

RESOURCE DIRECTORY FOR IOWA

Programs, Services, and Contacts
for Rural Residents
and Others in Need of Assistance



STATE
OUTREACH
COUNCIL
(SOC)

April 2003

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USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
USDA Farm Service Agency
USDA Rural Development
USDA Risk Management Agency
Iowa State University
USDA Food and Nutrition Service
National Catholic Rural Life Conference

**STATE OUTREACH COUNCIL (SOC)
RESOURCE DIRECTORY FOR IOWA
APRIL 2003**

This directory is arranged alphabetically by the following “issues”:

Agricultural Education
Agricultural Outreach
Agricultural Research
Agricultural Statistics
Business Planning and Finance
Community Development
Cooperative Development
Crop Insurance
Disability Assistance
Economic Development
Emergency Response and Relief
Environmental Protection
Farm Programs and Payments
Farm and Youth Loans
Food Assistance
Grant Writing and Administration
Housing
Livestock
Minority Resources/Interpreters and Translators
Natural Resources Conservation
Spiritual Assistance
Utilities
Value Added Agriculture

The SOC member agencies/organizations are listed below the appropriate issue, with specific information on the services/programs provided. Contact information for each member agency/organization is listed in a separate section of this directory.

Other resources and contacts are listed in the last section of this directory.

The State Outreach Council (SOC) was formed in September of 1998. The SOC includes Federal and State Agencies and other partners of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The purpose of the SOC is to work together on initiatives to identify and meet the needs of underserved populations in Iowa.

Agricultural Education

Iowa State University College of Agriculture and University Extension

Provides educational degree programs and continuing education in agriculture, natural resources, basic sciences, food systems, and related areas. Provides research-based information on issues facing agriculture, natural resources and rural development.

USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services

Provides education to producers and veterinarians regarding animal disease control and eradication programs. Provides education to producers and veterinarians regarding foreign animal diseases. Provides education regarding emerging animal diseases.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Promotes the knowledge that enables people to conserve, improve, and sustain natural resources and the environment. Services protect soil, water, air, plants, animals, and human resources. Educational efforts include assistance to small scale, limited resource, minority, and specialty crop producers, urban and rural communities, as well as other non-traditional clients. Works to educate homeowners and contractors to protect natural resources in newly developing areas.

USDA Risk Management Agency

Risk Management Education (RME) is an educational program to increase the awareness of agricultural risks in the current economic environment and the tools and strategies available to effectively make decisions to manage those risks to meet business, personal, and community goals. RME focuses on five primary areas of risk: production, financial, marketing, legal, and human resource.

USDA Rural Development

Promotes the knowledge of cooperative principles and practices and cooperates in promoting such knowledge with educational and marketing agencies, cooperative associations, and others. Provides a wide range of cooperative training programs and educational materials.

Agricultural Outreach

Ecumenical Ministries of Iowa

Administers a grant-funded voucher program to provide mental health services to farm family members who are experiencing stress associated with changes in rural life and who do not have insurance for mental health services. Vouchers may be accessed through the Iowa Concern Hotline at 1-800-447-1985.

Iowa State University Extension to Value Added Agriculture

Provides technical assistance to individuals and groups developing value-added agriculture ventures. Provides business planning and feasibility studies for new and existing value added ag businesses, with an emphasis on networks and cooperative business structures. Provides outreach to small scale, limited resource, minority, and specialty crop producers.

USDA Farm Service Agency

By having 100 county offices in Iowa, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) is able to administer federal farm programs to eligible producers throughout the state. A locally elected County Committee oversees program administration. Programs administered by FSA vary greatly and include annual farm programs; loans; direct payments to grain, specialty crop and livestock producers; and others. FSA provides financial assistance to establish conservation practices to promote water quality, while also providing financing to contract grain storage facilities. FSA also has programs that assist producers following natural disasters.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Provides leadership and administers programs to help people conserve, improve, and sustain natural resources and the environment. Provides technical and financial assistance to properly implement conservation practices. Programs and services protect soil, water, air, plants, animals, and human resources. This assistance includes outreach to small scale, limited resource, minority, and specialty crop producers, urban and rural communities, as well as other under served clients.

**USDA Risk Management
Agency**

There are three components that contribute to a framework of support for small farms. They include Risk Management Education, Outreach/Civil Rights and risk management tool development and support. Outreach efforts are designed to identify and reduce barriers that prevent minority, small/limited resource farmers, and specialty crop producers from participating in RMA programs. Outreach funding is available for projects that serve the under served groups shown above.

USDA Rural Development

Provides a wide range of assistance for people interested in forming new cooperatives and promotes public understanding of cooperatives. Assistance ranges from an initial feasibility study to the creation and implementation of a business plan, identifying potential cooperative functions, developing bylaws, and providing training for cooperative directors.

Agricultural Research

USDA Agricultural Research Service

The program is a diversified, multi-disciplinary agricultural research endeavor. There are five distinct research programs with collaborative interactions with scientists at Iowa State University, the Center for Veterinary Biologics, USDA Agricultural Plant Health and Inspection Service, Veterinary Services (USDA-APHIS-VS), and the National Veterinary Services Laboratories, USDA-APHIS-VS. The missions of the research units are: Corn and Crop Genetics Research Unit - develop integrated, environmentally compatible methods and technologies to control insect pests of corn; improve the genetic base for legumes, oats, corn, and soybeans; assess possible effects of transgenic corn on non-target organisms; and safely integrate biotechnology into crop improvement.

