



DOA Local Government Report

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Wisconsin Partnership Initiative: Upcoming Presentations

In this Edition

Save Money and Resources with the Wisconsin Partnership Initiative

New State Grant Clearinghouse Website

Protect Your Natural Resources through the Coastal Management Program

Homeland Security Funding for Fire Departments

Funding Available to Develop Comprehensive Plans

Tips to Ready Your Community for the Upcoming Elections

Training for Local and Tribal Officials through Wisconsin Employees' Virtual University

Prepare Your Community for Pandemic

Local and Tribal governments are constantly on the lookout for alternative ways to finance public facilities and programs. The state's ACE (Accountability, Consolidation, and Efficiency) Initiative responds to this need by offering alternative ways to help save money and stretch resources. To learn more about this effort, look for Intergovernmental Services Staff member Dawn Vick at the following events:

- **Wisconsin Municipal Clerks Association** Annual Conference as an exhibitor - Aug. 16-18, Milwaukee, WI.
- **Wisconsin Counties Association** Annual Conference as a presenter and an exhibitor – Sept. 18-19, La Crosse, WI. Presentation: Monday, September 18 at 1:15 p.m.
- **League of Wisconsin Municipalities** Annual Conference as a presenter and an exhibitor – Oct. 11-13, Middleton, WI. Presentation: Thursday, October 12 at time to be determined – see agenda.
- **Wisconsin Towns Association** Annual Conference as a presenter and an exhibitor – Oct. 15-18, La Crosse, WI. Presentation: Monday, October 16 at 11:00 a.m. and 1:20 p.m.
- **Wisconsin Association of Government Finance Officers** Workshop as a presenter – Dec. 1, Brookfield, WI. Presentation: Friday, December 1 at time to be determined – see agenda.

Contact Dawn Vick, (608) 266-7043 or dawn.vick@wisconsin.gov for more information or visit <http://wisconsinpartnership.wi.gov>.

New Web Site Helps Local Governments Find State Grants

The Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA) recently launched the WiGrants Catalog, a centralized, online listing of competitive, application-based grants available to local and Tribal governments located at <http://wigrants.wi.gov>. The new 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 agencies.

"DOA's role is to provide cost-effective solutions to our partners in state, local and Tribal government so they can serve their employees and citizens," said Laura Arbuckle, Administrator of the Division of Intergovernmental Relations. "The WiGrants Catalog is a continuation of this work that will greatly improve local governments' ability to locate grant opportunities so they can continue to improve their local communities and control property taxes."

The WiGrants Catalog is the successor to the Wisconsin Catalog of Community Assistance. For information on grants available from the U.S. Government, visit <http://www.grants.gov>.

Coastal Management Program Grants Available

Wisconsin enjoys 820 miles of shoreline adjacent to Lakes Superior and Michigan. Continuing the state's efforts to enhance resources along Wisconsin's coasts, the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program (WCMP) at the Department of Administration (DOA) is accepting proposals for its 2007-8 grant program. Up to \$1.5 million will be available for coastal land acquisition, coastal 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 private, nonprofit organizations are all eligible to apply. The application deadline is November 3, 2006 and projects may begin no earlier than July 1, 2007. To assist grant applicants, the Wisconsin Coastal Management program is sponsoring free application workshops throughout the state: August 31 – Madison, September 6 – Milwaukee, September 13 – Sheboygan, September 21 - Ashland. 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.

Contact Michael Friis at the DOA WCMP, (608) 267-7982 or coastal@wisconsin.gov.

Fire Prevention and Safety Grants Available for Fire Departments

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security is requesting applications for Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S) activities. FP&S grants support projects that enhance the safety of the public and firefighters from fire and related hazards. The primary goal is to target high-risk populations and mitigate high numbers of fatalities and injuries. Examples of the types of projects supported by FP&S include fire prevention and public safety education campaigns, juvenile fire setter interventions, media campaigns and arson prevention and awareness programs.

The FP&S program will be accepting applications soon with a deadline around September 1. There is no match for this grant – the grant will cover 100% of the program costs. Please go to www.firegrantsupport.com for more information about this opportunity.

Contact Dawn Vick at the Department of Administration at (608) 266-7043 or dawn.vick@wisconsin.gov for questions or assistance.

\$2 Million in Comprehensive Planning Grants Available

The Department of Administration is now accepting applications for the 2007 Comprehensive Planning grant cycle. This year \$2 million in grant funds are available to help local governments comply with state law requiring local governments and planning commissions have a plan in place by 2010 to address long range community needs, assist economic development and guide future growth.

Wisconsin's comprehensive planning law is designed to encourage intergovernmental cooperation and to support local efforts to make decisions for their communities. Grants will be awarded to local units of government, Tribes and regional planning commissions. The projects require local matching contributions. Applications for the 2007 grant cycle are due November 1, 2006. To help communities prepare applications, the Comprehensive Planning Program will hold grant workshops throughout the state: Madison - August 8, Rhinelander - August 14, Fond du Lac - August 25, La Crosse - August 29, Ashland - September 21.

