally funded weatherization program, with priority given to services for the elderly and individuals with disabilities. Workers will receive quality wages that significantly exceed unemployment insurance compensation rates and may work up to 1,040 hours during the project period.

Emergency workers employed through ECIA are currently working to repair public parks and trails in Dubuque and Delaware Counties under the supervision of the Conservation Board of each respective county. Other public entities in Dubuque and Delaware Counties experiencing flood or storm damage on or after May 27, 2008, may contact Dave Leary at (563) 556-5800 x 148 to obtain workers to assist with clean up.

ECIA Hires New Staff Person

Jake Ironside joined ECIA May 2008 as Information Technology Coordinator/GIS Specialist. He will be providing IT support and mapping needs for the planning and transportation departments.

Jake has seven years of experience working for a regional council of governments. He started with ECIA in 2001 as a Transportation Planner. In 2003, Jake moved south to the Quad Cities to work for the Bi-State Regional Commission as a GIS/Mapping Specialist. Jake has a B.A. in Geography and a Certificate in GIS & Cartography from the University of Northern Iowa. Welcome Jake back to ECIA!

ECIA to Coordinate Regional Flood Recovery Efforts

The floods of 2008 caused extensive damages throughout Iowa. Several federal agencies received special appropriations to provide assistance to households and businesses. Iowa is also providing state funding to assist in the recovery efforts.

The Economic Development Administration (EDA) received a special appropriation and will provide funding for technical assistance staff to assist communities with the recovery efforts. ECIA submitted an application for funding to hire a Coordinator to assist with the recovery efforts throughout the ECIA region.

The Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED) will receive a special appropriation. IDED intends to utilize the funds to assist households and businesses as well as address potential infrastructure projects. ECIA will take a lead role in the recovery efforts in eastern Iowa.

The ECIA region has experienced damages ranging from homes being washed away in Cedar County to major and minor damages to individual homes throughout the region. Several communities have submitted Notices of Interest to the Iowa

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CDBG and IDED Housing Fund Applications Due Soon

The Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED) held application workshops for the IDED Housing Fund and CDBG Water/Sewer and Community Facilities and Services programs. The workshops officially begin the application process for these programs. IDED Housing Fund applications are due on Friday, November 21. The CDBG Water/Sewer applications are due on Friday, November 14 and CDBG Community Facilities and Services applications are due on Friday, December 12. ECIA staff is working with several communities on potential applications for these grants. If your community is contemplating a project and has not been in contact with ECIA, contact Mark Schneider at ECIA at 563-556-4166 or 1-800-942-4648 as soon as possible. There are new regulations concerning creating sustainable, green projects. For this reason, it will be necessary to discuss the project and determine if an application is appropriate for this year.

Dislocated Worker Grant Approved

In response to layoffs from Eagle Window & Door, Inc. and John Deere Dubuque Works earlier this year, ECIA's Employment and Training Department has received a \$176,616 State Emergency Grant from Iowa Workforce Development to assist workers laid off from both companies in obtaining re-employment. To date, 24 affected workers have received services through this grant. Services provided so far include job placement assistance,

job seeking skills instruction, basic computer classes, tuition, books and fees for in-school programs, and training related support services (child care, transportation, tools, etc.). Funds from this grant are available through June 30, 2010.

RTA Driver Wins State Competition

One of the Region 8 Regional Transit Authority drivers is eligible for a national level competition after earning top honors in Iowa's 22nd Annual Public Transit Rodeo held in Des Moines June 28. Transit Operator Jean Dalsing took first place in the small bus competition, her 11th award in the 13 years she has entered the statewide competition. "Driving is where my heart is at," says Jean. The Iowa Department of Transportation and the Iowa Public Transit Association, with funding under a Federal Transit Administration program, co-sponsor the annual transit rodeo. With her first place finish, Jean can serve as Iowa's contestant in the National Community Transit Rodeo sponsored by the Community Transportation Association of America which will be held in Providence, R.I. in June 2009.

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Homeland Security and Emergency Management requesting funding to assist with buyouts of properties. The proposed Coordinator position would be responsible for these buyouts as well as assisting property owners with other recovery efforts as funding becomes available. Please contact Mark Schneider at ECIA at 563-556-4166 or 1-800-942-4648 if you have questions regarding the flood recovery efforts throughout the ECIA region.



Return Service Requested

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