North Central Regional Plant Introduction Station Research Unit - acquire, maintain, distribute, characterize, evaluate, and enhance plant germplasm for use in improving agronomic, horticultural, and other production efficiencies; conduct basic plant science research; maintain and augment extensive database of descriptive information associated with germplasm collections; and facilitate germplasm use.

National Soil Tilth Laboratory - generate and integrate knowledge about the biological, chemical, and physical interactions in the soil that lead to development and application of soil and crop management practices that enhance and preserve the natural resources of soil, water, and air. Multidisciplinary research teams conduct quantitative research at a variety of spatial and temporal scales to identify these interactions and evaluate management practices.

Swine Odor and Manure Management Research Unit - generate new knowledge to solve critical problems in the swine production industry that impact production efficiency and environmental quality. Multidisciplinary research teams in the areas of microbiology, chemistry, physiology, and nutrition generate and integrate knowledge for evaluation and development of new management practices that increase swine health and

productivity, while minimizing nutrient excretion, production of malodorous emissions, and the release of pathogens into the environment.

National Animal Disease Center - conduct basic and applied research on selected diseases of economic importance to the U.S. livestock and poultry industries. The goals are: to reduce economic losses of the livestock and poultry industries from infectious, genetic, and metabolic diseases; reduce or eliminate pre-harvest contamination or infection of livestock and poultry with food-borne human pathogens; and prevent suffering and death caused by diseases in agriculturally important livestock and poultry.

USDA Rural Development

Conducts research to provide a knowledge base necessary to support cooperatives dealing with changing markets and business trends. Studies include financial, structural, managerial, policy, member governance, legal, social issues, and other economic activities of cooperatives.

Agricultural Statistics

USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service

Serves the basic agricultural and rural needs of the country by providing objective, important, and accurate statistical information and services to farmers, ranchers, agribusinesses, public officials, and others. Provides data on crop production, livestock numbers, prices received and paid by farmers, farm chemical usage, cost of production, and farm financial conditions. Conducts the Census of Agriculture every five years, for those years ending in a 2 or 7. Provides consulting and survey services to other governmental and educational entities.

USDA Rural Development

Cooperative statistics are collected to detect growth trends and changes in structure and operations. Data help identify and support research and technical assistance activities. This information is used extensively by legislative and executive branches of government in formulating agricultural and cooperative-related policy.

Business Planning and Finance

Clarinda Economic Development Corporation (CEDC)

CEDC is a non-profit organization established by the City of Clarinda to provide a means for economic and community development throughout Clarinda and the surrounding rural area of Page County, Iowa. CEDC provides a one-stop shop for all economic development and planning needs of the community. The professional staff and nine member board of directors work hard to see that the existing businesses prosper, while new companies have the same opportunities to succeed.

Iowa Area Development Group

The Iowa Area Development Group (IADG) was created in 1985 by three of Iowa's Generation & Transmission Power Cooperatives and now provides business development services to 60 cooperatives and municipal power companies. IADG business development services include national marketing, local targeted marketing assistance, site development, and financial packaging. In addition to working with traditional federal, state, and local financing resources, IADG can access venture capital and federal zero and low interest loan programs designed specifically for businesses served by IADG member utilities. Other types of assistance includes project development, site and speculative building.

Iowa Association of Regional Councils

Provides grant writing, administration, and management to meet business and economic development needs.

Iowa State University Extension to Value Added Agriculture

Provides technical assistance to individuals and groups developing value-added agriculture ventures. Provides business planning and feasibility studies for new and existing value added ag businesses, with an emphasis on networks and cooperative business structures. Provides outreach to small scale, limited resource, minority, and specialty crop producers.

USDA Farm Service Agency

Offers financing to farmers in the following areas and for those who are unable to obtain credit through commercial sources. Makes direct and guaranteed farm operating and farm ownership loans, including beginning farmer loans and loans to socially disadvantaged individuals. Loans are

available to youth aged 10 to 20, to make and operate income producing projects. Provides emergency loans to cover physical and production losses as a result of natural disasters. Loans are also available using grain, honey, and other items produced and stored on the farm or in a warehouse as collateral and that can be used as a form of marketing strategy. Loans money to build grain storage structures.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Assistance is provided through the Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) program. RC&Ds' assist local businesses with business planning and seeking funds through grants and loans.

USDA Rural Development

Provides groups with free technical assistance for the following: assists the group in determining the feasibility of the proposed venture, organizes the potential members into a functioning group which will organize the multiple owner business, assists in the development and implementation of the business plan, assists groups in the development and analysis of producer and marketing surveys, conducts research and transmits findings on problems and issues facing a developing multiple owner business, assists groups in evaluating and determining the type of business structure needed, assists groups in development of legal documents.

Provides loan guarantees up to \$25 million to lenders that assist business startup and expansion needs in rural areas under 50,000 population through the Business & Industry Program.

Provides direct loans at 1% interest for 30 years to third party entities to establish revolving loan funds for business facilities and community development in rural areas under 25,000 population through the Intermediary Relending Program.

Provides direct loans up to \$450,000 at 0% interest for 10 years to Rural Utility Service borrowers on a pass through basis to promote rural economic development and job creation projects in rural areas through the Rural Economic Development Loan Program.

Provides grants up to \$200,000 to Rural Utility Service borrowers to establish and operate a revolving loan fund that will provide loans that foster rural economic development through the Rural Economic Development Grant Program.

Provides grants to third party entities to establish revolving loan funds, provide technical assistance, and develop industrial areas to support development of small and emerging private business enterprises in rural areas under 50,000 population through the Rural Business Enterprise Grant Program.

