



September 2015

To the units of government and economic development organizations in our region:

Given the uncertainty at this time with the State budget and the constraints this may have on the units of government we serve and the community and economic development professionals we partner with, the staff has decided to take a more cost effective approach to providing information. Rather than hosting a grant opportunities workshop as we have done historically, we are offering the information in this bulletin related to grant opportunities that might be of interest. While not an exhaustive list, staff tried to highlight grants of immediate interest on both the federal and state level. Please look this over and if any particular program peaks your interest, do not hesitate to contact the WIRC staff for further details such as funding availability, limitations, eligibility, et cetera.

Keep this on file as a reference for potential future inquiries and we hope you find this useful.

Sincerely,

Suzan Nash
Executive Director
suzan@wirpc.org

Disclaimer: Please note that this information is provided per research completed as of the date indicated above. Funding may not be available in some program areas.

Contact Us

The Western Illinois Regional Council serves Fulton, Hancock, Henderson, Knox, McDonough and Warren counties.

Western Illinois Regional Council
223 South Randolph Street
Macomb, Illinois 61455-2209

Office: (309) 837-3941
Fax: (309) 836-3640
Web: <http://wirpc.org/>

Community Development Staff

Kevin Wiehardt
Community Services Director
kevin@wirpc.org

Josh Mercer
Assistant Planner
josh@wirpc.org

Michael Bruner
Assistant Planner
mike@wirpc.org

Community Development

Community Impact Grants Program: Grants, up to \$5,000, are available to IRS-registered 501c designated organizations and tax-exempt public service agencies in the U.S. that are using the power of volunteers to improve the physical health of their community. Grants are given in the form of The Home Depot gift cards for the purchase of tools, materials, or services. Funded by the Home Depot Foundation.

National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Awards: These awards focus national attention on exemplary programs currently fostering the creative and intellectual development of America's youth through education and practical experience in the arts and the humanities. Each year, awards of \$10,000 each are presented to National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Awards' honorees. Funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Our Town: The Arts Endowment support of a project may start on August 1, 2016, or any time thereafter. A grant period of up to two years is allowed. The Our Town grant program supports creative place-making projects that help to transform communities into lively, beautiful, and resilient places with the arts at their core. This funding supports local efforts to enhance quality of life and opportunity for existing residents, increase creative activity, and create a distinct sense of place. Our Town requires partnerships between arts organizations and government, other nonprofit organizations, and private entities to achieve livability goals for communities. Funded by the National Endowment for the Arts.

Resident Opportunity and Self Sufficiency (ROSS) Service Coordinators Program – (FY 2016 not yet announced): The purpose of the ROSS Service Coordinators (SC) program is to assist residents of public and Indian housing in making progress towards economic and housing self-sufficiency. This is done by providing grant funding to eligible applicants to hire Service Coordinators to assess the needs of public and Indian housing residents and link them to supportive services. Funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

State Summer Youth Employment Program – (FY 2016 not yet announced): The grant program will provide eligible youth with age appropriate job training, life skills, counseling, and work-readiness skills and supervised meaningful work experience. This program presents an opportunity to connect youth to the skills that are needed to enter and advance in the workforce. Funded by the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO).

Community Economic Development

Community Development Assistance Program (CDAP) Economic Development: Through the Economic Development grant opportunity, local governments may request a maximum of \$750,000 for gap financing to assist businesses locating or expanding in the community. Funded by the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO).

Disability Employment Initiative - Community: To provide funding to local workforce investment areas with a significant number of disabled persons needing assistance to gain employment. Funded by the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO).

Economic Adjustment: Assists state and local interests in designing and implementing strategies to adjust or bring about change to an economy. The program focuses on areas that have experienced or are under threat of serious structural damage to the underlying economic base. Under Economic Adjustment, EDA administers its Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Program, which supplies small businesses and entrepreneurs with the gap financing needed to start or expand their business. Funded by the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA).

Economic Development Program: The purpose of this program is to provide state assistance in improving highway access to new or expanding industrial, distribution, or tourism developments. The intent is to make available state matching funds that will be a positive contribution in the location-selection process and to target those projects which will expand the state's existing job base or create new full-time employment opportunities. Funding will be available to construct highway facilities that provide direct access to industrial, distribution, or tourism developments where development of these types of facilities is imminent and not speculative. Funded by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT).

Job Training and Economic Development: Establish and expand partnerships between community-based providers and local employers to develop training programs for unemployed disadvantaged persons and low wage/low skilled employed to meet the skill needs of local industry. Funded by the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO).

