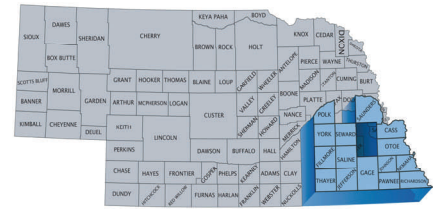


SEND D

Southeast Nebraska Development District



SEPTEMBER 2013 NEWSLETTER



Communities Awarded CDBG Owner-Occupied Housing Rehab Funds

The Southeast part of the state has been awarded 5 Owner-Occupied Housing Rehabilitation (OOR) projects from 2013 Community Development Block Grants from the NE Dept. of Economic Development. The following communities received funding:

Falls City	\$310,000	10 units	Deshler	\$248,000	8 units
Pawnee City	\$310,000	10 units	Fairmont	\$186,000	6 units
Geneva	\$248,000	8 units			

SEND D assisted these communities in applying for the funds. The department indicated that there were more than twice the amount requested than available this year, so we feel very lucky to have received such a large amount of funds for our district.

These funds will be used to rehabilitate homes in each community, with up to \$25,000 in grant and/or loan funds to assist the homeowners with improvements that will bring the home up to code. Applicants must be income eligible to participate.

Pre-applications were collected prior to the application being submitted, and these people will be given the first opportunity to complete the full application process to become eligible. A scoring system, previously approved by the city/village is then used to prioritize the applications.

It will most likely be early spring 2014 when the applications processes will begin in each community, with construction starting over the summer. Each grant funds must be spent within 2 years from the award date, so all projects will need to be completed by September, 2015.



Before



After

Notification of Annual Audit Form Due by October 31

Just a reminder that municipalities that will end their fiscal year on September 30th have 30 days to complete the Notification of Annual Audit form and submit it to the NE Dept. of Economic Development. It is only required from communities that have open CDBG grants. You can now submit these electronically to the department at ded.audit.naa@nebraska.gov. A Single Audit Report (if expended \$500,000 or more of federal funds) must be submitted to the department within the earlier of 30 days after receipt of the auditor's report but no later than nine months after the end of the fiscal year period. If you have questions please contact Norland Ferguson at norland.ferguson@nebraska.gov or at 402-471-4679 or SEND D staff for assistance.

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Regional Nuisance Enforcement Information Meetings

Nuisance enforcement will be the subject of an information session scheduled for October 10th in Geneva. Local leaders from Fillmore, Jefferson, Saline, and Thayer counties are invited to gather at the Geneva Public Library, Lower Level Meeting Room at 1043 "G" Street for the Nuisance Enforcement Support Information Session. This one-hour session is scheduled to start at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 10th.



Fillmore County Development Corporation, along with the Southeast Nebraska Development District will be co-hosting this information session.

Recently a number of inquiries have come to SENDD asking for support with nuisance enforcement. In response, SENDD has put together a format and is currently providing support services, via a special services contract, to Dorchester and Humboldt. The City of Crete is also expected to sign a contract for services very soon.

In response to these requests for additional information, Emily Bausch of the SENDD Lincoln office will be providing an information overview/PowerPoint presentation in Geneva, October 10th at 7:00 p.m. There is no cost for the session. This session is an ideal time for local leaders who may have questions to hear an overview of the program and get the answers they may need to consider such a program in their community.

SENDD staff is also interested in scheduling additional sessions in Cass & Saunders county and would like to identify a local host for a regional meeting in these areas. If you are interested in hosting such an information session in the near future, please contact Kevin Burnison at the SENDD Humboldt office (402) 862-2201 or by email at senddhumboldt@windstream.net.

Nebraska Broadband Business Survey—Due Sep. 30th

Businesses are being asked to conduct an online assessment of their use of broadband technologies. The survey results will provide valuable information on broadband usage by Nebraska businesses and will allow for a comparison of business broadband usage and impacts with peers nationwide.

You are encouraged to be a part of an exciting project that will help Nebraska businesses increase their economic vitality by more effectively using broadband technologies. The goal of this effort is to connect with businesses and build broadband knowledge and measure change within the state. This is an important tool to drive economic development and assist local businesses in being more competitive.

Please complete an online survey on how your business is currently using high speed Internet technologies. Completing the survey will take approximately 20 minutes. We hope you can take a few minutes before September 30 to participate in this research and help shape future broadband services for Nebraska. The survey link is <http://tinyurl.com/BusinessAssessmentSurvey>.

Heartland 2050—Growing responsibly. Together.



Residents of Cass and Saunders Counties are encouraged to participate in the Heartland 2050 planning activities underway over the next fourteen months. What is Heartland 2050? Heartland 2050 is a long-term vision of the future for the greater Omaha-Council Bluffs metropolitan area. Cass and Saunders Counties are among the two-state, eight-county area, including Douglas, Sarpy, and Washington in Nebraska; and Harrison, Mills and Pottawattamie in Iowa. SENDD Staff has hosted displays and survey activities at the County Fairs as a partner of the Metropolitan Area Planning Agency (MAPA), the project sponsor.

The Heartland 2050 vision will gather information and examine regional growth and development futures for all eight counties. With its focus on core infrastructural systems and services that the public sector provides, it will develop scenarios for pathways to sustainability and livability that help communities balance the sometimes competing values of a growing region. Alternative growth scenarios will highlight the connections between investments in guiding growth patterns. This will provide local decision makers and residents with information about the larger regional growth and development to the year 2050.

Right now is the time to ensure our regional community is and will continue to be self-reliant. The area's population is projected to nearly double—growing to 1.5 million people in 2050. How will we meet the needs of everyone in our community? Where will they live, work and play? How will we all get around? In order to preserve the advantages we have—and make the changes we want to see happen—we need a plan. Visit the Heartland 2050 website, www.heartland2050.org, to learn more about how to get involved. Anyone who is interested in the future of the region should be engaged with Heartland 2050.