

# ECICOG EXPRESS

SERVING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN BENTON, IOWA, JONES, JOHNSON, LINN AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES FOR MORE THAN 30 YEARS

## DISASTER RECOVERY

### Business assistance tops \$5 million

In response to the natural disasters of 2008, ECICOG is administering a number of state and federal recovery programs. Recently ECICOG surpassed the \$5 million mark in awarding business recovery assistance funds, and anticipates awarding an additional \$1 million within the next several months.

Here are just a few stories of business recovery in the region:

Dan and Megan Diehm own and operate the Cedar River Garden Center located in Palo. Damage to their business facility exceeded \$1 million. Lost revenue exceeded \$550,000. ECICOG awarded the Diehms funds through the original Jumpstart Program, with an additional amount that was used to purchase energy efficient items. The Diehms also applied for and were awarded funds through the Loan Interest Supplement Program and the Equipment Replacement Assistance Program.

Brad Tischer owns and operates Brogan's Bar and Grill in Palo. Due to the flood, Brogan's sustained extensive damage and had to close for several months. The facility had to be completely reconstructed. ECICOG awarded Brogan's funds through the original Jumpstart Program with an additional amount that was used to purchase energy efficient items. Brogan's also applied for and was awarded funds through the Loan Interest Supplement Program.

Brian and Bessie Ho own and operate the Hunan Chinese Restaurant in Coralville. Like many other businesses located on the "Coralville Strip", the Hunan Restaurant sustained extensive damage due to the rising floodwaters. ECICOG awarded them funds through the original Jumpstart Program. They also received additional funds that were used to purchase energy efficient items. The Hos have also applied for and were approved for several of the new Jumpstart business assistance programs. In addition to owning and operating the Hunan Chinese Restaurant, the Hos are commercial and residential landlords in the Coralville area, and have sustained additional economic loss due to lost rental revenue.

Frohwein Office Plus is a third generation, family-owned business operated by the Parsons family, located in Coralville. Frohwein's sustained over \$200,000 in damage to their facility, their walk-in business fell to zero for several months, and sales were down significantly. ECICOG awarded them funds through the Jumpstart Program and they also received additional energy efficient funds. Frohwein's has also applied for and is being considered for the Loan Interest Supplement Program.

Disaster recovery programs administered by ECICOG serve residents and businesses in Linn County outside the corporate limits of Cedar Rapids, Johnson County outside the corporate limits of Iowa City, as well as all of Benton, Jones, Iowa and Washington Counties. For more information about business assistance, contact Tracy DeKoter (ext. 130), or [tracy.dekoter@ecicog.org](mailto:tracy.dekoter@ecicog.org).



The Hunan Chinese Restaurant in Coralville sustained heavy damage from the flood of 2008.

## ECICOG receives national excellence awards

RPO America, a program of The National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Research Foundation, has announced the Excellence in Regional Transportation Awards. The awards program is honoring twenty-two projects that relate to rural and small metropolitan planning, programs and service delivery. ECICOG is being recognized for its participation in two of the projects:

### Human Services Transportation Advisory Group: Partners and Practices in Mobility Management

A partnership between ECICOG, the Corridor MPO, and the United Way of East Central Iowa, the Human Services Transportation Advisory Group (HSTAG) has as its goal to improve mobility options for all that live and work in ECICOG's six-county region, with a primary focus on older adults, persons with disabilities and low-income workers.

### U.S. Highway 30 Corridor Study

Completion of the corridor study by a coalition led by the Region XII Council of Governments, and including ECICOG, Metropolitan Area Planning Agency/RPA 18, Central Iowa Regional Transportation Planning Alliance, Region 6 Planning Commission, and East Central Intergovernmental Association

All twenty-two award recipients will be honored during a roundtable showcase reception during the National Rural Transportation Peer Learning Conference, October 20 – 22 in St. Louis, Missouri.

## Community beautification grants available

Keep Iowa Beautiful (KIB) has announced the KIB Community Beautification Grant Program, a competitive funding source for communities under 5,000 in population. Up to \$5,000 will be awarded for beautification projects, and up to \$15,000 will be awarded for projects addressing derelict buildings.

An eligible project must have one or more of the following as its purpose:

- Litter prevention / removal / education / implementation / public awareness
- Recycling education / implementation / public awareness
- Beautification programs – flower, tree and shrub planting, painting & fix-up and general landscaping.
- Public nuisance abatement.
- Derelict buildings – removal / renovation including asbestos abatement and removal, recovery and recycling of reusable materials and / or the purchase of recycled-content materials used in renovation efforts.

Applications are due at 4:30 p.m., or postmarked, by **Friday, August 20, 2010**. For a complete description of program requirements, visit the KIB website at [www.KeepIowaBeautiful.com/grantsAwards](http://www.KeepIowaBeautiful.com/grantsAwards).

## Calendar

<b>August 4</b>	Transit Operators Group meeting, ECICOG offices, 700 16 <sup>th</sup> Street NE, Cedar Rapids, 10:00 a.m.
<b>August 12</b>	Solid Waste TAC meeting, Eastside Recycling Center, Iowa City, 2401 Scott Blvd. SE, Iowa City, 1:00 p.m.
<b>August 18</b>	Business Assistance RLF Loan Review Committee, ECICOG offices, 700 16 <sup>th</sup> Street NE, Cedar Rapids, 2:00 p.m.
<b>August 26</b>	ECICOG Board of Directors meeting, ECICOG offices, 700 16 <sup>th</sup> Street, Cedar Rapids, 1:00 p.m.
<b>September 6</b>	ECICOG offices closed in observance of Labor Day holiday
<b>September 9</b>	Solid Waste TAC meeting, location TBA, 1:00 p.m.
<b>September 30</b>	ECICOG Board of Directors meeting, ECICOG offices, 700 16 <sup>th</sup> Street, Cedar Rapids, 1:00 p.m.

ECICOG was established in 1973 to promote regional cooperation and provide professional planning services to local governments in Benton, Iowa, Johnson, Jones, Linn and Washington Counties. ECICOG also provides solid waste planning services to Tama County and transportation planning services to Cedar County.

### Members of the ECICOG

#### Board of Directors:

Lu Barron	Susan Mims
Leo Cook (Chair)	Charles Montross
Bill Daily	David Plyman
Gary Edwards	Ed Raber
Tom Gill	Ben Rogers
Don Gray	Sally Stutsman
Ann Hearn	Kathleen VanSteenhuysse
Marty Kelzer	David Vermedahl
Linda Langston	Larry Wilson
Adam Mangold	Linda Yoder
	Jones County vacancy

### ECICOG Staff

EXT

Doug Elliott, <i>Executive Director</i>	122
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Robyn Jacobson, <i>Contracts Administrator</i>	134
Mary Rump, <i>Transportation Director</i>	128
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Hilary Copeland, <i>GIS Services</i>	125
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Gary Hughes, <i>Comm. Development</i>	129
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EAST CENTRAL IOWA  
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
YOUR REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY

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