Provides grants up to \$50,000 to third party entities to provide technical assistance for business development planning in rural areas of 50,000 population or less through the Rural Business Opportunity Grant Program.

**West Central I-80
Development Corporation**

Serves Adair and Guthrie Counties and the communities therein. Provides technical assistance to local business owners. Included in assistance is data collection and analysis, survey development and analysis, and other research and assistance as needed.

Community Development

Clarinda Economic Development Corporation (CEDC)

CEDC is a non-profit organization established by the City of Clarinda to provide a means for economic and community development throughout Clarinda and the surrounding rural area of Page County, Iowa. CEDC provides a one-stop shop for all economic development and planning needs of the community. The professional staff and nine member board of directors work hard to see that the existing businesses prosper, while new companies have the same opportunities to succeed.

Iowa Association of Regional Councils

Provides grant writing for community betterment, historic preservation, cultural development, community facilities and services, transportation, water and sewer, and recreation. Provides community outreach with state and federal agencies, technical assistance in community programs, community planning (strategic and comprehensive), regional planning, grant administration and management, in-house loans for various projects, and Geographic Information System programs.

Iowa State University College of Agriculture and University Extension

Works with producers, homeowners, businesses, and communities to address the challenges they are facing. Conducts research that provides options for Iowans to improve quality of life.

National Catholic Rural Life Conference

Provides participatory parish and community resources to create a preferred future. Works to assist in strengthening communities by providing information and processes that enhance local systems and develop new local enterprises. Teaches rural people to use an asset based approach to community building. Provides peer support, information, and referrals regarding personal and livelihood concerns of rural Iowans. Establishes linkages among rural community resources. Provides support and training for rural service providers.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Assistance is provided through the Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) program. RC&Ds help people protect and develop their economic, natural, and social resources in ways that improve their area's economy, environment,

and quality of life. Local RC&D Councils provide a way for people to plan and implement projects that will make their communities better places to live. RC&D projects may create new jobs in agriculture, forestry, tourism, and other industries. All projects are designed to make communities more viable and productive.

USDA Rural Development

Provides water and sewer loans and grants to rural areas and communities of 10,000 population or less. Provides essential community facility loans and grants for health care, fire and rescue, and public service for rural communities of 20,000 population or less. Provides Distance Learning and Telemedicine loans and grants to rural areas.

Provides technical assistance to recipients to develop capacity and ability to undertake projects related to housing, community facilities, or community and economic development through Rural Community Development Initiative grants.

Provides direct loans at 1% interest for 30 years to third party entities to establish revolving loan funds for business facilities and community development in rural areas under 25,000 population through the Intermediary Relending Program.

Provides direct loans up to \$450,000 at 0% interest for 10 years to Rural Utility Service borrowers on a pass through basis to promote rural economic development and job creation projects in rural areas through the Rural Economic Development Loan Program.

Provides grants up to \$200,000 to Rural Utility Service borrowers to establish and operate a revolving loan fund that will provide loans that foster rural economic development through the Rural Economic Development Grant Program.

Equips communities with education, guidance, and the technical support needed to fully utilize all resources in order to build the economic and social capacity to succeed. Technical assistance is provided to assist rural communities with strategic and comprehensive planning, to facilitate resource leveraging, and to promote and develop collaborative partnerships within the federal, state, and local governments. Technical assistance may include leadership development, team building, and capacity building for rural communities.

**West Central I-80
Development Corporation**

Serves Adair and Guthrie Counties and the communities therein. Provides community development including comprehensive plans, urban renewal plans, code of ordinances, subdivision plans, housing needs assessments, is a resource for census and other statistical information, and other planning activities as needed.

Cooperative Development

Iowa State University Extension to Value Added Agriculture

Provides technical assistance to individuals and groups developing value-added agriculture ventures. Provides business planning and feasibility studies for new and existing value added ag businesses, with an emphasis on networks and cooperative business structures. Provides outreach to small scale, limited resource, minority, and specialty crop producers.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Assistance is provided through the Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) program. RC&Ds' assist local businesses with cooperative development by partnering with other federal, state, and local governments and organizations.

USDA Rural Development

Rural Cooperative Development grants are made for establishing and operating centers for cooperative development to improve the economic condition of rural areas through the development of new cooperatives and improving operations of existing cooperatives.

Provides a wide range of assistance for people interested in forming new cooperatives and promotes public understanding of cooperatives. Assistance ranges from an initial feasibility study to the creation and implementation of a business plan, identifying potential cooperative functions, developing bylaws, and providing training for cooperative directors.

Crop Insurance

USDA Farm Service Agency

Makes insurance available to producers for crops where traditional crop insurance cannot be purchased. Assistance is then available for crop losses due to natural disaster conditions. This program covers commercially produced crops grown for food and fiber, including crops grown for livestock production.

USDA Risk Management Agency

Provides an actuarially-sound risk management program to reduce agricultural producers' losses due to unavoidable causes or to reduce loss of revenue due to reduced prices, reduced yields or a combination of both. Federal crop insurance is available to producers through 17 private insurance companies in conjunction with a network of 15,000 agents nationwide. Crop insurance is available for major commodities. Coverage is also available on a growing number of fruits, nuts, and vegetable crops.

Disability Assistance

Easter Seals Iowa

The Easter Seals FaRM Program assists disabled farmers and families across the state of Iowa. The program provides technical assistance, support, and advocacy. The program also assists in finding funding for equipment modifications.

Iowa Department of Human Rights

Exists to promote equal access to work, services and opportunities to enhance the well-being of diverse populations in Iowa. The Department of Human Rights includes the following divisions: Community Action Agencies, Criminal & Juvenile Justice Planning, Deaf Services, Latino Affairs, Persons with Disabilities, Status of African-Americans, and Status of Women.

