



Northeast Council Of Governments (605) 626-2595

May 2017

COMMUNITY ACCESS/INDUSTRIAL PARK/AGRI-BUSINESS GRANT PROGRAM

Community Access Grants are State funds for all Counties and 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, 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 \$400,000 and applications are due July 17.

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://sddot.com/business/local/economic/Default.aspx>

FORMAL DOT STIP MEETINGS

The official DOT Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) meeting for our region will be held in Aberdeen on July 11, at 7:00pm at the AmericInn. Other meetings will also be held in Mitchell, Pierre and Rapid City. A webinar will also be available for those who

are unable to attend one of the regional meetings. Contact Dave.Voeltz@State.SD.US to register or visit the DOT website at www.sddot.com for more information.

The STIP document lists the projects that South Dakota Department of Transportation has scheduled in the Federal Fiscal Years 2018 through 2021.

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 28, 2017 at 4:00pm at the NECOG offices. Anyone is welcome to attend, but we ask that you RSVP in advance if you plan on attending.

NECOG COUNCIL MEETING

The next NECOG meeting will be held on June 28th at 4:00 pm at our office location.

DOT will be the guest speaker at this meeting. They will furnish a tentative STIP to be reviewed and discussed prior to the formal public meetings listed in the previous section. You will have the opportunity to ask questions and state your concerns about particular projects.

COUNTY WAGE & BENEFIT SURVEY

This month the 2017 County Wage and Benefit Survey was completed by Planning and Development District III, working in conjunction with each of the South Dakota Planning Districts. An electronic copy of the survey has been sent by email to each participating County. If you did not receive a copy of the

plan and would like one please let us know and we can send you another electronic copy. Thanks again to all those individuals who spent the time completing the survey.

WORKFORCE HOUSING

At the Governor's Office of Economic Development Conference in April a new program was announced to assist with workforce housing. The program has not yet been finalized, but more specific information should be available soon.

The intent of the program is to remove old housing structures, which in turn will allow for local communities to redevelop those lots with workforce housing. A few details were provided at the conference:

- Grant money will be available for removing old structures
- A local match will be required
- The property needs to be owned by the applicant or have an option to purchase
- A redevelopment plan for the site will be required

Once specific information is available on the program we will provide additional information.

LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY PLANS

Recently a new compliance requirement has been implemented by USDA Rural Development for various programs they administer. If you have received funding or will be receiving funding through one of their programs you may be required to develop a Limited English Proficiency (LEP) plan. The plans utilize census data to determine the percentage of LEP persons. LEP persons are those who do not speak English as their primary language and have limited ability to read, speak, write or understand English.

The overall purpose of the plan is to ascertain the extent and needs of the local LEP population as well as identify recommended

actions to ensure discrimination does not occur to persons receiving services who do not speak English at all or very well. The end result of implementation of these actions will be to assist in eliminating the language barriers that prevent eligible persons from having meaningful access to federally funded programs.

If you have questions on LEP plans or need assistance in complying with the requirements our office is able to answer questions and provide assistance.

NECOG DC BUSINESS LOANS

The NECOG Development Corporation is a non-profit organization that operates a Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) program which assists small businesses and entrepreneurs to gain access to funding. NECOG-DC services a twelve county area which includes: Beadle, Brown, Campbell, Day, Edmunds, Faulk, Hand, McPherson, Marshall, Potter, Spink, and Walworth.

Don't think your project qualifies? Call and find out. Funds can be used for both the purchase of an existing business or the startup of a new business. NECOG-DC can also fund projects that include: acquisitions, renovations, inventory, equipment, and on a limited basis working capital.

Applications are considered on a case-by-case basis and all loan decisions are made by the NECOG-DC Board of Directors.

If you would like additional information, an application, or have a question regarding the NECOG-DC loan fund, please contact the RLF Manager, Alison Kiesz, at (605) 626-2595 or via email at alison@necog.org.

CONTACT US AT:

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