

ILLINOIS COMMUNITIES RISING
PLACE-BASED PATHWAYS TO FEDERAL RESOURCES

Thursday, September 16, 2010
Conference Break-Out Sessions

Advantages in Place: Creating a continuous proposal stream

Presenter: Al Zwilling, *University of Illinois Extension Specialist Project Development and Sustainability and Illinois ResourceNet Extension Coordinator*

In this session participants will learn about new potential federal grant opportunities and the process of using one federal grant to lead to another in a process of continuous proposal development. Proposal success is cumulative, especially when carried out in collaborative networks where data can be shared, partnerships can be forged, learning can take place, different program areas can be linked, and diverse resources can be leveraged. This session gives practical hands-on training on how to engage in a continuous proposal building process including utilizing the catalogue of federal assistance, grants.gov and planning documents to anticipate and prepare for potential opportunities.

Developing a Proposal Building Team

Presenters: Deborah Minor-Harvey & James Pfluecke, *IRN Technical Assistance Providers*

This workshop will identify best practices in federal grant proposal project management including developing a work plan and your work team. Participants will learn about the organizational capacity needed to successfully complete a federal grant proposal, how to assess and document your community's needs, and how to develop a time line for the successful completion of all aspects of the proposal.

Data for Decision Maker: Using census data and visualization to tell a story

Presenter: Brian Deal, *Assistant Professor of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Illinois and Director of the LEAM Modeling Systems Laboratory and Smart Energy Design Assistance Center*

Census data can provide a unique picture of local communities, by providing information on indicators such as household income levels, the age and education-level of a population, the race and ethnic makeup of a community and how a population has changed over time. This type of information is particularly useful when trying to write a grant proposal to demonstrate the need for resources within a community, or when trying to assess the needs and issues of a community. This session will explain how to access census information and use it to create maps and graphics to visualize the information being written about in proposal submissions.

Conference Break-Out Sessions cont.

Planning to Layer Federal Funding: Applying sustainable practices to the federal grant process

Presenter: Susan Kaplan, *Outreach Activities Coordinator, UIC Institute for Environmental Science and Policy & IRN Technical Assistance Provider*

Featured Guests: Brian Quirke, *representative from the US Department of Energy (DOE)* & Carol Kulek, *representative from the IL Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO)*

Detailed comprehensive plans and federal funding grants need some of the same elements to thrive. If a community identifies its needs as part of the planning process, it can, as part of a continuous proposal building process, pinpoint which grants will help meet those needs. Federal grants are available for communities with an integrated vision for connecting economic development, community development, and environmental protection to create greater livability. This session will explain why comprehensive community planning should be an integral part of the federal funding process to help facilitate the continuous development of proposals.

Also featured in this breakout session, Brian Quirke will be speaking about US DOE grant opportunities, and how a community can best be prepared to respond when an RFP is announced, and Carol Kulek will speak about grant opportunities available from the IL DCEO.

Case Scenario: How Universities and Community Colleges Act as Mediators in the Federal Grant Process

Facilitator: Kathie Brown, *IRN Technical Assistance Provider*

Presenters: Atanacio "Nacho" Gonzalez, *UICNI Associate Director* & Jeri Beel, *Director of Grants Development for Lakeland College in Mattoon, IL*

Many of the federal grants require organizations to collaborate with community partners prior to awarding grants. Universities and community colleges are examples of a well-established collaboration. This session will focus on how an organization can develop a working relationship that shares ideas, staff and resources to foster effective strategic plans and grant management. Participants in this session will learn from a panel of grantees from community colleges and the University of Illinois at Chicago in Illinois about partnership and grant development.

Case Study: Finding Funding in Floods: Working with Local Communities to Develop Hazard Mitigation Plans

Facilitator: Carrie McKillip, *IRN Technical Assistance Provider*

Presenters: Jared Owen, *IEMA Hazard Mitigation Planner*; Rich Meyers, *Gulfport Village Board President*; Susan Meyers, *Henderson County Treasurer*; Coral Seitz, *Henderson County Emergency Management Director*



Conference Break-Out Sessions cont.

Flood mitigating has increasingly become the responsibility of local decision makers who work with technical assistance providers to apply for federal funding. IRN has worked consistently with local communities in Illinois after the 2008 floods on the importance of understanding why local communities need to adopt both structural and non-structural flood mitigation strategies. During the panel, particular attention will be paid to the role of organizational capacity within communities to address floods in addition to various local geophysical and socioeconomic characteristics.