

## What is a COG?

### COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENT (COG)

An organization formed by counties, cities and towns to serve local governments and their regional citizens



Serves Allamakee,  
Clayton, Fayette,  
Howard &  
Winneshiek Counties  
(& 52 Cities Within)

## Services: Economic Development

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM (CDBG)

- Water/Sewer, Community facilities, & Disaster funding; grants at different levels based on population & low to moderate income guidelines

### BUSINESS LOANS

- A low interest rate **Revolving Loan Fund (RLF)** for start-up or expanding businesses; can be combined with a city or county RLF
- UERPC administers the **Northeast Iowa Business Network (NIBN)** group, consisting of your local economic development leaders who are able to coordinate & pool their resources together to achieve more with less dollars

## How a COG Helps!

### EXTEND YOUR STAFF

Think of us as an extension of your city or county staff, helping with state and federal programs, and more (you don't have to procure for a COG, as you do for businesses or consulting firms)

### FIND RESOURCES FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

UERPC has secured over \$265 million in grant dollars since its creation in 1972

### COMMITMENT TO THE AREA

UERPC employs 20 individuals, all residents of the region with a strong interest in keeping our communities strong

### WE WORK TOGETHER!

Our governing boards are made up of local elected officials, business & education leaders, economic development professionals, & individual citizens

## Services: Housing

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM (CDBG)

- Housing grants to rehabilitate homes for low income citizens; updates to homes include roof, siding, windows and door repair

### NORTHEAST IOWA HOUSING TRUST FUND

- Administered by UERPC; homeowners can apply for funds for roof, siding, door and window updates if low income conditions are met

### FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK PROGRAM (FHLB)

- Funding for homeowner rehabilitation; maximum \$23,000 per project in the form of a secured grant; must serve households with incomes less than 80% of HUD income guidelines & is geared towards elderly & special needs households

### HOME PROGRAM

- Provides decent affordable housing to lower-income households

### SECTION 8 RENTAL ASSISTANCE

- Housing program to assist lower-income families to live in decent, safe and sanitary housing by providing rental assistance

## Stay in Touch:



### DECORAH OFFICE (PLANNING/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT)

325 Washington St., Suite A  
Decorah, IA 52101  
Phone: (563) 382 - 6171

### POSTVILLE OFFICE (HOUSING)

134 West Greene St.  
Postville, IA 52162  
Phone: (563) 864 - 7551

### WEBSITE / FACEBOOK / TWITTER

[http://uerpc.org/](http://uerpc.org)  
 <https://www.facebook.com/uerpc/>  
 <https://twitter.com/UERPC>

## Services: Planning

### COMMUNITY PLANNING

- Assistance to counties, cities, private organizations and non-profit entities:
  - » Comprehensive Plans
  - » Site Planning
  - » Visioning & Strategic Goal Setting
  - » Local Transportation Plans
  - » Walking/Bicycling Studies or Plans
  - » Neighborhood or Small Area Plans
  - » Park and Trail Planning
  - » Adaptive Re-Use Plans

### HAZARD MITIGATION PLANS

- Assistance to counties & cities in updating hazard mitigation plans; identification of hazard risks & mitigation measures for local disaster issues

### SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL (SRTS)

- Technical & planning assistance for communities to encourage active school travel for students & safe walking and biking routes for all:
  - » Walking/Biking School Buses & walk/bike activities for youth
  - » Organizing community walks
  - » Providing pedestrian and bicycle safety education
  - » Grant writing to fund walking and biking infrastructure
  - » Planning to improve community walkability and bikeability

### TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

- UERPC is the designated Regional Planning Affiliation (RPA) for our area, & serves as staff to the Transportation Policy Board which guides and sets policy for state & federal transportation funding in the region
- Assistance to regional Enhancement, Technical, & Transportation Advisory Committees in addressing road, trail, walkability/bikability, & passenger transportation planning and funding needs

## Other Services:

### CITY CODES AND ORDINANCES

- Assistance with city code & ordinance updates; city council code work sessions; copies of updated codes

### GRANT WRITING

- There are mini-grants & foundations out there that can financially assist your projects; UERPC aids in writing grants and/or help you organize your goals

### GIS MAPPING

- Collect & visualize geographic data to produce high quality products for your county or city. Also, mapping research and analysis. Examples include:
  - » Zoning and Land Use Maps
  - » School Districts Maps
  - » Community Facility & Infrastructure Maps
  - » Park & Trail Maps

### LOW-TO-MODERATE INCOME (LMI) SURVEYS

- As part of some grant stipulations a city must meet low income % guidelines; if a city would like to re-evaluate their census numbers to meet the 51% cut off guidelines they require a city-wide survey

### CONCEPT DESIGN

- Concept designs for projects in combination with or independent of planning services, such as:
  - » Park and Trail Design
  - » Site Design
  - » Downtown Redevelopment Areas

## Learn More!

### MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Provide us your email, and get on our list for the monthly digital newsletter!

### ATTEND A CITY CLERKS MEETING

Quarterly meetings organized by UERPC to provide information on topics & programs of interest to city clerks. Visiting speakers!

### INFORMATIONAL MEETING AND/OR PRESENTATION

Contact us to request examples of our past work, or to arrange a meeting or council presentation addressing our different services