

Grants, webinars, and data assistance to help grow your business or organization

January 19, 2015

Rockford Region Economic Development



District (RREDD)

[Visit our website for more information](#)

The Rockford Region Economic Development District is a nonprofit agency whose primary role is to do economic development planning. RREDD also works with agencies throughout the region to further community development initiatives.

Don't miss "**Grant Track!**" at the end of this newsletter and our newest feature will be a links to **FREE webinars**.



Your Organization May Be Eligible for No-Cost Assistance

RREDD is funded in part by the U.S. Economic Development Administration. This funding is intended to assist in development of an increased number of higher-skill, higher-wage jobs, increased tax revenue, or increased private sector investment. RREDD also has private investors who benefit from RREDD technical services such as data mining and grant writing. The



investors, or member partners, are entitled to a certain number of hours in services per year. Member partners collaborate on projects with businesses and ask for the member hours to be used for the purpose of the collaboration. Therefore, if you do business with one of our investors, you may be eligible for services through that investor. If you are not partnered with an investor, you may want to consider becoming one. Or, you can always contact RREDD for a reasonable quote on services. We are here to assist your organization. Call us at 815-969-4266.

[Click here to learn more](#)

CEDS? What is the CEDS?

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is linked to eligibility for funding. The region is not eligible to receive funding from the US Economic Development Administration (EDA) without the existence of an approved regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).



RREDD is the Economic Development District for Boone and Winnebago counties. As such, RREDD led development of the CEDS and is familiar with the strategies therein. Additionally, McHenry county is being added to the updated CEDS this year.

This provides the 3 county region with additional opportunities for funding. The EDA funds are intended to improve the economic landscape by supporting job development, high level employee training, business expansion, commercial development of empty space and industrial properties, as well as other activities supporting economic growth.

RREDD has a short "application" you can fill out and send to us to review your grant proposal for EDA funding competitiveness and CEDS alignment. If you have a project, plan, and strategies developed, contact us. We will provide you a form to fill out which you may submit to us for a review at no cost. We are here to assist your organization.

[Click here for access to the entire CEDS document](#)

Free Webinars

RREDD is aware that providing varying resources available in many formats is important to our local economy. Therefore, as part of our newsletter we will provide links for no cost webinars in an effort to provide information and resources that may be useful to you and your staff. These resources will vary in scope, profession, target audience, and format. This issue of our newsletter features two webinars.



STATS-America

Highlighting one database tool, STATS-America is an online tool that may be helpful to you when searching for local statistics. Originally Aired in 2013, this webinar provides information on how to obtain statistical information that could be useful in grant writing, policy making, and for other stakeholders. Searching for data and understanding it can be frustrating. However, tools like this one can be helpful and productive. This is just one tool of the many available.

[Click here for STATS-America Webinar](#)

High-Quality Early Childhood Programs as a Model for K-3 Education

This webinar takes place on January 28, 2015 @ 1 p.m. CST

"For nearly 30 years, Teaching Strategies has helped early childhood programs to improve outcomes through developmentally appropriate practice. This webinar will share lessons learned from decades of innovation in high-quality early childhood programs, and highlight the ways that applying similar strategies in K-3 can lead to quality and success for all children."

[Click here for January 28, 2015 Early Childhood Webinar Registration](#)

Property and Workforce Research

Is your company or organization looking for a new location in Boone or Winnebago counties? In partnership with the Rockford Area Economic Development Council and Growth Dimensions for Belvidere-Boone County, RREDD provides time-sensitive and confidential assistance in finding suitable buildings or developable land, and compiling relevant workforce and other data.

For more information on what services are available, contact Thomas Bona for a confidential inquiry of your needs.

Thomas Bona
815.969.4257



Grant Track!

New Grant Opportunities



Here is a selection of some great opportunities open for grant funding. Please note that not all the information is listed for each grant available. Some grants are "rolling" which means they may have several grant deadlines per year. Some grants require more research to find their "giving history". There are thousands of grant opportunities but the research itself is time consuming and exhausting. We have put together a short list of grants that may be interesting to some of our readers. Each newsletter will provide a small sample of grants for your consideration. For targeted grant research or more information on a grant you see here, please contact

RREDD at 815.969.4266.



