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West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission

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

## EVENTS & FUNDING

MAY 2020

### Upcoming Events: May - June 2020

At this time, due to the COVID 19 pandemic, the Events schedule is suspended. New and rescheduled events will be included in our next newsletter.

### 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 help communities and business respond to immediate and long-term challenges. The WCWRPC COVID-19 Resources webpage, available [here](#), provides a list of resources, programs and agencies. Details on many of the programs and funding sources at the Federal and State levels have not yet been released, but information will be added to the webpage as it becomes available. We will do our best to keep the information up-to-date but ask that you be patient as we continue to identify and navigate all the programs. We are here to assist you and your community and will do our best to help the Region during this difficult time.

## Funding Opportunities and Information Relating to Impacts of COVID-19

### Resources Available through the Regional Business Fund, Inc.

#### Access to Low-Interest Loans

Current RBF Programs can provide 4.0% loans for working capital. If you're unable to obtain traditional bank or credit union financing, considering the following programs:

- Micro Loan Fund Program (start-up companies up to 2 years of age)
- Growth Loan Fund Program (established companies 2 years or older with at least \$100,000 in sales within the last 12 months)

#### Payment Deferral Options for Current RBF, Inc. Borrowers

We understand your business may experience financial difficulty as a result of the impacts of COVID-19. If you have been current on loan payments up to the time of the request, you may request:

- A principal and interest payment deferral for up to 3 months
- An interest-only payment period up to 6 months
- A temporary payment reduction up to 6 months

Please call the Regional Business Fund, Inc. at 715-836-2918 or email [Tobi LeMahieu](#) or [Heidi Biesterveld](#) to discuss options. You can also check out the RBF website [here](#).

### COVID-19 Federal Rural Resource Guide

US Dept. of Agriculture

### Small Business 20/20

Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation

### 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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## Funding Opportunities: May - July 2020

### Farmers Market Promotion Program

May 11, 2020 – US Dept. of Agriculture

### Regional Food System Partnerships **JUST ADDED**

May 11, 2020 – US Dept. of Agriculture

### Rural Community Development Initiative (RCDI) Program

May 13, 2020 (electronic application), May 18, 2020 (paper application) – US Dept. of Agriculture

**Rural Business Development Grant Program-Transportation Systems**

May 14, 2020 – US Dept. of Agriculture

**Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Public Facilities Program**

May 14, 2020 – Wisconsin Dept. of Administration

**In response to meeting restrictions put in place related to COVID-19, the Division of Energy, Housing and Community Resources (DEHCR) is extending the 2020 CDBG PF application submittal deadline to June 25, 2020 at 4:00pm**

**Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grants JUST ADDED**

May 15, 2020 – Federal Emergency Management Agency

**Small Dollar, Big Impact Grants JUST ADDED**

May 18, 2020 – American Association of Retired Persons

**FY 2020 National Infrastructure Investments**

May 18, 2020 – US Dept. of Transportation

**FY2020 FY2021 Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Phase II Request for Applications**

May 27, 2020 – US Dept. of Agriculture

**FY 2019 Fire Prevention & Safety (FP&S) Grants JUST ADDED**

May 29, 2020 – Federal Emergency Management Agency

**Enterprising Women of Color JUST ADDED**

May 30, 2020 – Minority Business Development Agency

**Emergency Shelter Grant/Transitional Housing Program/Homelessness Prevention Program**

June 1, 2020 – Wisconsin Dept. of Administration

**Rental Housing Development (RHD)**

June 1, 2020 – Wisconsin Dept. of Administration

**Preservation and Access Education and Training Grants**

June 11, 2020 – National Endowment for the Humanities

**National Trust Preservation Funds**

June 15, 2020 – National Trust for Historic Preservation

**Notice of Discharge Grants**

June 15, 2020 – Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources

**Quadratic Energize the Environment Grant**

June 30, 2020 – Quadratic Cares

**Go Outside Fund**

June 30, 2020 – Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin

**Clean Water Fund Program**

June 30, 2020 – Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources

**Safe Drinking Water Loan Program**

June 30, 2020 – Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources

**Strategic Economic and Community Development (SECD) Program Funding**

June 30, 2020 – US Dept. of Agriculture

**Forest Fire Protection Grant**

July 1, 2020 – Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources

**Tourist Information Center (TIC) Grant Program**

July 1, 2020 – Wisconsin Dept. of Tourism

**North American Wetlands Conservation Act U.S. Standard Grants** (Cycle 2)

July 10, 2020 – US Fish and Wildlife

**Art Works**

July 9, 2020 – National Endowment for the Arts

**People for Bikes Community Grants** – Fall Cycle

July 24, 2020 (letter of interest due); October 16, 2020 (full applications)

*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

**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-Floodplain Easement**

Contact local Natural Resources Conservation Service field office

**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



## 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