IARC: STRENGTHENING IOWA’S COGS THROUGH OUR STATE ASSOCIATION

NADO Annual Training Conference

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History of IARC

- Iowa’s COGs met informally on a monthly basis in the late 1970’s/ 1980’s. (Originally 16 now 17 regions)

- IARC made the decision to formalize and was incorporated in 1988.

- The desire to lobby and work collaboratively on statewide issues were the main reasons for IARC’s formation. A goal was to secure state funding for COGs.
History of IARC

- 1991 to 2009: IARC contracted with several different entities for administrative assistance. IARC has contracted with a lobbyist since the 1990’s
- Secured state funding in 1991
- Received EDA funding in 2009 to create an executive director position
- Focus of position was to identify new partnerships and service opportunities and increase statewide visibility of the COGs
Benefits of our state association

- **We are better together.** COGs can advocate more effectively when working collectively.

- Statewide service opportunities that individual regions would not have

- Ability to tap into the strengths and resources of all of our members
Benefits of our state association

- Venue to problem solve, brainstorm and collaborate on issues of common interest
- Collaborative promotion/marketing efforts
- Lobbying services
- Single point of contact for agencies
Over the past three years, IARC has:

- Secured 9 new contracts with state/federal agencies
- Secured $525,000 for IARC and member COGs through new contracts/services
- Implemented a new dues structure to help ensure financial sustainability
- Strengthened our relationships with agencies while looking at new statewide initiatives (CDBG review)
Creating a successful association

- As a state association grows and develops, the amount of time and resources each agency must commit will increase.

- Member agencies must see value to invest time and funding into an association.

- Peer accountability is critical!

- Must think about on-going sustainability
Questions?

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