Illinois Arts Council

The purpose of this program is to support the presentation of Illinois performing artists, companies, or groups for performances, collaborations, or short residencies held in conjunction with performances. Examples of eligible projects include:

- Libraries engaging a storyteller to present stories during a children's story festival
- School districts bringing in a theatre company to perform at the local schools
- Theatre company collaborations with a folk musician in the creation and presentation of a new play
- Local college brings a jazz orchestra to town to perform in venues
- Dance companies contract with music ensembles to provide live music for a performance

Priority will be provided to projects that:

- Provide economic opportunities for Illinois artists
- Affect more artists and larger audiences within a specific community
- Are proposed by an applicant with a demonstrated history of sound management practices
- Projects for which substantial funds have been raised from other sources will generally receive priority.

The agency will seek to support projects that:

- Reach special audiences not regularly served by the arts, including individuals with disabilities, institutionalized people, older individuals, and members of lower-income groups
- Represent the diverse art forms of all ethnic and racial groups
- Serve small and rural communities

[Click here for more information on this opportunity](#)

Peoria Diamond Club

The purpose of this program is to support the training, development, participation, and/or attendance of youth in educational, athletic, and cultural events and activities. Funding will support the development/expansion of new or existing activities relevant to this program. Eligible costs include:

- Costs associated with attending or sponsoring a proposed project, event, or activity
- Costs of a new or existing program, or expansion of a current project, event, or activity which impacts the participants rather than the administrators
- Costs associated with the sponsorship or promotion of a project, event, or activity that encourages participation, and has an emphasis on youth involvement

Eligible applicants are 501(c)(3) or 501(9)(a) nonprofit organizations, including schools and athletic teams.

Organizations with large annual operating budgets may apply, but are expected to make a stronger case in requesting funding for their project.

Applicants may not designate an unrelated private sector organization with appropriate tax status as a fiscal agent for a project developed by an ineligible organization.

Previous award recipients include:

- American Cancer Society
- Arizona Humane Society
- Centennial High School Band
- Mariners Care
- Valley View Community Food Assistance

[Click here for more information on this opportunity](#)

US Environmental Protection Agency - Office of Environmental Education

The purpose of this program is to support environmental education projects that promote environmental awareness and stewardship and help provide people with the skills to take responsible actions to protect the environment. Projects that receive awards must design, demonstrate, and/or disseminate environmental education practices, methods, and techniques. All proposals must address at least one of the following education priorities:

- Environmental education capacity building
- Educational advancement
- Community projects
- Human health and the environment
- Environmental education teaching skills
- Career development

All proposals must also address at least one of the following environmental priorities:

- Addressing climate change and improving air quality
- Taking action on toxic and chemical safety
- Making a visible difference in communities across the county
- Protecting water: a precious, limited resource
- Launching a new era of state, tribal, and local partnerships

In addition, all proposals must address one or more of the following strategic goals of the funding agency:

- Addressing climate change and improving air quality
- Protecting America's waters
- Cleaning up communities and advancing sustainable development
- Ensuring the safety of chemicals and preventing pollution
- Protecting human health and the environment by enforcing laws and assuring compliance

Refer to the Strategic Plan file for additional information regarding the funding agency's strategic goals, at least one of which must be addressed by the proposed project. Applicants are eligible to apply only if they have not received a previous award from the funding agency. Applicants are encouraged to work with partners to develop, design, and implement proposed projects.

[Click here for more information on this opportunity](#)

Office of the Illinois Attorney General

The purpose of this program is to establish victim services centers that will improve the attitude of victims and witnesses toward the criminal justice system, and provide faster and more complete victim recovery. These centers are intended to provide a comprehensive system of services for individuals that have been affected by violence/crime.

