

Panhandle Area Development District

June 2018 What You Need to Know (WYNK)

News

Potter and Sidney Receive Grants for Civic and Community Centers- The Village of Potter and City of Sidney both received awards from the state's Civic and Community Center Financing Fund (CCCCF) for local projects. The CCCCFF funds projects up to 50% of total project costs for construction, planning or improvement of public community facilities and historic buildings. Potter received \$300,000 for its Community Hall and Sidney received \$250,000 for the development of its public plaza in Hickory Street Square. Communities with projects in mind can plan for applications for funding next year with letters of intent to apply due January 15, 2019.

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.

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. or at 402-471-4766.

Important Dates

July 12, 2018- PADD Board of Directors Meeting- Unless otherwise decided by the board, the July PADD meeting will be on July 12th 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. No teleconference option will be available for this meeting. If the board decides to change the meeting date due to the conflict with the governor's economic summit, a notice of meeting date change will be sent out.

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, employees, 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/ and search ‘Adverse Childhood Experiences’.

June 22, 2018- Heartland Expressway/Highway Commissioners Open House and Hearing:

Heartland Expressway Association and the City of Sidney are co-hosting a public open house with the Neb. Dept. of Transportation Highway Commissioners on Friday, June 22 from 8:30-9:30 am at the Sidney city offices. Following the open house, the Highway Commissioners will host their public hearing and monthly meeting at 10 am. All are welcome to attend either event. Contact Daniel Bennett at danielb@nepadd.com for more information.

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.

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
Comprehensive Development-Phase II only	Jenny.mason@nebraska.gov 402-471-6280	\$430,000	25%	Sept. 15, 2018
Downtown Revitalization-Planning	Jenny.mason@nebraska.gov 402-471-6280	\$40,000	25%	Aug. 30, 2018
Downtown Revitalization-Implementation	Jenny.mason@nebraska.gov 402-471-6280	\$400,000	25%	Sept. 30, 2018
Economic Development	Tom.stephens@nebraska.gov 402-471-6587	\$1 Million	100%	Open now, Rolling basis
Owner Occupied Rehab	Pamela.otto@nebraska.gov 402-471-4388	\$450,000	None	Aug. 3- Pre-app Oct. 5- Full app
Planning	Abigail.anderson@nebraska.gov 402-471-3775	\$40,000 or \$60,000 Multi-jurisdiction or County-	25%	Aug. 30, 2018

		wide		
Tourism Development	Steve.charleston@nebraska.gov 402-471-3757	\$350,000	25%	Open now, Rolling basis
Public Works	Rebecca.shademann@nebraska.gov 402-471-3172	\$350,000	25%	July 30, 2018
Water/Wastewater - Final Design and Construction only	Steve.charleston@nebraska.gov 402-471-3757	\$350,000	25%	Open now, Rolling basis

All communities may have projects eligible for funding if they reduce slum and blight (Downtown Revitalization or other projects targeted to dilapidated areas) or remove accessibility barriers to buildings or areas of the community for people with limited mobility or other impairments (handicap accessibility, sidewalks, etc.). The following county and communities are eligible for community-wide project funding based on the Low-Moderate income percentages in their community:

Sheridan County, Bayard, Bridgeport, Broadwater, Chadron, Dalton, Dix, Hay Springs, Hemingford, Lyman, Melbeta, Oshkosh, Rushville, Scottsbluff, Sunol, Whiteclay, and Whitney.

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, including assistance with clean-up, contact danielb@nepadd.com or go to www.nepadd.com/Brownfields.html.

USDA Rural Economic Development and Job Creation Loans and Grants

USDA is requesting applications for USDA’s [Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant \(REDLG\) Program](#). The goal of this program is to support rural projects through local utility organizations. USDA provides zero-interest loans to local utilities which they, in turn, pass through to local businesses (ultimate recipients) for projects that will create and retain employment in rural areas. The maximum loan is \$2 million. The maximum grant is \$300,000. Applications are due June 30, and should be sent to the [state office](#) in Lincoln. Contact Marla Marx (Scottsbluff) 308-632-2195 Ext. 132 marla.marx@ne.usda.gov for more information.

