

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 PRIORITIES

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.

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