What is a COG?

Council of Governments (COG)

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

upper explorerland regional planning commission

Serves Allamakee, Clayton, Fayette, Howard, and Winneshiek Counties (and 50 Cities Within)

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, planning 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 $321 million in grant dollars since its creation in 1972

Commitment to the Area

UERPC employs 13 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 and education leaders, economic development professionals, and individual citizens

Services: Economic Development

Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)

- Water/Sewer, Community facilities, & Disaster funding; grants at different levels based on 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, county, or utility RLF

Fiscal Agent Services

- We can help your organization with the financial management of your grant programs and assist with reporting requirements.
- UERPC administers the Northeast Iowa Business Network (NIBN) group, consisting of your local economic development leaders who are able to coordinate and pool their resources together to achieve more with less

Services: Housing

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

Section 8 Rental Assistance

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

Home Program

- Provides decent affordable housing to lower-income households

Stay in Touch:

Address / Phone / Fax

325 Washington Street
Decorah, IA 52101
Phone: (563) 382-6171 / FAX: (563) 900-8371

Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM
Wednesday: 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Friday: 8:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Website / Social

https://uerpc.org/

Services: Planning

Community Planning
Assistance to counties, cities, private organizations and non-profit entities:

- Regional planning initiatives, partnership building and goal setting
- Community comprehensive plans
- Strategic goal setting
- Local transportation plans, walking/biking studies or plans
- Housing needs assessments and planning
- Downtown or neighborhood revitalization planning
- Park and trail planning
- Resilience and sustainability plans

Hazard Mitigation Plans

- Assistance to counties and cities in updating hazard mitigation plans, and writing and/or administering FEMA grants

Safe Routes to School (SRTS)
Technical and planning assistance for communities to encourage active school travel for students and safe walking and biking routes for all:

- Walking/Biking School Buses and 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 bikability

Transportation Planning

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

Other Services:

City Codes and Ordinances
Assistance with city code and ordinance updates; city council code work sessions; copies of updated codes

Grant Writing
There are grants and foundations out there that can financially assist your projects; UERPC aids in writing and administering grants and can help you organize your goals in pursuing funding.

GIS Mapping
Collect and 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
- Transportation maps, sidewalk networks
- Park and trail maps
- Hazard mapping, floodplain maps
- Customized analysis

Low-to-Moderate Income (LMI) surveys
As part of some grant stipulations, a city must meet low-income percentage 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.

Site Planning and 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 Digital Newsletter
Provide us your email and get on our list for the monthly newsletter or Fund Alert!
https://uerpc.org/signup-newsletter/

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.

Attend a City Clerks Meeting
Quarterly meetings organized by UERPC to provide information on topics and programs of interest to city clerks. Visiting speakers!