
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

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EMPOWER RURAL IOWA RECOMMENDATIONS — DECEMBER 2020

Meeting. The [Iowa Rural Development Council](#) met on December 16, 2020, to review Empower Rural Iowa recommendations for the 2021 Legislative Session.

Background. In July 2018, Governor Reynolds created the [Empower Rural Iowa \(ERI\)](#) initiative, which is administered through the [Iowa Economic Development Authority \(IEDA\)](#). 2019 Iowa Acts, [House File 772](#) (Empower Rural Iowa Act), created three task forces, which develop recommendations for Governor Reynolds in advance of each legislative session. The three task forces are: Investing in Rural Iowa (created to address the rural housing shortage and develop strategies to support rural businesses and entrepreneurs), Growing Rural Iowa (created to address leadership, recruitment, and retention in rural communities), and Connecting Rural Iowa (created to address the issue of financing broadband connectivity).

Recommendations. Governor Reynolds attended the meeting and, upon reviewing the ERI recommendations from the three task forces, accepted the recommendations, which can be found [here](#).

More Information. More information on ERI can be found [here](#). Meetings will resume in late spring after the 2021 Legislative Session.

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