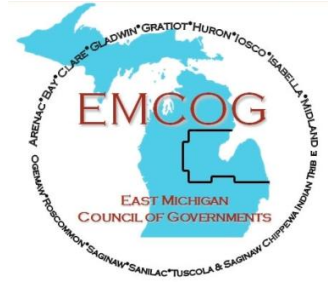


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TO: EMCOG Council and RED Team

FROM: Jane Fitzpatrick, Economic and Community Development Programs Manager

DATE: July 6, 2020

RE: Integrated Economic and Community Development Activities Report

EMCOG DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW FIVE-YEAR CEDS - STATUS

January, 2020: TIP Strategies, Inc. was on-site in the Region from January 15th through the 17th. During this time they met with over 100 participants/stakeholders including the newly formed CEDS Steering Committee, the RED Team (as the project advisory committee) and a number of focus groups.

March – June, 2020: We continued to hold a number of meetings utilizing a virtual platform. From March through June there were 92 participants in a series of focus group meetings from around the Region as well as two meetings of the CEDS Steering Committee.

July, 2020: Continuing with the virtual meeting format, members of the CEDS Steering Committee have assisted in organizing a third series of focus group meetings for July 7th through the 9th. Five such meetings are scheduled along with a meeting of the CEDS Steering Committee (July 9th). TIP Strategies will be facilitating a meeting of the RED Team on July 10th to provide an update and work on strategy development.

August & September, 2020: Virtual meetings will continue through August and the first of September with the proposed new CEDS “roll-out” on September 11th. All meetings with focus groups, the CEDS Steering Committee and the RED Team through September 11th will be virtual meetings. If Council and the RED Team meetings on September 11th are in person meetings, TIP Strategies will be meeting with us utilizing a virtual platform rather than traveling to the Region.

EDA CARES ACT SUPPLEMENTAL COMPETITIVE GRANT OPPORTUNITY

By now I've distributed information to every eligible applicant that is in my contact list (over 600) regarding this funding opportunity (I've been flagged by Gmail as being a "spammer").

HOW TO APPLY:

The first step is to get an idea of the eligibility of a project for this supplemental funding. In order to facilitate the process Lee Shirey, our EDA Representative requests that you contact me at jfitzpatrick@emcog.org first to have an initial discussion and then set up a conference call with him and me and whoever else should be on the call. During this conference call it will be determined (1) if your project is competitive and consistent with the EMCOG CEDS and (2) what steps must be taken in preparation for applying. This is the most efficient way as Lee is covering two states and hundreds of potential applications. As of July 6th Lee and I have participated in thirteen (13) such conference calls and a number of applications are in process.

BACKGROUND:

The CARES Act provided EDA with \$1.5 Billion to remain available until 9/30/2022 (2.5 years) to: *"prevent, prepare for and respond to coronavirus,including for necessary expenses for responding to economic injury as a result of coronavirus.....and including for necessary expenses for responding to economic injury as a result of coronavirus."*

Here is the link to the EDA website which contains information regarding this USDOC/EDA Notice of Funding Opportunity. <https://www.eda.gov/coronavirus/>

Eligible Applicants:

Only applicants who are eligible to receive funding under the Economic Adjustment Assistance program are eligible to receive grants under EDA CARES Act Recovery Assistance:

- A. District Organization;
- B. Indian Tribe or a consortium of Indian Tribes
- C. State, county, city or political subdivision of a State, including a special purpose unit of a State or local government engaged in economic or infrastructure development activities, or a consortium of political subdivisions.
- D. Institution of higher education or a consortium of institutions of higher education, or
- E. Public or private non-profit, organization or association acting in cooperation with officials of a political subdivision of a State.

Funding Ratio:

EDA has determined that economic injury from the coronavirus pandemic constitutes a "Special Need" and eligibility may be established on that basis without reference to the other economic distress criteria. EDA generally expects to fund at least 80% and up to 100% of eligible projects.

USDA GUIDE to FEDERAL PROGRAMS for RURAL COMMUNITIES IMPACTED by COVID-19

The USDA has compiled a resource for rural communities seeking federal funding and partnership opportunities to help address the COVID-19 pandemic. [The COVID-19 Federal Rural Resource Guide](#) (PDF, 349 KB). For more information visit www.usda.gov/coronavirus.

INTEGRATED ASSET MANAGEMENT – ASSET MANAGEMENT READINESS

UPDATE: Due to COVID-19 the tentative plans are to roll out the start up of this Asset Management Readiness Assessment sometime at the end of summer.

What is “Asset Management”?

“Asset Management is an integrated approach, involving all organization departments, to effectively manage existing and new assets to deliver services to customers;

The intent is to maximize benefits, reduce risks and provide satisfactory levels of service to the community in a sustainable manner – providing an optimum balance” (source: FCM Leadership in Asset Management (LAMP) – MIC Train the Trainer Workshop)

The Asset Management Readiness Assessment Scale tool was officially released on February 20, 2020 by the Michigan Infrastructure Council (MIC). Infrastructure owners such as local communities, water authorities, road commissions, public or private utilities and communications companies can receive help to understand, measure and advance their asset management proficiencies through this tool using metrics that are consistent throughout the State.

The “Scale” is based on five (5) asset management competencies:

1. People and Leadership;
2. Data and Information;
3. Planning and Prioritization;
4. Policy and Governance; and
5. External Communication and Knowledge Sharing

The MIC has partnered with the Michigan Association of Regions to help train infrastructure owners with The Scale and to collect results that will guide regional and state policy as well as to target resources.

You can download the Asset Management Readiness Scale at <https://www.michigan.gov/mic/0,9260,7-380-92950---,00.html> There are also instructional videos at this same website. You may also contact me directly at jfitzpatrick@emcog.org

WATER ASSET MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (WAMC)

The WAMC has not met since January, 2020. The February meeting of the WAMC was canceled due to inclement weather and due to COVID-19 no further meetings have occurred.

You can also find out more information about WAMC at

https://www.michigan.gov/egle/0,9429,7-135-3306_88771_90745---,00.html

OPPORTUNITY ZONES RESOURCES

Here is a link to the STATSAMERICA Resources:

<http://www.statsamerica.org/opportunity/>

EDA has established an Opportunity Zone web page for economic development stakeholders and others to use as a resource to further help foster job creation and attract private investment to support development in economically distressed areas.

<https://www.eda.gov/opportunity-zones/>

Here is the link to the HUD Opportunity Zones resource website:

<https://opportunityzones.hud.gov/>

HUD has published a list of federal programs offering Opportunity Zone Benefits. There are currently 143 grants and programs offering Opportunity Zone benefits including bonus points, preference points, priority consideration or special consideration.

https://www.hud.gov/sites/dfiles/documents/OppZone_Agency_Completed_Actions_2019_0808.pdf

Here is a link to an interactive map of all the Opportunity Zones (tracts) in Michigan.

<https://michigan.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=8b1413d59b8d420faf5217a5ab52851>