Program goals are to:

- Assist criminal justice agencies in giving more consideration and personal attention to victims and witnesses of violent crime
- Sensitize law enforcement officials and others who come into contact with crime victims and witnesses
- Decrease the incidence of unreported crimes
- Assure that victims and witnesses are informed of the progress regarding the cases in

- which they are involved
- Encourage public use of available victim services

Supported centers must participate in one or more of the following services:

- Coordinate volunteers to assist in providing direct victim services
- Coordination with other community resources
- Services for elderly victims that cater to their special needs
- Transportation and/or household assistance
- Services for domestic and sexual violence, and sexual harassment victims that cater to their special needs
- Courthouse reception and guidance, including explanation of unfamiliar procedures and bilingual information
- In-person or telephone hotline assistance
- Special counseling and rehabilitation services
- Public education on crime and crime victims
- Training and sensitization for persons who work with victims of crime
- Provide special counseling facilities and rehabilitation services for child victims of sex offenses
- Write networking agreements to provide for the special needs of child victims of violent crimes (if applicable)
- Provide assistance in exercising rights provided in the Roadside Memorial Act for the families of victims of fatal injury crashes on roadways

[Click here for more information on this opportunity](#)

Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation: Energy Efficiency: Lighting Upgrade

The purpose of this program is to improve lighting quality and lower utility bills by replacing old light fixtures with high-efficiency bulbs and ballasts. Funds are awarded based on 15 cents per kilowatt hour (KWh) saved during the first year or 40 percent of the total project cost, whichever is less. Eligible costs include lamp upgrades and ballasts in existing lighting systems. Eligible building types include government, nonprofit organization, school, and college and university.

Projects must be in the lighting evaluation and design stage.

Previous award recipients include:

- Alliance Holiness Church of Chicago (Cook County)
- Bellwood Public Library (Cook County)
- Brown County Community Unit School District 1 (Brown County)

- City of Darien (DuPage County)

[Click here for more information on this opportunity](#)

Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation: Energy Efficiency: Model Energy Efficient Systems: Innovative HVAC

The purpose of this program is to help fund the costs of installing innovative heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems in existing buildings or installations in new construction to improve energy performance above the minimum requirements established by the energy code. Projects should be in the evaluation and design stage and must exceed the standards listed on page 5 of the NOFA file.

Systems should have at least a ten-ton capacity or cover at least 5,000 square feet of conditioned space. Project facilities must demonstrate a minimum of 40 hours per week and 36 weeks per year of regularly programmed activity and system operation within 50 percent or more of space designated for public use. Facilities must be common in Illinois.

Applicants will be expected to use the model building systems to educate others about high-efficiency technology.

Previously funded projects include:

- Air-to-air heat recovery dehumidification installed at an indoor pool
- "Gizmology" high-efficiency dehumidification HVAC system installed at an ice arena
- High-efficiency modular centrifugal chiller
- Variable refrigerant flow system
- Chilled beam system

Mandatory letters of inquiry (LOIs) must be received by one of the following dates:

- January 13, 2015
- July 14, 2015

[Click here for more information on this opportunity](#)

Clif Bar Family Foundation

The purpose of this program is to support efforts to protect the Earth's beauty and bounty, create a robust and healthy food system, increase opportunities for outdoor activity, reduce environmental health hazards, and build stronger communities. Priority will be given to applicants that:

- Address these areas from a holistic perspective
- Operate with clearly defined objectives and viable plans to achieve them
- Demonstrate strong community ties and operate at the community level
- Promote positive change through both the projects and their implementation process

Awards may provide general organizational support or funding for specific projects.

Applications must be received by one of the following dates:

- First quarter: February 15, 2015
- Second quarter: May 15, 2015
- Third quarter: August 15, 2015

- Fourth quarter: November 1, 2015

[Click here for more information on this opportunity](#)

**See an opportunity that looks like a good fit?
Need a professional to help with grant writing?
Call RREDD at 815.969.4266**

**Development and Grant
Writing Specialists**

Call for a quote for grant consultation writing,
or RREDD membership.

Dana Northcott, Executive Director
815.969.4252

**Sandra Belman, Director of Fund
Development & Strategic
Partnerships**
815.969.4266

ANALYSIS
We create your dreams.
CONCEPT
IMPLEMENTATION
We create your dreams.
SUCCESS

Our staff is waiting to assist you in growing
your organization.

Give us a call today!



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