



DOA Local Government Report

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State Purchasing Power Available to Local Governments

The State of Wisconsin has negotiated scores of supplies and services contracts that are available to local and tribal governments. These contracts typically feature wide product selections, competitive pricing, warranties, fast delivery and satisfaction guarantees.

Many of the State's contracts may be useful to governments recovering from natural disasters including recent flooding and wind damage. These contracts are available to any municipality including a county, city, village, town, tribal government, school district, sewer district, drainage district, technical college district or any other public body with the authority to award public contracts. However, state contracts may not be used for purchases by or on behalf of individuals or businesses.

A complete list of contracts available to municipal governments can be found on the Department of Administration (DOA) webpage at <http://www.doa.state.wi.us> (Quick Find section on right side, click on "Contracts for Local Government Use"). Contracts available to municipalities and tribes have a "CP," or cooperative purchasing, designation following the contract name. The following list provides just a sample of the contracts that may be useful in storm damage recovery efforts:

- Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (pumps, generators, etc.)
- Janitorial Supplies
- Lab Supplies (Fisher Scientific catalog items)
- Utility Vehicles (Super Vans)
- Light Duty Trucks
- Supplier of Lumber
- Supplier of Concrete Slabs
- Security Cameras
- Traffic Cones, Posts & Drums
- Non-IT Temporary Help
- Ruggedized Laptops
- Wireless Airtime and Handsets

In addition, DOA's State Bureau of Procurement has designated a procurement professional to help connect government buyers with State vendors. If you have difficulty using State contracts on-line, please contact:

Jan Zimmerman
State Bureau of Procurement
Wisconsin Department of Administration
(608) 266-1725
jan.zimmerman@wisconsin.gov

The State of Wisconsin welcomes tribal and local governments as purchasers from state contracts. We hope you find these resources useful.

The 2010 US Census is Around the Corner

Although the next United States census is over a year and a half away, preparations are well underway. In 2010, the U.S. census will define who we are as a nation and a state. Taken every 10 years since 1790, the census affects political representation and directs the allocation of billions of dollars in federal and state funding.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, every year more than \$300 billion in federal funds is awarded to states and communities based on census data. This does not include the millions of dollars in state and local funding based on population information. In addition, local governments, businesses and corporations rely on accurate census data for locating new businesses, marketing and recruitment of employees. Census data guide local decision-makers in planning where to build new hospitals, roads, schools and other community facilities. An accurate census affects your voice in our representative government by determining the number of representatives and boundaries of congressional and legislative districts.

Local governments can fulfill a valuable civic duty by partnering with the U.S. Census Bureau to encourage full participation in this monumental event. You can help educate your citizens about the importance of completing and returning their census questionnaires to ensure no one is left uncounted by establishing Complete Count Committees. Complete Count Committees are volunteer teams consisting of community leaders, faith based groups, schools, businesses, media outlets and others who are appointed by elected officials and work together to make sure entire communities are counted.

For the 2000 Census, these committees developed targeted outreach plans specific to their communities to supplement what the Census Bureau was already doing through paid advertising and partnership efforts. As a result, these committees helped inform local residents — including those historically hard to reach in census counts — of the importance of responding to the census.

In 2000, 350 local governments in Wisconsin established Complete Count Committees. In large part because of their efforts, Wisconsin communities had one of the best response rates of any state in the country.

In 2010, we need even more of these committees to help educate and inform our increasingly diverse state and nation. Complete Count Committees can start now to create awareness within their communities about the upcoming 2010 Census. They can donate space for testing and training temporary census workers, publicize recruiting efforts and obtain endorsements from local leaders. They can conduct census rallies or parades, media luncheons, and interfaith breakfasts and weekend events as we get closer to Census Day.

For more information about forming a Complete Count Committee and other census information, contact Marilyn Stephens, the Census Bureau Partnership Specialist at the Chicago Regional Census Office at (312) 454-2734. If no answer, the main number is (312) 488-1500. Marilyn can also be reached by e-mail at marilyn.e.stephens@census.gov. Marilyn and her staff can provide training materials, timelines, suggested activities, and a Complete Count Committee handbook to make your committee a success. For additional assistance in Wisconsin, you may contact Don Harrier of the Department of Administration's Demographic Services Center at don.harrier@wisconsin.gov or (608) 267-2705.

One Stop Shopping for State Grants

The Wisconsin Department of Administration maintains a centralized, online listing of competitive, application-based state grants available to local and Tribal governments. The listing is 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 make it easier for local governments' to find and apply for state grants for their local communities. Please contact Chris Connor at (608) 267-2704 or christopher.connor@wisconsin.gov if you have any questions about the WiGrants Catalog.

Visit <http://wigrants.wi.gov> for a complete listing of grants offered by state agencies. For information on grants available from the U.S. Government, visit <http://www.grants.gov>.