USDA Farm Service Agency

Offers financing to farmers in the following areas and for those who are unable to obtain credit through commercial sources. Makes direct and guaranteed farm operating and farm ownership loans, including beginning farmer loans and loans to socially disadvantaged individuals. Loans are available to youth aged 10 to 20, to make and operate income producing projects. Funds are reserved each year to make and guarantee loans to socially disadvantaged applicants.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Assistance is provided through the Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) program. RC&Ds' help people protect and develop their economic, natural, and social resources in ways that improve their area's economy, environment, and quality of life. Local RC&D Councils provide a way for people to plan and implement projects that will make their communities better places to live. Projects include improving accessibility to businesses and recreational sites within the community and job development for persons with disabilities.

Economic Development

Clarinda Economic Development Corporation (CEDC)

CEDC is a non-profit organization established by the City of Clarinda to provide a means for economic and community development throughout Clarinda and the surrounding rural area of Page County, Iowa. CEDC provides a one-stop shop for all economic development and planning needs of the community. The professional staff and nine member board of directors work hard to see that the existing businesses prosper, while new companies have the same opportunities to succeed.

Iowa Area Development Group

The Iowa Area Development Group (IADG) was created in 1985 by three of Iowa's Generation & Transmission Power Cooperatives. Types of assistance includes project development, financial packaging, targeted marketing, site and speculative building, financing and other aspects of community economic development assistance.

Iowa Association of Regional Governments

Provides grant writing, administration, and management for economic development.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Assistance is provided through the Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) program. RC&Ds' help people protect and develop their economic, natural, and social resources in ways that improve their area's economy, environment, and quality of life. RC&D projects may create new jobs in agriculture, forestry, tourism, and other industries. Projects may focus on natural resource issues or may work to improve community development or economic growth in Iowa communities.

USDA Rural Development

Administers the following grant programs: Value Added Products Market Development Grant (VADG) program for independent producers, which was established to encourage producers of agricultural commodities and products of agricultural commodities to further refine these products, increasing value to end users.

Rural Cooperative Development grants are made for establishing and operating centers for cooperative development to improve the economic condition of rural areas through the development of new cooperatives and improving operations of existing cooperatives.

Provides direct loans up to \$450,000 at 0% interest for 10 years to Rural Utility Service borrowers on a pass through basis to promote rural economic development and job creation projects in rural areas through the Rural Economic Development Loan Program. Provides grants up to \$200,000 to Rural Utility Service borrowers to establish and operate a revolving loan fund that will provide loans that foster rural economic development through the Rural Economic Development Grant Program.

**West Central I-80
Development Corporation**

Serves Adair and Guthrie Counties and the communities therein. Provides economic development including business prospecting, business expansion assistance, and general marketing of the region. Also provides assistance in funding mechanisms including state, federal, and local loan and grant programs.

Emergency Response and Relief

Ecumenical Ministries of Iowa

Administers a grant-funded voucher program to provide mental health services to farm family members who are experiencing stress associated with changes in rural life and who do not have insurance for mental health services. Vouchers may be accessed through the Iowa Concern Hotline at 1-800-447-1985.

National Catholic Rural Life Conference

Provides peer support, information, and referrals regarding personal and livelihood concerns of rural Iowans. Establishes linkages among rural community resources. Provides support and training for rural service providers.

USDA Farm Service Agency

Provides financial assistance to producers to restore cropland when destroyed because of a natural disaster. Emergency assistance could include removing debris from land that was flooded, repairing conservation practices, or carrying out emergency water conservation measures during periods of severe drought.

USDA Food and Nutrition Service

Reduces hunger and food insecurity by helping to provide children and needy families access to food, a healthful diet, and nutrition. Provides an outlet to America's farmers for distribution of food under farmer assistance authorities. Empowers Americans with knowledge of the link between diet and health. Administers the 15 food assistance programs of the USDA, which serves 1 in 6 Americans, providing a nutrition safety net to people in need. Programs include: Food Stamp Program, National School Lunch Program, WIC and WIC Farmer's Market Nutrition Program, Commodity Supplemental Food Program, Summer Food Service Program, School Breakfast Program, The Emergency Food Assistance Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations, Homeless Children Nutrition Program, Nutrition Service Incentive Program, Nutrition Education and Training.

USDA Food and Nutrition Service also provides disaster food assistance in the form of commodity foods for shelters and other mass feeding sites, commodity food packages distributed directly to households in need, and emergency food stamps.

As part of the Federal Emergency Response Plan, the agency's Food Distribution Division has the primary responsibility of supplying food to disaster relief organizations, such as the Red Cross and the Salvation Army, for mass feedings or household distribution. Disaster organizations request food assistance through state agencies that run USDA's nutrition assistance programs. State agencies notify USDA of the types and quantities of food that relief organizations need for emergency feeding operations.

USDA Rural Development

For areas included in a Presidential Disaster Declaration, supplemental funding can be appropriated by Congress and made available through Rural Housing Service in the form of loans or grants to families whose primary residences were damaged or destroyed as a direct result of a natural disaster. The applicant and the property must meet Rural Housing Service eligibility requirements. Vacant and habitable real estate owned by Rural Housing Service may be made available for lease to disaster victims. Various forms of assistance can also be provided to owners of Rural Housing Service financed homes who are victims of a disaster, to recover from the financial hardship. Families made homeless by a disaster may apply for occupancy in a rural rental housing project and, in certain circumstances, assistance can be provided to current tenants of Rural Housing Service financed projects.

