



An innovative leader in responsible planning and development for over 40 years  
**coordinate. partner. advocate. serve.**

West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

*Serving the counties of Barron, Chippewa, Clark, Dunn, Eau Claire, Polk, and St. Croix*

**OPEN POSITION!** WCWRPC has extended the resume submittal due date for our open Associate/Senior Planner position. Do you or someone you know want to be part of an innovative and proactive regional planning organization? Click [here](#) for more information on how to become a member of our team.

**Opportunity Zones** – The federal government has created a new tool that has the potential to provide substantial benefits to qualifying communities in the West Central Wisconsin Region. Opportunity Zones provide incentives to taxpayers to invest in projects in low-income and/or distressed areas by allowing them to postpone taxes on their capital gains in return for such investment. Not only could a variety of different projects directly benefit from this investment tool, but Opportunity Zones can help communities take advantage of other funding sources as well. For example, the **Economic Development Administration (EDA)** has determined that census tracts that are already in Opportunity Zones will be considered qualifying areas for purposes of EDA Public Works funding. Note that, in most cases, EDA will cover up to 50% of a project's costs. In the West Central Wisconsin Region,

certain census tracts in Rice Lake, Chippewa Falls, Menomonie and Eau Claire have been designated as Opportunity Zones. For more information, please contact Craig Johnson at the WCWRPC at 715-836-2918 ext. 21 or [email](#).

## EVENTS & FUNDING

### FEBRUARY 2019

#### Upcoming Events: February - March 2019

**Wisconsin Counties Association Annual Legislative Exchange**

Madison, WI  
February 5-6, 2019

**2019 Greater St. Croix Valley Rally**

Madison, WI  
February 6, 2019

**Training Opportunity: Submitting a Successful Wisconsin Fast Forward Grant -**

Wisconsin Dept. of Workforce Development  
Madison, WI (in-person or online)  
February 13, 2019

**The Opioid and Meth Epidemic: What Counties Can Do to Ease Wisconsin's Drug Epidemic Seminar** - Wisconsin Counties Association

Stevens Point, WI  
February 18, 2019

**Eau Claire Area Economic Development Corporation Annual Luncheon**

February 18, 2019

**24th Annual Wetland Science Conference** - Wisconsin Wetlands Association

Madison, WI  
February 19-21, 2019

**St. Croix County Economic Development Corporation Business of the Year Banquet**

New Richmond, WI  
February 21, 2019

**State of Wisconsin Hazardous Materials Awareness & Waste Disposal Training** -

Veolia North America  
February 22, 2019 - Madison, WI

March 5, 2019 - Whitewater, WI  
March 7, 2019 - Fond du Lac, WI  
March 12, 2019 - Camp Douglas, WI  
March 13, 2019 - River Falls, WI  
March 19, 2019 - Wausau, WI  
March 20, 2019 - Green Bay, WI  
March 27, 2019 - Madison, WI  
March 28, 2019 - Kenosha, WI

**American Water Resources Association - Wisconsin Section Annual Meeting**

Delevan, WI  
February 28 - March 1, 2019

**Red Cedar Watershed Conference** - Tainter Menomin Lake Improvement Association

Menomonie, WI  
March 14, 2019

**2019 WEDA Legislative Day** - Wisconsin Economic Development Association

Madison, WI  
March 20, 2019

**Momentum West Annual Meeting**

March 20, 2019

**West Central Regional Legislative Meeting** - Wisconsin Counties Association

Eau Claire, WI  
March 21, 2019

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## **Funding Opportunities: February - April 2019**

**Community Development Block Grant Planning (PLNG) Program**

Applications accepted on a continuous basis – Wisconsin Dept. of Administration

**Community Development Investment Grant Program**

No submission deadlines – Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation

**Rural Business Development Grants**

Contact your local USDA Office for timelines, eligibility, requirements, etc.

**Rural Energy for America Program**

Contact your local USDA Office for timelines, eligibility, requirements, etc.

**Idle Sites Redevelopment Program**

Continuous application process – Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation

**Growing Rural Communities Fund**

Ongoing – RURAL LISC (Local Initiatives Support Corporation)

**Agricultural Conservation Easement Program**

Ongoing – US Dept. of Agriculture

**Water & Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program**

Ongoing – US Dept. of Agriculture

**2019 Ag Enterprise Areas JUST ADDED**

Petitions may require months to prepare – Petition deadline 6/21/2019

Dept. of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection

**Lowe's Toolbox for Education Grants**

February 8, 2019

**Safe Places to Play Grants**

February 8, 2019 – US Soccer Foundation

**Wisconsin Habitat Partnership Fund JUST ADDED**

February 15, 2019 – Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources

**Specialty Crop Block Grant**

February 15, 2019 – Dept. of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection

**Shooting Range Grant Program (PUBLIC)**

February 15, 2019 – Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources

**Environmental Justice Small Grants Program**

February 15, 2019 – US Environmental Protection Agency

**North American Wetlands Conservation Act U.S. Standard Grants**

February 22, 2019 – US Fish & Wildlife Service

**Creative Communities Grants – Phase 2**

February 28, 2019 – Wisconsin Arts Board

**Access Fund Climbing Preservation Grant Program**

March 1, 2019

**Clean Diesel National Grants JUST ADDED**

March 6, 2019 – US Environmental Protection Agency

**2019 Habitat Restoration Grant JUST ADDED**

March 15, 2019 – Tropical Wings, Inc.

