The Background of **IOWACCESS**

IOWAccess was established as the State of Iowa's web portal nearly a decade ago. Since its inception in 1997, IOWAccess has been connecting Iowans with their government by harnessing the accessibility and technology of the Internet.

The financial support of IOWAccess applications through the IOWAccess revolving fund fosters agency partnerships; improves the availability, quality, use, and sharing of data; provides an incubator for innovative e-Government programs; and can be used to as an adjunct to federal, state, or local funding to improve the effectiveness of government programs that are consistent with the goals of IOWAccess.

The funding of IOWAccess projects is monitored by an advisory council comprised of government and public members. Project funding and other recommendations from this council are forwarded to the Director of the Department of Administrative Services, who, after a review, submits them to the Technology Governance Board for final approval. This advise and consent process ensures that IOWAccess expenditures are targeted at relevant electronic government services. All projects funded through IOWAccess are professionally planned and have clearly defined timelines, measurable results, and a defined return on investment.

IOWAccess Advisory Council c/o Iowa Department of Administrative Services Information Technology Enterprise Hoover State Office Building, Level B Des Moines, IA 50319-0001

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For Discussion Purposes e-Government Funding Opportunities for Local Government In Iowa

Financial and Technical Assistance for Developing e-Government Services

Sponsored through IOWAccess The State of Iowa's e-Government Web Portal

Local Government Funding Program <u>www.urlhere.gov</u>

The Challenge for Government at all Levels . . .

According to recent surveys, 82.1% of lowans have access to the Internet. Research from the National Governor's Association Center for Best Practices indicates that among the public's highest priority for improvements at the State and local levels of government are:

- Improved access to governmental information and services. Most citizens expect more for less in their consumer and business purchases - they have similar expectations for government services.
- More efficient use of governmental resources.
- More direct contact with officials in all branches of government through e-mail and web sites.

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The Opportunity for Local Government . . .

IOWAccess funding can be used to help local government in Iowa adopt and use Internet technology to establish their presence on the World Wide Web and improve services to Iowa's citizens. The funding assistance can be up to 100% of eligible costs.

The IOWAccess Advisory Council seeks to support innovative, collaborative efforts at the local government level and promote best practices in service to citizens.



Some State Government Projects Funded through IOWAccess . . .

Since July 1, 2003 \$2.9 million in e-Government projects at the State level have been financially supported by the IOWAccess revolving fund, including: an interactive state budgeting website; license renewal systems for Teachers, Real Estate Agents, Professional Engineers, Accountants, Architects, Landscape Architects, and Social Gambling; electronic filing of income tax returns, sales taxes, and other excise taxes; support for the online lowa Sex Offender Registry which recently became integrated with the U.S. Department of Justice's National Sex Offender Public Registry; e-Government constituent research; access to the public information contained in accident reports filed by the Iowa State Patrol; automation of government food inspection processes with public web access to the results; and tracking and reporting of data from political committees, lobbyists, and miscellaneous contributors having statutory reporting requirements; and

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For more information, see:

www.urlhere.gov



Conditions of Funding . . .

Local government includes any city, county, township, school district, or any special-purpose district or authority within the State of Iowa; or an administrative agency established for any lawful governmental purpose or for the administration of any government facility.

- (a) The applicant(s) must demonstrate a commitment towards developing e-Government applications to improve services to their constituents.
- (b) The applicant(s) must provide all information as requested by the IOWAccess Advisory Council in a timely manner.
- (c) The applicant(s) must comply with all applicable IOWAccess standards and reporting requirements.
- (d) Funds are limited and the IOWAccess funding is at the discretion of the IOWAccess Advisory Council and the Iowa Department of Administrative Services.
- (e) All funded (in whole or in part) e-Government websites must acknowledge the source of support and include hyperlinks to other designated websites, if requested.
- (f) The IOWAccess Advisory Council and the Iowa Department of Administrative Services reserves the right to withdraw or reclaim funds should the conditions of the funding not be met.
- (g) All funds dispersed under this program will require a signed Memorandum of Understanding between the local governmental entity receiving the funds and the Iowa Department of Administrative Services.

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