Environmental Protection

Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship - Division Of Soil Conservation

Responsible for state leadership in the protection and management of soil, water, and mineral resources; assisting soil and water conservation districts and private landowners to achieve their agricultural and environmental objectives. Administers soil and water conservation district laws. Allocates state appropriations to 100 soil and water conservation districts for personnel, commissioners' expense, and financial incentives for erosion control and water quality measures. Reviews watershed and RC&D project applications. Oversees erosion control law. Involved with water resources and non-point pollution control planning. Licenses mine operations and administers federal surface mining and Abandoned Mine Land Program regulations.

USDA Farm Service Agency

Offers producers financial assistance to implement conservation practices on land. These practices help to reduce soil erosion, improve water quality, create wildlife habitat, and others. Will pay a portion of the cost to establish conservation practices. Under some programs, pays annual rental payments to landowners that implement filter strips, riparian buffer strips, and other conservation measures.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Provides leadership and administers programs to help people conserve, improve, and sustain natural resources and the environment. Provides technical and financial assistance to properly implement conservation practices. Programs and services protect soil, water, air, plants, animals, and human resources. Provides outreach assistance to small scale, limited resource, minority, and specialty crop producers, as well as other under served clients. Provides assistance to urban and rural communities. Works to protect natural resources in newly developing areas. Works to protect prime agricultural land from urban sprawl.

Farm Programs and Payments

USDA Farm Service Agency

Administers annual farm program for farmers and issues payments to eligible individuals who produce grains and other crops. This assistance is used to provide a safety net during times of fluctuating commodity prices. Administers a variety of federal farm programs covering many areas. These programs are outlined in other categories in this publication.

Farm and Youth Loans

USDA Farm Service Agency

Offers financing to farmers in the following areas and for those who are unable to obtain credit through commercial sources. Makes direct and guaranteed farm operating and farm ownership loans, including beginning farmer loans and loans to socially disadvantaged individuals. Loans are available to youth aged 10 to 20, to make and operate income producing projects. Provides emergency loans to cover physical and production losses as a result of natural disasters. Loans are also available using grain, honey, and other items produced and stored on the farm or in a warehouse as collateral and that can be used as a form of marketing strategy. Loans money to build grain storage structures.

Food Assistance

USDA Food and Nutrition Service

Reduces hunger and food insecurity by helping to provide children and needy families access to food, a healthful diet and nutrition. Provides an outlet to America's farmers for distribution of food under farmer assistance authorities. Empowers Americans with knowledge of the link between diet and health. Administers the 15 food assistance programs of the USDA, which serves 1 in 6 Americans, providing a nutrition safety net to people in need. Programs: Food Stamp Program, National School Lunch Program, WIC and WIC Farmer's Market Nutrition Program, Commodity Supplemental Food Program, Summer Food Service Program, School Breakfast Program, The Emergency Food Assistance Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations, Homeless Children Nutrition Program, Nutrition Service Incentive Program, Nutrition Education and Training.

Grant Writing and Administration

Iowa Association of Regional Councils

Grant writing in the following areas: housing, economic development, community betterment, historic preservation, business, cultural development, community facilities and services, transportation, water and sewer, recreation. Provides grant administration and management.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Assistance is provided through the Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) program. RC&Ds' assist local communities and businesses with grant writing and administration.

West Central I-80 Development Corporation

Serves Adair and Guthrie Counties and the communities therein. Provides grant writing and administration including Community Development Block Grants, USDA-Rural Development grants and loan programs, private foundations, and other state and federal grant programs.

Housing

Iowa Association of Regional Governments

Provides grant writing, administration, and management for housing, water and sewer. Provides housing finance.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Assistance is provided through the Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) program. RC&Ds' assist communities with housing issues by assisting with needs assessments and grant writing and administration.

USDA Rural Development

Provides subsidized home loans to income-eligible applicants in rural communities. Provides guarantees to lenders to provide 100% financing to income-eligible households. Provides a first lien position to lenders participating in leveraged housing loans with Rural Housing Service. Provides funding for self-help housing projects. Provides funding for farm labor housing units. Provides funding to grantees to administer a Housing Preservation Grant program. Provides 1% interest loans to income-eligible homeowners to remove health and safety hazards from their home, assist with energy conservation, accessibility modifications, and other changes to owner-occupied single family homes. Provides grants to elderly income-eligible homeowners for similar purposes. Provides funding for multi-family housing units. Provides rental assistance to low income tenants in Rural Housing Service financed apartment projects.

Livestock

USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services

Provides certification for animal export and import. Provides education to producers and veterinarians regarding animal disease control and eradication programs. Provides education to producers and veterinarians regarding foreign animal diseases. Provides education regarding emerging animal diseases. Provides for Accreditation of Veterinarians. Provides for Surveillance of Program Animal Diseases.

USDA Farm Service Agency

Under approved programs, issues direct payments to honey, wool, mohair, and some other livestock producers. Loans are also available using honey and other animal produced items as collateral. Livestock and other animal produced product programs vary from year to year, depending on agricultural and market related conditions.

USDA Grain Inspection Packers and Stockyards Administration

Works to maintain fair trade practices in the marketing of livestock. Monitors scale tests and detects improper and fraudulent use of subject scales. Assures open competitive marketing conditions for livestock and meat. Maintains a competitive and fair marketing system. Works to protect sellers of livestock to ensure prompt payment. Monitors regulated entities to ensure compliance with the financial and payment protection provisions of the P&S Act. Payment protection by statutory requirement of full and prompt payment, by packer bonding requirements, and by the packer trust provisions.

