

SIoux CITY | SEPTEMBER 18-20 | 2024

**STRONGER**  
**TOGETHER**  
ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXHIBIT

## COGs: What Do They Do and Provide?

Marla Quinn, ECIA COG

Rick Hunsaker, Region XII COG

Michelle Bostinelos, SIMPCO COG

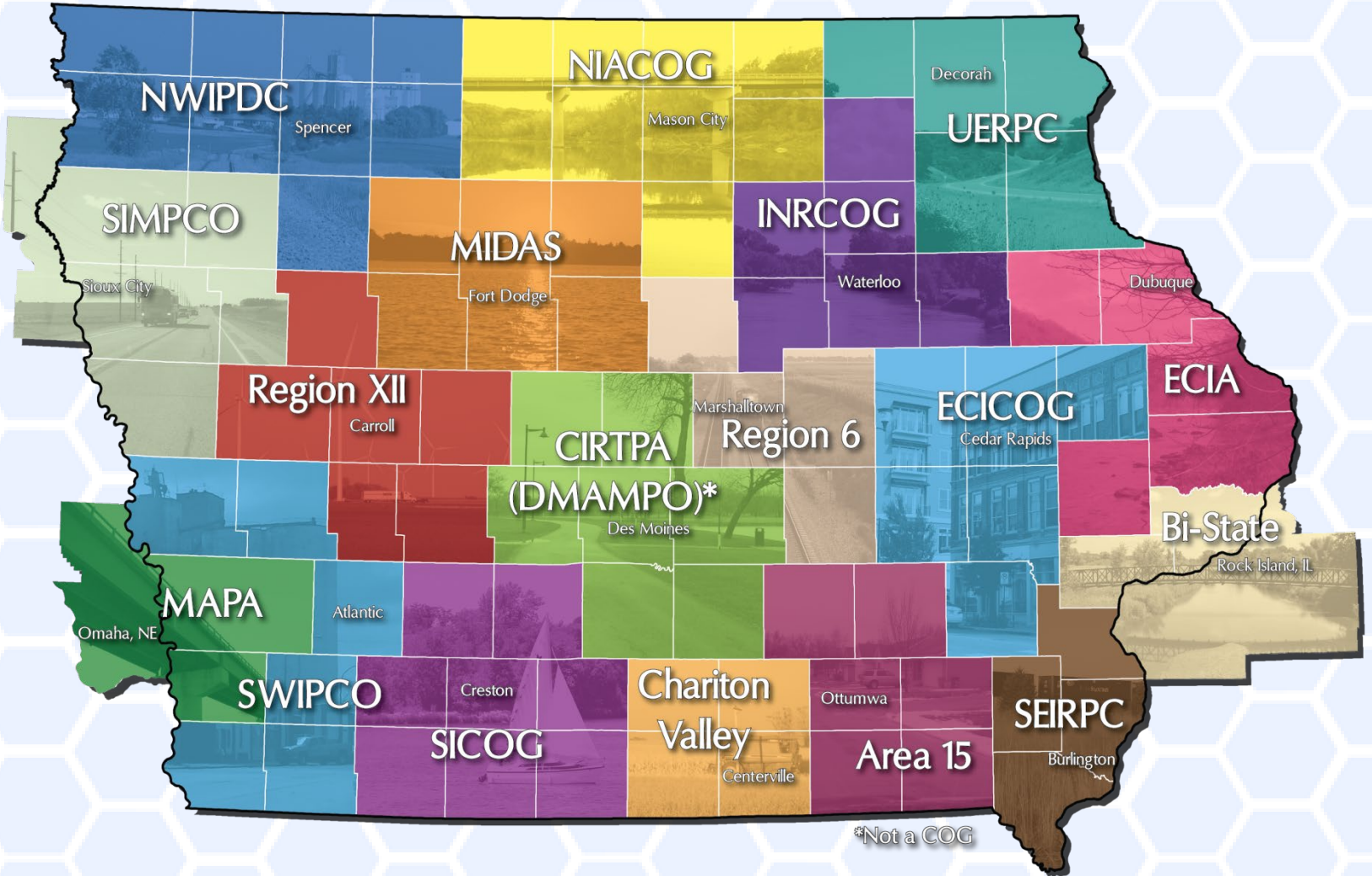
♥ Handouts and presentations are available in the event app. ♥

# COG 101



**IOWA ASSOCIATION**  
OF COUNCILS OF GOVERNMENTS

Iowa League of Cities Annual Conference, 2024



\*Not a COG

# COG Basics & Governance

- Founded 1965 – 1975 as 28Es or non-profits
- 1989: 28H codifies COGs, modified in early 2000s (CVPD)
- Boards appointed by membership
- Many COGs have affiliate non-profits



# COG Funding

## General Support

- County/city membership funds (varies by COG)
- \$20+K+ state funds

## Other Income

- Enterprises (transit, housing, revolving loan funds)
- EDA Planning
- DOT MPO/RPA
- Contracts for service (state, local government, private)
- Grant administration fees

# Services to Governments

## Administration

- Grant Writing and Grant Administration
- Traffic and Trail Counting
- Online Surveys
- Codes of Ordinances
- Nuisance Enforcement/Abatement
- Rental Inspections
- Sign Reflectivity Surveys
- Technical Assistance/Research
- Economic Development (CEDs, regional consortiums)



