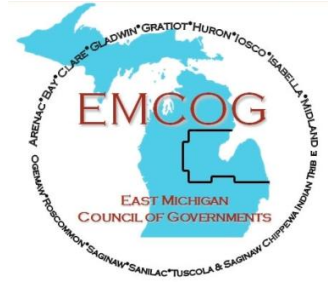East Michigan Council of Governments

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TO: EMCOG Council and RED Team

FROM: Jane Fitzpatrick, Economic and Community Development Programs Manager

DATE: November 6, 2020 Meeting

RE: Integrated Economic and Community Development Activities Report

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EMCOG DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW FIVE-YEAR CEDS – STATUS UPDATE

January - September 2020: With assistance of TIP Strategies, a total of 34 meetings of the RED Team, the CEDS Steering Committee and stakeholder meetings with representatives of every county in the EMCOG Region as well as focused stakeholder groups were held. There were over 280 attendees participating in the meetings. Beginning in March, the meetings switched to a virtual format due to the pandemic. Thirty-four people attended the most recent meeting on September 11th during which the five goal areas or pillars of the CEDS were presented along with accompanying strategies. The CEDS document will be available for public comment beginning in mid-November. The final meeting in January will be a workshop format to finalize the implementation matrix action items.

NEW POSITION AT EMCOG

EMCOG has received funding for new position through a Department of Commerce, EDA CARES Act Supplemental grant: PROGRAM ANALYST/IT COORDINATOR

This is a two-year full-time position that will assist in the provision of technical assistance as part of a 2-year economic development initiative in the 14-county region. The successful candidate will secondarily provide support to other regional initiatives supporting regional economic development and other initiatives designed to build resiliency resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. This position may be extended beyond the two-year term depending on performance and funding.

A bachelor's degree in urban planning, economic development, GIS, or similar field is required. The ideal candidate will be a motivated self-starter with strong communication skills and experience in data analyses, virtual public engagement, office computer software, etc. This position allows for the possibility of working from home. Local meetings, virtual and live will also be required for this position.

EMCOG offers a competitive benefits package and starting wage. To apply, please submit a cover letter, resume, and three professional references to Sue Fortune, Executive Director, at sfortune@emcog.org. Application deadline is November 15, 2020. **For a full job description and further information go to the EMCOG News section at www.emcog.org.**

EDA CARES ACT SUPPLEMENTAL COMPETITIVE GRANT OPPORTUNITY

This is a repeat of information I provided in September. To date I've been involved in numerous discussions with potential applicants and our EDA Representative, Lee Shirey for regarding possible grant applications. Please contact me if you have a potential project. I will coordinate communication with Lee Shirey…he is a very busy person these days. Also, please note that funding is available through the regular EDA grant programs, and based on the current state of the economy, the distress indicators that determine the funding ratios are at 80/20 for nearly all areas of the region.

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.

FEDERAL PROGRAMS for COVID-19 Assistance:

- [Government Response to Coronavirus, COVID-19](#): Overview page for federal COVID-19 websites.
- [DOC COVID-19 Homepage](#)
- 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.](#)

FEMA DR-4547 Interagency Working Group

Bill Ernat and I have been participating in the virtual meetings of the DR-4547 Interagency Working Group (five counties of Arenac, Gladwin, Iosco, Midland and Saginaw)/FEMA group. As FEMA begins the shift from response to long-term recovery with a shift to State and Regional facilitation I have been in discussions with FEMA Region 5 (Chicago Office) about future coordination and assistance toward the long-term economic recovery. More information will be provided as we work our way through the establishment of a process for the long term economic recovery for the EMCOG Region.

INTEGRATED ASSET MANAGEMENT – ASSET MANAGEMENT READINESS

UPDATE: Due to pandemic and the 5 County Federal Disaster EMCOG has been granted a reprieve until sometime next year to begin the process of gathering local government's Asset Management Readiness assessments. MI EGLE will be developing a series of webinars for assistance to local governments to conduct the assessments.

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 met on October 23rd. The overall result of the meeting is to review the schedule for asset management plans for a year. The decision was made to extend the due dates for the next round of asset management plans to October of 2021. The impacts of the pandemic on state and local government operations are factors in the decision. Our next meeting will be in January 2021.

You can 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=8b1413d59b8d420faaf5217a5ab52851