



## Northeast Council of Governments March 2021 Newsletter

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### NECOG Council Meeting Information

Our office has decided not to hold a spring meeting this year due to ongoing COVID-19 issues. At this time, our next scheduled meeting is set for June 23 and as that date gets closer, we will provide specifics on that meeting and any necessary changes. At this proposed meeting, the SD Department of Transportation plans to present a preliminary review of the Departments 4-year transportation plan for our region.

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### Land and Water Conservation Fund

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) recently announced the availability of grant funds through the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program. The LWCF provides matching grants to local governments for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. Some eligible projects may include, but are not limited to:

- Playgrounds
- Swimming Pools
- Ballfields
- Sport and play fields
- Picnic facilities
- Pools
- Ice rinks
- Golf courses
- Amphitheaters
- Winter sports facilities
- Visitor information facilities
- Land Acquisition

Grants are awarded for up to 50% of eligible project costs and are distributed on a reimbursement basis. Local match can be cash or in-kind donations. The minimum grant amount is \$10,000. Applications are due April 30, 2021. NECOG staff can assist your city or county in preparing your application, please contact us if you are

considering applying.

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## **US Census 2020 and Redistricting**

On February 12 the US Census Bureau announced a delay in the delivery of redistricting data to states until September 30, 2021 which is a change from the prior date of March 31, 2021. (Census Bureau Statement below)

This data is necessary for Counties and Cities that need to redistrict within their jurisdictions. All governmental bodies that are required to redistrict need to adopt by ordinance their new maps and be in full effect prior to the first election related deadlines. For municipalities with an April election this should be done prior to the end of this year. Counties that have commissioner districts are required to complete this task at their February meeting in 2022 under South Dakota Codified Law 7-8-10. Our office assisted Counties and Cities with this task in 2011 and we plan to provide assistance again where we are able to. The reduced timeframe will make this process more difficult and should be started soon after the information is available.

### **Census Bureau Statement on Redistricting Data Timeline**

FEB. 12, 2021 — The U.S. Census Bureau announced today that it will deliver the Public Law 94-171 redistricting data to all states by Sept. 30, 2021. COVID-19-related delays and prioritizing the delivery of the apportionment results delayed the Census Bureau's original plan to deliver the redistricting data to the states by March 31, 2021.

Different from previous censuses, the Census Bureau will deliver the data for all states at once, instead of on a flow basis. This change has been made because of COVID-19-related shifts in data collection and in the data processing schedule and it enables the Census Bureau to deliver complete and accurate redistricting data in a more timely fashion overall for the states.

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## **Local Government Recovery Funds**

The State Local Government Recovery Fund for Counties and Cities ended on December 31 and at this time nearly all claims have been resolved. This was a time-consuming process for our office and for Counties and Cities as well and we would like to thank the Auditors and Finance Officers who also had to work through this process.

When the dollar allocations were initially made in June, our region was allocated for \$21,305,226. The program rules did evolve through the last half of 2020 and as of February 19 our region has exceeded the allocation amount and has received a total of \$22,353,006.

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## **Community Access/Industrial Park/Agri-Business Grant Program**

Community Access Grants are State funds for Towns with 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 or schools. This program provides for 80% of the construction costs of the project, not including engineering or utility work. Grant size is limited to \$600,000 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. The Industrial Park grant has a \$500,000 grant limit.

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 <https://dot.sd.gov/doing-business/local-governments/transportation-economic-development-grants>

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## **DOT GIS Road Project**

NECOG is working on 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 several months to make updates to the existing road layers and to forward that information on to the DOT. If you received a map from us and have already returned it to our office, we would like to thank you. If you have not returned your map please do so by March 19<sup>th</sup>.

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