



# DOA Local Government Report

August 2010, Volume 7, No.2

## Grants for Public Facilities and Buildings

### In this SPECIAL FUNDING EDITION

Grants for Public Facilities and Buildings

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Please direct general questions or comments to Dawn Vick, DOA Division of Intergovernmental Relations, (608) 266-7043 or dawn.vick@wisconsin.gov.

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One of the most common needs local and Tribal governments have is funding the construction and maintenance of public facilities and public buildings. Grants and loans for public infrastructure and community facilities such as police and fire stations, town halls, and community centers are available from three key sources.

### **Wisconsin Department of Commerce – Community Development Block Grant for Public Facilities (CDBG-PF)**

**<http://www.commerce.wi.gov/CD/CD-bcf-cdbg-pf.html>**

CDBG-PF is a financing tool for general-purpose local and Tribal units of government in need of funds to undertake infrastructure and public building projects (excluding buildings for the conduct of government). For *public infrastructure grants*, eligible projects include the installation or repair of public water systems and sanitary sewer systems; storm drainage systems; streets, sidewalks, curb and gutter; parking; street lights; and streetscape. For *community facility grants*, eligible projects include capital expenditures for physical facilities necessary to add or prevent the loss of basic services or critical public amenities. Examples include libraries, community and senior centers, fire stations, health clinics, sheltered workshops, and day care facilities. Costs to remove architectural barriers in structures, including structures used for general government function which limit access or mobility for elderly or handicapped persons are eligible. *Downtown revitalization grants* are available for a range of activities intended to promote the revitalization of downtown business districts.

### **Board of Commissioners of Public Lands State Trust Fund Loan Program**

**<http://bcpl.wisconsin.gov/section.asp?linkid=1438&locid=145>**

The State Trust Fund Loan Program finances community and school projects across Wisconsin. Over the last 15 years, two-thirds of the state's school districts and half of its municipalities have taken advantage of these loans, with the interest paid returned to every Wisconsin community in the form of public school library aid. Projects made possible through the State Trust Fund Loan Program include the Bayfield County Courthouse renovation, Kewaskum High School renovation, and La Crosse riverfront restoration and downtown revitalization.

### **USDA Rural Development Grant Program**

**[http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/HCF\\_CF.html](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/HCF_CF.html)**

The United States Department of Agriculture offers grants and loans to develop essential community facilities in rural areas and towns of up to 20,000 in population. Grants, loans, and loan guarantees are available for water and environmental projects, as well as community facilities projects. Water and environmental projects include water systems, waste systems, solid waste, and storm drainage facilities. Community facilities projects develop essential community facilities for public use in rural areas and may include hospitals, fire protection, safety, as well as many other community-based initiatives.

## **Drinking Water and Wastewater Funding Sources Workshop**

On November 10, 2010, the Department of Natural Resources will present a workshop to address available funding for drinking water and wastewater projects. This workshop will provide up-to-date information about funding options for municipalities and others planning to build or upgrade water or wastewater systems. Speakers will also discuss how to meet proposed phosphorus rule changes, and "Green" solutions that should save systems money and may help to secure federal funding. If you have a water or wastewater project in your future, we encourage you to attend:

November 10, 2010  
Wisconsin Rural Water Association  
350 Water Way  
Plover, WI

Workshop check-in starts at 8:30 a.m., with presentations beginning at 9:00. The session should end at 12:15 p.m. Following the workshop, funding source agency representatives in attendance will be available to meet one-on-one to discuss specific water and wastewater funding options. There is NO CHARGE for attending the workshop, and pre-registration is not required.

Committee participating agencies include the Wisconsin Rural Water Association; Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; Wisconsin Department of Commerce; Wisconsin Community Action Program; Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs; Wisconsin Department of Administration, Division of Intergovernmental Relations; Board of Commissioners of Public Lands, State Trust Fund; USDA Rural Development; and the Foundation for Rural Housing, Inc.

For more details regarding this workshop, contact Jerry Wilson at [gerald.wilson@wisconsin.gov](mailto:gerald.wilson@wisconsin.gov) or (608) 264-8986.

## **Coastal Management Program Grants**

Wisconsin enjoys nearly 1,000 miles of Great Lakes shoreline. Continuing the state's efforts to enhance Wisconsin's coastal resources, the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program (WCMP) at the Department of Administration is accepting proposals for its 2011-2012 grant program. Up to \$1.5 million will be available for wetland protection and habitat restoration, nonpoint source pollution control, coastal resource and community planning, Great Lakes education, public access and historic preservation. Projects must be located in one or more Wisconsin counties on the shores of Lake Superior or Lake Michigan.

Towns, villages, cities, counties, Tribal governments, state agencies, colleges and universities, regional planning commissions and nonprofit organizations are all eligible to apply. The application deadline is November 1, 2010 and projects may begin no earlier than July 1, 2011. To assist with grant applicants, the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program is sponsoring free application workshops throughout the state. For a schedule and list of locations, please visit the WCMP website <http://coastal.wisconsin.gov>.

Application materials and the Request for Proposals are available on the WCMP website at <http://coastal.wisconsin.gov>. Applicants are encouraged to contact WCMP staff early to discuss ideas for project proposals and application requirements.

