

The Community Planner

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www.is-grp.com

Planning, Financing, and Administration News

Merry Christmas everyone,

Twice a month, we will be providing an issue of *The Community Planner*. The purpose of this update is to send information on topics that may be of interest to you. We find topics through research, our current projects, and talking with everyone on the frontline of local government. The first installment involves several Economic Development items.

If you have any topics or questions regarding a subject, we would love to hear about them and could look at including them in future *Community Planner* issues.

DEED Business Development Public Infrastructure Grants

DEED has two different types of Public Infrastructure Grants open at this time. The purpose of these grants is to provide cities with financial assistance to stimulate new economic development, create and retain jobs, and promote innovative businesses by investing in public infrastructure.

Currently, DEED has a combined \$7 million available for the two programs. Applications are being accepted by DEED until the funds are depleted. I&S Group has helped a number of cities obtain funding through DEED programs. If you have a project in mind, and would like assistance with the application, please feel free to contact us.

DEED - MNPRO

DEED has organized a web site www.mnpro.com which maintains a community profile for every city within Minnesota. The profile lists that community's economic development information. The community profile is a valuable resource for communities to provide information to developers and businesses looking at locating to your community. They can view to see what amenities the community has along with available land and buildings. Some of the information is provided by the State of Minnesota, however other local data needs to be entered by the City. There is no cost to the City to use the web site; however entering the data into the profile is time intensive.



DEED has told us they refer perspective businesses to look for buildings or land on the www.mnpro.com web site, so it is important to keep information updated. Community Resource Planners at I&S Group have worked with a number of cities to help them initially enter the data into the community profile, and/or helped cities keep the profile up to date. If you need any assistance please feel free to contact us.

DEED - Shovel Ready Certification

The Shovel Ready Program is also sponsored by DEED, and is similar to MNPRO but goes into greater detail. If a community can document to DEED that it has sites that are truly shovel ready for development, it will receive "Shovel Ready" certification. You can check out the www.mnpro.com site for Shovel Ready sites across the state. We also have a more in depth informational sheet about the program if you would like more information.



Feel free to contact us with any questions or comments.

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