Rural Community Development Initiative: Intermediary funding provides technical and financial assistance to help non-profits and low-income communities undertake housing, community, or economic development projects. Eligible areas have a population of less than 50,001 residents and not contiguous or adjacent to an urban area. Funded by U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA RD).

State Training & Employment Opportunities: Training related to the development of workforce skills in demand sectors to include: skills training, career exploration, job readiness, and work experience. Eligible applicants must have administrative and fiscal capacity to administer the program according to the Department's requirements and include (but not limited to) community based organizations, public and private educational institutions, and local government. Funded by the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO).

Tourism Attraction Development Grants: Grant program to develop and/or enhance Illinois tourism attractions. All tourism grant programs are funded by a portion of the state's hotel-motel tax revenue, a dedicated fund set aside by law to increase travel to and within Illinois. Funded by the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO).

Environmental

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative – (FY 2016 not yet announced): Applications are requested for projects within the five categories listed below. Applicants must apply for the specific funding opportunity they are interested in. The five categories are: 1) Invasive Species Prevention, 2) Invasive Species Control, 3) Urban Watershed Management Implementation, 4) Agricultural Watershed Management Implementation, and 5) Maumee River Watershed Nutrient Prevention Pilot Project. Funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Illinois Brownfields Redevelopment Loan Program: Offers low interest loans to clean up brownfield sites; will use loan repayments to make new loans for the same authorized purposes (also known as a revolving loan fund). Funded by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA).

Illinois Municipal Brownfield Redevelopment Grant Program: Helps communities identify and prioritize brownfield sites; investigate and determine remediation objectives; develop remedial action plans; and funds eligible cleanup activities. The program will pay a maximum of \$240,000 for site assessments, soil and groundwater sampling, environmental consultant oversight, laboratory services, cleanup activities and participation in the Site Remediation Program (SRP). Funded by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA).

Nonpoint Source Grant: Grants are available to local units of government and other organizations to protect water quality in Illinois. Projects must address water quality issues relating directly to nonpoint source pollution. Funds can be used for the implementation of watershed management plans including the development of information/education programs and for the installation of

best management practices. Funded by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA).

Historic Preservation

Certified Local Government (CLG) Matching Grants: Matching grants of federal funds made available by the National Park Service, through the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency; 79 grants are available to CLGs in Illinois each year. CLG grants are available to reimburse communities for funding projects that focus on survey; public education; planning; and national register of historic places nominations. Construction projects to restore or rehabilitate public or private property are not eligible for CLG grant funding. Funded by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA).

Cynthia Woods Mitchell Fund for Historic Interiors: Provides nonprofit organizations and public agencies matching grants ranging from \$2,500 to \$10,000 to assist in the preservation, restoration, and interpretation of historic interiors. Individuals and for-profit businesses may apply only if the project for which funding is requested involves a National Historic Landmark. Funds may be used for professional expertise, print and video communication materials, and education programs. Funded by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Donnelley Preservation Fund for Illinois: Provides non-profit organizations and public agencies matching grants from \$500 to \$5,000 (typically from \$3,000 to \$5,000) for historic preservation planning and education efforts. Funds may be used to obtain professional expertise in areas such as architecture, archeology, engineering, preservation planning, land-use planning, fund raising, organizational development and law, as well as preservation education activities to educate the public, owners, and business owners. There is one grant round per year on February 1, with an additional round on June 1 and October 1, depending on the availability of funding. Funded by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Hart Family Fund for Small Towns: Assists small town historic preservation and revitalization initiatives around the country, with a focus on towns with populations of 5,000 or less. The Fund provides nonprofit organizations and public agencies matching grants from \$5,000 to \$10,000 for historic preservation planning and education efforts. Funds may be used to obtain professional expertise in areas such as architecture, archeology, engineering, preservation planning, land-use planning, fund raising, organizational development and law as well as preservation education activities. Funded by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Jeffris Heartland Fund: Established by the Jeffris Family Foundation to support the development of important historic preservation projects in the states of Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, and Ohio. The fund makes grants available in the range of \$5,000 to \$50,000 for Historic Structure Reports and other advanced planning studies. Funds must be matched dollar-for-dollar with cash from sources unrelated to the National Trust and the Jeffris Family Foundation. Established 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations or government agencies in partnership with a 501(c)(3) organization are eligible to apply. Projects in communities with more than 150,000 in population are NOT eligible to apply. Priority will be given to projects located outside of metropolitan areas. Funded by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Johanna Favrot Fund for Historic Preservation: Provides non-profit organizations and public agencies matching grants ranging from \$2,500 to \$10,000 for projects that contribute to the preservation or the recapture of an authentic sense of place. Individuals and for-profit businesses may apply only if the project for which funding is requested involves a National Historic Landmark. Funds may be used for professional advice, conferences, workshops and education programs. Funded by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Preservation Heritage Fund Grants: The Preservation Heritage Fund provides monetary assistance to preserve or protect significant structures or sites in the state of Illinois. Eligible beneficiaries of Preservation Heritage Fund grants and/or loans are significant structures or sites in Illinois that are under threat of demolition, imminent deterioration, or are of such architectural importance that their preservation will benefit the public and Illinois community. Funded by Landmark Illinois.