Minority Resources

Asian American Council of Iowa

Exists to advocate on issues of vital interest to Asian Americans in the state. Encourages participation and empowers Asian Americans in the political and social processes. Represents the Asian American population in common causes and ensures representation in the political, social, cultural, and economical lives of Iowans. Recognizes outstanding achievements and contributions of Asian Americans and fosters and nurtures such outstanding achievements and contributions. Partners with government agencies and other organizations to develop ideas and projects to assist Iowa's Asian Americans.

Bureau of Refugee Services

Iowa's Bureau of Refugee Services provides for the effective settlement of refugees by offering a home and a future for those who have been persecuted. Assists refugees in becoming self-sufficient as quickly as possible, thereby enabling them to enrich our state through the sharing of their talents, skills, gifts, and culture. Places refugees into jobs that promote economic independence, generate tax dollars and help local economies. When public assistance is used, it is to address an emergency situation or as a short term assistance to independence.

Iowa Commission on the Status of African-Americans

State agency that exists to address the needs and concerns of Iowa's African-American citizens, serving as an advocate for African-Americans in Iowa. The Commission is composed of nine citizens representing different regions of the state. Each commissioner and the director are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Iowa Senate. Sponsors the annual African-American Women's Conference, organizes the State Observance of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday, hosts a series of public hearings across the state each fall to gather information from African-American citizens that will later be incorporated into a legislative action plan, and publishes a quarterly newsletter and annual status report.

Iowa Commission of Latino Affairs

A board of commissioners that exists to address the needs and concerns of Iowa's Latino citizens. The Commission is composed of nine citizens representing different regions of the state. Each

commissioner and the administrator is appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Iowa Senate. Commissioner meetings are open to the public.

Iowa Department of Human Rights

Exists to promote equal access to work, services and opportunities to enhance the well-being of diverse populations in Iowa. The Department of Human Rights includes the following divisions: Community Action Agencies, Criminal & Juvenile Justice Planning, Deaf Services, Latino Affairs, Persons with Disabilities, Status of African-Americans, and Status of Women.

Iowa Division of Latino Affairs

Participates in the development of Iowa Immigration Centers. Provides interpreter and translator certification. Hosts public hearings throughout the state each fall to gather information from Latino citizens that will later be incorporated into a legislative plan of action. Publishes a quarterly newsletter and makes an annual status report that keeps Iowans abreast of events in the Latino community. Provides diversity training. Acts as a referral center. Supports Latino events and activities. Advocates for positive changes in policies.

Natural Resources Conservation

Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship - Division Of Soil Conservation

Responsible for state leadership in the protection and management of soil, water, and mineral resources; assisting soil and water conservation districts and private landowners to achieve their agricultural and environmental objectives. Administers soil and water conservation district laws. Allocates state appropriations to 100 soil and water conservation districts for personnel, commissioners' expense, and financial incentives for erosion control and water quality measures. Reviews watershed and RC&D project applications. Oversees erosion control law. Involved with water resources and non-point pollution control planning. Licenses mine operations and administers federal surface mining and Abandoned Mine Land Program regulations.

Iowa State University College of Agriculture and University Extension

Provides research-based information on issues information on issues facing agriculture, natural resources and rural development.

USDA Farm Service Agency

Offers producers financial assistance to implement conservation practices on land. These practices help to reduce soil erosion, improve water quality, create wildlife habitat, and others. Will pay a portion of the cost to establish conservation practices. Under some programs, pays annual rental payments to landowners that implement filter strips, riparian buffer strips, and other conservation measures.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Provides leadership and administers programs to help people conserve, improve, and sustain natural resources and the environment. Provides technical and financial assistance to properly implement conservation practices. Programs and services protect soil, water, air, plants, animals, and human resources. Provides outreach assistance to small scale, limited resource, minority, and specialty crop producers, as well as other non-traditional clients. Provides assistance to urban and rural communities. Works to protect natural resources in newly developing areas. Works to protect prime agricultural land from urban sprawl.

Spiritual Assistance

Ecumenical Ministries of Iowa

Administers a grant-funded voucher program to provide mental health services to farm family members who are experiencing stress associated with changes in rural life and who do not have insurance for mental health services. Vouchers may be accessed through the Iowa Concern Hotline at 1-800-447-1985.

National Catholic Rural Life Conference

Provides participatory parish and community resources to create a preferred future. Works to assist in strengthening communities by providing information and processes that enhance local systems and develop new local enterprises. Teaches rural people to use an asset based approach to community building. Provides peer support, information, and referrals regarding personal and livelihood concerns of rural Iowans. Establishes linkages among rural community resources. Provides support and training for rural service providers.

Utilities

Iowa Area Development Group

The Iowa Area Development Group (IADG) was created in 1985 by three of Iowa's Generation & Transmission Power Cooperatives and now provides services to 60 cooperative and municipal power companies. In addition to working with traditional federal, state, and local financing resources, IADG can access venture capital and federal zero and low interest loan programs designed specifically for businesses served by IADG member utilities.

Iowa Association of Regional Councils

Provides grant writing, administration, and management for water and sewer.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Assistance is provided through the Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) program. RC&Ds' assist communities with utilities issues by assisting with needs assessments and grant writing and administration.

USDA Rural Development

Provides water and sewer loans and grants to rural areas and communities of 10,000 population or less. Provides essential community facility loans and grants for health care, fire and rescue, and public service for rural communities of 20,000 population or less. Provides Distance Learning and Telemedicine loans and grants to rural areas.

Provides technical assistance to recipients to develop capacity and ability to undertake projects related to housing, community facilities, or community and economic development through Rural Community Development Initiative grants.