# Services to Governments

## Planning Services

- Comprehensive Plans
- Strategic Plans
- Hazard Mitigation Plans
- Annexation Studies
- Zoning Ordinances
- TIF/Urban Renewal Plans
- Housing Needs Assessments
- Transportation Planning/Implementation
- Recreation Planning (Park, Trail)
- Economic Development Planning/Implementation
- Feasibility Studies



# Services to Governments

## Resources

- Workshops
- Census Information
- City Managers, Clerks, Mayors Meetings
- Newsletters/Funding Alerts
- Program/Project Research

## Other

- Lead-Based Paint Inspection
- Derelict Building Assistance
- GIS
- Zoning Administration
- Speed Indicator Placement





# Services to People/Businesses

- Housing loans & grants
- Iowa Waste Exchange (3 COGs)
- Loans for business expansion/retention (most COGs)
- Public Transit Services (10 COGs)
- Local Housing Trust Fund (most COGs)
- Housing development
- Homeless assistance (1 COG)
- Entrepreneurial networking



# Other Activities

- Administers State Program through RFP
- Fiscal agent for various initiatives
- Sales agent for Homes for Iowa
- IDPH-ICOG 5-2-1-0 Projects



Region 6 project

# Examples of Assistance to Communities

- RISE
- CAT
- RLF Loan Servicing
- Hazard Mitigation Planning
- Highway Corridor Coalitions
- Nuisance Codes
- Rental Inspections
- Housing Needs Assessments
- Annexation Studies
- USDA Environmental Assessments
- Trail Counts for local Trails
- Comprehensive Plans
- Speed cameras
- Nuisance Inspections

# Small City Rental Inspections

- COG approached by cities to provide this service
- City passes ordinance with COG consultation for process & fees
- COG provides a fee-for-service with 2 or 3-year contracts
- Fees are per-unit with nuances (e.g. MF units).
  - All units inspected Year 1; then on City's schedule starting Year 3
- Units identified by the City (registration) then provided to the COG, who contacts landlords to set up inspections
- COG charges for cancellations and re-inspections (6+ violations)
- Report for each unit sent to the landlord and the City
- Most infractions fixed and COG is sent a photo
- City assists with problem inspections

# ECIA's Home Repair Programs

## Lead Paint and Healthy Homes Program (LPHH)

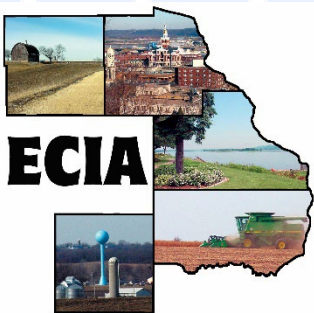
- Ideal for properties built before 1978 where kids 5 and under live or visit
- Some properties receive new windows, siding, doors, and other improvements

## Older Adults Home Modification Program (OAHM)

- Promotes aging in place for homeowners 62 or older
- Improvements include: hand railings or non-slip strips on stairs or in showers/tubs

## Healthy Homes Program (HH)

- Addresses commonly seen deficiencies
- Focus is on water infiltration/indoor air quality
- Issues that fall under HUD's Eight Principles of a Healthy Home can be addressed



[www.ecia.org/programs](http://www.ecia.org/programs)  
[homerepairs@ecia.org](mailto:homerepairs@ecia.org)







# Grant Writing/Administration

- SIMPCO receives request from members to write and administer grants.
- Grants can be Federal, State or local grants.
- Preparing grant applications may include preparing, writing and submitting a grant or could be assistance in tasks such as maps, data collection, or letters of support.
- There is typically not an additional fee over membership to write grants. However, if it is a large-scale grant, there may be an additional fee.
- SIMPCO will also administer a grant for a fee.
- Many times, if a city or county wants to use their COG to administer a grant, they will not have to go through a procurement process to select the COG.
- Members enter a contract with SIMPCO to administer the grant. Some grants include administrative costs.



# Grant Writing/Administration



**The City of Remsen** received a \$153,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) from the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) in 2021.

Costly water main breaks were happening frequently, causing loss of water service or low water pressure to agricultural businesses, residences, City Hall, the Main Street business district, and the fire district. It was only a matter of time before the water main became damaged beyond repair.



**The City of Sioux City** received a \$1 million grant from the Economic Development Administration in April 2021.

The grant was used to build a hanger at the Sioux City Gateway Airport and is leased by an aviation school which is partnering with Morningside University and Western Iowa Tech Community College to provide flight training, mechanics, avionics and other certifications. This project created 30 jobs and will generate \$720,000 in private investment.

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**Siouxland Interstate  
Metropolitan Planning  
Council**

# Takeaways/Benefits of COG Membership

- COGs have a long history working with cities
- We also have relationships with State and Federal agencies
- Grant writing, city codes, comp plans, housing are our popular services
- Watch for your COG's newsletter, email updates, Facebook page
- We cooperate to bring services to our cities from neighboring COGs
- Call your COG if you have questions that come up out of your daily scope

# Contacts

Michelle Bostinelos, Executive Director

[MBostinelos@simpco.org](mailto:MBostinelos@simpco.org)

Rick Hunsaker, Executive Director [rhunsaker@region12cog.org](mailto:rhunsaker@region12cog.org)

Marla Quinn, Grants and Municipal Coordinator

[mquinn@ecia.org](mailto:mquinn@ecia.org)

[www.iowacog.com](http://www.iowacog.com)