

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

March 2017



BHRC Annual Meeting & Spring Symposium

Please save the date. BHRC's Annual Meeting & Spring Symposium will take place on May 24th at Manny's Too in Fulton. This year's theme is Brand or Bust. In addition to highlighting regional activities and releasing our annual report, we have invited Bridget Lane of Business Districts, Inc. and her associates to keynote the morning. Joining Lane will be Cindy Bohde of Cindy Bohde Enterprises, a marketing consultancy, and Carl Wohlt of Wohlt Group, a branding expert and graphic designer. The presentation will focus on the importance of and process behind community branding. Lane and her team members work in Illinois to create authentic regional positions for communities and find ways to clearly differentiate between a particular location and peer communities to attract investors, residents, and visitors. Attendees will be invited to submit samples of their community marketing initiatives for feedback from the BDI team.

BHRC Quick Links:

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

BHRC Events:

March 27
BHRC Council Meeting
6:00 p.m.,
Lanark Heritage Center

April 14
Good Friday
Office Closed

May 24
BHRC Annual Meeting & Workshop
10:00 a.m., Manny's Too
305 11th Ave, Fulton, IL

GRANTS & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Upward Bound Math & Science Program (United States Department of Education)

The UBMS Program is a critical component of the ED's efforts to improve college readiness, access, and completion for students who have been traditionally underrepresented in postsecondary education.

Applications due March 22.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Federal Recreational Trails Program (Illinois Department of Natural Resources)

The RTP provides funding assistance for acquisition, development, rehabilitation, and maintenance of both motorized and non-motorized recreation trails.

Applications due April 3.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Senior Corps RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) Expansion Competition (Corporation for National & Community Service (CNCS))

Grants are awarded to organizations proposing to engage RSVP volunteers age 55 and older in a diverse range of volunteer activities. Through this expansion competition, CNCS focuses on increasing the impact of national service in certain counties across the country. Please note that this competition is limited to only those counties across the country that are currently not being served (in BHRC's region that is Lee & Whiteside County). In addition to serving one or more counties, Senior Corps' funding priorities for the competition will be the following: evidence-based program implementations, elder justice, education - intergenerational programming, access to care in opioid abuse, aging in place - transportation and economic opportunity.

Applications due April 4.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Advantage Illinois (Illinois DCEO)

Advantage Illinois aims to help entrepreneurs and small businesses start up, expand, and create new jobs at a faster rate, by working with the state's banking community and venture capitalists. There are two programs of Advantage Illinois: the Participation Loan Program (PLP) and the Capital Access Program (CAP).

Click [here](#) for more information.

Click [here](#) to view the Advantage Illinois webinar.

Candidate Conservation Action Funds (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service)

Financial assistance is available to secure candidate and other at-risk species information or undertake restoration actions that will help avert federal listing of species. The purpose is to provide a means by which the ecosystems upon which candidate and at-risk species depend may be conserved, to provide a program for the conservation of these species.

Applications due July 31.

Click [here](#) for more information.

National Fish Passage Program (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service)

The program provides direct technical assistance and financial assistance in the form of cooperative agreements and grants to partners to provide fish (and other aquatic organisms) passage and restore aquatic connectivity for the benefit of federal trust resources.

Applications due September 30.

Click [here](#) for more information.

NOTEWORTHY

Eight-County Freight Study Business Survey

The study will help the Eight-County Region (counties in Iowa and Illinois, including Dubuque, Delaware, Jackson, and Clinton Counties in Iowa and Carroll, Jo Daviess, Stephenson, and Whiteside Counties in Illinois) better understand links between the freight transportation system and local economy, become aware of freight system challenges and opportunities, incorporate freight considerations into local transportation planning decisions, and to ultimately identify policies and projects to improve transportation in the region.

If you are a business owner and/or manager in the Eight-County Region and ship/receive goods, please click [here](#) to take the survey.

Register Now for the IL Technology Transfer Center Spring Training Program

The Technology Transfer (T2) Program is a nationwide effort financed jointly by the Federal Highway Administration and individual state departments of transportation. Its purpose is to transfer the latest state-of-the-art technology in the areas of roads and bridges by translating the technology into terms understood by local and state highway or transportation personnel.

Classes begin in March.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Report: Business Retention and Expansion (BRE) Programs: Why Existing Businesses Are Important (UF/IFAS, USDA)

Revised October 2015, this publication is first in a series on establishing BRE programs.

Click [here](#) to view the PDF report, and [here](#) to access the others in the series.

Lunch & Learn Series (America's Small Business Development Center/Sauk Valley Community College, Sterling Main Street, Rock Falls and Sauk Valley Chambers, Dixon & Morrison Chambers)

These free workshops are 11:30 to 1:00, at various locations, and cover topics such as Microsoft Office 365, QuickBooks Online, An Introduction to Social Media, and Forward Focused Governance for Nonprofits.

Click [here](#) for more information.

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