Provides direct loans up to \$450,000 at 0% interest for 10 years to Rural Utility Service borrowers on a pass through basis to promote rural economic development and job creation projects in rural areas through the Rural Economic Development Loan Program.

Provides grants up to \$200,000 to Rural Utility Service borrowers to establish and operate a revolving loan fund that will provide loans that foster rural economic development through the Rural Economic Development Grant Program.

Value Added Agriculture

Iowa Area Development Group

The Iowa Area Development Group (IADG) is partnering with the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation to promote value-added agriculture throughout the state.

Iowa State University Extension to Value Added Agriculture

Provides technical assistance to individuals and groups developing value-added agriculture ventures. Provides business planning and feasibility studies for new and existing value added ag businesses, with an emphasis on networks and cooperative business structures. Provides outreach to small scale, limited resource, minority, and specialty crop producers.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Assistance is provided through the Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) program. RC&Ds' assist agricultural producers with value-added needs by partnering with other federal, state, and local governments and organizations. RC&D projects may create new jobs in agriculture, forestry, tourism, and other industry.

USDA Rural Development

Administers the following grant programs: Value Added Products Market Development Grant (VADG) program for independent producers, which was established to encourage producers of agricultural commodities and products of agricultural commodities to further refine these products, increasing value to end users.

Provides groups with free technical assistance for the following: assists the group in determining the feasibility of the proposed venture, organizes the potential members into a functioning group which will organize the multiple owner business, assists in the development and implementation of the business plan, assists groups in the development and analysis of producer and marketing surveys, conducts research and transmits findings on problems and issues facing a developing multiple owner business, assists groups in evaluating and determining the type of business structure needed, assists groups in development of legal documents.

Provides loan guarantees up to \$25 million to lenders that assist business startup and expansion needs in rural areas under 50,000 population through the Business & Industry Program.

Provides direct loans at 1% interest for 30 years to third party entities to establish revolving loan funds for business facilities and community development in rural areas under 25,000 population through the Intermediary Relending Program.

Provides grants to third party entities to establish revolving loan funds, provide technical assistance, and develop industrial areas to support development of small and emerging private business enterprises in rural areas under 50,000 population through the Rural Business Enterprise Grant Program.

Provides grants up to \$50,000 to third party entities to provide technical assistance for business development planning in rural areas of 50,000 population or less through the Rural Business Opportunity Grant Program.

IOWA STATE OUTREACH COUNCIL RESOURCE CONTACTS

**Asian American Council
Of Iowa**

P O Box 1808
Des Moines, IA 50306-1808
Phone: 515-244-3406
Fax: 515-284-5411

Bureau of Refugee Services

1200 University Avenue
Suite D
Des Moines, IA 50314
Phone: 515-283-7999 or
1-800-362-2780
Fax: 515-283-9160
Website: <http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/refugee/>

**Clarinda Economic
Development Corporation**

City Hall
200 South 15th Street
Clarinda, IA 51632
Phone: 712-542-2160
Fax: 712-542-3031
Website: www.developiowa.net
Email: developiowa@iowatelecom.net
*Additional development corporations in Iowa
can be found at www.pdiowa.com.

Easter Seals of Iowa

P O Box 4002
Des Moines, IA 50333
Phone: 515-289-1933 Ext. 214
Fax: 515-289-1281

**Ecumenical Ministries
of Iowa**

3816 36th St.
Suite 202
Des Moines, IA 50310
Phone: 515-255-5905
Fax: 515-255-1421
Website: www.iowachurches.org

**Iowa Area Development
Group**

2700 Westown Parkway
Suite 425
West Des Moines, IA 50266
Phone: 515-223-4817
Fax: 515-223-5719
Website: www.iadg.com

**Iowa Association of
Regional Councils**

Clemens Building
200 10th Street, 5th Floor
Des Moines, IA 50309
Phone: 515-243-2000
Fax: 515-243-5941
Website: <http://www.iarcog.com/links.html>

*There are 16 regional offices located in the state. These can be found on the website above.

**Iowa Commission on the
Status of African-Americans**

Department of Human Rights
Lucas State Office Building
Des Moines, IA 50319
Phone: 515-281-7283 or
1-800-351-4659

Website: <http://www.state.ia.us/government/dhr/saa>

**Iowa Department of
Agriculture and Land
Stewardship-Division of
Soil Conservation**

Wallace State Office Building
Des Moines, IA 50319
Phone: 515-281-5851
Fax: 515-281-6170

Website: www.agriculture.state.ia.us

*There are local Soil and Water Conservation District offices in each county, co-located in USDA Service Centers.

**Iowa Department of Human
Rights**

Lucas State Office Building
Des Moines, IA 50319
Phone: 515-281-7300

Website: <http://www.state.ia.us/government/dhr/>

**Iowa Division of Latino
Affairs**

Department of Human Rights
Lucas State Office Building, 2nd Floor
Des Moines, IA 50319
Phone: 515-281-4070
1-877-330-3516

Fax: 515-242-6119

Website: www.state.ia.us/dhr/la

**Iowa State University
College of Agriculture**

138 Curtiss Hall
Ames, IA 50011
Phone: 515-294-2518
Fax: 515-294-6800

Website: <http://www.ag.iastate.edu/>

**Iowa State University
Extension Service**

2150 Beardshear Hall
Ames, IA 50011
Phone: 515-294-4576
Fax: 515-294-4715
Website: <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/>
*Local Extension offices in every county, refer
to the website for specific locations.

