

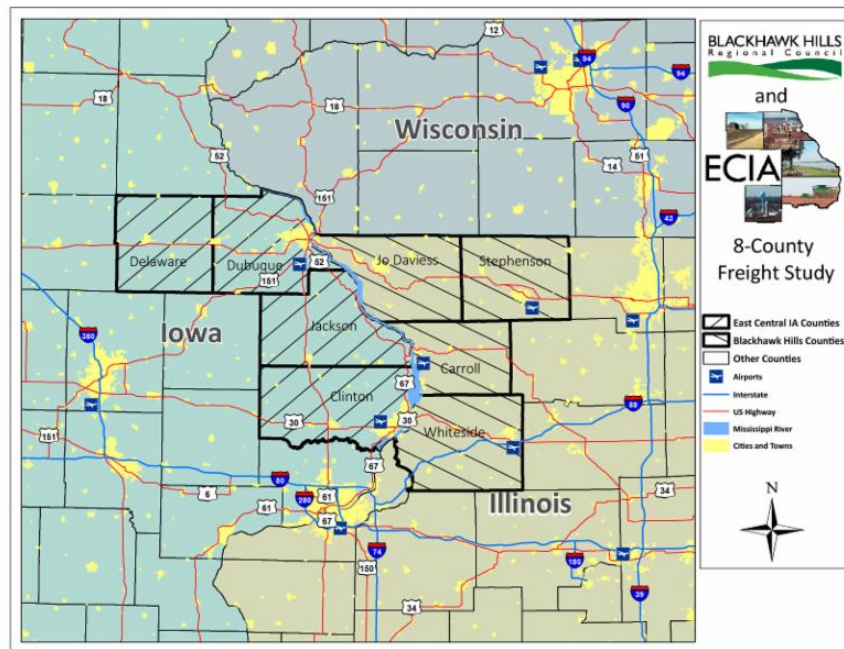
News & funding opportunities from northwest Illinois' non-profit regional planning commission. Geared towards public and non-profit sectors, focused on community & economic development and natural resources conservation. Contact us at info@blackhawkhills.com or (815) 625-3854.

BLACKHAWK HILLS Regional Council

Jo Daviess • Stephenson • Carroll • Ogle • Whiteside • Lee

NEWS & GRANTS

January 2017



The eight counties that will participate in the bi-state freight study.

Freight Study

The East Central Intergovernmental Association and BHRC are partnering with the Iowa and Illinois Departments of Transportation, as well as local economic development organizations, governments, and business groups to conduct the Bi-State Freight Study. The study includes a total of eight counties: Dubuque, Delaware, Jackson, and Clinton in Iowa and Carroll, Jo Daviess, Stephenson, and Whiteside in Illinois. The results of the study will inform the design of projects that address anticipated future freight movements within the region. Goals of the study include:

Economy – Develop a tool that supports the regional freight system, regional

to improve access for companies in the region and support their continued development.

Access and Modal Options – Increase accessibility and mobility options for the region to improve the movement of goods.

Resiliency – Support the resiliency and reliability of the regional transportation system to encourage private sector and local business investment.

BHRC Quick Links:

[Project proposal](#)
[Newsletter sign up](#)
[Facebook page](#)

economic growth, and local economies.

Infrastructure – Maintain and enhance highway and rail systems and define future growth areas that correspond with economic development priorities.

Operations – Promote the operational efficiency of multiple modes (e.g., land, water, etc.) of freight transportation...

BHRC Events:

January 16
Martin Luther King Day
Office Closed

January 23
BHRC Board Meeting, 6:00 PM
Lanark Heritage Center

GRANTS & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

American Battlefield Protection Program (National Park Service)

The program promotes the preservation of significant historic battlefields associated with wars on American soil. The goals of the program are to protect battlefields and sites associated with armed conflicts that influenced the course of our history, encourage and assist all Americans in planning for the preservation, management, and interpretation of these sites, and to raise awareness of the importance of preserving battlefields and related sites for future generations.

*The application deadline is January 19.
Click [here](#) for more information.*

Partners for Places (Funders' Network)

Matching grant program that creates opportunities for cities and counties to improve communities by building partnerships between local government sustainability offices and place-based foundations.