Housing

Community Development Assistance Program (CDAP) Housing Rehabilitation Program: Through the Housing Rehabilitation program, communities can apply for grants to rehabilitate and retrofit low-to-moderate income housing properties. A non-entitlement unit of local government can apply for a maximum of \$350,000 in grant funds to improve the homes of its low-to-moderate income residents of owner occupied, single family housing units. Grants help provide residents with safe and sanitary living conditions and help to stabilize low to moderate income neighborhoods and affordable housing in the community. Funded by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO).

HOPE VI Main Street Program NOFA – (FY 2016 not yet announced): The purpose of the HOPE VI Main Street Program is to provide grants to small communities to assist

in the renovation of an historic or traditional central business district or "Main Street" area by replacing unused commercial space in buildings with affordable housing units. Funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Housing Preservation Grants: Provides finances to repair and rehabilitate housing owned or occupied by very-low- and low-income rural families for single family and small rental properties in rural areas of 20,000 or less in population. Funded by the U.S. Department of Transportation (US DOT).

Rural Capacity Building for Community Development and Affordable Housing Grants – (FY 2016 not yet announced): Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) and the HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME) create affordable housing and support economic development in communities across the nation. The funding appropriated for this program is intended to serve high-need rural areas and help rural housing development organizations, community development organizations (CDCs), community housing development organizations (CHDOs), local governments, and Indian tribes obtain financing, training and technical assistance necessary to undertake effective community development activities.

Funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Rural Community Development Initiative: Intermediary funding provides technical and financial assistance to help non-profits and low-income communities undertake housing, community, or economic development projects. Eligible areas have a population of less than 50,001 residents and not contiguous or adjacent to an urban area. Funded by U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA RD).

Museum

Illinois Public Museum Capital (PMC) Grant Program: The PMC program can provide up to 100% funding assistance (determined by facility attendance) to eligible entities to expand and upgrade facilities and create new exhibits and other physical facilities to enhance the abilities to meet their mission. Based on available funding sources and certification of eligibility, any public museum operated by and/or on property owned by a local unit of government in Illinois may be eligible to submit one application per grant cycle for a capital project. Funded by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR).

Museums for America: The Museums for America (MFA) program supports projects that strengthen the ability of an individual museum to serve its public. MFA has three project categories: 1) Learning Experiences -

successful projects provide high-quality, inclusive educational opportunities that address particular audience needs; 2) Community Anchors - these projects strive to create a better quality of life within communities; and 3) Collections Stewardship - projects address a clearly articulated and well-documented need and contribute to the long-term preservation of materials entrusted to the museum's care. Funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Public Infrastructure Improvements

Community Connect: Provide broadband in unserved areas to enhance public safety services and foster economic growth; construct, acquire, or lease facilities to deploy broadband transmission services; and improve, expand, construct or acquire a community center with at least 10 computer access points. Funded by U.S Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA RD).

Community Development Assistance Program (CDAP) Design Engineering: Through the Design Engineering grant opportunity, local governments may request a maximum of \$150,000 in grant funds for final design engineering of large-scale construction projects for new or expanding water or sewer systems. Funded by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO).

Community Development Assistance Program (CDAP) Public Infrastructure: Through the Public Infrastructure component, local governments needing to improve public infrastructure and eliminate conditions detrimental to public health, safety, and public welfare may request a maximum of \$450,000 for Public Infrastructure funds to undertake projects designed to alleviate these conditions. Funded by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO).

Community Facilities Direct Loans and Grants: Provides essential community facilities for rural communities to build facilities and purchase equipment for fire and rescue, early warning systems, police stations, health clinics, schools, libraries, hospitals, etc. Funded by U.S Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA RD).

Electricity and Telecommunications: Provide reliable, affordable electricity and telecommunications. Upgrade, expand, maintain and replace rural electric infrastructure, such as generation transmission and distribution of electric power, 911 emergency service, telecommunications, fiber optic cable and broadband services. Funded by U.S Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA RD).