**Iowa State University
Extension to Value Added
Agriculture**

101 EES Bldg.
Haber Road
Ames, IA 50011
Phone: 515-294-0588
Fax: 515-294-0684

**National Catholic Rural
Life Conference**

4625 Beaver Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50310-2199
Phone: 515-270-2634
Fax: 515-270-9447
Website: www.ncrlc.com
Email: ncrlc@mchsi.com

**USDA Agricultural Research
Service**

102 Genetics Laboratory
Iowa State University
Ames, IA 50011-3222
Phone: 515-294-9343
Fax: 515-294-2265

**USDA Animal and Plant
Health Inspection Service,
Veterinary Services**

210 Walnut St.
891 Federal Building
Des Moines, IA 50309
Phone: 515-284-4140
Fax: 515-284-4156
Website: www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/

**USDA Farm Service
Agency**

10500 Buena Vista Court
Urbandale, IA 50322
Phone: 515-254-1540
Fax: 515-254-1573
Website: www.fsa.usda.gov/ia
*Local FSA offices are located in USDA
Service Centers in each county, typically in the
county seat.

USDA Food and Nutrition Service

210 Walnut St.
641 Federal Building
Des Moines, IA 50309
Phone: 515-284-4035
Fax: 515-284-4038
Website: www.fns.usda.gov/fns/
*Headquarters in Alexandria, VA, 7 Regional Offices across the US, Field Offices in every state.

USDA Grain Inspection Packers and Stockyards Administration

210 Walnut St.
317 Federal Building
Des Moines, IA 50309
Phone: 515-323-2579
Fax: 515-323-2590
Website: www.usda.gov/gipsa
*Additional offices in Atlanta, GA and Denver, CO.

USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service

210 Walnut St.
833 Federal Building
Des Moines, IA 50309-2195
Phone: 515-284-4340
Fax: 515-284-4342
Website: www.nass.usda.gov/ia

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

210 Walnut St.
693 Federal Building
Des Moines, IA 50309
Phone: 515-284-4260
Fax: 515-284-4394
Website: www.ia.nrcs.usda.gov
*Local NRCS offices in every county located in USDA Service Centers. RC&D office locations can be found on the website or through local offices.

USDA Risk Management Agency

St. Paul Regional Office
910 Minnesota World Trade Center
30 Seventh Street E
St. Paul, MN 55101-4943
Phone: 651-290-3304
Fax: 651-290-4139
Website: www.rma.usda.gov
*The St. Paul Regional Office covers Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin.

USDA Rural Development

210 Walnut St.
873 Federal Building
Des Moines, IA 50309
Phone: 515-284-4663
Fax: 515-284-4859
Website: www.rurdev.usda.gov/ia
*See website for location of field offices.

**West Central I-80
Development Corporation**

615 South Division, Suite B
P O Box 57
Stuart, IA 50250
Phone: 515-523-1318
Fax: 515-523-1728
Website: www.iowadevelopment.com
*Additional development corporations in Iowa
can be found at www.pdiowa.com.

Other Resources

Department of Veterans Affairs

The goal is to provide excellence in patient care, veterans' benefits, and customer satisfaction. Staff is dedicated and committed to help veterans get the services they have earned. These include: Burial and Memorial Benefits, Health Benefits and Services, Compensation and Pension Benefits, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Services, Home Loan Guaranty Services, Life Insurance Program, Appeals, and Education Benefits.

Federal Emergency Management Agency

Advises on building codes and flood plain management, teaches people how to get through a disaster, makes disaster assistance available to states, communities, businesses, and individuals.

Iowa Concern Hotline

1-800-447-1985

Iowa Department of Agriculture And Land Stewardship

The Department's goals include responding quickly and efficiently to changing global conditions in agriculture, increasing Iowa's market share, developing and encouraging agricultural education and new avenues for Iowa producers to market their products, adding value to Iowa agriculture, preserving the state's precious soil and improving water quality, and protecting consumers and producers by assuring the quality of agricultural products and animal health.

Iowa Department of Economic Development

The mission is to improve the economic well-being of the state of Iowa, by working with businesses and communities to strengthen their foundations for growth.

**Iowa Division of Vocational
Rehabilitation Services**

The mission of the Division is to work for and with individuals with disabilities to achieve their employment, independence, and economic goals. The Division includes the following bureaus: Disability Determination Services, Rehabilitation Services, and Administrative Services.

Iowa Domestic Abuse Hotline

1-800-942-0333

Professional Developers of Iowa

A group of professionals engaged in economic development for the purpose of furthering the economic base of the state of Iowa.

**USDA Food Safety and Inspection
Service**

Responsible for ensuring the safety, wholesomeness, and correct labeling and packaging of meat, poultry, and egg products.

**US Department of Housing and
Urban Development**

Responsible for ensuring a decent, safe, and sanitary home and suitable living environment for every American. Creates opportunities for home ownership, provides housing assistance for low income persons, works to create and maintain the Nation's affordable housing, enforces fair housing laws.

Websites

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance

<http://www.cfda.gov>

Access to database of all Federal programs available to State and local governments, federally recognized Indian tribal governments, Territories of the US, private profit and non-profit organizations and institutions, specialized groups, and individuals.

Iowa Department of Human Rights

<http://www.state.ia.us/government/dhr/>

Describes how and where to apply for the low income energy assistance program. Lists offices individuals would contact for food assistance, excluding Food Stamp Program and WIC.

State of Iowa Resources

<http://www.state.ia.us/>

Lists all State Government Agencies Resources A-Z. Or call 515-281-5011 to request a directory.

United States Department of Agriculture

<http://www.usda.gov>