*The application deadline is January 30.
Click [here](#) for more information.*

Municipal Street Lighting Program (Illinois Energy Now)

The Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity is offering a new Illinois Energy Now incentive program for municipalities who want to upgrade municipally-owned street lights to energy efficient light-emitting diode (LED) technology.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Rural Passenger Transportation Technical Assistance (Community Transportation Association of America)

The program provides technical assistance for small communities of less than 50,000 people. The focus of the program is economic development: helping small and emerging businesses and stimulating economic development through new and improved public transportation. There is a short term option, which does not require a cash match, and applications are accepted on a continuing basis.

*The application deadline is January 31.
Click [here](#) for more information.*

AmeriCorps VISTA Economic Opportunity Volunteer (Managing Partner: MAPPING Program, Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs)

The MAPPING Program, part of the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs (IIRA), is seeking host sites for AmeriCorps VISTA volunteers. VISTA volunteers work full-time for 12 months in the focus areas of economic opportunity (job placement & training, housing assistance, financial literacy), food security, and/or education. AmeriCorps and the IIRA have vetted and qualified the volunteers, and AmeriCorps pays their monthly allowance (totaling \$11,880 over the 12 month term), and provides training. The host site pays \$1,000-1,500, and provides an office space with office supplies.

Applications preferred by the end of January but are accepted on an ongoing basis.
Click [here](#) for more information.

Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training (Environmental Protection Agency)

Eligible entities would deliver programs that recruit, train, and place local, unemployed and under-employed residents with the skills needed to secure full-time employment in the environmental field. Successful applicants will be awarded grant funds at amounts up to \$200,000 for the development and implementation of environmental job training programs.

The application deadline is February 24.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Rural Business Development Grants (RBDG) (USDA - Rural Development)

RBDG is a competitive grant designed to support targeted technical assistance, training and other activities leading to the development or expansion of small and emerging private businesses in rural areas that have fewer than 50 employees and less than \$1 million in gross revenues. Programmatic activities are separated into enterprise or opportunity type grant activities.

The application deadline is March 31.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Art Works: Creativity Connects Projects (National Endowment for the Arts)

Matching grant that supports collaborative, mutually beneficial partnerships between the arts and non-arts sectors, including business and economic development, community, environment, agriculture, and transportation.

The application deadline is May 4.

Click [here](#) for more information.

NOTEWORTHY

BHRC is no longer accepting faxes - documents may be emailed or mailed.

Good News (Illinois Municipal League)

Good News is about telling stories of what we love about Illinois; why we live, work and raise our families here; why we dedicate ourselves to public service; and what makes us proud of our community. Submit your story and it may appear in their Review magazine, website, and/or social media.

Click [here](#) to submit your story.

Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Update Workshop (Illinois Department of Transportation)

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and TranSmart Technologies, Inc. - IDOT's consulting team - are hosting a workshop at the Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce Community Building (601 W 10th St) on February 7. Through the ITS project, IDOT will bring the 2006 Statewide ITS Architecture and Strategic Plan up to date by coordinating with ITS stakeholders across the state. You are invited to discuss past and future ITS projects in your area, identify transportation needs, and help prioritize the application of technology in Illinois. This is an important step in obtaining federal funds for such projects. IDOT staff and TranSmart will also be available after the meeting to engage in additional discussions.

February 7th, 10:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Register at info@ilitsupdate.net by February 3rd. Click [here](#) for more information.

Free Webinar - Grantwriting 101: Practical Information to Help You Write Successful Grants (techsoup)

Ninety minute webinar with Alice Ruhnke, owner and founder of The Grant Advantage. Topics will include what funders are looking for in an application, confusing grant-related terminology, sections of atypical grant proposal, and more.

January 26, 1:00 - 2:30 CST
Click [here](#) for more information and to register.

Save the Date: 28th Annual Rural Community Economic Development Conference (Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs)

This year's conference theme is "Building Our Niche in a Changing Environment." The conference will take place March 8-9, 2017, at the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel in Springfield, IL.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Save the Date: Illinois Governor's Conference on Travel & Tourism (DCEO Office of Tourism)

The 2017 conference will take place March 19-22, at the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel in Springfield, IL.

Click [here](#) for more information.

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