



# Northeast Council Of Governments (605)-626-2595

May 2012

## NECOG ANNUAL MEETING REMINDER

NECOG's annual meeting will be on Thursday May 10th with a 6:00pm social and 6:30pm dinner. This year's meeting will be held at the Aberdeen Ramada Hotel at 2727 SE 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Aberdeen. The Aberdeen Central Vocal Jazz Group will provide a musical performance after the dinner.

Cost of the meal is \$15 per person in advance and \$20 per person at the door. **Please RSVP by Monday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm** as we need an accurate count for the meal. Drawings will be held during the meeting for multiple prizes.

## COMMUNITY ACCESS/INDUSTRIAL PARK/AGRI-BUSINESS GRANT PROGRAM

Community Access Grants are State funds for all Counties and Towns less than 5,000 in population and are for the construction or reconstruction of major streets in town such as Main Street and roads that lead to elevators, schools, hospitals, and farm-to-market roads. This program provides for 60% of the construction costs of the project, not including engineering or utility work. Grant size is limited to \$200,000 and applications are due July 15.

The Industrial Park and Agri-Business Grant Programs provide funds to assist communities and counties who have a new industry or agri-business and need new or expanded access to the facilities.

Only applications for new projects will be considered. These two programs accept applications 3 times each year (April, July and October 15). If you have projects that may qualify for this program or you would like more information please contact our office. Additional information is also available through the South Dakota DOT website at: <http://www.sddot.com/business/local/economic/Default.aspx>

## DOT GIS ROAD PROJECT

NECOG has finished collecting over 350 responses from towns, townships, and counties in our region on changes to their local road system. Information provided will allow staff during the next three months to make updates to the existing road layers and to forward that information on to the DOT. We would like to thank everyone who assisted in reviewing their local maps and returning them to our office.

## OFFICIAL DOT STIP MEETINGS

The official DOT Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) meetings will be held in Aberdeen on July 17 at the Ramada Convention Center and in Pierre on July 24 at the Ramkota Hotel. Other locations include:

Rapid City Ramada Hotel July 25, 2012  
Sioux Falls Ramkota Hotel July 18, 2012  
Mitchell Technical Institute July 19, 2012

All of the meetings are held at 7:00 pm. The STIP document lists the projects that South Dakota Department of Transportation has scheduled in the Federal Fiscal Years 2013 through 2017.

DOT staff will also be presenting a preliminary review of the "Tentative" STIP information at NECOG's June meeting. That meeting has been scheduled for June 27, 2012 at 7:00pm at the NECOG offices.

## **SOUTH DAKOTA HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY GOVERNOR'S HOUSE CHANGES**

The Governor's House program has recently had some changes.

Income guidelines were changed to 70% of the Median Household Income (\$42,280) for households of 2 or less and 80% of the Median Household Income (\$48,320) for 3 or more.

Also, the South Dakota Housing Development Authority is in the process of developing the guidelines for allowing school districts in rural communities of 2,500 or less to purchase the Governor's House for the purpose of providing teacher housing.

## **ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTER GRANTS**

Assistance to Firefighters Grant application deadline has not been set yet, but is estimated to be in July of 2012. This year's funding will have around \$337 million available nationally. Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) provides financial assistance directly to fire departments and nonaffiliated EMS organizations to enhance their capabilities with respect to fire and fire-related hazards.

The primary goal is to help fire departments and nonaffiliated EMS organizations meet their firefighting and emergency response needs. AFG seeks to support organizations that lack

the tools and resources necessary to more effectively protect the life and safety of the public and their emergency response personnel with respect to fire and all other hazards.

Funding Priorities:

1. Fire Department Priorities:
  - Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety: Training, Equipment, PPE Gear, Firefighter Wellness and Fitness, Modifications to Fire Stations and Facilities, Firefighter Vehicle Acquisition
2. Nonaffiliated EMS Organization Priorities:
  - EMS Operations and Safety: Training, Equipment Acquisition, PPE, Wellness and Fitness, Modifications to EMS Stations and Facilities, and Vehicle Acquisition

Cost sharing under AFG is based on the population protected by the grantee. The cost-share breakdown for fire departments and nonaffiliated EMS organizations serving areas with a population of 20,000 or fewer is 5% of the total project cost.

## **NECOG HAS HIRED A SUMMER INTERN**

NECOG has hired Ashli Griffith as a summer intern. As you may remember Ashli served in the position previously and we are happy to have her back. Ashli spent the last year interning for two accounting firms and is close to completing her accounting major at Northern State University. She will be assisting NECOG staff in the many different functions of the office.

### **CONTACT US AT:**

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