

Southern Indiana Development Commission

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Southern Indiana Development Commission
 Serving the Development Needs of
 Daviess, Greene, Knox, Lawrence and Martin Counties

NEWSLETTER

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **SIDC Wins EPA Brownfields Award**
- **SIDC Director Discusses Regionalism**
- **OCRA's New Workforce Initiative**

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SUMMER

2015



SIDC Scores at First Effort for USEPA Brownfields Grant of \$500,000 for Five-County Assessment Program

Celebrating 42 Years of Service To Southern Indiana's Communities

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SIDC's \$500K Brownfield Assessment Application a Winner

At the recent USEPA Brownfields Conference in Chicago, several positive comments and congratulations were given SIDC on its successful \$500K Brownfields Assessment Grant Award. The grant is highly competitive and rarely does an organization succeed at its first effort. SIDC, with the help of its 5-county coalition and numerous supporting partners, developed an overall plan that caught the eye of USEPA and brought the award home to benefit our region.

"...properties renovated, useful and productive..."

Truly the benefit to the region can be quite large. The Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) is partnering with SIDC to provide \$20K for inventory of sites, while SIDC added an additional \$6K for match at assisting with the assessments. The \$500K should allow for up to 20 Phase I assessments, 12 Phase II assessments, and 7 remedial action plans. Each county will see assessments of its highest prioritized sites. The number of assessments within each county will be determined by a balanced committee set forth for prioritization by cost and highest impact.

While this funding cannot be used for direct clean up of identified Brownfield sites, it is the necessary route for seeking USEPA clean up grants. The program benefits allow potential contaminated sites to be determined and then cleared for reuse, making contaminated and blighted properties renovated, useful, and productive to the community once more.

SIDC is currently soliciting qualifications from various interested Brownfield consultants for contracting the assessments. The program is targeted to begin October 1, 2015 and has an end date of September 30, 2018.

Notes From The Director:

Regionalism Remains an Important Goal for Future Success



"SIDC is happy to see regional efforts growing..."

Regionalism continues to be a growing topic for Indiana and if your community is faced with a problem the solution may require a regional answer. This year has seen two new programs emerge (Workforce Development and Regional Cities) that requires regional collaboration. I believe the Regional trend for

assistance programs will become more commonplace for State and Federal programs. As well, operating budgets are not keeping up with the services Counties and Communities traditionally provide. There may be a need for Counties and Communities to collaborate regionally to provide a shared service.

SIDC is happy to see regional efforts growing in popularity and is ready and willing to assist communities in implementing regional solutions. Please let us know if we can be of any assistance in inventing, convening or developing a regional solution to your problems.

Over \$1.8M in OCRA Funds Awarded in the SIDC Area

Wastewater and Drinking Water Program funds were announced on July 17th with 18 projects being funded throughout the State totaling \$7.8M. SIDC was able to assist the Town of Edwardsport with receiving grant funds of \$450,000 for a new Water Treatment Plant Project. The Town of Odon was also awarded grant funds in the amount of \$450,000 for Waste Water System Improvements. The Town of Crane was awarded \$500,000 from Stormwater Improvements Program Funds announced on July 31st with 7 award-

ed totaling \$7.8M. Daviess County was awarded \$400,000 for Courthouse ADA Improvements from the Public Facilities Program that was announced on September 4th with 14 funded totaling \$5.1M. Other grant funds have been awarded to the City of Washington for \$50,000 for a Bicentennial Park downtown from the Place Based Funds Program and the Town of Spencer received \$40,000 for a Downtown Plan from the Planning Grant Program.

Next funding rounds will be starting early next year so any community with projects needs to be getting ready now!

Please contact Michelle Carrico, Program Manager (ext. 29) or Rhonda Rumble, Program Specialist (ext. 26) at (812) 295-3707 if you are interested in learning more about the funding programs.

Small Urban & Rural Planning Program

SIDC is contracted with the Indiana Department of Transportation to conduct traffic counts in the five county area as part of the Rural Transportation Traffic Count program. The goal of the program is to allow for additional community input on transportation needs as well as to collect information on transportation trends for a specific area, allowing for better informed decisions for transportation projects in that area. Each county has counts at least every 5 years and special counts can be requested yearly. Multiple sets of data are available for each county. SIDC collected

counts in Lawrence County in 2012, Martin County in 2013, Daviess County in 2014 and just completed counts in Greene County for 2015. SIDC is in the process of finalizing a contract to complete counts in Knox County for the 2016 count cycle.

SIDC also contracted with INDOT in 2012 to collect traffic count data on non-state owned roads as part of the INDOT Coverage Count Program in Daviess, Greene, Knox, Lawrence and Martin Counties. SIDC will conduct traffic

counts in Knox County and Jackson County as part of the 2014-2016 count cycle and will provide traffic counting activities required for planning and other state program activities.

