



West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

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

## EVENTS & FUNDING

JANUARY 2021

### HAPPY RETIREMENT TO ANN!

Senior Planner Ann Schell is retiring on February 5, 2021 after providing over 31 years of service to Regional Planning Commissions in the State of Wisconsin. Ann initially worked for East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission for 17 years, and later for an additional 14 years with the West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. Ann has been a dedicated staff member and friend in all of these ventures and will be greatly missed. Please celebrate her retirement with us by taking a few moments to leave her a message on our virtual message board. You can access that board [here](#).

### COVID-19 Resources & Funding

Economic conditions are rapidly changing throughout our Region due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In response, our office and the Regional Business Fund, Inc. are continuing to develop a list of resources to assist communities and business respond to immediate and long-term challenges. The WCWRPC COVID-19 Resources webpage, available [here](#), provides a list of helpful resources, programs and agencies.

### Economic Development Administration (EDA) CARES Act Recovery Assistance Revolving Loan Fund (RLF)

Administered by WCWRPC and Regional Business Fund, Inc.

### **COVID-19 Federal Rural Resource Guide**

US Dept. of Agriculture

### **Rising to Challenges: Navigating through COVID-19 in Wisconsin: Strategies and Resources for Small Businesses and Community Groups**

Publication by Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation

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## **Upcoming Events: January 2021 - February 2021**

### **10th Annual Renewable Energy Summit Virtual Event** - RENEW Wisconsin

January 12-14, 2021

### **Food Finance Institute (FFI) Scaler Services Online Workshops**

January 14, 2021 - Sales and Distribution Planning

February 4, 2021 - Marketing and Branding Planning

February 24, 2021 - Operations & Organization Planning

March 18, 2021 - Sources & Uses of Capital Finance Planning

April 15, 2021 - Food Safety & GFSI Planning

### **2021 Governor's Conference on Economic Development Virtual Conference** -

Wisconsin Economic Development Association

February 3-5, 2021

### **Wisconsin Land Information Association 2021 Annual Conference Virtual Event**

February 15-19, 2021

### **Annual Urban Forestry Virtual Conference**

Wisconsin Arborist Association and Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources

February 21-23, 2021

### **Eau Claire Area Economic Development Corporation Annual Meeting & Paragon Award Ceremony**

February 22, 2021 **SAVE THE DATE**

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## **Funding Opportunities: January 2021 - March 2021**

### **Public Humanities Projects**

January 6, 2021 – National Endowment for the Humanities

### **FY 2021 AmeriCorps State and National Grants**

January 6, 2021 – Corporation for National & Community Service

### **Sustainable Agricultural Systems**

January 7, 2021 (letter of intent); April 1, 2021 (application deadline) – US Dept. of Agriculture

### **FY 2021 Farm to School Grants**

January 8, 2021 – US Dept. of Agriculture

### **Fabrication Laboratories (Fab Labs) Grant Program**

January 8, 2021 – Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation

**Technical Education Equipment Grants**

January 11, 2021 – Wisconsin Dept. of Workforce Development

**AgrAbility - Assistive Technology Program for Farmers with Disabilities**

January 13, 2021 – US Dept. of Agriculture

**Preservation Assistance Grants for Smaller Institutions**

January 14, 2021 – National Endowment for the Humanities

**Forest Service Cross-Boundary Wildfire Hazard Mitigation Request for Applications**

**2021 JUST ADDED**

January 15, 2021 – US Dept. of Agriculture

**Force for Positive Change**

January 19, 2021 (Phase I) – Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation

**2021 Wood Innovations Funding Opportunity**

January 20, 2021 – US Dept. of Agriculture

**Agriculture Risk Management Education Partnerships Competitive Grants**

**Program JUST ADDED**

January 21, 2021 – US Dept. of Agriculture

**Creative Communities Grants – Phase 1**

January 21, 2021 – Wisconsin Arts Board

**Women and Minorities in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Fields Program**

January 21, 2021 – US Dept. of Agriculture

**Energy Innovation Grant Program JUST ADDED**

January 22, 2021 – Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

**People for Bikes Community Grants** (spring cycle)

January 22, 2021 (letter of interest); April 9, 2021 (full applications)

**Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI) Pre-Applications**

January 26, 2021 – US Dept. of Agriculture

**Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Program**

January 28, 2021 – National Fish & Wildlife Foundation

**FY20 Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities**

January 29, 2021 – Federal Emergency Management Administration

**FY20 Flood Mitigation Assistance**

January 29, 2021 – Federal Emergency Management Administration

**Boat Enforcement Patrol Grants**

January 31, 2021 – Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources

**Joint Effort Marketing (JEM) Program**

February 1, 2021 – Wisconsin Dept. of Tourism

**Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Boat Access**

February 1, 2021 – Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources

**Recreational Boating Facilities Grants**

February 1, 2021 – Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources

**Wisconsin Humanities Council Mini Grants**

February 1, 2021

**American Honda Foundation**

February 1, 2021 (New Organizations)

**Wisconsin Horse Council Trail Grants**

February 1, 2021 – Wisconsin Horse Council

**Small Business Innovation Research Program Phase I JUST ADDED**

February 2, 2021 – US Dept. of Health and Human Services

**Energy Program for Innovation Clusters (EPIC) JUST ADDED**

February 3, 2021 – US Dept. of Energy

**Community Wood Energy and Wood Innovation Program**

February 3, 2021 – US Dept. of Agriculture

**FY 2020 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program JUST ADDED**

February 12, 2021 – Federal Emergency Management Administration

**Minor Crop Pest Management Program Interregional Research Project #4**

**JUST ADDED**

February 12, 2021 – US Dept. of Agriculture

**Biotechnology Risk Assessment Research Grants Program (BRAG) JUST ADDED**

February 24, 2021 – US Dept. of Agriculture

**North American Wetlands Conservation Act U.S. Standard Grants (Cycle 1)**

February 26, 2021 – US Fish & Wildlife Service

**Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program**

March 1, 2021 – National Park Service

**The Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program** (formerly known as the Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive Program)

March 16, 2021 – US Dept. of Agriculture

**Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program (BFRDP)**

March 25, 2021 – US Dept. of Agriculture

**Rural Energy for America Program Renewable Energy Systems & Energy Efficiency**

**Improvement Loans and Grants in Wisconsin**

March 31, 2021 – US Dept. of Agriculture

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*The following state or federal funding agencies have various programs and deadlines:*

**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

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

Contact the WCWRPC if interested

**Freight Railroad Infrastructure Improvement Program**

Ongoing – Wisconsin Dept. of Transportation

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

Contact the WCWRPC if interested

**Community Development Block Grant-Emergency Assistance Program**

Varies - Wisconsin Dept. of Administration

**Emergency Watershed Protection Program**

Contact local Natural Resources Conservation Service field office

**Idle Sites Redevelopment Program**

Continuous application process – Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation

**Agricultural Conservation Easement Program**

Ongoing – US Dept. of Agriculture

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

Ongoing – US Dept. of Agriculture



REGIONAL  
BUSINESS FUND, INC.

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
- **Heidi Biesterveld**, Lending Specialist
- **Mai Xiong-Thao**, Loan Processor