



DOA Local Government Report

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The State Trust Fund Loan Program

The Board of Commissioners of Public Lands (BCPL) works with local governments to maintain and improve Wisconsin's public infrastructure with the State Trust Fund Loan Program. This is one of the largest public lending programs in the state.

These loans can be used for a wide variety of public purposes, including:

- School repairs and improvements, including the installation of more energy-efficient heating and lighting systems.
- General public works projects, including roads, town halls, airports, sewer systems, wastewater facilities, trucks, and emergency vehicles.
- Economic development through TIF (tax incremental financing) districts and downtown revitalization projects.

Perhaps most importantly, more than 95% of the interest collected on Trust Fund loans go back to the BCPL and is used to provide critical support for K-12 public school libraries throughout the state—a benefit no commercial lender can match.

The application process is easy. There are no loan origination or application fees. Interest rates are competitive and can be fixed for terms of up to 20 years.

For more information on State Trust Fund Loans and the BCPL, visit their web page at <http://bcpl.wisconsin.gov> or contact Trust Fund Loan Specialist Richard Sneider, (608) 261-8001 or richard.sneider@wisconsin.gov.

2016 Regional Small Town Downtown Forums

Small towns have unique issues and needs different from those of larger communities. These forums are intended to bring together those serving and working in and with communities of populations fewer than 1500 to learn from each other. Everyone who cares about the future of rural Wisconsin is invited to attend. The forums are about sharing ideas, learning and networking. Registration is \$20 per person and includes lunch.

Who should attend? Community leaders, elected officials, volunteers, business leaders, educators, and both local and regional economic development, civic, and planning.

Dates and locations:

- August 31, Phelps, Phelps K-12 School, 4451 Old School Rd.
- September 7, La Farge, La Farge Community Center, 202 N. State St.
- September 14, Eagle, Municipal Building, 820 E. Main St.
- September 20, Shell Lake, Shell Lake Arts Center, 801 1st St.

For more information or to register, please visit <http://wisconsindowntown.org/small-town-forum>.

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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.

Save the Date!

Governor's Northern Economic Development Summit

When: November 10, 2016
Where: The Waters of Minocqua

This annual event addresses the unique challenges and opportunities of Northern Wisconsin's economy. More information will be posted at www.northwoodssummit.com as it becomes available.

Wisconsin Coastal Management Grants Available

The Wisconsin Coastal Management Program (WCMP) is seeking proposals to enhance, preserve, protect and restore resources within the state's coastal zone—all counties adjacent to Lakes Superior and Michigan, with their nearly 1000 miles of shoreline. WCMP anticipates awarding approximately \$1.5 million in grant funding.

WCMP grants are available for coastal wetland protection and habitat restoration, nonpoint source pollution control, coastal resource and community planning, Great Lakes education, public access and historic preservation. **Applications are due November 4, 2016.**

Applicants are encouraged to contact WCMP staff early to discuss ideas for project proposals and application requirements. When developing proposals, please pay close attention to the following items:

- Application materials and the Request for Proposals are available on the WCMP website at <http://coastal.wisconsin.gov>.
- There is a cost-share requirement for all projects. Matching funds must be from non-federal sources, and may be in the form of in-kind contributions
- For habitat restoration and construction projects, be sure to include copies of all required permits or permit applications and title documentation with the application materials.
- For all projects, be sure to include copies of required documentation and letters of support.

WCMP will schedule three informational workshops to discuss the grant application process and funding priorities.

If you have questions, please contact WCMP at (608) 267-7982.

Tree Purchase/Planting Funds Available

Wisconsin cities, towns, villages, counties, tribal governments and nonprofit organizations can now apply for financial help for urban forestry projects from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Urban Forestry Grant program. The application process is open now and the deadline to apply is October 1. Read all about it at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/UrbanForests/grants/index.html>. Please note your municipality does not have to be in an "urban" area to apply!

Communities in the majority of the northern half of the state are eligible for tree planting funds from American Transmission Company (ATC). Applications are due on September 30th. Details are available in the Tree Planting Program brochure located at http://www.atcinc.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/CommunityPlanting_2014.pdf.

