

## COLES COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING SEEKING CONTRACTORS

SEEKING experienced, well-established general and subcontractors for new housing rehabilitation grant programs!

Several state-wide changes have been announced on the requirements for contractors for our federal/state funded grant programs, and we are hoping to recruit more contractors to work with our office in making health and safety improvements to homes for low-income homeowners. We're looking for RRP licensed General Contractors, Licensed plumbers, electricians and roofing contractors to bid on home rehabilitation projects for our numerous grant programs. (Prevailing wage rates are Not required)  
Our service region covers Clark, Coles, Cumberland, Douglas, Edgar, Moultrie and Shelby Counties.

If interested, please contact Cliff Shaw at 217-348-0521 to see about our pre-qualification process.



Coles County  
Regional Planning & Development  
Commission

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### Commission Members

Mike Watts	Chairman
John Doty	Kurt Crail
Rick Hall	Darrell Cox
Jon Althaus	Jeremy Doughty
Mike Clayton	Dennis Malak
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## HAFHR PROGRAM

The CCRP was recently awarded a substantial grant for the IHDA HAFHR Program to make housing repairs for homeowners negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

A wide variety of issues can be addressed by this grant including health and safety code violations, accessibility, environmental issues and more. Homeowners must be at or below 150% LMI per HUD income limits.

Homes must be owner-occupied, up-to-date on taxes and insurance and be taxed as real property.

Certain other restrictions apply. If interested, please call our office at 217-348-0521. Clark, Coles, Cumberland, Douglas, Edgar, Moultrie and Shelby County residents can apply.

# IL DCEO ANNOUNCEMENTS

A new opportunity has been announced by the IL Dept. of Commerce and Economic Opportunity that may assist our communities with their tourism development goals: The Tourism Partnership Program!

The Illinois DCEO is issuing a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to match/leverage local funds with State funds to market and promote destinations, tourism attractions, and tourism events throughout the State.

The goal of the program is to increase overnight stays in paid accommodations.

Total amount of funding expected to be awarded through this NOFO is \$2,500,000. Awards will range from \$10,000 to \$100,000. Anticipated start date for awards is March 1, 2024.

## Tourism Attractions Grant

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity is issuing this Notice of Funding Opportunity to provide grants to assist in the development or improvement of tourism attractions that increase the economic impact of tourism throughout the State. Grantees must be able to match grant dollars as described in the NOFO.

The Tourism Attractions Grant program is part of a broader effort underway to help reinvigorate tourism in Illinois, and help the tourism industry on a path to economic recovery and welcome more visitors to Illinois. Grants up to \$500,000 will be awarded to develop and enhance Illinois tourism attractions.

Applicant must identify performance measurements they will use to identify successful outcomes as a result of the capital investment; such as:

1. Anticipated number or percentage of increased visitation as a result of the capital investment;
2. Anticipated increase in local hotel tax revenue to the area served after completion of the project;
3. Anticipated increase in local sales tax revenue after completion of the project;

Total amount of funding expected to be awarded through this NOFO is \$10,800,000. Awards will range from \$15,000 to \$500,000. Anticipated start date for awards is February 1, 2024. The period of performance is expected to be January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. Applications are due December 18, 2023.

# DCEO Cont'd

## Tourism Private Sector Grant (Events and Festivals)

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity is issuing a Notice of Funding Opportunity to provide grants for the purpose of attracting, hosting, and developing new events and festivals in Illinois, or enhancing existing festivals and events. Costs associated with hosting existing or repeat events and festivals will not be eligible unless documentation can be provided that the event was secured in direct competition with other states, or significant enhancements will be made to the event or festival to increase the attendance from travel outside 50 miles.

Applicant must identify performance measurements they will use to identify successful outcomes as a result of the grant funding such as:

1. Estimated number or percentage of increase visitation as a result of the festival or event;
2. Estimated increase in local hotel tax revenue to the area served after event or festival;
3. Number of media impressions and value for promotion of the festival or event;
4. Estimated increase in sales tax revenue as a result of the festival or event.

Total amount of funding expected to be awarded through this NOFO is \$4,600,000. Awards will range from \$10,000 to \$500,000. Anticipated start date for awards is February 1, 2024 with initial terms of up to one year in length, upon request some pre-award requests may be permitted. The period of performance is expected to be 1/1/2024 through 12/31/2024. Applications were due December 4, 2023, but applicants should start preparing for next year's funding round as soon as possible.

## Community Development Block Grants

Deadlines for DCEO's Community Development Block grants are once again coming due. Applications for both the Housing Rehabilitation and Public Infrastructure grants are due January 19, 2024 for the current (2023/2024) funding round.

PI grants can fund water and sanitary systems as well as storm sewer construction projects that alleviate public health, safety and public welfare to assist communities with substantial low to moderate -income populations.

Housing Rehabilitation Grants provide local governments with funds to address housing needs of eligible low-to-moderate income households. Houses can be brought up to health and safety code, which helps to revitalize the housing stock and allows homeowners to remain safely in their homes. These programs also address accessibility issues like installation of walk-in showers, ramps and widened doorways to allow wheelchairs and scooters through. There is no money required on behalf of the homeowner for these programs.

