



**IOWA ASSOCIATION**  
OF COUNCILS OF GOVERNMENTS

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## DRIVING REGIONAL GROWTH ACROSS IOWA

The Iowa Association of Councils of Governments (ICOG) is the statewide trade association representing Iowa's 17 Councils of Governments (COGs). Since 1988, ICOG has united leaders and communities to foster economic growth, strengthen public services, and address regional challenges—building a stronger Iowa for generations to come.

### **Our Mission:**

To build strong communities by connecting statewide leaders, improving public sector services, and solving regional issues.

### **How We Support Iowa's Regions:**

- Strategic planning for the future
- Leveraging state and federal funding
- Providing technical assistance
- Promoting regional collaboration
- Supporting disaster recovery

In this quarterly newsletter, we highlight how our mission translates into real impact for Iowa communities. [Click here to find your GOG.](#)

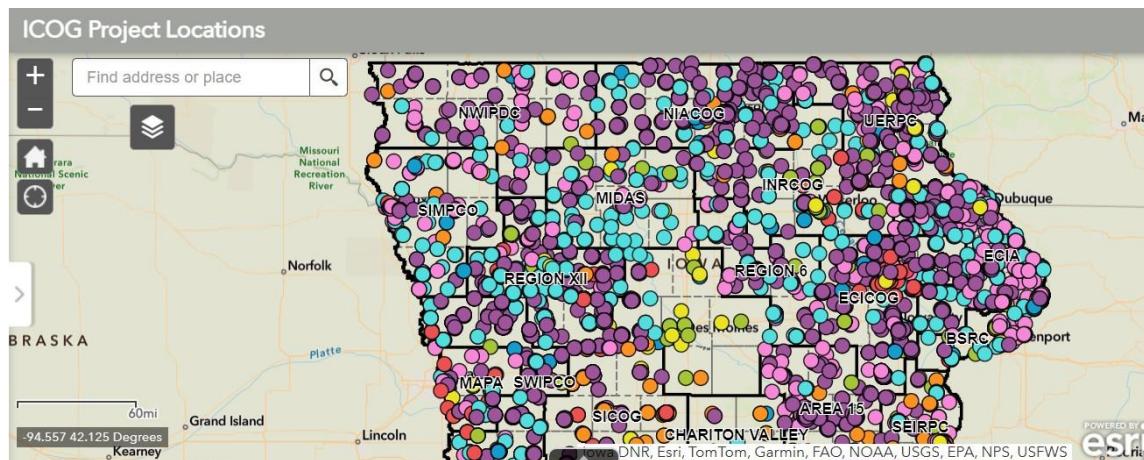
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### **COGs Deliver Big Impact for Iowa**



Iowa's 17 Councils of Governments may be few in number, but their impact is big. Over the past three years, COGs have led transformative projects that shape the future of our communities. From housing and infrastructure to economic development and land revitalization, COGs are driving results that matter.

Explore our **Impact Map** to see how these projects are changing Iowa. ICOG was honored with the **Aliceann Wohlbruck Impact Award** from NADO in 2024 for this project.



## Legislative Advocacy

Our annual **Legislative Breakfast** and **Day at the Capitol** connect COG leaders with lawmakers to share the value of our work. With guidance from **Cope Murphy + Co.**, we stay informed and engaged on key legislative issues.



## ICOG's 2026 Legislative Breakfast

Iowa Association of Councils of Governments (ICOG) will be in the rotunda on **Tuesday, February 24** from 7-9 am.

You are invited to stop by to learn about the **impact** we are making in Iowa.

[www.iowacog.com](http://www.iowacog.com)



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### Collaborations That Make a Difference

ICOG collaborates with agencies and organizations statewide, including:

- **Iowa Department of Health & Human Services** on the **5-2-1-0 Healthy Choices Count!** initiative, promoting healthy habits through community projects like playground improvements, water stations, and nutrition education.

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### Supporting Iowa Communities Through Codification and Model Code Updates

Codification—the process of organizing adopted laws into a comprehensive code of ordinances—is required for Iowa cities at least once every five years. To make this process more efficient and consistent, the Iowa Association of Councils of Governments (ICOG) partners with the law firm Dorsey & Whitney, LLP to develop and maintain a model code available to member COGs.

This collaboration ensures that communities using the model code can more easily align their city ordinances with changes in Iowa statutes and common law.

To keep codes current and compliant, ICOG and Dorsey conduct an annual review with COG staff. These reviews help identify areas that may need updates and ensure communities remain proactive in maintaining clear, effective ordinances.

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## **Education & Training**

ICOG provides ongoing education for COG staff and the public, including:

- Annual updates and training on the **Model Code of Ordinances** in partnership with Dorsey
- [Virtual Lunch & Learn sessions](#) on impactful projects and services
- A new [Open Meetings/Open Records training](#) resource page
- A [Resilience Toolkit](#) for small businesses, nonprofits, and communities—covering preparation, management, marketing, and financing strategies
- Annual Staff Retreat for COG staff and Bi-Annual Director Retreats for COG Executive Directors

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## **PARTERNSHIP PROGRAM: A DECADE OF INNOVATION**

Since 2012, our Partnership Program has fostered collaboration and resource development across Iowa. Benefits include:

- Website visibility and newsletter recognition
- Display opportunities at the annual ICOG Staff Retreat
- Networking with Iowa's COGs and partners
- Priority access to ICOG staff for insights and support

We are grateful for the valuable contributions of our Partnership Program members shown below.



[LEARN  
MORE](#)

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