

# Grant Money Available for Disaster Prevention

This year, through the IJOBS program, the Legislature established a \$30 million disaster prevention grant program, to assist in the development and completion of public construction projects relating to disaster prevention.

The Iowa Finance Authority (IFA), which administers the program, announced that they are accepting a “notice of intent to apply” from cities and counties starting June 23<sup>rd</sup>. The grant money can be used for construction of, or replacement or reconstruction of, local public buildings in a manner that mitigates damages from future disasters, which include floods, tornadoes, blizzards, fires, earthquakes, terrorist attacks, aviation and environmental accidents, and similar catastrophes.

To be eligible, cities and counties must use ten “smart planning principles” when creating or updating their comprehensive plans. These principles, which were established during the 2010 Legislature, must be considered, and may be applied, when local governments deliberate all appropriate planning, zoning, development, and resource management decisions.

As part of their application, cities and counties must submit an adopted resolution that they will promptly perform a review to determine the advantages and disadvantages of adopting or amending a comprehensive plan. They must also adopt or amend their comprehensive plan using smart planning principles within three years if they are awarded a grant.

## *Application Timeline*

**June 23<sup>rd</sup>:** IFA begins accepting a notice of intent to apply. The notice has to be submitted to the IJOBS Board in order to be invited to submit an application for a grant. The final date to submit a notice of intent to apply is **July 24<sup>th</sup>**.

**July 6<sup>th</sup>:** Opening date to submit applications online. The final date to submit an application is **August 2<sup>nd</sup>**.

**September 2<sup>nd</sup>:** The IJOBS Review Committee, which has reviewed all applications, will make recommendations on which projects should be awarded grants.

**September 15<sup>th</sup>:** The full IJOBS board will award the grants.

## *Educational Meetings*

IFA is holding regional meetings across the state to educate representatives from cities and counties who are interested in applying for this grant program. Meetings have already been held in Ankeny and Fort Dodge on June 16, Waterloo on June 17, and Creston on June 21.

The remaining meetings will be held in Sioux City on June 28 and Muscatine on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. In addition, three webinars will be held on June 25, July 1, and another date in July (to be determined).

More information and all applications and forms can be found on the IJOBS website: [www.ijobsiowa.gov](http://www.ijobsiowa.gov). Grant awards will be up to 90% of the first \$500,000 in total cost of project development and completion, and up to 50% of all additional costs. An applicant or combination of applicants within the same county may not receive more than 40% of all funds.