



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

ECONOMIC RESILIENCY PLANNING AND RESPONSE

DESCRIPTION

The Iowa Northland Regional Economic Development Commission (INREDC) is updating its regional Economic Resiliency Plan, through funding provided by the Economic Development Administration as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act. The Economic Resiliency Plan will be incorporated as an update to the Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. The INREDC region includes the counties of Black Hawk, Bremer, Buchanan, Butler, Chickasaw and Grundy.

Economic Resiliency is the ability of communities to prevent, withstand and recover from major disruptions to the economic base. Establishing economic resilience in a regional economy requires the ability to anticipate risk, evaluate how that risk can impact key economic assets and build a responsive capacity.

The INREDC is seeking proposals from organizations that are carrying out and /or planning for economic resiliency activities in their respective communities. Multiple proposals will be selected. The combined efforts of all selected activities will be showcased in an effort to promote economic recovery related to COVID-19 and inform regional planning efforts.

1. Proposed activities must further COVID-19 related economic recovery and/or plan for economic resiliency. Examples of such activities may include projects such as: promoting local Main Street, technical support to businesses, economic diversification and supply chain studies, critical infrastructure upgrade planning, promoting local contractors, etc.
2. Organizations funded must also participate in the INREDC Economic Resiliency Planning process, by engaging their local stakeholders and assisting with facilitation of a minimum of two community planning meetings.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES AND FUNDS AVAILABLE

A total of \$70,000 is available and multiple proposals will be selected in an effort to deliver a broad-based regional response. Up to seven awards will be made, with the average award being \$10,000. Eligible costs include staff time, travel, professional services and contractual services.

TIMELINE

- Nov 4: Proposals Due by 12:00 p.m.
- Nov 5-10 Proposals Distributed to Review Committee
- November 12: Recommendations Forwarded to INREDC Board
- November 19: Allocations Approved by INREDC Board

PROPOSAL FORMAT & REQUIREMENTS

Proposals must address the following items.

1. Name of Organization / Address
2. Contact Person / Title of Contact Person / Email Address / Phone Number
3. Geographic Area Served
4. Organization Type (i.e. 501c3, 501c6, 28e, etc.)
5. Amount Requested
6. Organization Mission Statement
7. Description of current economic recovery needs in your community – for businesses and employees.
8. Description of how your organization will use funding to advance economic recovery or further economic resiliency.
9. Project Budget
10. Confirm your organization able to assist with facilitating Economic Resiliency Planning.
11. List the stakeholder groups your organization would include in Economic Resiliency Planning.

DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS

Proposals are due by 12:00 p.m. on November 4, 2020. Only one proposal per applicant may be submitted. Late or incomplete proposals will be not accepted. Applications may be emailed to Lahern@inrcog.org or mailed to the attention of: *Lisa Ahern, Iowa Northland Regional Council of Governments, 229 E. Park Avenue, Waterloo IA, 50703.*

Applicants who have questions about the application process may contact Brian Schoon or Lisa Ahern at (319) 235-0311.

SCORING / REVIEW PROCESS

Proposals will be scored as follows:

- Primary Mission of Organization is Economic Development – 20 points
- Organization serves a locality within the INREDC region – 20 points
- Capacity and expertise to assist with coordination of Economic Resiliency Planning – 20 points
- Proposed activities furthers COVID-19 related economic recovery and/or Resiliency – 20 Points

Upon receipt of proposals, a sub-committee of the INREDC shall review all proposals submitted by the deadline and make a recommendation of award to the INREDC Board. The INREDC Board reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, including those that do not provide adequate information to determine if the applicant has the administrative capacity to complete the activity in a timely manner.

CONTRACT

All entities awarded funds will be required to sign a contract with the INREDC outlining the terms of the agreement, project expectations and deadline for completion of the activity. The agencies / organizations will be expected to complete the activity by December 31, 2021.