If you have questions regarding the Rural Transportation Traffic Count program, please contact Matt Sward, Development Specialist, at (812) 295-3707, Extension 30.

New Successes with Housing Rehab and Senior Citizens Housing

SIDC is continuing to administer owner occupied housing rehabilitation (OOR) projects for the area. The OOR projects provide the homeowners with a more safe, energy efficient, accessible, livable home. Staff of SIDC is working on OOR projects in the following communities: Town of Odon (grant end date August 18, 2016); City of Jasonville (grant end date August 18, 2016); City of Bicknell (grant end date August 18, 2016). SIDC completed OOR applications to IHCD for the following communities: Town of Bruceville, Martin County, City of Washington, and Town of Worthington. IHCD will make award announcements on October 22, 2015.

In order to assist the Town of Bruceville in their future OOR program, SIDC applied for a Housing Preservation Grant (HPG) through USDA Rural Development in July 2014. SIDC was notified in September 2014 that the grant

was approved for \$33,595.00. SIDC assisted the Martin County Board of Commissioners, Town of Wheatland, and the Town of Worthington in their future OOR programs by applying for HPG grants in July 2015. Award were announced September 10, 2015. All three communities were awarded funds through the HPG grant. The HPG funds act as matching funds for the federally funded OOR programs. It is anticipated that the Town of Wheatland will apply to IHCD for OOR funds in 2016.

In 2014, SIDC began working with the Martin County Senior Citizens Housing, Inc. (MCSCCH) to assist them with their rental housing units. MCSCCH owns and operates 42 apartments within the corporate limits of Loogootee. The units are designated for the elderly (62 and older) and/or disabled per-

sons. The units were constructed in the early 1970's and are in great need of major repairs, such as: roofs, windows, doors, HVAC system, accessibility issues, etc. As of this date, SIDC assisted MCSCCH with successfully receiving a HOME grant through the IHCD and also an Affordable Housing Program grant through the Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis. MCSCCH is also utilizing a loan from German American Bank for this project. German American also provided a donation to be used for the project. MCSCCH has been working on obtaining all grant and loan funds for four years. SIDC congratulates MCSCCH on their hard work and success.

Any community interested in the Indiana Housing & Community Development Authority OOR program or any other housing related project should contact Housing Program Manager Jenny Dearwester or Project Specialist Audrey Conlon at 812-295-3707.

SIDC Region Responds to New OCRA Workforce Development Program

On Wednesday, July 22, the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) formally announced its roll out of its new Workforce Development Program Grant. The grant funds for this program for Indiana totals \$2M. The maximum grant amount per award is \$250K and requires a 20% match. The program is intended to target low to moderate income individuals with interest in learning skills for increased job and wage opportunities. The

lead applicant must be a non-entitlement city, town or county government. Regionalism and partnerships are highly encouraged. The project will focus on skills training, such as sector based activities (welding, heavy equipment operation, industrial maintenance, etc.) or problem focused strategies (life skills, interviewing, basic math, etc.).

Proposal were due on August 28th. SIDC submitted proposals on behalf of a Knox &

Sullivan Counties coalition as well as for a Martin, Daviess, Greene and Lawrence Counties coalition. On a separate contract, SIDC also submitted a proposal for Morgan County, which is currently unserved by a regional planning commission. Full applications for these proposed projects are due on October 23rd.

This program is expected to be available again in 2016. Please contact the SIDC office at 812-295-3707 with any questions regarding the program and its detailed requirements.

Several Communities Seek New Planning for the Future

The City of Vincennes has submitted for funds to complete a Downtown Plan. Other planning to be submitted includes the Town of Wheatland for a Water System, Town of Worthing-

ton for a Park Plan, the Town of Montgomery for a Comprehensive Plan, and the City of Linton for a Stormwater System.

Planning grants can be submitted at the end of every month, so please contact the SIDC office with any questions or future projects.

OCRA REGIONAL "LEARN GREEN FOR STORMWATER MANAGEMENT" TRAINING

The Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs is hosting six regional trainings in multiple locations. The location in our area is October 22nd at the Jasper Train Depot beginning at 8:00 a.m. and concludes at 4:30 p.m.

Learn how green infrastructure can be incorporated into municipal projects to reduce flooding and improve water quality. How to make a stormwater grant applica-

tion to OCRA more competitive will also be presented. There is an online registration for this free training for elected officials and public employees. Space is limited!

OCRA Expected to End Firetruck Grants

Recent comments indicate that the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs has plans to discontinue providing grant funds for fire trucks. This has not yet been formally announced, but it is expected. Communities

with fire truck needs will likely need to seek such funding from FEMA. For further updates and information, contact the SIDC office at 812-295-3707.

