

IJOBS Awards the City of DeWitt & Teresa Shelter in Dubuque with Grant

IJOBS is a \$750 million investment in all of Iowa that will create jobs, improve infrastructure, strengthen the economy, and build a safer, stronger, greener, and smarter state.

The City of DeWitt's application to the IJOBS infrastructure fund for its East Side Storm Water Improvement Project has been approved by the IJOBS board for funding up to \$300,000.00. The project includes cleaning and reshaping the City's storm water ditch system that runs through the east side of town from the north to the south and the ditch system in the Crossroads Business Park. Two retention ponds will also be constructed. This is a flood mitigation project that will reduce street flooding and the flooding of private property in DeWitt, in particular the retention ponds should reduce flooding on Industrial Drive in the Business park and reduce flooding on 11th Street, which is DeWitt's most traveled street. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$600,000.00.

Opening Doors- Teresa Shelter in Dubuque` was awarded a \$245,000 IJOBS grant through the Iowa Finance Authority. This grant will be used to update portions of the exterior and interior of the building located at 1111 Bluff Street. Site improvements will include a new hip roof, resurfacing of the parking lot, geothermal heating & air conditioning, separate sleeping areas for the guests, new tiled flooring, and an additional bathroom to accommodate the increasing number of clients the shelter is servicing.

These additions will not only improve the functionality and appearance of the building, but will dramatically reduce monthly expenses. "Due to the depressed economy, donations have been down over the past year. We would never be able to do renovations without this grant," Michelle Brown, Opening Doors Executive Director said. Executives say the grant couldn't have timed out better, but there's still work to be done. "Unfortunately, the renovation is not the answer to all our needs, but it is a great boost to what we need," Brown said. Executives say with budget concerns, they've had to rely more on volunteers working at the shelter because staff salaries are their biggest expense. Also, they're still looking for donations to keep up with daily expenses.



Return Service Requested

563.556.4166
Dubuque IA 52002
7600 Commerce Park
East Central Intergovernmental Association



ECIA

Alert

October 2009

Update on Transportation Stimulus Funds

The Dubuque Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (DMATS) & Regional Planning Affiliation 8 (RPA 8) received a total of \$7,191,730 combined through the American Recovery Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The Funds should be obligated no later than January 2010. If not obligated, the funds will be diverted to IADOT and will be spent somewhere else in the state.

RPA 8 funded 13 projects in the region. The cities that received ARRA funding from the projects were Camanche and Clinton in Clinton County, Manchester in Delaware County, Cascade, Dyersville & Farley in Dubuque County and Maquoketa in Jackson County. All projects are on schedule to be let by January 2010.

DMATS allocated their ARRA funding to the number one priority for the region, the SW Arterial. The project is on schedule and the funds will be obligated before January 2010.

Overall, based on ARRA job benefit calculations, the region will create approximately 80 construction jobs to complete these projects.

RTA Advertising

In an effort to increase revenue and to recognize those contributors who generously donated toward the RTA's capital campaign to replace buses, the RTA buses have been displaying a variety of different ads through the three county service area. Most recent and eye-catching is the bus wrap purchased by Prosperity Eastern Iowa promoting Access My Future, a website targeting 14 to 25 year olds to get them to stay in or locate to eastern Iowa. The wrap is common to urban areas across the country and generally seen on larger metro buses. However, with the coverage the RTA gets on a variety of streets and businesses, the concept of advertising on the buses made good business sense. The additional revenue will support the RTA's operating and capital needs and will promote area organizations in Delaware, Dubuque and Jackson Counties. If you are interested in advertising on an RTA bus, contact Marla Quinn at 563-556-4166.



ECIA Hires Mobility Coordinator

Bridget Bartlett, MSW started September 2, 2009 as ECIA's new Mobility

Coordinator thanks to a two year grant awarded by the Iowa Department of Transportation from the State Transit Assistance Special Projects

grant program. Bridgett will coordinate transportation services provided throughout the Delaware, Dubuque and Jackson County area in order to improve the overall mobility, with improvements for elderly or low income persons, and persons with disabilities. Her extensive human service background will help strengthen the network of human service and public transit providers through research, facilitation, outreach and education. Bridget had been previously employed as the Director of the Theresa Shelter in Dubuque.



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

Leary Selected as Regional Area Coordinator

Dave Leary, the Director of Employment and Training for ECIA, has been selected as the Regional Area Coordinator for Iowa Workforce Development Region 1. This new position will include the oversight of the entire workforce system in Region 1, including the IowaWorks Center in Dubuque. He will be responsible for policy implementation, standardized service delivery processes, customer flow, staff and resource allocation and achieving performance measures in the eight counties comprising Region 1 (Allamakee, Chickasaw, Clayton, Delaware, Dubuque, Fayette, Howard, and Winneshiek).



