

# December

Newsletter

*The Commission serves the Greater Wabash District by providing local, regional, and comprehensive planning; facilitating knowledge enhancement; securing and administering funds; and promoting cooperative solutions to regional issues.*

## Wanting to apply for a grant? Here are some tips!

1. Applications take time.... Prepare in advance
2. Make sure your SAM and GATA accounts are up-to-date.
3. Some grants require ordinances and policies, so be ready to put them in place.
4. Choose projects that are consistent with local plans.
5. Do your research! Know your utility rates, assets, or anything that may apply to the grant you are pursuing.

## Revolving Loan Fund

Looking to open a business? GWRPC provides low interest loans to area businesses to create or retain private sector jobs. Loans can be between \$10,000 and \$300,000, with one job created per every \$30,000 in loan funds.

## Small Business Development Center

Michelle Brooks with SBDC will be at GWRPC the 4th Wednesday of the month from 1:00-4:00pm. SBDC offers free business advice for entrepreneurs.



**IECC SBDC**

**Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD)**

Illinois is currently trying to discover where broadband access is lacking with hopes to expand infrastructure in the near future. To do so, Illinois has released BEAD. More information on BEAD and other broadband programs can be found at the link below.

## Federal Broadband Updates

# Fire Opportunities

## Office of the State Fire Marshal Small Equipment Grant

The State Fire Marshal has opened the Small Equipment Grant Program that provides funding for fire departments and EMS services. The grant maximum is \$26,000. The State Fire Marshal prioritizes certain equipment, and anyone interested in this program should reach out for more details.

Applications are due December 15th.

# Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

## Community Development Block Grants

### CDBG Project Requirements

1. Meet Low or Moderate Income Requirements
2. Document a threat to health or safety
3. Have the proper permits. To have the proper permits, an engineer must be hired, surveys must be completed, and permits must be submitted and received.

In order to submit a CDBG grant, the applicant must meet these criteria. Without this information, an application cannot be completed. We recommend planning for applications a year in advance to make sure the application will be completed on time. The due date for CDBG applications is January 18, 2024. The application process can be lengthy, so we recommend that planning a year in advance. Contact Jeff Vaughan or Mike Gill so we can get started on those applications!

## Illinois DCEO Grant Opportunities

### Back to Business Grant - NewBiz grant

Back to Business - NewBiz Program is for businesses who opened in 2020 or 2021 and were affected by Covid-19. Previous programs did not include businesses that were not open prior to the pandemic. Applicants are

encouraged to visit [b2bnewbiz.com](http://b2bnewbiz.com) to learn more and apply.

## **Tourism Grants**

In late October, DCEO published a press release announcing two new tourism grants, saying the "Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) launched \$15.4 million in tourism funding through two grant programs, the Tourism Attractions Grant Program (\$10.8 million) and the Tourism Private Sector Grant Program (\$4.6 million). Eligible entities can apply for grants to attract, develop, and improve new and existing tourism-related projects, events and festivals in an effort to boost tourism across the state and welcome more visitors. Grantees will be selected through a competitive Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) process." The full press release can be found at the link below.

**[DCEO Tourism Opportunities Press Release](#)**

# *Current*

## PROJECTS

### CDBG

- Grayville Waterline Replacement
- West Salem Lagoon
- Albion Sewer Lines
- Lawrenceville Waterline
- Crawford County Sewer Treatment Plant
- Olney Sanitary Sewer Relining
- Geff Water System Improvements

### Rebuild Illinois

- Olney Storm Sewer

### FEMA

- Multi Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan

### ISP NG911

- Edwards County

### Energy Transition

- White County

# Upcoming

## PROJECTS

### Noncompetitive

- Economic Development Authority

### Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

- CDBG
- Tourism Private Sector
- Tourism Attractions Grant
- Back to Business

### Office of the state Fire Marshal

- Small Equipment Grant

### Notice!

- Check your GATA accounts to make sure audits are uploaded!
- The GWRPC is now open Monday through Friday, 7:00 to 4:30!
- We will be closed December 25th-26th for Christmas.
- We will be closed December 31st-January 1st for New Years.



# Happy Holidays

From GWRPC



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