



Northeast Council Of Governments (605) 626-2595

January 2016

NECOG-DC RECEIVES ADDITIONAL FUNDING

The NECOG Development Corporation has been awarded \$486,861 by U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development. These funds will enable NECOG-DC to relend the money to small businesses in our 12 County region.

The federal funds, provided through USDA's Intermediary Relending Program (IRP), was leveraged with \$162,287 from the Governor's Office of Economic Development.

Loans can be made for the purchase of a business, building or land; building renovations, inventory, equipment, start-up costs and permanent working capital.

NECOG-DC has provided financing for businesses such as restaurants, general contractors, electricians, grocery stores, gas stations, hardware stores, and other businesses important to rural areas.

NECOG-DC is an alternative source of financing for new and expanding small businesses in South Dakota. As a gap lender, NECOG-DC works in conjunction with other lenders to provide flexible rates and terms that meet the individual needs of small business borrowers.

The loan funds provided by NECOG-DC are effective economic development tools that assist small businesses and communities by promoting job creation and retention in northeast South Dakota.

For more information please contact Alison Kiesz, RLF Manager at (605) 626-2595 or alison@necog.org. Information and application are also available at www.necog.org

Since 1989, NECOG-DC has made 200 loans totaling more than \$13.7 million. These funds have leveraged more than \$86 million in other funds and have created or retained 1,661 jobs in the region. NECOG-DC's mission is to foster economic development, create/retain jobs, stimulate business opportunities, and attract and retain business in northeast South Dakota through various economic programs and relationships with Federal, State and local officials.

SD TOURISM CONFERENCE

The Annual SD Tourism Conference is scheduled for January 19-21, 2016 at the Ramkota River Center in Pierre with the theme "Be Monumental."

Some of the key topics include:
-Get What You Want With What You've Got
-Positively Magical Service
-What the Smartest Destinations Are Doing Right

For a complete copy of the program and to register online with a credit card go to www.southdakotatourismconference.com
Through January 14, the full conference fee is \$275. Online pre-registration and pre-payment close January 14, 2016. The-site registration fee is \$325.

DOT BRIDGE IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

The Bridge Improvement Grant (BIG) program was created by the 2015 legislative session in Senate Bill 1 (SB 1). SB 1 states that in order to be eligible for a BIG grant, a county must impose a wheel tax, and must have a County Highway and Bridge Improvement Plan. The plans detail proposed highway and bridge improvement projects in the county for the next five years.

Funding for counties and/or cities is being made available for eligible bridges for preservation, rehabilitation, or replacement. Authorized work will be funded at 80 percent of eligible costs. Right-of-Ways, utility relocations, roadway surfacing to the bridge, fencing, aesthetics, permanent signing, and off-site environmental mitigation costs are considered non-eligible. Minimum grant costs, including engineering, is \$30,000 for preservation projects and \$100,000 for rehabilitation or replacement projects. Applications are due January 31, 2016.

DOT GPS MAPPING PROJECT

Since 1995, the South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT) in cooperation with the South Dakota Planning and Development Districts has been collecting city, county township and federal roadway information using Global Positioning System (GPS) technology. This information is utilized by the SDDOT for several purposes including reporting mileage to the Federal Highway Administration as well as creating county and city maps.

In the next month, on behalf of the SDDOT, we will be contacting individuals with jurisdiction over roads and ask for assistance in updating any changes in the effort to keep this roadway information current.

The assistance of county, city and township officials is critical to the accuracy and overall success of the SDDOT public road inventory,

and we believe that we will all benefit through this multi-agency cooperation.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FINANCE PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Ted Dickey and Jennifer Sietsema recently received certification as an Economic Development Finance Professional from the National Development Council (NDC). EDFP certification is a designation given to individuals who successfully complete an intensive economic development finance training series conducted by NDC. The courses provide individuals working in the field of economic development with extensive training in credit analysis, real estate financing, loan packaging and the creation and implementation of development programs.

Each of the four courses are five days in length and end with a written review that must be passed before a certification candidate is allowed to continue in the EDFP program. When a candidate has completed the entire four-week series, a comprehensive examination is given.

Citibank, through the support of the Citigroup Foundation, provided support to offer economic development professionals from all over the State the opportunity to attend the NDC training series at no cost to participants at Citibank in Sioux Falls.

The New York based NDC was established in 1972 and is private non-profit corporation, which specializes in economic development training and technical assistance for economic/housing development.

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