

# Panhandle Area Development District

## April 2018 What You Need to Know (WYNK)

### News

**Rural Workforce Housing Fund Application Submitted-** PADD staff and the PRDI board submitted an application to the Rural Workforce Housing Fund (RWHF) in the amount of \$1,000,000. The RWHF creates an opportunity for locally raised money to be matched by state dollars to create regional funds for the development of workforce housing. The City of Scottsbluff, the City of Kimball, Platte Valley Bank, First National Bank, NIFA, First Tier Bank in Kimball, and Kimball State Bank, and US Bank in Scottsbluff teamed up to commit \$1,005,000 in local match for projects in their communities. Preliminary notices of awards are anticipated at the end of April. You can read more about the RWHF on the [DED website](#) or contact Bryan Venable at [bryanv@nepadd.com](mailto:bryanv@nepadd.com) for more information.

**Updated Member Benefits Approved by Board-** PADD's board of directors approved an update of PADD's member benefits and general member rates for staff work. Included in the update are a delineation of no-cost grant writing services up to 8 free hours on projects without possible administration dollars for PADD and no cost for grants with potential admin dollars. PADD's hourly staff rate for contract work remains at \$60/hour for members and \$100/hour for non-members. Check [www.nepadd.com](http://www.nepadd.com) on the home page for more information.

**PADD Assistant Community Planner/Consultant Position Posted-** PADD is seeking applications for a community planner/consultant to assist with planning, economic development, and grant writing and administration. Qualified candidates should be directed to the PADD website under 'Jobs' and may submit a cover letter and resume to Jeff Kelley at 1620 Broadway, Suite A-10, Scottsbluff, NE 69361.

**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.

**Certified Local Government Program-** This is a federal program administered in Nebraska by the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office, a division of the Nebraska State Historical Society. The goal of the program is to increase local preservation activities and link local governments with a national network of federal, state and local organizations. Communities can use historic preservation principles to help maintain their identities and enrich their citizens quality of life. Contact Kelli Bacon, CLG Coordinator at [kelli.bacon@nebraska.gov](mailto:kelli.bacon@nebraska.gov). or at 402-471-4766.

## Important Dates

**April 19, 2018- Heartland Expressway Monthly Meeting and Federal Update- Scottsbluff, NE;** Heartland Expressway Association will be hosting its regular monthly meeting in Scottsbluff, NE on Thursday, April 19 at 10 am at the Bluffs Business Center, 1517 Broadway. The HEA Board will receive an update on federal transportation recommendations and a new infrastructure bill from Ports-to-Plains Alliance members at the D.C. fly-in. All are welcome to attend. Contact Daniel Bennett at [danielb@nepadd.com](mailto:danielb@nepadd.com) for more information.

**May 8, 2018- Federal Reserve Bank Economic Forum- Gering Civic Center; 5:45-8:00 pm-** The Federal Reserve Bank Omaha Branch will be hosting a regional networking reception, dinner, and economic forum to share about economic development trends, the agricultural economy, and the regional and national economic outlook. Speakers at the forum will be Dell Gines, senior Community Development Advisor and Nathan Kauffman, Omaha Branch executive and the Kansas City Fed's lead expert on the agricultural economy. A networking reception and dinner are included. There is no cost to attend, but registration is required by May 2. [Click here to register.](#)

**May 15, 2018- Heartland Expressway Monthly Meeting- Brush, CO;** Heartland Expressway Association will be hosting its regular monthly meeting in Brush, CO on Tuesday, May 15 at 10 am at the City Offices. The HEA Board will provide comment on the Truck Diversion Study along Colorado Highway 71 connecting the state line en route to Kimball. All are welcome to attend. Contact Daniel Bennett at [danielb@nepadd.com](mailto:danielb@nepadd.com) for more information.

**May 10, 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](mailto:panhandle.rcd@allophone.com) if you plan to attend.

**May 31, 2018- Conflict Resolution Workshop- Harms Center, Scottsbluff- 9 am- Noon;** The Panhandle Partnership is sponsoring a free training open to the public. The training will go over the nature of conflict and have activities for application of conflict evaluation and resolution skills for situations between co-workers, employees, clients, and family members. Register today at [www.panhandlepartnership.com/events/category/training/](http://www.panhandlepartnership.com/events/category/training/) and search 'Conflict Resolution'.

**June 20, 2018- Adverse Childhood Experiences; Gering Civic Center- 9 am- 2 pm;** Dr. Vincent Felitti, co-author of the ground breaking Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) study on the long-term and often life-long effects of childhood trauma, will speak about the research, clinical implications, and applications in practice today. Come learn how preventing and treating ACEs can make healthier, more productive, and happier individuals, families, and communities. Region 1 Behavioral Health Authority is sponsoring the event, which costs \$20 per person and includes lunch. Register today at [www.panhandlepartnership.com/events/category/training/](http://www.panhandlepartnership.com/events/category/training/) and search 'Adverse Childhood Experiences'.

## Grant/Funding Opportunities

*PADD Staff is ready to help find and write grant applications for your community's needs. Members receive free grant writing for grants with administration opportunities and up to 8 hours staff time free for writing and editing for all other grants. Contact us if you'd like to explore PADD staff assistance with project funding.*

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

PADD and Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) have funds made available to PADD communities 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 and additional brownfield opportunities, contact [danielb@nepadd.com](mailto:danielb@nepadd.com) or go to [www.nepadd.com/Brownfields.html](http://www.nepadd.com/Brownfields.html).

### **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. Maximum awards are generally \$50,000 and require 1 to 1 match. **Applications are due by 5:00 pm MT on May 30, 2018.** Awards are made by July 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/>

### **Kreutz Bennett Library Awards**

Nebraska public libraries located in communities of fewer than 3,000 residents are invited to apply for grants in planning, enhancement of programs, or facilities grants. All grants require 1:1 match. Planning grants range from \$500-\$2,500, Enhancement of programs and services grants range from \$1,000-\$20,000/year, and facilities grants range from \$5,000-\$20,000. Initial short applications are required each year by October and full applications are due in January 2019. Contact Reggi Carlson at [rcarlson@nebcommfound.org](mailto:rcarlson@nebcommfound.org) or 402-323-7338 for more information.

### **FEMA SAFER grant application period now open**

The application period for the FY 2017 SAFER (Staffing for Adequate Emergency Response) grant is now open and will end April 27, 2017. SAFER grants provide funding to fire departments and volunteer firefighter organizations to assist in increasing the number of firefighters to help communities meet industry minimum standards and attain staffing to provide adequate protection from fire and fire-related hazards. For more information [www.fema.gov/firegrants](http://www.fema.gov/firegrants).

**People For Bikes Community Grants**

The program provides funding for projects which build momentum for bicycling in communities across the US. These projects can include bike paths, rail trails, mountain bike trails, bike parks, BMX facilities, bike racks, bike parking, and bike repair stations, and large-scale bicycle advocacy initiatives. Maximum grant awards are \$10,000 requiring a 50% match. Letters of interest are due July 23, 2018 with full applications due October 19, 2018.

**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)