



Northeast Council Of Governments

(605)-626-2595

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GOED/NECOG RURAL COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SURVEY

South Dakota's rural communities play a fundamental role in the state's economic structure and serve as centers of social activity for many residents. In an effort to preserve and enhance the wellbeing of rural communities throughout the state, the Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED) is working in conjunction with South Dakota's Planning and Development Districts to identify issues of primary concern to rural communities and to solicit input from local leaders regarding means to address them.

Civic leaders will be asked to complete a survey on behalf of their communities. Data generated from the survey will provide insight regarding the issues facing South Dakota's rural communities and serve as the basis for a regional discussion meeting to be held sometime in the spring of 2013. Representatives from NECOG and GOED will be on hand to share survey results and provide information relative to economic development initiatives taking place in the state. More importantly, the meeting will be structured to solicit thoughts from local leaders regarding the design and implementation of community and economic development programs benefitting the states rural communities and the persons they serve. Specific regional meeting objectives include:

- To gauge the present state of primary infrastructure and essential services in South Dakota communities
- To identify and prioritize the issues of concern in South Dakota communities and

the region and implement corresponding initiatives to address them

- To ascertain the level of economic development preparedness in South Dakota cities and towns and guide the design and implementation of community/economic development programs.

NECOG anticipates that the survey will be distributed via email or regular mail to county commissions, town boards, city councils, economic development groups and others in December. Should you have any questions, please contact Eric at NECOG.

THE GOVERNOR'S HOUSE

The South Dakota Housing and Development Authority (SDHDA) has implemented several new positive changes to the Governor's House. Partial excerpts from the press release are listed below.

- Annual income limits have been increased to \$42,280 for households of one or two people and \$48,320 for households of three or more, in recognition of the ongoing gap in affordable housing.
- School districts in rural communities may now purchase Governor's Houses as a tool to recruit and retain quality teachers. The staff living in these houses DO NOT have to meet the income guidelines listed above.
- Developers will be allowed to purchase Governor's Houses for rental purposes when financed under programs that require long term affordable rent limits targeting low-income families

- Private developers will be allowed to purchase a Governor's House, develop the lot and foundation, place the home and offer it for sale to qualified buyers. This private industry partnership can make the process of buying a Governor's House simpler for buyers. Before the rule change, the buyer had to contract separately for the land, foundation, sidewalks and other site work. Now they can purchase a home that is ready to move into directly from a builder, if they prefer, which can greatly reduce not only challenges but also costs to the qualified buyer.

The houses will continue to be constructed by medium-security inmates at the Mike Durfee State Prison in Springfield, and then moved to home sites across South Dakota. Since it began in 1996, the program has made home ownership a reality for 1,985 South Dakota families. It has also taught a useful trade to thousands of prisoners as they prepare to reenter society.

Governor's Houses are moderately priced at \$35,500 for a two-bedroom, one bath, 1,008-square-foot home which includes delivery to the customer's site. The houses are well-built, low-maintenance, energy-efficient alternatives for South Dakotans with limited means. No tax dollars are spent to build, sell or deliver the Governor's Houses.

OFFICE OF RURAL HEALTH SURVEY

In late 2011 the South Dakota Office of Rural Health partnered with the South Dakota Planning Districts to conduct a health survey. The purpose of the survey was to identify successful strategies for recruiting new professionals, as well as retaining staff by addressing recruitment and retention efforts at the community level. We would like to thank all who assisted by returning a completed survey.

For those of you who are interested in reading the results of the completed survey, the report can be found on our website homepage at www.necog.org.

SOUTH DAKOTA BROADBAND INITIATIVE – COMMUNITY ASSESSMENTS AND GRANTS

There's an exciting new project in South Dakota being facilitated by the South Dakota Bureau of Information and Telecommunications (BIT). The project is called the South Dakota Broadband Initiative (SDBI) and has several benefits for all communities across the state. The primary purpose of the SDBI is to enhance and increase broadband service, usage and adoption across the state. Through efforts of locating and mapping out broadband service availability, stimulating digital dialog through broadband strategic planning, and assisting with technology planning, the SDBI is well on course, enhancing the broadband environment of South Dakota.

A key focus of national efforts to improve broadband service and usage involves ensuring the availability and usability of broadband services at Community Anchor Institutions, or CAI's. CAI's include libraries, medical healthcare facilities, K-12 schools, institutions of higher education, public safety offices (fire, ambulance, police, etc.), government offices (city, county, state, etc.), and other community support locations (YMCA's, United Way, etc.). In many ways, the space of municipalities intersects directly with the space of CAI's, and the Broadband Initiative is committed to improving the broadband capabilities of South Dakota's CAI's.

Paramount to the ability to effectively and fully utilize broadband technology is a solid technical infrastructure. One method of the Broadband Initiative is employing to ensure such robust infrastructures, involves offering a unique technology planning program to South Dakota's Community Anchor Institutions. This program provides CAI's with technical consultation and solutions, as it pertains to their technical infrastructure and broadband connectivity, and is vital in enhancing and

increasing the adoption of services that high speed broadband connections make possible.

