



Northeast Council Of Governments (605)-626-2595

March 2014

SOUTH DAKOTA GF&P RECREATIONAL TRAILS GRANT

The State of South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks has recently announced that applications are now being accepted for the Recreation Trails Program (RTP) Grant.

The grants will be available for trail projects sponsored by municipalities, counties, state parks, civic organizations or tribal governments. The Recreation Trails Program provides up to 80% reimbursement for approved trail projects. Eligible projects include construction of new public trails, rehabilitation of existing public trails, development of trail-related facilities, and educational programs that relate to recreational trails. The application deadline is Friday, April 11, 2014.

RTP funds are provided to the state through the Federal Highway Administration and are apportioned to states by Congress to fund both motorized and non-motorized public recreation trail projects. The amount of funds available is based upon the number of recreational vehicles licensed in each state.

The application is available online at the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks website, <http://gfp.sd.gov/agency/partnerships/rtp.aspx>

Please contact the NECOG office at 626-2595 if you are interested in applying for a Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant.

SOUTH DAKOTA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

The SD GOED conference is being held April 15-16, 2014 in Sioux Falls. Registration will be open soon.

DOT TRANSPORTATION STUDIES

The South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT) has announced a Small Community Transportation Planning Program to allow small communities, with populations under 5,000, access to SDDOT staff and assistance to complete community transportation plans. The SDDOT will be dedicating a portion of its FY2015 Statewide Planning & Research (SPR) program funding to aid small communities, outside the Metropolitan Planning Areas, in their transportation planning efforts.

This program allows South Dakota's small communities to have a transportation planning study completed with the assistance of SDDOT staff through the use of these SPR funds. In turn, the community agrees to contribute City staff time, meeting rooms and related study expenses as local match. In order for the transportation planning process to be successful, community-wide participation in the planning process will also be encouraged.

The program will operate under an application & award basis. Applications for this year's program are due March 14, 2014.

The SDDOT hopes this program will generate interest in a transportation planning process

that will guide future community growth and development and assist communities in applying for other transportation related funds. It is the SDDOT's intent to continue this program as an annual opportunity for small communities to study and improve their local transportation system.

The program's guidelines and an application form to participate in this year's program can be downloaded from the SDDOT webpage www.sddot.com/transportation/highways/planning/specialstudies/SPR/default.aspx by clicking on the Guidelines and Application link under Small Community Transportation Planning Program in the middle of the page.

Feel free to contact Nancy Surprenant if you have any questions at (605) 773 – 4912 or via email at nancy.surprenant@state.sd.us.

HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT FUNDING

South Dakota received a Presidential Disaster Declaration as a result of an early October 2013 blizzard. Subsequently, approximately \$4.2 million of funding is now available for local governments and certain private-non-profit organizations to apply for hazard mitigation projects that will reduce the loss of life and property by lessening the impacts of future disasters. If you are interested in finding out more about the eligibility of mitigation projects or applying for these funds please contact Jim Poppen at 605-773-3231 or jim.poppen@state.sd.us. Discussions on your project are vital to ensure all components of the application are completed. The deadline for application submittal is August 15, 2014.

Notes:

- New Hazard Mitigation Assistance guidance contains a new Eligibility and Completeness Checklist which needs to accompany each application.

- When submitting an application for a phased project, you will need to indicate that you are requesting the project to be phased and provide a detailed scope of work and budget for each phase of the project. A new benefit cost analysis is required for phase 2.
- If you intend to request progress payments throughout the construction of your project then this will need to be indicated in your application. Copies of all invoices and checks will be required and a project inspection will be performed by OEM prior to any payment. Each payment will be reimbursed at a 75% federal share rate with a 25% local match required.
- All agencies that have a stake in environmental and historic preservation for your project will need to have an environmental letter sent to them for their response on your project. These response letters must accompany the application.

SD ABANDONED TANK REMOVAL PROGRAM

We have enclosed with this newsletter a description for the Abandoned Tank Removal Program and application. All necessary information is available on the insert.

NECOG STAFF

We would like to extend a thank you to Rich Galbraith, RLF Manager who will be leaving NECOG on February 28. Rich has 10 years experience with us and will be missed. We are currently searching for a replacement for his position and if you need any assistance or have any questions on the business loan fund in the interim, please call Eric Senger or email at eric@necog.org.

CONTACT US AT:

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