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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

SEPTEMBER 2020

JOIN US FOR AN UPCOMING VIRTUAL BROWN BAG PRESENTATION! The event is free, but you must register ahead of time.

Economic Data Analysis - Learn about the use of EMSI as an economic data analysis tool in developing strategies, preparing plans, measuring outcomes, and more. For information, click [here](#).

Wednesday, September 2, 2020

12:00 - 1:00 pm

Participants must **register for this event** by noon on Tuesday, September 1st.

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.

St. Croix County COVID-19 Small Business Loan Program

St. Croix County's COVID-19 Small Business Loan Program was established as a resource for St. Croix County businesses experiencing unanticipated financial pressures due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This fund is designed to work with other federal, state, and regional financial assistance programs when possible. The fund is intended to sustain what otherwise were healthy businesses through this period of economic disruption.

Completed applications and attachments should be sent to the West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission using either of the email or mail addresses provided below. West Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission will notify you of the status of your submitted application. **Applications are processed on a first come, first served basis, subject to completeness, through Thursday, September 10, 2020.**

- **Email:** Heidi Biesterveld - hbiesterveld@wcrpc.org
- **Mail:** 800 Wisconsin Street, Mail Box 9, Eau Claire, WI 54703

Application and additional information can be found [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.

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: September - October 2020

Assistance to Firefighters Grant-COVID-19 Supplemental Program Webinars

September 3 and 5, 2020 - Federal Emergency Management Administration

Governor's Blue Ribbon Commission on Rural Prosperity Virtual Public Forums

September 8, 2020

September 16, 2020

October 7, 2020; 3:00 p.m. - Direct Stakeholder Engagement Forum for West Central Wisconsin (additional information forthcoming)

Local Government 101 Webinar

September 11, 2020 - League of Wisconsin Municipalities

Fall Town & Village Workshops - Distance Learning - Wisconsin Towns Association

September 14-17, 2020

September 28-October 1, 2020

Livable Communities Transportation Online Workshop

September 15 and 16, 2020 - AARP

What is Local Road Safety Webinar

September 16, 2020 - Transportation Information Center

2020 American Planning Association-Wisconsin Annual Planning Conference

September 16-18, 2020

Green Bay, WI

POSTPONED TO 2021 Wisconsin Counties Association Annual Conference/Marketplace

September 20-22, 2020

Wisconsin Dells, WI

Rural Road to Zero Virtual Summit

September 29 to October 1, 2020 - National Center for Rural Road Safety

Financing Food Systems Entrepreneurs Webinar

September 29, 2020 - Council of Development Finance Agencies

Wisconsin Economic Development Association 2020 Fall Conference

September 30 - October 2, 2020 (limited in-person attendees, virtual conferencing available)

La Crosse, WI

73rd Wisconsin Towns Association Convention - Distance Learning

October 5 through November 4, 2020 (various dates)

122nd League of Wisconsin Municipalities Annual Conference-Virtual

October 6-8 & 13-15, 2020

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

Funding Opportunities: September - November 2020

Rural Placemaking Innovation Challenge **JUST ADDED**

September 10, 2020 – US Dept. of Agriculture

Certified Local Government Historic Preservation Fund Subgrants

September 11, 2020 (letter of intent) – Wisconsin Historical Society

Signals and ITS Standalone Program (Connecting Highway applications)

September 11, 2020 – Wisconsin Dept. of Transportation

Rural Development Business & Industry CARES Act Loans **JUST ADDED**

September 15, 2020 – US Dept. of Agriculture

Shooting Range Grant Program

September 15, 2020 – Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources

Producer-Led Watershed Protection Grants

September 21, 2020 – Wisconsin Dept. of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection

FY2020 and FY2021 Community Compass Technical Assistance and Capacity

Building Program **JUST ADDED**

September 21, 2020 – US Dept. of Housing and Urban Development

FY21 Environmental Workforce Training Grant **JUST ADDED**

September 22, 2020 – US Environmental Protection Agency

Agriculture and Food Research Initiative - Education and Workforce Development

September 24, 2020 – US Dept. of Agriculture

Go Outside Fund

September 30, 2020 – Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin

Community Grant Program

September 30, 2020 – Foundation for Rural Service

Basic Recycling Grants to Responsible Units

October 1, 2020 – Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources

Recycling Consolidation Grant

October 1, 2020 – Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources

County Conservation Aids

October 1, 2020 – Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources

Fund for Wild Nature

October 1, 2020

Urban Forestry Grant

October 1, 2020 – Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources

Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program (Preliminary Proposals)

October 2, 2020 – Institute of Museum and Library Services

National Leadership Grants for Libraries (Preliminary Proposals)

October 2, 2020 – Institute of Museum and Library Services

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

North American Wetlands Conservation Act U.S. Small Grants

October 15, 2020 – US Fish & Wildlife Service

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

Certified Local Government Historic Preservation Fund Subgrants

November 6, 2020 (application) – Wisconsin Historical Society

Museums for America

November 16, 2020

Climate Program Office FY2021

November 30, 2020 – National Oceanic and Atmospheric 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



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