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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

OCTOBER 2020

NEW BUSINESS LOAN PROGRAM

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

The Economic Development Administration (EDA) has awarded the West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (WCWRPC) \$500,000 to capitalize a new EDA CARES Act Recovery Assistance Revolving Loan Fund.

Applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis until funds are diminished. Any business in the seven county region (Barron, Chippewa, Clark, Dunn, Eau Claire, Polk, and St. Croix) meeting the below eligibility requirements will be eligible to apply (City of Eau Claire included). Highlights of the new program are:

- Loans will be limited to small businesses with 10 full-time equivalent (FTE) employees or less
- Loans will be limited to certain industry sectors believed to be most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic:
 - Manufacturing (NAICS 31-33)
 - Retail Trade (NAICS 44-45)
 - Health Care and Social Assistance (NAICS 62)
 - Arts, entertainment and recreation (NAICS 71)

- Accommodation and food services (NAICS 72)
- Other services (NAICS 81)
- Use of loan funds is for working capital
- Minimum loan size of \$5,000 and maximum loan size of \$10,000
- Term of 7 years
- Option of 12-month payment deferral or interest-only period
- Interest rate will be 1% for the first two years, and then will increase to 2% in subsequent years
- No prepayment penalty
- Matching funds/other financing is not required
- Can be utilized in conjunction with any other loan or grant program.

Click [here](#) for more information.

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.

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

Upcoming Events: October - November 2020

73rd Wisconsin Towns Association Convention - Distance Learning

October 5 through November 4, 2020 (various dates)

Wisconsin Counties Association Virtual Workshops

October 5, 2020 - Promoting Diversity on County Boards

October 6, 2020 - Innovation-County Employees as Poll Workers

October 7, 2020 - Guidance on First Amendment Auditors

October 12, 2020 - Implementing Pretrial Justice in Wisconsin

October 19, 2020 - Large Livestock Siting-Where Do We Go from Here

October 26, 2020 - PFAS-What You Need to Know

November 2, 2020 - Serving our Aging Population

November 9, 2020 - Preparing for the Emergency You Hope Never Happens: Media and Communications

122nd League of Wisconsin Municipalities Annual Conference-Virtual

October 6-8 & 13-15, 2020

7th Annual Lieutenant Governor's Conference on Small Business Development-Virtual

October 6-8, 2020

Application Training for the Community Development Block Grant for Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) Program Webinar

October 7, 2020

Governor's Blue Ribbon Commission on Rural Prosperity Western Wisconsin PUBLIC INPUT Session

October 7, 2020 - 3:00 pm

Provide input specific to western Wisconsin to the Governor's Blue Ribbon Commission.

The meeting link is found below.

Join Microsoft Teams Meeting

+1 608-210-6800 United States, Madison (Toll)

(888) 313-7720 United States (Toll-free)

Conference ID: 356 636 868#

Additional information on the Blue Ribbon Commission can be found at the following [link](#).

First Impressions Workshops - Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation
(in person & virtual options)

October 7, 2020 - Platteville, WI

October 14, 2020 - Wausau, WI

October 21, 2020 - Ashland, WI

October 28, 2020 - Racine, WI

Planning & Adapting Virtual Conference

October 12-14, 2020 - Upper Midwest American Planning Association

Wisconsin Land Information Association Fall Virtual Meeting

October 12-16, 2020

International Economic Development Council 2020 Annual Virtual Conference

October 13-16, 2020

Transportation Information Center Online Workshops

October 15-22, 2020 - Purchasing and Inventory Control

October 20-21, 2020 - Highway Safety

November 4-5, 2020 - Highway Safety (Focused on Urban Areas)

December 8-9, 2020 - Highway Safety

November 5-12, 2020 - Fundamentals of Local Government

November 10, 2020 - WisDOT Flagger Training

Tommy G. Thompson Center on Public Leadership Webinars

October 16, 2020 - The Ostrich Paradox: Overcoming Human Deficiencies in Emergency Preparedness

October 21, 2020 - John Bolton: Populism, National Security, and U.S. Foreign Policy in Uncertain Times

October 23, 2020 - Cybersecurity Symposium

November 6, 2020 - Perspectives on Insuring Against Low Risk, High Cost Events (e.g. Pandemics)

November 20, 2020 - To Whom Should Wisconsinites Look to Advance Digital Privacy & Security?

Funding Opportunities: October - December 2020

Red Letter Grant

October 5, 2020

Creation and Presentation Program Grants

October 8, 2020 – Wisconsin Arts Board

Signals and ITS Standalone Program (Regional Applications)

October 9, 2020 – Wisconsin Dept. of Transportation

STEM Talent Challenge **JUST ADDED**

October 14, 2020 - Economic Development Administration

North American Wetlands Conservation Act U.S. Small Grants

October 15, 2020 – US Fish & Wildlife Service

Brownfields Clean Up Grants **JUST ADDED**

October 28, 2020 – US Environmental Protection Agency

Brownfields Assessment Grants **JUST ADDED**

October 28, 2020 – US Environmental Protection Agency

Quadratrac Energize the Environment **JUST ADDED**

October 30, 2020

Safe Drinking Water Loan Program (Notice of Intent to Apply)

October 31, 2020 – Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources

Clean Water Funds (Notice of Intent to Apply)

October 31, 2020 – Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources

The Lawrence Foundation

October 31, 2020

Environmental Remediation Tax Incremental Financing (ER TIF) Districts

October 31, 2020 – Wisconsin Dept. of Revenue

Joint Effort Marketing (JEM) Program

November 1, 2020 – Wisconsin Dept. of Tourism

Wisconsin Humanities Council Mini Grants

November 1, 2020

Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention & Control Grants **JUST ADDED**

November 1, 2020 (application, IF pre-proposal was submitted) – Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources

Surface Water Management Grants **JUST ADDED**

November 1, 2020 (application, IF pre-proposal was submitted) – Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources

Certified Local Government Historic Preservation Fund Subgrants

November 6, 2020 (application) – Wisconsin Historical Society

H-1B Rural Healthcare Grant Program **JUST ADDED**

November 13, 2020 - US Dept. of Labor

Museums for America

November 16, 2020

Climate Program Office FY2021

November 30, 2020 – National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Broadband Expansion Grants FY 2021

December 1, 2020 – Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

Meetings Mean Business! Grants Program

December 1, 2020 – Wisconsin Dept. of Tourism

Urban Wildlife Damage Abatement and Control

December 1, 2020 – Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources

Wisconsin Humanities Council Major Grants

December 15, 2020

Go Outside Fund

December 31, 2020 – Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin

Solid Waste Management Grants

December 31, 2020 - US Dept. of Agriculture

Walmart Community Grant Program

December 31, 2020

2021 Wisconsin Land Information Program Grant Application

December 31, 2020 – Wisconsin Dept. of Administration

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 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



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