



PEI receives Technical Assistance grant

Prosperity Eastern Iowa (PEI) staffed by the East Central Intergovernmental Association (ECIA) is proud to announce PEI has been chosen through a grant application process as one of 47 rural communities or regions in the nation to receive technical assistance through the Rural Economic Development Innovation (REDI) Center. The technical assistance will assist the region in building and implementing economic development planning projects related to housing and quality of life initiatives throughout the region.



“Access to safe and affordable housing is a critical issue facing many rural community leaders as they work hard to recruit and grow businesses, create new job opportunities and attract new residents to rural Iowa,” said Grant Menke, USDA Rural Development State Director in Iowa. “Through technical assistance from the REDI initiative, we look forward to the development and eventual implementation of Prosperity Eastern Iowa’s plan to improve housing opportunities in Delaware, Clinton, Jackson, Jones and Dubuque Counties. USDA Rural Development programs, including REDI, are a catalyst to build rural prosperity through partnerships and the dedicated, coordinated efforts of rural leaders working toward the same goal.”

Each of the 47 communities will be paired with one of four partner organizations that will provide free technical assistance for up to two years to assist rural areas and regions create and implement economic development plans. USDA awarded \$1.2 million in cooperative agreements to these partners in September, 2018. The agreements will finance the free technical assistance to the communities/regions awarded.

The partners include the National Association of Counties Research Foundation, the Rural Community Assistance Partnership, McClure Engineering Company, and Purdue University Extension/Community & Economic Development Initiative of Kentucky.

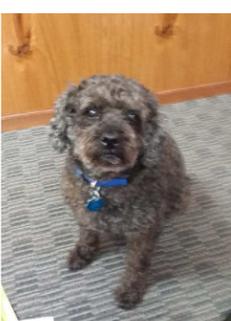


The REDI initiative was developed by the USDA Rural Development Innovation Center to support recommendations identified in the Report to the President of the United States from the Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity. To view the categories of the recommendations, please view the Rural Prosperity infographic.

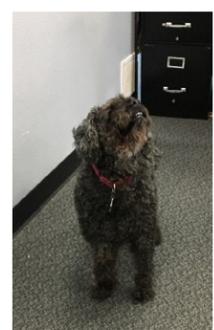
For more information on Prosperity Eastern Iowa REDI selection, please contact Holly McPherson, Special Programs Manager for ECIA at hmcperson@ecia.org or for more information on PEI, please visit www.prosperityeasterniowa.org.

Tipton City Hall has a new Four Legged Friend

Tipton’s police department/city hall have always been friends with the local animal shelter and in May, they adopted a small Poodle named Teddy. Teddy was surrendered by his previous owners from a neighboring town. Eventually he was given up to the local animal shelter and on May 20th he was part of the team at Tipton City Hall.



“Teddy was timid at first, but warmed up to me fairly quickly”, said police chief Lisa Kepford. “We all took turns taking him out on a set schedule and he started getting used to all the activity. He had a blanket in each office and he would make the rounds throughout the day because he knew everyone had treats. Eventually he decided that City Manager Brian Wagner was his best friend and Finance Director Melissa Armstrong was second best friend. He still goes to all the offices to get treats but spends most of his time with Brian. He goes outside several times a day and officers bring their dogs in to play with him. He isn’t always fond of play time but he tolerates it,” explained Kepford. Wagner takes Teddy home on weekends.



According to Kepford, “Teddy has even made it to the groomers. Luckily, this was the same place the previous owners took him so they were familiar with him and after we adopted him, he got a very nice haircut and nail trim. Something that happened—that was totally unexpected, was the reaction from the public when they would come to City Hall to pay a utility bill or talk to an officer. They would see Teddy and instantly soften their voice and ask about him and conversation was pleasant. Teddy brings out the best in people and we see a different side of others; a good side. Teddy is approximately 10 years old and we plan to give him the best love and care that a whole city can give!”

ECIA Employees Receive Promotions

ECIA is pleased to announce that several Regional Transit Authority (RTA) employees have been promoted recently. Chandra Ravada, former director of transportation and planning has been promoted to Director of Transportation, Planning and Transit services. In addition to managing the Transportation and Planning Department, he will supervise and oversee the work of the RTA Department staff and drivers.



Former Project Manager, Gail Kuhle, and former RTA Dispatcher Stacie Scott, have been promoted to Transit Operations

Managers. They will perform administrative and supervisory work in the dispatch operations; schedule rides and drivers for routes; and administer the operational activities of the RTA Department.



RTA Drivers Recognized for Awards

The ECIA and RTA are pleased to recognize Darwin Polk for being honored as the 2019 RTA Driver of the Year at the recent June Iowa Public Transit Association’s Conference and Rodeo. Darwin has been a driver for the Region 8 RTA for the past six years.



Region 8 RTA is also pleased to recognize Jean Dalsing for her 1st place finish in the Small Bus Competition at the Iowa Public Transit Association’s Rodeo Event held on June 29, 2019. Jean has been a driver for the Region 8 RTA for the past thirty-three years.

New Clinton County Student Loan Assistance Program Available

Clinton County officials have recently reviewed the proposed policy and application for the Clinton County community student loan assistance program with help from the company: “Peanut Butter”. Peanut Butter is a company that assists with administering student loan assistance. The County will pay \$1 per day (\$30) a month toward student loan debts for employees enrolled in the program. Teachers who accept positions with the district and move to Clinton from outside the county could have \$3 per day paid toward their student loans – \$1 from the city, \$1 from the county and \$1 from the school district.



Eligible applicants must have re-located to Clinton County on or after August 1st, 2019. All applicants will be required to have proof of residency no older than six months showing they lived outside of Clinton County, current proof of residency, and a signed application to ensure they see and acknowledge the points of the program.

Interested participants must complete and return the Clinton County Student Loan Assistance Program Application linked below. The form can be printed, and hand-delivered to the Clinton County Auditor’s office at 1900 North 3rd Street, Clinton, IA 53732 or emailed to auditor@clintoncounty-ia.gov. Please include proof of residence, both current and prior, as part of your application submission. Applications are available at: <https://bit.ly/2KfplcN>. The Clinton Regional Development Corporation will be hosting a formal press event on Wednesday, September 11th at 1PM inside the CC Admin Building (1900 N 3rd Street). For questions or more information please email the county auditor or call them at (563) 244-0568.

ECIA Public Bidding and Bond Referendums Training

Tuesday, August 27, 2019
4:00 - 6:00pm

ECIA, Large Conference Room
7600 Commerce Park, Dubuque, IA 52002

John Danos, partner at Dorsey and Whitney LLP will be coming to ECIA to present on public bidding and bond referendums.

Dinner will be provided. Please inform us if you have any dietary needs.

Please RSVP to Dylan at dmichels@ecia.org by August 21, 2018



Housing and Downtown Revitalization Training

Jim Thompson from Iowa Economic Development Authority will be conducting a presentation on housing and downtown revitalization.

This is FREE and lunch will be provided. Please inform us if you have any dietary needs.



Thursday, August 22, 2019
12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

Fidelity Bank and Trust
1550 1st Ave E, lower level
Cascade, IA 52033

RSVP by August 19th to hmcperson@ecia.org or call 563-690-5738 & leave message

