



ECIA Spotlight

March 2021

President Signs American Rescue Plan Act

According to the National Association of Counties (NACo) The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 offers approximately \$120.2 billion in fiscal relief to be split evenly between municipalities and counties. Highlights from the NACo March 4, 2021 Legislative Analysis include:

COUNTIES: \$60.1 billion in direct federal aid to all counties based on the county share of the U.S. population.

- Counties that are CDBG recipients would receive larger share, based on population or calculated share under the CDBG allocation method.

NON-COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES: \$60.1 billion to cities and other non-county municipalities.

- \$42.07 billion in direct federal aid for municipalities with populations of at least 50,000, using a modified CDBG formula.
- \$18.03 billion for municipalities with populations less than 50,000 based on each jurisdiction’s percentage of the state’s population.
- Amount per jurisdiction may not exceed 75% of its most recent budget as of January 27, 2020.

Funds may be used to:

- Respond to the public health emergency in regard to COVID-19 or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries like tourism, travel, and hospitality;
- For the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue (i.e. online, property or income tax) due to the public health emergency, or;
- Make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.

The deadline to spend funds would be December 31, 2024.

ECIA, NICC Receives EDA B2R Grant

ECIA and NICC received an EDA Business Resiliency & Recovery grant of more than \$315,000 to help northeast Iowa businesses prepare for, respond to, and recover from pandemic impacts through technical assistance and capacity training opportunities. The project will equip and staff a business helpline and triage system, offer one-to-one business counseling, research best practices for and develop capacity trainings, and provide business consulting for long-term growth and to fuel the region’s jobs and resilience. Wendy Mihm-Herold, NICC Vice President of Business and Community Solutions, said, “Our experienced team has been working with businesses affected by COVID-19 since March 2020 and we are ready to implement this initiative. These dollars will help us provide much needed one-on-one expert consultation to assist businesses on efficiency, human capital, strategic planning and growth strategies.” Interested businesses should call 563.588.3350 between 8:30-4:00, M-F or email sbhelpline@nicc.edu. For questions about the grant, please contact Holly McPherson, at 1-563-556-4166 or email at hmcpherson@ecia.org; or Wendy Mihm-Herold, at 1-844-642-2338 ext. 1221 or email at mihm-heroldw@nicc.edu.

Clinton, Dubuque Rank #1 & 2 Per Capita

Based on economic development activity per capita in 2020, Site Selection magazine ranked Clinton first and Dubuque second out of all communities along the Mississippi River Valley Corridor. The cities of Clinton and Dubuque had a record setting 2020, despite pandemic conditions. Additionally, Clinton has five separate housing projects currently underway. Site Selection magazine is an internationally circulated business publication covering corporate real estate and economic development.

2020 Top Mississippi River Metros Per Capita			
Metro	Size	Population	Projects
Clinton, IA	Micro	480051	7
Dubuque, IA	Metro	96370	11
Natchez, MS-LA	Micro	52203	5
Blytheville, AR	Micro	44235	4
Paducah, KY-IL	Micro	97,820	8
Union City, TN-KY	Micro	37,206	3
Clarksdale, MS	Micro	24,807	2
Hannibal, MO	Micro	39,175	3
Baton Rouge	Metro	825,478	60
Dyersburg, TN	Micro	37,935	2

FREE Training Sessions in 2021

The sessions noted below have been confirmed and will be held via Zoom or live webinar. Look for more information regarding these sessions and others to be added via ECIA’s [website](#) and Facebook page! Contact Caitlin Siemionko at csiemionko@ecia.org for more information on these sessions.

Date/Time	Title
Thursday, April 15; 1:30-3:00pm	IEDC Riding the Green Wave
Tuesday, May 4; 11:30-1:00pm	Generational Workforce, Presenter: John Graci Register at: https://forms.gle/uRo8HEidWB9EFP298
Thursday, May 20; 1:30-3:00pm	IEDC Online Attraction for Shrinking Budgets
Thursday, June 17; 1:30-3:00pm	IEDC Recreation Nation

RTA Receives \$\$

The Delaware, Dubuque & Jackson County Regional Transit Authority (RTA8) was selected to receive funding through a competitive Iowa Development Disabilities Council grant. RTA will partner with Hills & Dales, Imagine the Possibilities, and Area Residential Care to provide transportation for their group home and immediate care facility residents. When the COVID-19 pandemic struck, the agencies lost staff and funding. ECIA Mobility Coordinator Tricia Wagner notes, “Now, as staff and clients are receiving the vaccine, and near a re-opening, the agencies are excited to get their clients out into the community. They have been isolated for almost a year, and are very excited to get back to a sense of normalcy and renewed socialization.”

Edgewood Awarded EDA COVID Grant

The city of Edgewood received more than \$200,000 from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) to aid in the expansion of operations at the Edgewood Locker, a custom meat processing, retail specialty foods and catering business. The grant will also assist the business with improvement to the facility which will, in turn, support new jobs and will help attract other additional business opportunities. The expansions and improvements are estimated to assist with the addition of 22 new jobs, 50 jobs saved, and \$5 million in private investment leveraged. The CARES Act provides EDA with \$1.5 billion for economic development assistance programs to help communities prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus.

EICC Bond Passes

Further advancement in Clinton and the surrounding region is the result of a successful March 2 bond referendum to support expanding Eastern Iowa Community College (EICC) career and technical education. The \$40 million EICC referendum was approved with more than 70% of voters in favor of the measure. Funds will be used for new and expanded career training labs at EICC’s Clinton, Muscatine, and Scott Community College main campuses, the Blong Technology Center and Clinton Community College’s Maquoketa Center. They will also be used for a new facility in DeWitt and a new agriculture center in Scott County.



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