

Panhandle Area Development District January 2018 What You Need to Know (WYNK)

News

Three Panhandle Communities Receive Grant Awards- Chappell, Hay Springs, and Bayard each received funding through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program to complete projects in their communities. Chappell, NE received \$350,000 for Downtown Revitalization Implementation, Bayard, NE received \$40,000 for a downtown revitalization planning grant, and Hay Springs, NE received \$250,000 for stormwater, wastewater, and pavement improvements.

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 or 308-436-6584) or your local economic development professional for more info.

2016 American Community Survey Data Released- Data buffs and others interested in economic and demographic trends in the region can explore a fresh set of data through the release of the 2016 estimates from the American Community Survey. This information is gathered via random surveys of Panhandle community residents. Explore the new numbers at www.factfinder.census.gov and contact PADD staff with any questions or requests for information for updated numbers in your community.

Important Dates

January 18, 2017- Heartland Expressway Monthly Meeting- Torrington, WY City Hall; Heartland Expressway Association will be hosting its regular monthly meeting in Torrington, WY on Thursday, January 18 at 10 am at Torrington City Hall All are welcome to attend. Contact Daniel Bennett at danielb@nepadd.com for more information.

January 18, 2017- Brownfields Assessment Grant Webinar; Landowners, buyers, and communities are invited to attend an introductory webinar about getting started on brownfield redevelopment by completing an assessment of potential contamination. Assessments can cost anywhere from \$2,500 for initial assessments to upwards of \$20,000 for advanced testing but can be paid for through an EPA grant available to PADD communities. Join

January 25, 2018- Panhandle Planning and Zoning Training- This year's training will focus on the basics with an overview of planning and zoning and why we do it and also sessions on community

redevelopment and turning plans into completed projects. This is a local conference hosted and attended by citizen and professional planners in the Nebraska Panhandle. Time: 10:00 am-3:30 pm, Gering Civic Center, \$25/person and fee includes lunch. **Contact Daniel Bennett at danielb@nepadd.com or 308-436-6584 to register by January 22nd.**

February 8, 2018- PADD Board of Directors Meeting- At the Cirrus Conference Center in Scottsbluff. Lunch is provided for all attendees, so please RSVP to Joyce at panhandle.rcd@allophone.com if you plan to attend. If you would like to set up a teleconference location for the meeting, you must contact PADD staff by Thurs., January 18 to make arrangements.

Grant/Funding Opportunities

Nebraska Rural Workforce Housing Fund

The rural workforce housing fund (RWHF) provides matching grants to non-profit development organizations to reduce the cost of workforce housing in Nebraska's rural communities. Workforce housing is housing that meets the needs of working families and is attractive to new residents locating in a rural community. PADD's sister non-profit, Panhandle Regional Development, Inc., will be submitting an application on behalf of the region.

Eligible projects include new owner-occupied housing, new rental housing, major owner-occupied or rental rehabilitation, and upper story housing. One to one match is required. Regions may apply for up to \$1 million.

Interested communities must have:

- Current (last 5 years) Housing Study
- 1 to 1 match cash donations contributed by individuals, businesses, foundations, local and regional political subdivisions, or other non-profits.
- Projects which could be reasonably be occupied within 24 months.

Contact Bryan at PADD for further information at bryanv@nepadd.com.

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	Tom.stephens@nebraska.gov 402-471-6587	\$1 Million	100%	Open now, Rolling basis
Tourism Development	Steve.charleston@nebraska.gov 402-471-3757	\$350,000	25%	Open now, Rolling basis
Water/Wastewater	Abigail.anderson@nebraska.gov 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 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

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 or go to NDEQ's Brownfields Website.