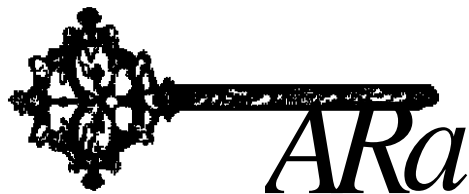


ARa Annual Report

2010 - 2011



*Presented
on
July 28, 2011*

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July 28, 2011

Dear Board Members:

This could be noted as the year of dramatic changes. ARa participated in the development and/or administration of over **\$97,000,000** in grant funds from January of 2010 through May of 2011. We wrote over 100 grants and are administering a historic number of federal dollars for our communities.

The tightening city budgets, lagging economy and the housing/foreclosure crisis continued to mold the landscape of the community and economic development needs throughout the region. ARa worked diligently to help members leverage their limited funds to address many of these issues. ARa also provided assistance with its standard grant services in the areas of housing, planning, community development and economic development. ARa staff was still able to provide countless hours of technical assistance in support of a number of non-grant funded projects.

ARa worked with Community Development Block Grant Disaster Relief appropriations #1 and #2, USDA Rural Development, American Reinvestment and Recovery Act and economic development funding in efforts to help the communities address some much needed improvements and growth. The Stellar Community Grant program had us participating on a number of project/proposal development teams. We are excited about our role in North Vernon and their award, and expect to see a number of projects move forward in the other communities who participated in the process.

Thank you for another great year!

Eric A. Frey, II

Executive Director



ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW

Administrative Resources association is a governmental association of cities created in 1973 with Lilly Endowment funds. The original intent was for ARa to be a shared community and economic development department for its member cities/towns since they could not afford one on their own. ARa was formed using Indiana's Intergovernmental Cooperation Act, designed to permit joint governmental ownership of facilities (a city-county jail, for example). The idea was to create a shared and shared-cost community development technical assistance staff. ARa has a staff of eight, and is currently owned by 11 Indiana Cities. The association currently has eleven member cities, whose mayors sit on the board of directors. The cities are as follows:

- City of Austin
- City of Batesville
- City of Bedford
- City of Columbus
- City of Greensburg
- City of Lawrenceburg
- City of Mitchell
- City of North Vernon
- City of Rushville
- City of Salem
- City of Seymour

Contractual Associate Membership:

- Town of Crothersville
- Town of Hope
- Town of Nashville

2010 Officers of ARa are as follows:

- President - Rick Fledderman, Batesville
- Vice President – Harold “Soup” Campbell, North Vernon
- Treasurer – Shawna Girgis, Bedford
- Secretary – Gary Herbert, Greensburg

2011 Officers of ARa are as follows:

- President – Harold “Soup” Campbell, North Vernon
- Vice President– Shawna Girgis, Bedford
- Treasurer– Gary Herbert, Greensburg
- Secretary – Craig Luedeman, Seymour

ARA STAFF CHANGES

ARa currently has eight employees, six full-time and has added a two part-time hourly positions. Staff and duty changes in 2010/2011:

- New Manager of Municipal Programs – Paula Hartwell
- Grant Clerk – new part-time position (Stella Beabout) – help's with labor standards monitoring and clerical support as needed, as well as managing Lawrenceburg grant administration
- Office Manager/Bookkeeper - part-time position (Debbie Flohr) - oversees payroll, accounts payable and receivables and now assisting with housing rehab program's and the business loan recapture.



Staff members are as follows:

Executive Director

- Eric Frey

Managers of Municipal Programs:

- Trena Carter
- Paula Harwell

Manager of Housing Programs:

- Debra Lilly

Grant Manager

- Carrie Riley

Housing Grant Manager

- Victoria Dake

Grant Clerk

- Stella Beabout

Office Manager

- Debbie Flohr

SUMMARY OF SERVICES

Grants Developed: ARA submitted over **\$60.7 Million** in grant requests. ARA wrote over 100 grants to the following agencies/programs:

- Indiana Department of Transportation: Trails - Enhancement - Safe Routes to School - Public Transit
- Indiana Finance Authority
- Indiana Economic Development Corporation: Industrial Development Grant Fund
- Office of Community and Rural Affairs (IOCRA): CFF - CDBG Planning Grant, – Micro Enterprise Program - Disaster Recovery #1, Disaster Recovery #2
- Federal Emergency Management Agency/Department of Homeland Security
- Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA): NSP, CDBG - HOME – Disaster Recover #1
- Federal Transportation Administration: 5307 - ARRA
- Indiana Department of Environmental Management
- USDA – Rural Development
- Lawrenceburg Economic Development Revenue Sharing Program
- Department of Energy – Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant
- Stellar Communities Grant Program
- U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development: CDBG Entitlement – Economic Development Initiative

