

Economic Development E-News

NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
A Federally Designated Economic Development District

December 2014

Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grants

The Choice Neighborhoods program supports locally driven strategies to address struggling neighborhoods with distressed public or HUD-assisted housing through a comprehensive approach to neighborhood transformation. Local leaders, residents, and stakeholders, such as public housing authorities, cities, schools, police, business owners, non-profits, and private developers, come together to create and implement a plan that transforms distressed HUD housing and addresses the challenges in the surrounding neighborhood.



To achieve these core goals, communities must develop a comprehensive neighborhood revitalization strategy, or Transformation Plan. This Transformation Plan will become the guiding document for the revitalization of the public and/or assisted housing units, while simultaneously directing the transformation of the surrounding neighborhood and positive outcomes for families. Implementation Grants support those communities that have undergone a comprehensive local planning process and are ready to implement their "Transformation Plan" to redevelop the neighborhood.

For more information on the Implementation Grants, [click here](#).

If your community does not currently have a Transformation Plan and is interested in creating one, please contact [Coleman Peiffer](#) Senior Planner Community and Economic Development. Call at 715-849-5510 x306

NATIONAL ENDOWMENTS FOR THE ARTS GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

The National Endowment for the Arts will provide a limited number of grants for their Art Works program. Art Works supports the creation of art that meets the highest standards of excellence, public engagement with diverse and excellent art, lifelong learning in the arts, and the strengthening of communities through the arts. Matching grants generally range from \$10,000 to \$100,000.

Projects consist of one or more specific events or activities. Projects do not have to be new. Excellent existing projects can be just as competitive as new activities. Projects do not need to be big either, the Arts Endowments welcome small projects that can make a difference in your community or field. For more information, [click here](#)

There are two rounds of funding opportunities:

Round 1:

Deadline: February 19, 2015

Notification: November 2015

Earliest Start Date: January 1, 2016

Round 2:

Deadline: July 23, 2015

Notification: April 2016

Earliest Start Date: June 1, 2016



**NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE ARTS**

America's Best Communities Grant Opportunity

Frontier Communications and DISH Network has launched America's Best Communities, a \$10 million prize competition to stimulate growth and revitalization in small cities and towns across Frontier's 27-state footprint.

America's Best Communities contest will help address the need for growth by identifying and investing in innovative ideas that small cities and towns can use to build and sustain their local economies. The winning ideas then become available as a roadmap for growth for all rural communities across the U.S. America's Best Communities is a multi-stage, three-year contest that provides \$4 million in seed money and other support to assist communities as they develop growth and revitalization plans. The top three communities will receive a total of \$6 million in prize money.



Municipalities with populations of 9,500 to 80,000 and located within Frontier's service areas are eligible to apply. Those with populations under 9,500 are encouraged to join forces and collaborate with adjacent communities to become eligible.

Communities must apply by March 25, 2015, to qualify. Judges will then select up to 50 qualified applicants in May 2015, each of which will be awarded \$35,000 with a \$15,000 local match requirement to develop their plans and proposals. These communities will then have seven months to refine and submit their final proposals in September 2015.

For more information on America's Best Communities, [click here](#).

Regional Indicators

	2012	2013	Change	Result
Employment	217,022	217,862	0.4%	+
Labor Force	235,283	235,570	0.12%	+
Unemployment Rate	7.8%	7.5%	- 0.3%	+
	2012	2013	Change	Result
Job Growth	220,469	220,863	0.18%	+
Population	443,067	443,597	0.12%	+

NCWRPC is Seeking 2015 Project Requests for Technical Assistance

The NCWRPC is still accepting member community/county technical assistance project requests for inclusion in our 2015 Work Program.

NCWRPC provides technical grant writing and administrative assistance to communities that are seeking funds from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration. The NCWRPC also provides assistance for a wide variety of other grant programs, including the Wisconsin Department of Commerce (CDBG program), the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC), and USDA-Rural Development.

In addition, the NCWRPC provides communities with assistance in a variety of other economic development related studies, including:

- Downtown Redevelopment Plans
- Retail and Market Analysis
- Housing Assessments
- Economic Development Strategies
- Feasibility Studies
- Cluster Analysis
- Trends and Projections of Communities and Industries
- Other Specialized Studies

In addition to providing technical assistance on key community projects, NCWRPC also helps identify and submit applications for grants and helps identify potential matching requirement resources.

If you are considering a project in 2015 for your community, please contact [Coleman Peiffer](#), Senior Planner Economic and Community Development.