



Northeast Council Of Governments (605)-626-2595

October 2011

SD PLANNERS CONFERENCE

The Annual South Dakota Planning and Zoning Conference will be **October 26 & 27, 2011 at the Crossroads Hotel and Convention Center, Huron, SD.** The agenda is available online at the SD Planners website www.sdplanners.com.

The first day's presentations vary from sessions regarding planning for diversity, practical exercises and lessons for planning and zoning administration, and a presentation by FEMA-NFIP representatives regarding the implementation of flood protection zones. The South Dakota State Demographer will be present to discuss population and demographic information on the second day. Other presentations will focus on TIF Districts (in counties), preparing your community to invest in economic development and technical administrative tasks

The fee will be \$80 for SDPA Members, \$100 for non-members and \$70 for students and faculty. The fee includes lunch and dinner on Wednesday, breakfast and lunch on Thursday, break refreshments, and handout materials.

RURAL HEALTH SURVEY

NECOG, in conjunction with the South Dakota Department of Health and the other South Dakota Planning and Development Districts, will undertake a survey of health care providers, counties, municipalities and local economic development officials in an effort

to identify and quantify, on a state-wide basis, information regarding how South Dakota health care facilities and communities are recruiting and retaining health care professionals. It is anticipated that the survey instrument will be sent to survey respondents during the beginning of November.

Please take the time to complete the survey, as the results will provide valuable information to assist in our regional efforts to recruit and retain health care professionals.

REDISTRICTING

Our office has been working throughout the summer to provide information and assistance to cities and counties who are in need of redistricting due to the release of the 2010 Census numbers. We can provide census block population and block maps as well as generating maps for your area. If you need assistance with your redistricting efforts or we have not contacted you previously, please contact Eric in our office for assistance.

CHANGES TO CDBG GRANT PROGRAM

The State of South Dakota expects to receive approximately \$6 million in Community Development Block Grant funds in 2012. The state has proposed a number of changes to

the program for 2012. The most notable of the changes will be that three funding deadlines will be used beginning in 2012 and will be April 15, July 15 and October 15.

The CDBG program has been an important funding source for many projects in our region. During the past few years the most common use has been for water and wastewater improvements, but this is not the only use of this grant. This program can be used for projects such as firehalls, community centers, libraries and hospital expansions. If you have a project that you are considering or are interested if CDBG may be a possible funding option please contact our office for additional information.

SOUTH DAKOTA HOUSING AUTHORITY ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Annual South Dakota Housing Development Authority annual conference will be held **November 8 & 9, 2011 at the Ramkota RiverCenter, Pierre, SD.** Information about this year's agenda and registration can be found at www.sdhda.org or by contacting our office for more information.

NECOG DC CONGRATULATIONS

NECOG Development Corporation (NECOG-DC) has been operating our Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) since 1989. It's been 22 years now and we recently reached a milestone worth patting ourselves on the back. In 2011 NECOG-DC reached the \$10 million mark in loans lent and nearly \$80 million in funds leveraged.

What makes this number all the more impressive is that NECOG-DC requires each of our borrowers to first attempt to secure bank financing. Only after they have tried to secure

financing conventionally will NECOG-DC consider their application.

Our loan fund started out small with a grant from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) in the amount of \$400,000 plus a local match of \$166,667. Two additional EDA grants, three IRP loans and some other funding have been added to it over the years. All of this funding, with the exception of one, has required some sort of matching funds.

NECOG-DC has had some setbacks along the way and has needed to write off portions of 24 loans. Still with the expense of administering the RLF and the write-offs, NECOG-DC's RLF has grown to a portfolio of just over \$4.7 million today.

Along the way, NECOG-DC has made 167 loans to eligible individuals and businesses in our service area. These loans have resulted in the creation or retention of 1,550 jobs. As an overall portfolio, NECOG-DC leverages one job per \$6,714 lent and leverages almost \$8 per RLF dollar lent.

If you know of someone that would benefit from our program, please have them contact Rich Galbraith at (605) 626-2595 or rich@necog.org.

CONTACT US AT:

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