

# ECICOG EXPRESS

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

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

### ECICOG invited to submit application for \$1.5 million RLF

In October, ECICOG was invited to submit an application for \$1.5 million to the Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA) to establish a business assistance revolving loan fund (RLF). The funds are being made available as part of the federal \$100 million supplemental appropriation to the EDA, as a result of the natural disasters of the summer of 2008.

The RLF will make loans to businesses at a rate no less than 4%. Other terms may vary, depending on the purpose of the loan, which may include working capital, purchase of machinery and equipment, and/or purchase of real property. Initially, a significant portion of the assistance provided may be for the benefit of businesses and business sectors adversely impacted by the natural disasters. However, as the region's redevelopment progresses, the RLF will have the opportunity to support business development and start-up throughout the region.

To assist in meeting EDA matching requirements, ECICOG received a generous grant of \$85,000 from the Washington County Riverboat Foundation. ECICOG hopes to receive confirmation of EDA funding in November.

### Flood Recovery Update

ECICOG is one of eleven designated disaster recovery areas created in partnership with the Rebuild Iowa Office, the Iowa Department of Economic Development, the Iowa Finance Authority, and local governments. As such, ECICOG is responsible for the administration and distribution of the Jumpstart Housing Assistance and Small Business Assistance programs. To date, ECICOG has distributed \$1.496 million in housing assistance and nearly \$1.9 million in business assistance.

Additional assistance will soon be available through a supplemental appropriation of Community Development Block Grant funds. For additional information, contact **Tracy DeKoter** or **Kristine Chiafos** at ECICOG.

### New numbers in November

ECICOG is installing a new telephone and voicemail system in November, and staff extension numbers will change. The target date for installation is November 15, and updated extension numbers have been provided on the back page of the *Express*.

## SOLID WASTE

### Simon named Recycler of the Year

Kristin Simon, solid waste planner at ECICOG, was named the Recycler of the Year by the Iowa Recycling Association (IRA). The award was presented to Simon at the IRA's conference in Ottumwa in October. According to IRA executive director Teresa Kurtz, the award is the association's highest honor, given to a person whose career reflects contributions to the advancement of recycling and waste reduction in Iowa.

During her four years at ECICOG, Simon has developed several original recycling education programs. Among the most popular is the annual program she's developed in conjunction with the State Library of Iowa summer reading program. Each year, Simon selects a book that she believes conveys a positive message or lesson about waste management and the environment, and builds an educational program around it. Much of her summer is spent giving the presentation at libraries throughout the region.

In the past four years, Simon has reached more than 6,500 persons through similar programs presented at such diverse locations as county fairs, trade shows, community organizations and service clubs, teacher workshops and conferences, and day care programs throughout the region.

The ECICOG board of directors congratulates Simon on this prestigious, and well-deserved, award.



*Simon demonstrates the Mini MRF at the IRA/ISOSWO conference.*

## Date set for legislative open house

Mark your calendars for **Tuesday, November 18, 2008**, to attend the annual legislative open house. Sponsored by ECICOG, the Iowa League of Cities, the Iowa State Association of Counties, and the City of Coralville, the open house provides an opportunity for local elected officials and staff to meet one-on-one with their state legislators. The event also includes a formal question and answer period where legislators give their views on the important issues of the upcoming legislative session.

Once again, the open house will be held at Coralville City Hall, and will begin in the late afternoon. More specific details will be sent out soon, so plan to attend!



*Previous Legislative Open House*

## STAFF NOTES

**Kristine Chiafos** and **Tracy DeKoter** joined the ECICOG staff in October to assist the region in disaster recovery efforts. Chiafos most recently was the district representative for Linn County for Congressman Dave Loebsack. In her duties at ECICOG, she will concentrate on assisting individual homeowners and communities with housing issues.

DeKoter has more than ten years of experience in the banking profession, and prior to coming to ECICOG, was a mortgage loan broker with Great Midwest Mortgage in Coralville. She will be assisting business owners and communities with economic recovery efforts.

**Gary Hughes**, ECICOG planner, recently completed the second level of a four-part certification process through the National Development Council's Housing Development Finance Professional program. Hughes' participation in the program is provided through a partnership with ECICOG, the Iowa Finance Authority, and the Housing Fund for Linn County.

ECICOG executive director, **Doug Elliott**, was elected to the board of directors for the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) at the annual meeting in Anchorage, Alaska in October. NADO serves as the national voice for regional development organizations primarily serving small metropolitan and rural America. This is Elliott's third term representing the Midwest region on the national board.

## Calendar

- November 6** ECICOG SWTAC Meeting, Ronneberg Inn, 4408 220th Trail, Main Amana, 1:00 p.m.
- November 11** ECICOG offices closed in observance of Veterans Day holiday
- November 18** ECICOG Board of Directors Meeting, Coralville City Hall, 1512 7th Street, Coralville, 2:00 p.m.  
  
Legislative Open House, Coralville City Hall, 1512 7th Street, Coralville, 4:00 p.m.
- November 27-28** ECICOG offices closed in observance of Thanksgiving holiday

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:

|                      |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Regenia Bailey       | Marty Kelzer     |
| Lu Barron            | Don Magdefrau    |
| Leo Cook             | Charles Montross |
| Bill Daily           | Randy Payne      |
| Gary Edwards         | David Plyman     |
| Don Gray             | Ed Raber         |
| Dennis Hansen        | Justin Shields   |
| Pat Harney           | David Vermedahl  |
| Ann Hearn            | Larry Wilson     |
| Henry Herwig (Chair) | Linda Yoder      |
| James Houser         |                  |

### ECICOG Staff

**\*EXT**

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Doug Elliott, <i>Executive Director</i>        | 122 |
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| Mary Rump, <i>Transportation Services</i>      | 128 |
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| Chad Sands, <i>AICP, Comm. Development</i>     | 127 |
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\* effective on or near November 15

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**EAST CENTRAL IOWA  
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**  
YOUR REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY

*Express* is a bimonthly electronic publication of the East Central Iowa Council of Governments.