The flagship role of the SDBI Technology Planning team begins with technology consultation. Beginning with an initial technical assessment, or a detailed picture of what their current technical infrastructure entails, the Technology Planning team collaborates with institution staff to identify and address potential broadband and technology issues, as well as strategize on any improvements or changes. In addition, discount pricing has been negotiated with state contract vendors to better procure equipment upgrades and new solutions.

In addition, grant funding is available to CAI's through the South Dakota Broadband Initiative. The purpose of the funding is to purchase equipment and services that lend to improving CAI's technical infrastructure, all in an effort to improve broadband usage and related services.

Grant Funding will provide improvements in the areas of:

- Firewalls (a form of cyber security) to protect computers against malware, spyware, viruses and other threatening content.
- Network switches to ensure uptime and stability as well as increase network speeds and performance.
- Wireless equipment for mobile connectivity and increased performance
- New or additional laptops and desktops to provide access to broadband services.

The South Dakota Broadband Initiative Technology Planning team will assist the CAI staff and their technology partners with the implementation of the equipment into their infrastructure. Eligible institutions include libraries, medical and healthcare facilities, K-12 schools, institutions of higher education, public safety offices, government and tribal offices, and community support locations.

The South Dakota Broadband Initiative recently awarded over \$90,000 dollars to

South Dakota CAI's for technology projects and improvements. Many of these awardees were municipal entities. Additional grant opportunities will take place next year, and municipalities can contact us now to get involved in our program and ensure they do not miss out on the opportunities we can offer.

There are multiple benefits for South Dakota's Community Anchor Institutions through this program, especially South Dakota's municipalities. We have a rare opportunity to make enormous improvements in your communities, but our time is limited.

For more information on the South Dakota Broadband Initiative, visit <http://broadband.sd.gov/TPCO-TAR.aspx> or call 605-773-4165 or email: broadband@state.sd.us.

Or contact NECOG at 605-626-2595

US CENSUS BUREAU FACTS FOR THANKSGIVING DAY

In the fall of 1621, the Pilgrims, early settlers of Plymouth Colony, held a three-day feast to celebrate a bountiful harvest, an event many regard as the nation's first Thanksgiving. Historians have also recorded ceremonies of thanks among other groups of European settlers in North America, including British colonists in Virginia in 1619. The legacy of thanks and the feast have survived the centuries, as the event became a national holiday in 1863 when President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday of November as a national day of thanksgiving. Later, President Franklin Roosevelt clarified that Thanksgiving should always be celebrated on the fourth Thursday of the month to encourage earlier holiday shopping, never on the occasional fifth Thursday.

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Number of places in the United States named after the holiday's traditional main course. Turkey Creek, La., was the most populous in 2011, with 440 residents, followed by Turkey, Texas (424), Turkey, N.C. (295) and Turkey

Creek, Ariz. (294). There are also 11 townships around the country with Turkey in their names, including three in Kansas.

254 million

The number of turkeys expected to be raised in the United States in 2012. That is up 2 percent from the number raised during 2011.

768 million pounds

The forecast for U.S. cranberry production in 2012. Wisconsin is estimated to lead all states in the production of cranberries, with 450 million pounds, followed by Massachusetts (estimated at 210 million).

2.7 billion pounds

The total weight of sweet potatoes — another popular Thanksgiving side dish — produced by major sweet potato producing states in 2011. North Carolina (1.3 billion pounds) produced more sweet potatoes than any other state.

1.1 billion pounds

Total production of pumpkins in the major pumpkin-producing states in 2011. Illinois led the country by producing an estimated 520 million pounds of the vined orange gourd. Pumpkin patches in California, Pennsylvania and Ohio also provided lots of pumpkins

Recent NECOG Region Grant Awards – The following Counties and Communities have received grants and loans in the last three month.			
Consolidated Water Facilities Program	Grant	Loan	Project
City of Waubay	\$ 596,800		Lift Station Improvements
Small Community Planning Grant			
Town of Bristol	\$ 28,000		Water/Sewer/Storm Sewer Study
Land and Water Conservation Grant			
City of Groton	\$ 12,000		Park Equipment Replacement
City of Gettysburg	\$ 20,000		Playground Equipment
Community Development Block Grant Program			
City of Eureka	\$ 515,000		Wastewater Improvements
Brown County	\$ 164,500		Workforce Development Project
Clean Water State Revolving Funds			
City of Faulkton		\$ 902,000	Wastewater Improvements
City of Waubay		\$ 149,200	Lift Station Improvements
City of Eureka		\$1,494,000	Wastewater Improvements
DOT Community Access Grant			
City of Waubay	\$ 104,000		Main Street Road Improvements
USDA-Rural Development Community Facilities			
City of Bowdle		\$ 578,700	Hospital Renovation
Town of Hosmer	\$ 50,000	\$ 70,000	Nursing Home Sprinkler System
TOTAL	\$1,490,300	\$3,193,900	

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