Veterans News

Save the date for the Wisconsin Women's Veterans Conference which will be held at the Country Springs Hotel in Pewaukee on October 13, 2016.

Nominations are now open for the 2016 Woman Veteran of the Year Award being presented at the Conference in October. This award recognizes a female veteran who has compiled a record of exemplary service as a military service member, a veteran, and outstanding member of the community.

For more information about the conference and nomination process, please visit their web page: <http://dva.state.wi.us/Pages/aboutWdva/WomenVeterans.aspx>.

The Service Award Program Benefits for Volunteer Emergency Responders Matched by State

The Service Award Program (SAP), formerly called the Length of Service Award Program, is a tax-deferred benefit program for volunteer fire fighters, emergency medical technicians and first responders. State funds match local investments and provide the benefit to the volunteers. The goal of the program is to assist municipalities with training and retaining volunteers.

The goals of SAP are to:

- Encourage experienced emergency response volunteers to stay in their positions;
- Provide communities a tool to assist in Wisconsin's recruitment and retention challenges; and
- Provide incentives that increase in value over the span of a volunteers' service.

Participation in the program is easy. A municipality must simply adopt a resolution, work with a program vendor approved by the SAP Board, and financially contribute to the program. The state then annually matches municipal contributions up to a set amount. The 2016 state matching contribution rate was \$344.11 per responder. Municipalities can choose to contribute more or less than this amount, however, the state only matches up to the set amount. Upon reaching age 60, each volunteer with over 20 years of service collects the full amount in his or her account. Volunteers retiring with more than ten years' experience (but less than 20 years) collect a portion of their account.

If you wish to receive further information about specific benefit options available for your volunteers, please contact the following program vendors to speak with them directly about the benefit options they provide.

- Penflex, Inc. / UBS Financial Services (800) 742-1409
- RBC Wealth Management / BPA (518) 432-5083
- VFIS / The Horton Group (800) 242-9028 ext. 2640
- Lincoln Financial Group (608)268-5100

For more information about the Service Award Program see the program's web page at <http://www.doa.state.wi.us/Divisions/Intergovernmental-Relations/Service-Award-Program/>.

CDBG – Emergency Assistance Program (CDBG EAP) HOUSING ASSISTANCE

CDBG-EAP housing assistance is available to eligible homeowners and tenants whose *primary residence* was affected by the July storms and flooding in the eight counties of northwest Wisconsin included in the Declaration of a State of Emergency signed by Governor Scott Walker on July 12, 2016.

Eligible Damages

The CDBG EAP assists with housing rehabilitation activities *directly related to damages incurred during the July disaster event*.

Eligible Activities

- Roofing repair/replacement
- Windows
- Siding repair/replacement
- Foundations
- Electrical
- Hot water heaters, furnaces
- Acquisition/Demolition/Replacement of a home where necessary repairs exceed 51% of the pre-disaster Fair Market Value

Ineligible Activities

- Repairs to vacation homes
- Repairs to storage sheds, outbuildings and other non-dwelling units
- Repairs to driveways or other means of ingress and egress (unless related to accessibility)
- Cosmetic repairs

Who Can Apply?

- Local Units of Government (Counties, Cities, Towns and Villages)
- Individual homeowners must apply through their local municipal government

Household Income Guidelines

Eligible households must have an annual gross income not exceeding the identified amount below. The figure represents 80% of County Median Income (CMI).

Family Size	Ashland, Bayfield, Burnett, Iron, Price, Sawyer and Washburn Counties	Douglas County
1 Person	\$ 35,750	\$ 35,750
2 Person	\$ 38,550	\$ 40,850
3 Person	\$ 43,350	\$ 45,950
4 Person	\$ 48,150	\$ 51,050
5 Person	\$ 52,050	\$ 55,150
6 Person	\$ 55,900	\$ 59,250
7 Person	\$ 59,750	\$ 67,400
8 Person	\$ 63,600	\$ 67,400

For more information or if you have questions, please contact:

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