Comprehensive Planning Grants Available

The Department of Administration is now seeking applications for the 2009 Comprehensive Planning Grants. It is anticipated that up to \$2 million in grant funds will be available depending on available revenue to assist local governments in the development of their comprehensive plans. The projects require local match contributions. Applications for the 2009 grant cycle are due November 3, 2008.

A comprehensive plan provides local governments, citizens, and businesses with information and policies that will help to guide future planning and community decisions. According to the Comprehensive Planning Law (§ 66.1001), beginning on January 1, 2010, if a town, village, city, or county engages in official mapping, subdivision regulation, or zoning, those actions must be consistent with that community's comprehensive plan.

To help communities prepare applications, the Comprehensive Planning Grant Program will hold grant application workshops:

- Sparta – August 25, 1:00 p.m., County Courthouse
- Fond du Lac – August 26, 1:00 p.m. , Fond du Lac County Building
- Rhinelander – August 27, 1:00 p.m., Rhinelander City Hall.

Additional information may be obtained at <http://www.doa.state.wi.us/compplanning> or by contacting the Wisconsin Comprehensive Planning Program staff at (608) 267-3369 or comp.planning@wisconsin.gov.

2008 Wisconsin Land Use Regulations and Comprehensive Planning Status Report

During 2007 and 2008, the Wisconsin Department of Administration worked with local and regional governments to compile information on comprehensive planning and local land use regulations, such as zoning and subdivision regulations. The report is available online at <http://www.doa.state.wi.us/compplanning>, click on “2008 Inventory Report.”

DOA is seeking feedback from readers, which may be provided by emailing comp.planning@wisconsin.gov or by calling (608) 267-3369 to provide comments or corrections. DOA hopes that a future update will fill in existing data gaps and correct any inaccuracies.

Coastal Management Program Grants Available

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 2009-2010 grant program. Up to \$1.5 million will be available for coastal land acquisition, 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 3, 2008 and projects may begin no earlier than July 1, 2009. To assist with grant applicants, the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program is sponsoring free application workshops throughout the state:

- September 3rd at 1:30 p.m. – Port of Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI;
- September 9th at 10:30 a.m. – Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center, Ashland, WI;
- September 17th at 1:30 p.m. – Manitowoc Maritime Museum, Manitowoc, WI.

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.

Focus on Energy

Local and Tribal Governments can reduce energy costs without sacrificing comfort or quality by calling the Schools and Local Government Program provided by Focus on Energy, Wisconsin's statewide energy efficiency and renewable energy program. The Schools and Local Government program provides a range of no-cost services help save money and protect the environment. Focus on Energy services are completely voluntary and are free to eligible institutions, both public and private.

Services and Resources

Schools and Local Government Program services and resources include:

- Tracking your current energy use.
- Surveys to help you identify and evaluate ways to save energy.
- Reports with specific recommendations, including advice on new technologies.
- Technical assistance in reviewing retrofit, renovation and new construction projects.
- Help in locating contractors to implement your project.
- An independent review of cost/benefit studies.
- Focus on Energy financial incentives, plus help in finding other government grants and low interest loans.
- Help in finding and evaluating financing offered by banks and other private institutions.
- Focus on Energy-sponsored training seminars on identifying and implementing energy-saving measures.
- Assistance in integrating federal and state programs, such as U.S. Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) energy and environmental programs.
- Advice on buying ENERGY STAR® and other energy efficiency equipment, including computers, motors, lighting and electronics. (ENERGY STAR is an EPA program designed to reduce air pollution through energy efficiency.)

Eligibility

The Schools and Local Government Program is open to public schools, private schools, colleges and universities, and to counties, cities, villages, towns, and tribes served by Focus on Energy. This includes 85 percent of the schools and governments in Wisconsin. The remaining 15 percent are customers of certain municipal utilities and rural electric cooperatives that currently are not participating in Focus on Energy. Those served by nonparticipating municipals and cooperatives should check to see if they offer similar programs.

If you are interested in learning more about energy efficiency opportunities for schools or government, contact Focus on Energy at (800) 762-7077 and ask to speak with a member of the Schools and Government Team or visit www.focusonenergy.com.

New Grant Program for Rural Firefighters and EMS Assistance

Congress recently passed a law creating a new grant program for fire departments. The Rural Firefighters and Emergency Medical Service Assistance Program provides for improved emergency medical services in rural areas. It will help pay the cost of training firefighters and emergency medical personnel in firefighting, emergency medical practices, and responding to hazardous materials and bioagents in rural areas.

Congress authorized \$30 million per year to be appropriated to this program for fiscal years 2008 through 2012. The funds for this program have not yet been appropriated for this year. The program will be administered by USDA Rural Development. For more information, see <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/wi> or call the Stevens Point Office at (715) 345-7615.

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