Illinois Safe Routes to School: The SRTS program is administered by the IDOT. SRTS uses a multidisciplinary approach to improve conditions for students who walk or bike to school. The program has three main goals: 1) to enable and encourage children, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school; 2) to make bicycling and walking to school a safer and more appealing transportation alternative, thereby encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle from an early age; and 3) to facilitate the planning, development, and implementation of projects and activities that will improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption, and air pollution in the vicinity (within two miles) of both public and private primary and middle schools (grades K-8). Illinois SRTS funds both infrastructure improvements to the physical environment as well as non-infrastructure projects. Eligible project sponsors include schools and school districts, governmental entities and non-profit organizations. Funded by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT).

Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program: ITEP provides funding for community based projects that expand travel choices and enhance the transportation experience by improving the cultural, historic, aesthetic and environmental aspects of transportation infrastructure. ITEP is designed to promote and develop alternative transportation options, including bike and pedestrian travel, along with streetscape beautification. The federal appropriated funds are awarded competitively and any local or state government with taxing authority is eligible to apply. Local matching funds are required and work must begin on the projects within three years. Funded by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT).

Predevelopment Planning Grant: Pays the cost associated with developing an RD application for a proposed water or wastewater project, such as preliminary engineering and environmental reports. Rural communities with a population of 10,000 or less are eligible for grant consideration. Funded by U.S Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA RD).

Public Sector Energy Efficiency – Ameren Utilities: Program provides funding to Illinois entities/organizations in the Ameren Illinois service territory for educational, training and/or technical assistance activities that achieve energy savings and energy efficiency improvements in buildings. Funded by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO).

Public Works Program: EDA's Public Works program helps distressed communities revitalize, expand, and upgrade the physical infrastructure. This program enables communities to attract new industry; encourage business expansion; diversify local economies; and generate or retain long-term, private-sector jobs and investment through the acquisition or development of land and

infrastructure improvements needed for the successful establishment or expansion of industrial or commercial enterprises. Funded by the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA).

Solid Waste Management Grants: Reduce or eliminate pollution of water resources and improve solid waste sites; provide technical assistance and training to communities; and improve planning and management of solid waste facilities. Funded by U.S Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA RD).

Special Evaluation Assistance for Rural Communities and Households: Pays the cost associated with developing an RD application for a proposed water or wastewater project, such as preliminary engineering and environmental reports. Rural communities with a population of 2,500 or less are eligible for grant consideration. Funded by U.S Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA RD).

Statewide Broadband Program: Funding to create innovative projects that will deliver broadband to unserved and underserved areas to spur job creation and stimulate economic growth and bridge the gap of the broadband divide by delivering access to the citizens of Illinois. Funded by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO).

Surface Transportation Improvement: Provides the greatest flexibility in the use of funds. These funds may be used as capital funding for public transportation capital improvements, car and vanpool projects, fringe and corridor parking facilities, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and intercity or intracity bus terminals and bus facilities. These funds can be used for surface transportation planning activities, wetland mitigation, transit research and development, and environmental analysis. Other eligible projects under this program include transit safety improvements and most transportation control measures. Funded by the U.S. Department of Transportation (US DOT).

Water and Waste Disposal: Develop water and wastewater systems: build, repair, and improve public water systems, waste collection and treatment systems; and related costs. Funded by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO).

WIA National Emergency Grants Flood Relief – (FY 2016 not yet announced): To provide temporary employment on projects for the clean-up, demolition, repair, renovation, and reconstruction of destroyed public structures, facilities, and lands within the affected communities. Local governments and entities within the FEMA declared disaster areas are eligible to receive funding. Funded by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO).

Recreational

Bike Path Grant Program: Local governments having statutory authority to acquire and develop land for public bicycle path purposes can apply. Grants assist eligible units of government acquire, construct and rehabilitate public, non-motorized bicycle paths and directly related support facilities. Funded by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR).

Boat Access Area Development Program: Local governments can apply for financial assistance for the acquisition, construction, and expansion/rehabilitation of public boat and canoe access areas on Illinois lakes and rivers. Funded by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR).

Federal Recreational Trails Program (RTP): Federal appropriated funds provide funding assistance for acquisition, development, rehabilitation and maintenance of both motorized and non-motorized recreation trails. The RTP program can provide up to 80% federal funding on approved projects and requires a minimum 20% non-federal funding match. Funded by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR).

Open Space Lands Acquisition & Development and Land & Water Conservation Programs: Local units of government can apply for acquisition and/or development of land for public parks and open space. Projects vary from small neighborhood parks or tot lots to large community and county parks and nature areas. Funded by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR).

Park and Recreational Facility Construction Grant Program: Local governments can apply for park and recreation unit construction projects including acquisition, development, construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, improvements, architectural planning and installation of capital facilities consisting, but not limited to, buildings, structures and land for park and recreation purposes and open spaces and natural areas. Funded by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR).