

2025 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



IOWA ASSOCIATION
OF COUNCILS OF GOVERNMENTS



**Building Strong Communities by bringing statewide
leaders together to improve public sector services and
solve regional issues**

2025 ICOG LEGISLATIVE P

1. INCREASE COG ASSISTANCE TO \$400,000

In 2024, the 17 councils of governments (COGs) collectively received an appropriation of \$350,000. This funds only \$20,588 per region.

COGS HAVE AN IMPACT ON IOWA With this \$400,000 invested by the state, COGs will be able to assist local governments by managing \$56,800,000 in other grants and projects. If not for these dollars the state would be losing money elsewhere based on the expertise of COGs. We use state money to leverage federal money. This is pennies on the dollar for what the state gets in return from COGs work.

Use the QR Code below to view a map of Iowa showing the significant impact COGs have on projects in the state of Iowa.



WHY AN INCREASE?

COGs provide valuable and unmatched services to cities and counties, especially small communities without professional staff. Each COG provides programs and services based on the unique needs of its region and its communities. NOW is the time to strengthen the partnership between the state of Iowa and COGs. By increasing the COG assistance from its current level of \$350,000 to \$400,000.

PRIORITIES

COGs will be able to add to their service capacity. This is a low-cost means to assist cities and counties in the entire state. The increase to \$400,000 is progress towards our ultimate goal of \$70,000 for each of the 17 COGs, which will afford COGs to bring on an additional staff person to allow more resources and extend their services.

2. LAND REDEVELOPMENT TRUSTS ARE GREAT FOR IOWA

ICOG supports the passage of Land Redevelopment Trust legislation that acquires vacant, abandoned, or dilapidated properties and then prepares them for redevelopment.

At its heart, a Land Redevelopment Trust provides a better system for dealing with the properties that have been neglected and rejected by the open market.

By acquiring problem properties and preparing them for redevelopment by new owners in a manner most supportive of local needs and priorities, a Land Redevelopment Trust serves as a catalyst for transforming distressed properties into community assets.



Before **REDEVELOPMENT**



After **REDEVELOPMENT**

3. SUPPORT HOUSING INITIATIVES

To promote economic development and expand homeownership opportunities, Iowa needs to increase and maintain the housing supply for all Iowans.

ICOG acknowledges the need for additional affordable housing and supports housing initiatives that include:

- **Funding Housing Trust Funds** - Inflationary and construction costs have continued to erode recent increases to the Housing Trust Funds (HTFs). ICOG supports the increase investment over time that would benefit the state of Iowa.
- **Workforce Housing Tax Credit** - The workforce housing tax credit base value (currently \$150,000) should be increased to provide impactful incentives for single-family units across the state of Iowa.
- **Housing Renewal Program** - ICOG supports continued support of this program for renovation of dilapidated, nuisance properties for affordable homeownership.
- **Down Payment Assistance for Military Members** - Increase funding to the Military Down Payment Assistance.



Before REHAB



After REHAB



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OUR MISSION

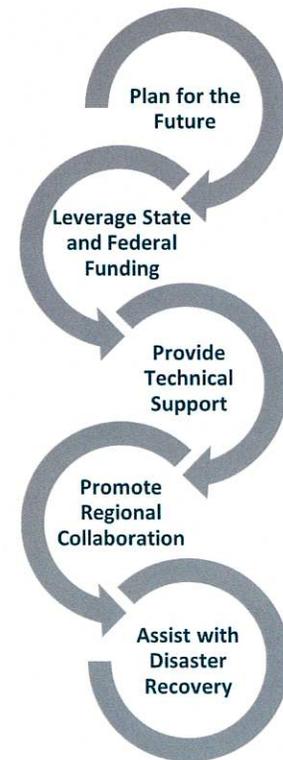
Building Strong Communities By Bringing Statewide Leaders Together To Improve Public Sector Services And Solve Regional Issues.

VIEW OUR INTERACTIVE IMPACT MAP



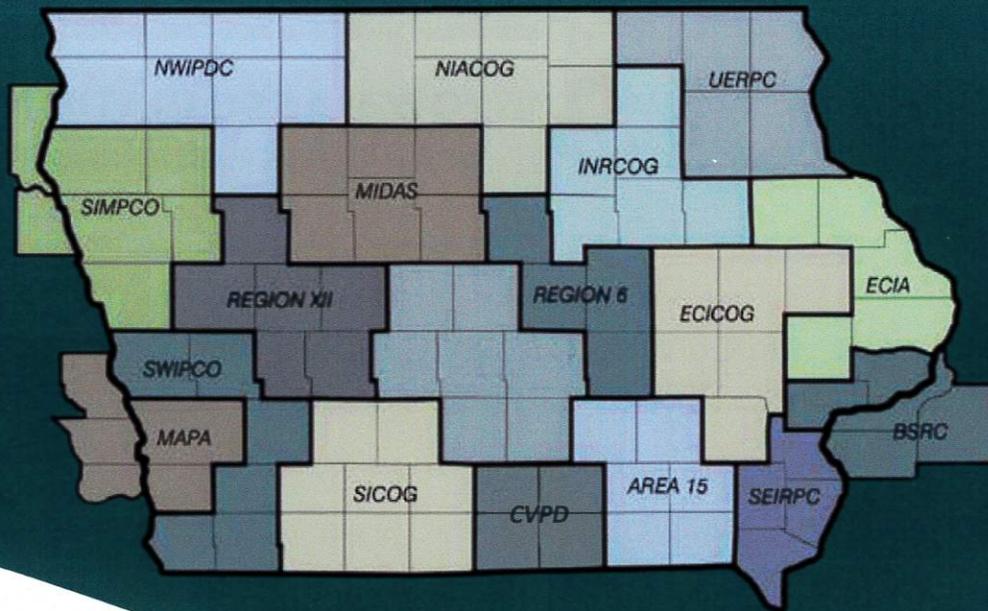
This map highlights COGs' impact in Iowa, showcasing our diverse projects that boost resident well-being and drive economic growth.

HOW WE HELP



SNAPSHOT OF OUR IMPACT

- **\$48,195,000: Revolving loan funds** invested in 372 businesses across the state
- **\$302,700,000: Transportation Planning Activities and Project Development** supported by COGs in the last three years
- **\$5,436,192: Housing Trust Funds** supported by COGs for 2023
- **\$8,621,333: Downtown revitalization** project funding secured by COGs over the last three years
- **\$30,410,095: EDA project funding** secured by COGs over the last three years



Area 15 Regional Planning Commission (AREA 15)
 224 E 2nd St
 Ottumwa, IA 52501
 (641) 684-6551
www.area15rpc.com

East Central Iowa Council of Governments (ECICOG)
 700 16th St NE Ste 301
 Cedar Rapids, IA 52402
 (319) 365-9941
www.ecicog.org

Northwest Iowa Planning & Development Commission (NWIPDC)
 217 W 5th St
 Spencer, IA 51301
 (712) 262-7225
www.nwipdc.org

Southern Iowa Council of Governments (SICOG)
 101 E Montgomery St
 Creston, IA 50801
 (641) 782-8491
www.sicog.com

Bi-State Regional Commission (BSRC)
 1504 3rd Ave
 Rock Island, IL 61201
 (309) 793-6300
www.bistateonline.org

Iowa Northland Regional Council of Governments (INRCOG)
 229 E Park Ave
 Waterloo, IA 50703
 (319) 235-0311
www.inrcog.org

Region 6 Resource Partners (REGION 6)
 903 E Main St
 Marshalltown, IA 50158
 (641) 752-0717
www.region6resources.org

Southwest Iowa Planning Council (SWIPCO)
 1501 SW 7th St
 Atlantic, IA 50022
 (712) 243-4196
www.swipco.org

Chariton Valley Planning & Development (CVPD)
 308 N 12th St
 Centerville, IA 52544
 (641) 437-4359
www.cvpdcog.com

Metropolitan Area Planning Agency (MAPA)
 2222 Cuming St
 Omaha, NE 68012
 (402) 444-6866
www.mapacog.org

Regional XII Council of Governments (REGION XII)
 1009 E Anthony St
 Carroll, IA 51401
 (712) 792-9914
www.region12cog.org

Upper Explorerland Regional Planning Commission (UERPC)
 324 Washington St
 Decorah, IA 52101
 (563) 382-6171
www.uerpc.org

East Central Intergovernmental Association (ECIA)
 7600 Commerce Park
 Dubuque, IA 52002
 (563) 556-4166
www.ecia.org

MIDAS Council of Governments (MIDAS)
 602 1st Ave S
 Fort Dodge, IA 50501
 (515) 576-7183
www.midascogja.net

Siouxland Interstate Metropolitan Planning Council (SIMPCO)
 6401 Gordan Dr
 Sioux City, IA 51106
 (712) 279-6286
www.simpco.org

North Iowa Area Council of Governments (NIACOG)
 525 6th St SW
 Mason City, IA 50401
 (641) 423-0491
www.niacog.org

Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission (SEIRPC)
 211 N Gear Ave Ste 100
 West Burlington, IA 52655
 (319) 753-5107
www.seirpc.com



www.iowacog.com | staff@iacog.com | 515.750-2310 x2