Leary is a long-time employee of ECIA, starting in 1977 as a Youth Specialist. Throughout the years, he has worked in all phases of the Employment and Training Department including the Summer Youth, Workforce Investment, and the Promise Jobs programs. He became the Director of the Employment and Training Department in 1994 where he has successfully led the department to achieving high performance standards and additional funding for the programs.

Leary will continue as ECIA's Employment and Training Director and, along with the recently selected Assistant Director of Employment and Training, will be responsible for directing the activities of the department.

Census 2010 – Making the Census a Success

The theme for 2010 Census is "It's in Our Hands" and your county's participation is essential in securing your portion of the \$300 billion in federal funds allocated annually to state, county, and local communities based on census data. Census data guides local decision-makers in important community planning efforts, (e.g. where to build new roads, hospital and schools). In addition, census data affects your voice in Congress by determining how many seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives. Iowa could possibly lose a seat in Congress so, it is imperative that we make sure we can get everyone counted in 2010.

The purpose of the Partnership Support program is to better reach hard-to-count populations by establishing relationships with 2010 governmental units and organizations. Complete Count Committees (CCC), an initiative through this program, can organize a team of local people who can provide the cultural and community insights necessary to build Census awareness efforts, promote the value of accurate and complete census data, and have a positive impact on the questionnaire response rate.

Community events and activities are a great way to promote the Census. The Census Bureau had a booth at back-to-school fairs in three hard-to-count areas of Des Moines; census staff attended a town meeting with Congressman Boswell in Valley Junction. One city even ordered cow-shaped stress balls to hand out at a local rodeo; another requested funding to match a partnership activity for each month; a third ordered 2010 census paper napkins and plates to be used at the local conference center.

Although the biggest push is to encourage complete count committees in cities or counties with populations of 25,000 or more, funds are still available through the Partnership Support Program for the rest of this federal fiscal year and starting in the new fiscal year October 1, to apply for funds to purchase Census awareness materials. Instructions on how to form a CCC are on the ECIA website. No funds are given directly or indirectly to 2010 CCCs. All purchases are made by Census Bureau personnel in compliance with the Federal Acquisition Regulation and the Commerce Acquisition Manual and disbursed directly to vendors. Communities could promote the Census by having a booth at athletic events, collaborate with other communities in their county at events, see if local businesses like gas stations will hand out promotional material, etc.

For more information, contact Marla Quinn at 563-556-4166 or mquinn@ecia.org.

ECIA Election of Officers for FY'10

At the July 15, 2009 Council meeting Bud Smock, EIRHA Chairperson was named the new ECIA Chairperson and Roger Holm, Clinton Mayor was named the new Vice-Chairperson. Other officers that were reappointed on the Committee are Milt Kramer, Delaware County/RPA; Don Thiltgen, Clinton County/RPA; Donna Sweeney, Dubuque County; Larry "Buck" Koos, Jackson County; Roy Buol, DMATS; and Jim Vermazen, RWIB. Congratulations to all. We appreciate your time and contribution to this board.

EIRHA Constructs New Home

The Eastern Iowa Regional Housing Authority has recently completed a third new home in Manchester, Iowa. The home constructed on a double lot is approximately 1100 square feet and features 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 car garage, main floor laundry, new kitchen appliances, and a full un-finished basement for future expansion.

Applications are now being accepted, applicants must be below the 80% of the county medium, be considered a first-time home buyer, and attend a homeownership counseling session prior to closing. The family is responsible for securing a standard mortgage, FHA approved, with a financial institution of their choice. The asking price for this home is \$134,000 and it also comes with a \$10,000 down payment assistance through the American Dream Down payment initiative.

Applications and/or information is available by contacting Carl W. Reimer, Homeownership/Housing Specialist at 563-556-4166 or 1-800-942-4648.



Home is located at 300 W. Marion in Manchester



View from the kitchen



View from the living room area

Axtell Selected as Assistant Director

Ron Axtell has been selected as Assistant Director of Employment and Training for ECIA. He will assume management responsibilities and will also retain a partial client caseload as he continues in the role of Youth Employment and Training Specialist. This management position became available when Dave Leary, the Employment and Training Director, accepted the additional duties of Regional Area Coordinator for Iowa Workforce Development Region 1.



Axtell has been with ECIA for 18 years, beginning in 1991 as a Grant Specialist. He then served as Employment and Training Specialist for the next 17 years before accepting the position as part-time Assistant Director. He previously served on the Dubuque Community School District Career Advisory Board, Mississippi Valley Promise Committee, and Shared Youth Visions Committee and currently serves on the Keystone AEA Transition Advisory Board and Project HOPE Committee. In addition, he has been a member of the Iowa Youth Advocacy Committee for the past 12 years while serving as the Chairperson from 2001 to 2003.