For more information, contact Michael Friis at the DOA's WCMP, (608) 267-7982 or [coastal@wisconsin.gov](mailto:coastal@wisconsin.gov).

## How to Use Grants.Gov to Find Federal Grants

Launched in 2003, Grants.gov provides a one-stop electronic Internet portal where potential grant recipients can find and apply for federal grant opportunities. Grants.gov provides the capability for applicants to search grant opportunities, register to receive notices of new opportunities, download application packages and instructions, complete applications offline and securely upload completed applications. Upon receipt of the application, Grants.gov sends an electronic acknowledgement to the applicant and delivers the completed application to the agency. This one-time registration process allows a local or Tribal government to submit grant applications to all federal grant-making agencies posting applications on Grants.gov.

In addition to conducting a basic grant search, local and Tribal governments may also want to consider signing up to be alerted of new opportunities that become available on Grants.gov. To do this, go to <http://www.Grants.gov> and click on "Find Grant Opportunities". Then, scroll and click on "Subscriptions". At this screen, click on "Notices Based on Advanced Criteria".

At the "Subscription Services" screen, enter the email address of the individual you want to receive grant notices. Then simply select what kinds of grants you want to receive notices about. Once you have chosen your criteria, you can click the "Subscribe to Mailing List" button and you have completed the required steps to be added to the mailing list.

The State of Wisconsin does not administer or award any portion of these federal grant programs, however, the Department of Administration encourages the use of Grants.gov as part of an effort to ensure that state, local, and Tribal governments get their fair share of federal funds.

## Wisconsin Partnership Program Helps Locals Save Money and Resources

Through the Wisconsin Partnership initiative, the Department of Administration has been working with local and Tribal governments to help them learn about the many programs and services that exist in state government that can aid in saving money and resources. Procurement, technical, financial and other assistance is available for county, municipal, Tribal and school district governments across Wisconsin to help them deliver vital public services more efficiently.

The Wisconsin Partnership website, <http://wisconsinpartnership.wi.gov>, is designed to make these state resources easy to locate. [wisconsinpartnership.wi.gov](http://wisconsinpartnership.wi.gov) has recently been enhanced to help local governments more easily find information about state purchasing contracts that local governments can use to purchase goods and services offered.

The website now offers direct links to contracts that local governments would most often use, in categories such as firefighting equipment, police equipment, building maintenance, janitorial supplies, public works (street, sewer, parks), health care supplies, office supplies, furniture, vehicles, and vehicle maintenance and parts.

Also know that <http://wisconsinpartnership.wi.gov> can assist you in locating funds that are featured in this newsletter, with links to some of the most used funding information sources such as Grants.Gov and WiGrants.wi.gov.

For additional information on the Wisconsin Partnership and how it can benefit local and Tribal governments, please visit <http://wisconsinpartnership.wi.gov> or contact Dawn Vick at (608) 266-7043 or [dawn.vick@wisconsin.gov](mailto:dawn.vick@wisconsin.gov).

## Locating State Grants at WiGrants.wi.gov

The Wisconsin Department of Administration maintains a centralized, online listing of competitive, application-based state grants available to local and Tribal governments located at <http://wigrants.wi.gov>. The catalog is one of several initiatives led by DOA to strengthen the working relationship between state, local and Tribal governments. The site contains information on over 150 programs from 14 state agencies.

The WiGrants catalog is intended to improve local governments' ability to locate grant opportunities so they can continue to improve their local communities. Visit <http://wigrants.wi.gov> for a complete listing of grants offered by state agencies.

## Tourism Grants

The Wisconsin Department of Tourism provides partnership funding to non-profit organizations to keep Wisconsin's tourism industry growing. Three grants may be of particular interest to local and Tribal governments—the Joint Effort Marketing grant, the Ready, Set, Go! sports grant or the Tourist Information Center grant.

### ***Joint Effort Marketing Grant Program***

The Department of Tourism offers grants to keep Wisconsin's tourism industry strong and growing. To be funded, projects must show they will generate an increase in number of visitors and dollars brought into the local area. Funding categories include new and existing events, sales promotions, and destination marketing. Eligible expenses include things like e-mail marketing, print and broadcast ads, direct mail, publicity, and billboards. By state statute, Tourism can reimburse up to 75% of a project's first year promotional costs. For some categories Tourism even offers grant support during subsequent years.

### ***Ready, Set, Go! Grant Program***

Attracting amateur and professional sports events is a competitive, lucrative, and growing segment of tourism. This grant program helps destinations with up-front funds to secure competitive events and attract sporting events to Wisconsin.

### ***Tourist Information Center (TIC) Grant Program***

This program is designed to assist municipalities and Tribal governments who operate a regional tourist information center. An eligible applicant may be reimbursed up to \$15,000 per year. The grant program will reimburse up to 50% of eligible expenses. Eligible expenses are limited to staffing costs for the TIC, costs to acquire promotional materials, and costs for standard display equipment. Approved grants are handled as expense reimbursements which means you would have incurred expenses before submitting your application. Applications are due by January 1, 2011 for eligible expenses already incurred between July 1, 2010 and December 31, 2010.

For more information on these Wisconsin Department of Tourism grants, visit <http://industry.travelwisconsin.com/en/Grants.aspx>.

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