**Grants to State Library Administrative Agencies**

April 1, 2019 – Institute of Museum and Library Services

**Veteran Housing Grants**

April 1, 2019 – Home Depot Foundation

**Meetings Mean Business! Grants Program**

April 1, 2019 – Wisconsin Dept. of Tourism

**Joint Efforts Marketing (JEM) Grants**

April 1, 2019 – Wisconsin Dept. of Tourism

**Ready, Set, Go! Grants**

April 1, 2019 – Wisconsin Dept. of Tourism

**Rural Energy for America**

April 1, 2019 – US Dept. of Agriculture

**Baseball Tomorrow Fund**

April 1, 2019 – MLB Community.org

**Challenge America**

April 11, 2019 – National Endowment for the Arts

**Notice of Discharge Grants**

April 15, 2019 – Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources

**Wisconsin Humanities Council Major Grants**

April 15, 2019

**All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV) Trail Aids**

April 15, 2019 – Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources

**Snowmobile Trail Aids**

April 15, 2019 – Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources

**Motorized Stewardship Grants**

April 15, 2019 – Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources

**The Lawrence Foundation**

April 30, 2019

**Patagonia Corporate and Media Grants Programs**

April 30, 2019

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*The following funding agencies have various programs and deadlines:*

**Cedar Tree Foundation** - *Environmental health and sustainable agriculture*

**Charles Stewart Mott Foundation** - *Support efforts that promote a just, equitable, and sustainable society*

**CN Stronger Communities Fund** - *Building safer, stronger communities*

**Community Engineering Corps** - *Infrastructure engineering assistance for underserved communities*

**Cornell Douglas Foundation** - *Advocating for environmental health and justice, encouraging stewardship of the environment, and furthering respect for sustainability of resources*

**Doris Duke Charitable Foundation** - *Improve the quality of people's lives through grants supporting the performing arts, environmental conservation, medical research and child well-being*

**EDA Planning Program and Local Technical Assistance Program**

Contact the WCWRPC if interested

**EDA Public Works & Economic Adjustment Assistance Program**

Contact the WCWRPC if interested

**Environmental Research and Educational Foundation** - *Sustainable waste management practices*

**Ford Family Foundation** - *Funding opportunities for small or rural communities*

**Freight Rail Infrastructure Improvement Program (FRIIP)** - *Encouraging a broader array of improvements to the rail system*

**Mitsubishi Corporation Foundation for the Americas Grants** - *Promoting environmental causes*

**SBA 7a Loans** - *Loans to small businesses for working capital; equipment purchase; real*

*estate purchase; building construction or renovation; business acquisition; and debt refinancing*

**USDA Community Facilities Direct Loan & Grant Program** - *Develop essential community facilities in rural areas*

**US Dept. of Energy Office of Indian Energy On-Request Technical Assistance**  
*Provides federally recognized Indian tribes, tribal energy resource development organizations, and other organized tribal groups and communities, with technical assistance to advance tribal energy projects*

**USDOT Bus and Bus Related Equipment and Facilities Program**

*Contact Local Region Department of Transportation*

**Waste Management Charitable Giving** - *Promote civic pride, economic development, and revitalization*

**Wisconsin Fast Forward Grant Program** - *Customized worker training projects*

**Xcel Energy Focus Area Grants** - *Economic sustainability, education, arts & culture, environment*



The Regional Business Fund, Inc. (RBF, Inc.) is a non-profit economic development corporation whose purpose is to promote business and economic development in west central Wisconsin. The RBF, Inc. offers low-interest loan funds to businesses that expand within the region, diversify the economy, add new technology, revitalize buildings in the region's downtowns, create or retain quality jobs, and increase capital investment in the region. The RBF, Inc. offers the following programs:

- Revolving Loan Fund
- Growth Loan Fund
- Micro Loan Fund

- Downtown Facade Fund
- Technology Enterprise Fund
- EDA Fund

For more information, visit our [website](#), or please contact:

- [Tobi LeMahieu](#), Fund Manager
- [Jordan Pospishil](#), Lending Specialist
- [Mai Xiong-Thao](#), Loan Processor

### WCWRPC Staff:

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"You have expressed interest in receiving information from the WCWRPC and its work in the region."

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