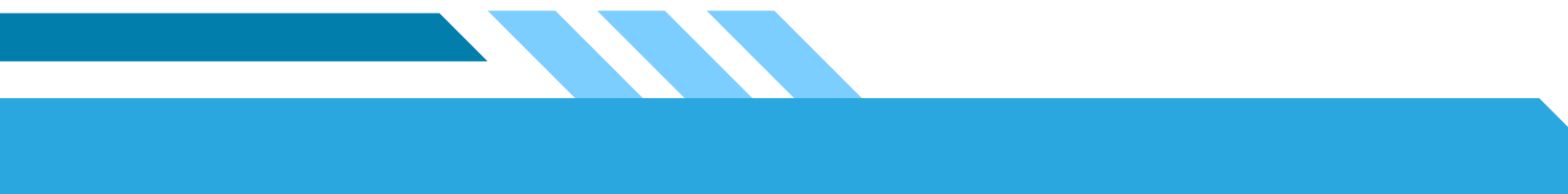
# Planning Grants

Coles County Regional Planning has been hard at work updating several Hazard Mitigation Plans for various counties in our region this year. Coles, Clark, Moultrie and Shelby counties will all get updates this year to the census information, critical facilities maps and goals and mitigation strategies previously written into their plans. HMPs are very important for a community to have in the case of a natural disaster, and must be updated every 5 years to stay compliant with Federal standards.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has made reducing hazards one of its primary goals; hazard mitigation planning and the subsequent implementation of resulting projects, measures, and policies is a primary mechanism in achieving FEMA's goal.

The Hazard Mitigation Plan is a requirement of the Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000). The development of a local government plan is required in order to maintain eligibility for certain federal disaster assistance and hazard mitigation funding programs. In order for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) communities to be eligible for future mitigation funds, they must adopt a Hazard Mitigation Plan.

With that in mind, if your county has not yet adopted an HMP, please reach out to your local regional planning office to get started on the process. Grants are available through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to fund these plans.



# Renew America's Schools Grant

The Renew America's Schools grant is the flagship funding opportunity of the Renew America's Schools Program. This competitive award focuses on funding infrastructure upgrades at K-12 public school facilities, prioritizing high-need school communities. The first round of this Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) launched in November 2022, and the application period closed on April 21, 2023.

Demand for this funding was unprecedented. Local Education Agencies (LEAs) from 48 states and two territories submitted over 1,000 concept papers, totaling nearly \$5.5 billion in requests. After receiving feedback on their project proposals, 236 LEAs from 44 states submitted eligible full applications, with requests totaling \$1.62 billion.

In response to the high demand and overwhelming evidence of public need, the Department of Energy (DOE) more than doubled the funding for Round 1 of the competition from \$80 million to \$178 million. After extensive review of a highly competitive field, DOE identified 24 Selectees that demonstrated significant technical merit and responsiveness to the goals of the funding opportunity. If your school is interested in applying, please contact the Regional Planning office.

\*Eligible projects include energy infrastructure improvements that reduce building operating costs—like new HVAC and ventilation systems, building envelope and lighting projects, and renewable energy technologies. Funding is also available for alternative fueled vehicles and alternative fueled vehicle infrastructure.



15\* Selectees have schools located in a **DAC**, including 5 in **Tribal areas**

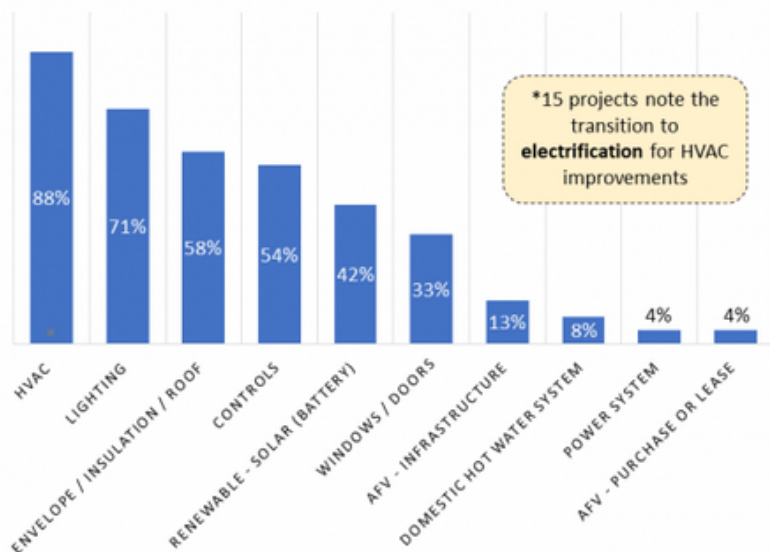


23 Selectees are **Title 1** schools



14 Selectees are in a **Rural Locale**

## REQUESTED IMPROVEMENTS



The DOE anticipates a 2nd round of funding in Spring of 2024