USDA Rural Cooperative Development Grant (RCDG) program

This program helps improve the economic condition of rural areas by helping individuals and businesses start, expand or improve rural cooperatives and other mutually-owned businesses. Non-profit

corporations and institutions of higher education are eligible to apply. Public bodies, for-profit businesses and individuals are not eligible. Maximum grant award is \$200,000 and can be used to develop and operate a Rural Cooperative Development center that provides technical assistance in conducting feasibility studies, developing business plans, providing leadership and operation improvement training to rural businesses. Applications are due July 30, and should be sent to the [state office](#) in Lincoln. Contact Marla Marx (Scottsbluff) 308-632-2195 Ext. 132 marla.marx@ne.usda.gov for more information.

Greener Towns Program- Statewide Arboretum

The Nebraska Statewide Arboretum can help fund landscape projects for a better quality of life. Priorities for funding are landscaping projects in 'people-oriented places', trees and gardens that thrive on less water and energy, and diverse habitat for wildlife and beneficial insects. The grant provides \$1,000-\$20,000 with a 1:1 match (match can include in-kind). Applications open July 1 and are due September 30, 2018. Go to the [Statewide Arboretum Website](#) for more information at plantnebraska.org under 'community landscapes' and 'project funding'.

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 or 402-323-7338 for more information.

Recycling Grants (includes concrete crushing)

The Nebraska Dept. of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) has the [Recycling and Litter Reduction Grant](#) which opens in August and has grants due middle of September. Grants aren't awarded until January, however, so it's probable that if a grant was awarded work couldn't start till spring 2019. Matching funds are not required but the higher the match, the more points the application will score. You can find the scoring criteria [here](#) on the NDEQ website under 'Land & Waste' and 'Litter Reduction and Recycling Program Priority System'. Communities interested in applying for these grants will need three bids to do the requested work prior to applying.

The [Nebraska Environmental Trust](#) also has grants which are due the Tuesday after Labor Day, September 4, 2018. These grants tend to be more competitive but they don't have a maximum amount that can be requested. They also don't *require* match, but it's safe to say the more match you have the more competitive you'll be. The Nebraska Recycling Council also has \$15,000 [recycling equipment grants](#).

Recreational Trails Program (RTP)

Nebraska Game and Parks Commission is accepting grant applications for its [Recreational Trails Program](#) which reimburses political subdivisions such as communities, counties, and natural resource districts (NRDs), up to 80% of project costs (up to \$250,000, 20% match required, 5% min. cash) for trail acquisition, development, renovation, and support facilities. Application deadline is August 31, 2018. Neb. Game and Parks Commission is willing to review and provide feedback for grant but must receive the application no later than Aug. 3, 2018 to provide feedback. Contact Kirk Nelson at kirk.nelson@nebraska.gov or 402-471-5513 for more information.

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.

National Housing Trust Fund

The National Housing Trust Fund (HTF) program is an affordable housing resource for rental housing serving very low-income and extremely low-income households including homeless families. Housing activities eligible under the program include acquisition and rehabilitation of housing to create rental housing, rehabilitation or new construction of rental housing, adaptive re-use of buildings for rental housing, rent-up reserves, and operating reserves. Application Guidelines are available on the Neb. Dept. of Economic Development website at: <https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/program/national-housing-trust-fund-htf/>. Applications are due Aug. 20, 2018. For more information contact Pamela Otto, Housing Coordinator at DED, at 402-471-4388 or pamela.otto@nebraska.gov.

Rural Energy for America Program-2018

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

Nebraska Environmental Trust

The [Nebraska Environmental Trust](#) has grants available to fund projects in the areas of Habitat Preservation or Restoration, Surface or Ground Water preservation or restoration, Waste Management, Air Quality, or Soil Management. If you have questions or would like to discuss a project, you are encouraged to contact the Trust office at 402-471-5409. Grant applications are due Sept. 4, 2018.