EDA Receiving $1.5 Billion in Funding Through Stimulus Package

Our federal partner, the Economic Development Administration (EDA), will be receiving substantial funding as part of the federal government Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. This stimulus funding is intended to help mitigate the economic impacts of the COVID-19 crisis.

There are no final details yet, but some of the general information that we have been provided is very favorable. What we know so far:

- EDA will receive about $1.5 Billion nationwide, which should bring about $250 Million to our six-state EDA Chicago region.
- All communities will be automatically eligible, so no distress criteria requirements will be needed.
- The grant rate could be 80% or even higher, better than the current 50% grant rate.
- Funding will be distributed through existing public works programs.
- There will be a three year window for funding.
- Grants will be competitive, so not every project will be funded.
- Finally, there needs to be an economic component to the project.

With eligibility restrictions removed and favorable grant rates it is critical to consider this program for any economic development related infrastructure projects planned in the next few years. This could be anything from business park development, to roads, to water and wastewater projects. There may also be some flexibility for type of projects. As details are being developed, we would recommend that communities start identifying potential projects.

Every community should give serious consideration to submitting an application to this program. We are here to help, so give us a call if you have any questions.

More information to follow.