

# Panhandle Area Development District

## November 2017 What You Need to Know (WYNK)

### News

**Leadership Certified Community Program-** Two Panhandle communities have received 'Leadership Certified Community' designation. This program provides a solid framework for communities to identify capacity, stimulate focused planning, and utilize technology to meet the challenges of the future. Designation is good for 5 years and designated communities will have the opportunity to be awarded an extra 75 bonus points for the Downtown Revitalization CDBG Program through NDED. Contact Daniel Bennett at ([danielb@nepadd.com](mailto:danielb@nepadd.com) or 308-436-6584) or your local economic development professional for more info.

### Important Dates

**November 16, 2017- Heartland Expressway Monthly Meeting- Chadron, NE City Hall;** Heartland Expressway Association will be hosting its regular monthly meeting in Chadron on Thursday Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> at 10 am at Chadron City Hall. All are welcome to attend. Contact Daniel Bennett at [danielb@nepadd.com](mailto:danielb@nepadd.com) for more information.

**December 14, 2017- PADD Board of Directors Meeting-** At the Bluffs Business Center in Scottsbluff. Lunch is provided for all attendees, so please RSVP to Joyce at [panhandle.rcd@allophone.com](mailto:panhandle.rcd@allophone.com) if you plan to attend.

### Grant/Funding Opportunities

#### **Rural Futures Institute (RFI) Student Serviceship Opportunity**

Communities can apply to the Rural Futures Institute to host a nine-week summer internship for high capacity University of Nebraska student leaders to assist with locally identified community improvement projects. Communities are required to have a group of 4-8 people to craft the project plan for the student, one primary mentor, office space and basic supplies, housing, and funding to support projects and interns' stipends (appx. \$8,000 per pair). Internships run May 21-Aug 1 2018. **Applications due November 15, 2017.** Find the application [here](#) or on the RFI webpage. Contact Kayla Schnuelle at 402-472-2935 or [kschnuelle@nebraska.edu](mailto:kschnuelle@nebraska.edu) for more information.

#### **Greater Good Grants**

The Panhandle Partnership is accepting applications for community-based projects in areas of community capacity enhancement, construction, renovation, or purchase/improvement of a property or equipment. Only communities in the Nebraska Panhandle are eligible to apply. Projects should demonstrate open, inclusive collaboration and benefit all citizens of the community. Projects must also

demonstrate sustainability after grant fund infusion and funds may not be used for operations of programs. Applications are due by 5:00 pm MT on November 30, 2017. Awards are made by January 1, 2018. Contact the Panhandle Partnership at 308-633-3818 or [tyler.irvine@panhandlepartnership.com](mailto:tyler.irvine@panhandlepartnership.com) for more information or begin filling out an application at: <https://panhandlepartnership.com/grants/greater-good-grant-online-application/>

**Civic and Community Center Financing Fund**

The Civic and Community Center Financing Fund (CCCCF) program provides grants of state aid for the development of civic, community, and recreation centers. The purpose of this program is to support, enhance, and grow the Good Life throughout Nebraska. CCCCFF grants are awarded to municipalities and administered by the Nebraska Department of Economic Development to encourage and foster quality of life in our communities. This is a competitive program. Letters of intent to apply are due January 15 with a full application due February 15. Anticipated award date is March 30, 2018. Search Financial Assistance on the Nebraska DED website or [click here](#) for more info.

**Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)**

Contact PADD staff if your community is interested in any of the following opportunities. Go to the DED website under [Grants](#) to view full guidelines.

Program	Contact	Max Award	Match	Deadline
Economic Development	<a href="mailto:Tom.stephens@nebraska.gov">Tom.stephens@nebraska.gov</a> 402-471-6587	\$1 Million	100%	Open now, Rolling basis
Tourism Development	<a href="mailto:Steve.charleston@nebraska.gov">Steve.charleston@nebraska.gov</a> 402-471-3757	\$350,000	25%	Open now, Rolling basis
Water/Wastewater	<a href="mailto:Abigail.anderson@nebraska.gov">Abigail.anderson@nebraska.gov</a> 402-471-3775	\$250,000	10%	Open now, Rolling basis

**Rural Energy for America Program-2017**

The Rural Business Cooperative Service (the Agency) announces the acceptance of applications under the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) which is designed to help agricultural producers and rural small businesses reduce energy costs and consumption and help meet the Nation’s critical energy needs. REAP have two types of funding assistance: (1) Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements Assistance, and (2) Energy Audit and Renewable Energy Development Assistance Grants. The Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvement Assistance provides grants and guaranteed loans to agricultural producers and rural small businesses to purchase and install renewable energy systems and make energy efficiency improvements to their operations. Eligible renewable energy systems for REAP provide energy from: Wind, solar, renewable biomass (including anaerobic digesters), small hydro-electric, ocean, geothermal, or hydrogen derived from these renewable

resources. The Energy Audit and Renewable Energy Development Assistance Grant is available to a unit of State, Tribal, or local government; instrumentality of a State, Tribal, or local government; institution of higher education; rural electric cooperative; a public power entity; or a council, as defined in 16 U.S.C. 3451. The recipient of grant funds, grantee, will establish a program to assist agricultural producers and rural small businesses with evaluating the energy efficiency and the potential to incorporate renewable energy technologies into their operations.

Contact [marla.marx@ne.usda.gov](mailto:marla.marx@ne.usda.gov) for more information.

### **Transportation Innovation Act Economic Opportunity**

This is a program from the Nebraska Department of Roads to encourage businesses to make a difference in Nebraska. The goal of the program is attract or retain jobs and private capital investment in Nebraska, to make grant funds for strategic transportation improvements, and to connect businesses to Nebraska's multimodal transportation system. Eligible applicants include cities, counties or MPO's. To apply, submit a letter of interest to Korey Donahoo at [korey.donahoo@nebraska.gov](mailto:korey.donahoo@nebraska.gov)

### **Brownfields Assessment Funds Available through NDEQ**

Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) has funds made available through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to perform Phase I and II assessments of brownfields properties. Communities or a non-profit organization must be the applicant for the funds to perform these assessments. Private individuals and businesses can partner with current landowners, PADD, and their municipality to agree to have these sites assessed at no cost to them. For more information, contact [danielb@nepadd.com](mailto:danielb@nepadd.com) or go to NDEQ's Brownfields Website.

### **2017 Grant Planning**

Communities wishing to develop a successful CDBG application need to take steps now to complete income surveys (if not eligible by ACS), blight studies, or other public input avenues such as community needs surveys. Some of these steps (like LMI surveys) can take several months to complete. PADD staff can discuss potential grant applications for projects. Call the PADD office at 308-436-6584.