*More information about comprehensive planning is available by calling the Department of Administration's Division of Intergovernmental Relations at (608) 267-3369, e-mailing Comp.Planning@wisconsin.gov, or visiting <http://www.doa.state.wi.us/dir> keyword: **comprehensive planning**.*

State Elections Board: Steps to Take for a Successful Election Day

Local government officials in Wisconsin can make the democratic process easier for voters by conducting two separate public education activities before the Sept. 12 primary election.

First, local clerks and local elected officials can remind local residents that they should check with their municipal clerk to make sure they are registered to vote. In many areas of Wisconsin, standard voter registration was not required until January 1, 2006. Same-day voter registration at the polling place is still available to all Wisconsinites. Residents can register in advance by mail, in the clerk's office, or at voter registration events to avoid confusion or lines on Election Day.

Second, every polling place in Wisconsin must have at least one piece of disability accessible voting equipment available for autumn elections. In some areas, local governments also are replacing voting machines. Local officials can help prepare voters for the change by advertising and holding voting equipment demonstrations at the local library or in other public places.

Contact Kris Frederick, Elections Director, State Elections Board at (608) 267-0715 or Kristofer.Frederick@seb.state.wi.us.

Training Available to all Local and Tribal Government Employees through the Wisconsin Employees' Virtual University (WEVU)

Local and Tribal government employees can take on-line courses through the state's eLearning program that is sponsored by the Department of Administration's Division of Enterprise Technology. The centerpiece of WEVU is a 500-course e-Learning library acquired from Thompson NETg, a worldwide leader in corporate and professional learning solutions. The library features two distinct programs.

The General Learner Program: (\$40) contains over 350 courses in the areas of Business & Professional development and Desktop applications.

The IT Program: (\$75) contains 500 courses in the areas of Information Technology, Business & Professional Development as well as Desktop applications.

Here is a high level view of the various content areas:

- Microsoft Office
- Project Management
- Accounting & Finance
- Team Building
- Management & Leadership
- Customer Service
- Quality Management
- Safety & Regulatory
- Microsoft Technologies
- Cisco Technologies
- Novel Technologies

Students can register on-line at any time and have up to one year to complete some or all courses in the chosen curricula. Students are not required to take all classes in a curriculum, but the cost is the same regardless of how many courses are actually used.

For more information or to register for WEVU please access <http://training.state.wi.us>. Questions may be referred to Maggie Hart at Maggie.hart@doa.state.wi.us or (608) 261-0608.

Preparing for Pandemic

As it spreads among birds in Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and Africa, the avian influenza virus has also infected some people exposed to those birds. The rapid spread of the illness in birds has prompted, more than at any other time in history, worldwide preparation for the potential of influenza pandemic. Pandemic flu is a virulent human flu that causes a global outbreak. Because people have little natural immunity to these strains of virus, the disease can spread rapidly from person to person. If that virus is a virulent strain it may cause serious illness and a high fatality rate among those who become ill. Currently, there is no pandemic flu.

Update on Wisconsin's Pandemic Preparedness Planning

Over the past several years, Wisconsin has been improving its public health infrastructure in order to respond to emergencies like a pandemic flu outbreak. Working with local public health departments and Tribal health agencies, communications networks have been improved, surveillance and epidemiologic capacity has increased, more training of employees (at state and local levels) has occurred, regional collaboration has been enhanced and hospital capacity has been augmented to deal with large numbers of ill or injured patients.

In March of 2006, Governor Doyle held a Statewide Pandemic Readiness Summit with over 300 officials and community leaders to discuss preparedness and coordination of planning. The summit agenda and webcast are on-line here: <http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/communicable/pandemic/summit.htm>.

Because influenza viruses infect both humans and animals, it is important that all governmental agencies collaborate in their preparedness efforts. Governor Doyle has appointed an interagency team to be sure that this is accomplished in Wisconsin. This team has representation from the Departments of Health and Family Services; Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection; Public Instruction, Natural Resources; and Wisconsin Emergency Management. These core agencies are working with all state agencies as well as partners in business, labor, education, community service, faith communities and others to prepare Wisconsin to deal with an influenza pandemic.

What Can Local Governments Do?

A good starting point for preparation is a check-list that helps identify things local governments can do to help prepare for a pandemic, found at <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/statelocalchecklist.html>. There are also checklists for businesses, schools, healthcare facilities and communities on that website. State resources are available at <http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/communicable/pandemic/index.htm>. In order to plan for flu pandemic, the state of Wisconsin strongly encourages local governments to coordinate activities directly with their local public health agencies. A listing of the local public health agencies can be found here: <http://dhfs.wisconsin.gov/localhealth/index.htm>.

It is important to remember that there are no cases of bird flu in Wisconsin or the United States at this time. The Department of Health and Family Services is actively looking for human cases in Wisconsin and have plans in place to respond, if necessary. Currently, there is no imminent threat to Wisconsin since there is no evidence of sustained human-to-human spread of the bird flu in other parts of the world. It is difficult to predict if the bird flu virus will become a pandemic, but Wisconsin has plans in place to respond to a possible influenza pandemic, regardless of the source.