Grants Administered: ARA administered over **\$37 Million** in grant funds since January of 2010. These grants varied from environmental infrastructure projects, economic development, homeowner rehabilitation grants, sidewalks/trails and loan portfolio management.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Due to the change in the Indiana Economic Development Corporation's policies, economic development projects have decreased during this period. ARA has provided technical assistance on 9 economic development projects resulting in approximately \$4.5 million in grants, the retention or creation of over 570 jobs and the facilitation of over \$167 million in business investment into ARA member communities.



LENDING SERVICES: REVOLVING LOAN FUNDS MANAGEMENT

ARa manages five Micro Enterprise Assistance Programs and four RBEG grants.

- Micro Enterprise Assistance Loan Programs (MLP): Five programs with loan balances of approximately \$106,000 and payment collections of approximately \$40,000.
- Rural Enterprise Businesses Grant (REBG): ARa is managing approximately \$400,000 in loan funds and helping create or retain over 30 jobs.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

ARa helped write and/or secure over \$1.5 Million in transportation grants. The specific transit support services provided are as follows:

- Grant applications development and ongoing technical assistance, including facilitation of transit advisory committee meetings
- Bus acquisition and procurement assistance
- ARRA Capital Project Development for vehicles, construction and rehabilitation of transit facilities including bus shelters, radios, and misc office equipment and furniture.
- Triennial Review Support (including pre and post review information)

HOUSING PROGRAMS

The demand and interest in grant funding to assist in developing and rehabilitation of housing stock continues to be a priority as mortgage crisis continues and lenders tighten their requirements. Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA) changed its application process resulting in a more comprehensive community development approach to projects. ARa wrote and/or received 16 IHCDA, CDBG and NSP grants as well as managed two ongoing programs. ARa staff wrote and administered over \$4 million in grant funds that assisted in the rehabilitation of over 100 homes/units.

FLOOD RELIEF GRANT

ARa continued to work with the money made available as a result of the June 2008 flood. ARa pursued funding opportunities to address community losses, damages and recoup governmental expenditures that resulted from their recovery efforts. ARa staff participated in FEMA public assistance site visits and worked with local officials in compiling the documentation needed to obtain reimbursement of governmental expenses that occurred during that event. ARa is specifically worked on funding from the following disaster related programs:

- Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Relief Appropriation #1 (DR1): Funding for reimbursement for the required 25% local match for the FEMA Public Assistance Grant Program. ARa has been working on 4 applications of over \$1 million.
- Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Relief Appropriation #2 (DR2): This funding is for infrastructure projects in counties included in any disaster



declarations in 2008. ARa is working on 23 projects in the development of requests and in awards totaling over \$20 million.

- FEMA Acquisition Programs – Purchase of flood damaged homes (over \$5,500,000 received from FEMA): ARa has been working with Columbus and Bartholomew County to secure funding to buy and demolish homes located in the flood that were severely damaged and either uninhabitable or costs were too high to meet building codes to rebuild on site.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

CDBG Entitlement Administration: ARa assists in the administration of the City of Columbus CDBG entitlement programs. Over the 18 months ARa has helped secure and administer over \$900,000 in CDBG and CDBG-R entitlement funds.

Community Focus Fund (CFF) Projects: ARa witnessed the continuation in the demand for the CFF program with writing and administering 16 grants for over \$7 million. CFF continues to be one of the mainstays in community development financing.

Planning Studies: ARa assisted with securing and/or administering 13 planning grants in 2010. ARa has helped secure funding and managed grants for comprehensive plans, utility plans and downtowns plans. ARa also wrote two 5-year park master plans, 2009-2013 CDBG Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plans with amendments totaling over \$670,000.

2011-2012 GOALS

ARa organizational development goals for 2011-2012 focus on continuing and/or improving services that provide the greatest community impact in member communities and clients. The following are specific goals established to achieve these objectives:

1. New/updated website and multimedia tools
2. Develop a comprehensive community development planning process for ARa to facilitate
3. Create and conduct presentation/training for newly elected officials
4. Improve grant scanning process
5. Develop an internal and external project update process/format

