



Northeast Council of Governments December 2022 Newsletter

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From the Director - NECOG 2022 Year-end Review

I recently completed my 25th year working for NECOG and my 19th as the Executive Director, hopefully I have many more years to come. Throughout my years I have been in every corner of our 12 county region and have had the pleasure to be involved in so many of your projects.

This past year was another busy year for our office. As I look back on the past year the main focus was water and sewer. The State made available \$600 million dollars from the American Rescue Plan Act for water and sewer projects across the state. Primarily due to this one-time funding, this past year we assisted our members in obtaining over \$247 million in grants and loans. This funding was for water/sewer and various community and economic development projects. The \$247 million also represented more than three times the amount of funding received in any prior year.

We are currently working on wrapping up our 2022 end of year report and hope to have it completed in the next couple of weeks. This report will be placed on the homepage of our website when completed and currently the 2021 report is available. The end of year report will detail all the funding projects that made up the \$247 million and other work activities of the past year.

I want to take a quick moment to thank the staff (Ted, Alison, Jordan and Lesleann) who completed the work on all of your projects this year, it would not be possible without their efforts. Also a thank you to the executive board for their support and a thank you to Tom Hanson, Beadle County who will not be returning to the executive board after 8 years of service.

It continues to be a pleasure to serve the region and I look forward to another a great year. Happy New Year!

DOT GIS Annual Road 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.

Land and Water Conservation Fund

It is anticipated that South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) will soon announce the annual 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. This grant funding is the only funding available for most recreation projects. 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 will likely be due April 28, 2023. NECOG staff can assist your city or county in preparing your application, please contact us if you are considering applying.

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>

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Funding for Disasters 4656 & 4664

South Dakota received a Presidential Disaster Declaration as a result of June 2022 statewide severe storms, tornadoes, straight-line winds, and flooding. Subsequently, approximately \$1,254,600 of funding is now available for local governments and certain non-profit organizations to apply for hazard mitigation projects that will reduce the loss of life, property, and critical infrastructure by reducing the impacts of natural hazards such as wildfire, severe storms, and flooding.

If you are interested in finding out more about eligibility of mitigation projects, please contact Lesleann. **The deadline for application is March 8, 2023. *Program requires an environmental review and benefit cost analysis; therefore time is limited and project applications need to start right away.**

Save the Date

The 2023 GOED Conference will be hosted from April 24th to April 25th at the Sioux Falls Convention Center. Visit <https://sdgoed.com/partners/2023-goed-conference/> for more information as it becomes available.

Upcoming Dates

March 8 – SD OEM funding deadline for HMGP applications (mitigation)

April 1 & Oct 1 – CDBG funding deadline (community facilities or water/sewer imp)

April 1, July 1, Oct 1, & Jan 1 2023 – DANR funding deadlines (water & sewer funding)

April 7 – SD GFP deadline for Recreational Trails Program funding application

April 28 – SD GFP deadline for Land and Water Conservation Fund applications (outdoor recreation)

May 1, Aug 1, Oct 1 & Feb 1 – DANR deadline for State Water Plan applications

July 15 – SD DOT deadline for Community Access Grants (roads)

Contact Us At:

Northeast Council of Governments

416 Production St N, Suite 1
Aberdeen, SD 57401
Telephone: 605-626-2595
Website: www.necog.org