

# LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2024

*simpco*

Union

Plymouth

Cherokee

Dakota

Woodbury

Ida

Monona

# Legislative Priorities

20  
24

PRIORITIES

***SIMPCO adopts the following general legislative priorities as they relate to four overarching elements including: Infrastructure, Economic and Workforce Development, Housing and Quality of Life.***

## **INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS**

- Maintain & Modernize the Transportation System
- Continue to Support the Development of Alternative Transportation (*Transit, Bicycle, Pedestrian*)
- Maintain and Modernize Water/Waste Water Facilities
- Continued Investment in Renewable Energy, Natural Gas and Broadband
- Revise/Update Regulations to Ensure an Emphasis on River Management

## **DIVERSE, AFFORDABLE, AND MARKET-RATE HOUSING**

- Support New Housing Incentive Programs
- Encourage Workforce Housing
- Support Housing Rehabilitation Programs

## **QUALITY OF LIFE**

- Support Emergency Services in Rural Communities
- Create, Enhance, and Maintain Recreational, Cultural Resource, and Place-Making Opportunities
- Support Regional Initiatives that Promote Smart Growth Development

***ECONOMIC & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT***

- Support Urban Revitalization and Downtown Revitalization
- Expand Brownfield and Vacant Property Programs
- Preserve Tax Increment Financing (*TIF*)
- Develop Programs that Support Business Retention and Recruitment
- Sustain Efforts to Match Education with Employment Needs  
(Career Academy, Internships, Apprenticeships, Tuition Incentives and Work-Based Learning)
- Enhance Entrepreneurship Opportunities
- Increase Tourism
- Support Community Planning Guidance
- Encourage Population Growth

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PRIORITIES

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ACCOMPLISHMENTS

*SIMPCO is a catalyst for regional cooperation, uniting local governments in the Tri-State Siouxland region. We partner with local governments in long-range planning, community development activities, and regional program management to foster intelligent growth, economic development and safe, accessible transportation.*



## **INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS**

- Through SIMPCO's Transportation Improvement Program, \$346 million in federal, state and local funds are programmed (FY 2024 – 2026) for regional transportation projects.
- \$12.5 million in transportation infrastructure projects were awarded with assistance from SIMPCO in the Siouxland area.
- SIMPCO assisted 4 Siouxland communities on water/waste water infrastructure improvement projects.
- \$742,180 in transportation planning funds were awarded to SIMPCO to assist in maintaining or improving the transportation network in the Siouxland area.



### ***ECONOMIC & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT***

- SIMPCO was awarded approximately \$152,000 in assistance from U.S. EDA, Iowa Economic Development Authority, and Nebraska Department of Economic Development to be used for economic development planning, research, and technical service throughout the region.
- SIMPCO assisted 6 communities with grant applications related to economic and workforce development equaling \$2.3 million in awarded funds.
- SIMPCO continues to work with state and regional economic development organizations on issues related to economic development, such as broadband, business startups, infrastructure, and child care.
- SIMPCO assisted 12 communities/organizations with grant applications, plans and projects related to economic development improvements.

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ACCOMPLISHMENTS

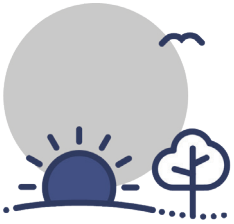
20  
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ACCOMPLISHMENTS



## ***DIVERSE, AFFORDABLE AND MARKET-RATE HOUSING***

- SIMPCO housing programs expended over half a million dollars in grant funds for housing rehab projects in 18 Siouxland communities..
- SIMPCO housing programs rehabilitated 24 owner-occupied homes in the past year. Including completed projects for elderly and disabled households.
- SIMPCO contracted with 12 local contractors and sub-contractors for rehabilitation projects.
- SIMPCO removed lead hazards on 3 homes in FY23.



### **QUALITY OF LIFE**

- SIMPCO assisted with 3 award winning grants equaling \$338,000 for Siouxland communities to improve community spaces.
- SIMPCO was awarded \$56,000 in funds to help initiate quality of life improvements for senior citizens and children within the Siouxland area.
- SIMPCO assisted with 1 award winning grant equaling \$100,000 to replace an emergency response vehicle.
- SIMPCO worked with 9 communities on emergency mitigation and management grants and projects.

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ACCOMPLISHMENTS

# Legislative Priorities

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BY THE NUMBERS

\$346<sup>0m</sup>

\$346M in transportation improvements programmed through SIMPCO (FY 2023-2026)

132

132 grants listed on our website

98 

98 board & committee meetings hosted by SIMPCO in 2023

54 

54 members of the SIMPCO organization

6 

6 communities worked on improving bicycle/pedestrian infrastructure and education

5 

5 communities worked with SIMPCO to update their comprehensive plan



20  
23

BY THE NUMBERS

24 

24 owner-occupied homes were rehabilitated

36 

36 communities worked directly with SIMPCO staff on grants, projects and plans

7 


7 code updates were provided to SIMPCO members

\$14.9

\$14.9 million in funds awarded to the Siouxland area with assistance from SIMPCO in FY 23

837k 

\$837,000 in planning funds awarded to SIMPCO in FY 23.

18 

18 communities worked with SIMPCO on housing projects and studies

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ABOUT SIMPCO

*The Siouxland Interstate Metropolitan Planning Council (SIMPCO) is a council of governments serving seven counties in the Tri-State area of Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota. SIMPCO's service area covers over 50 local governments, special districts, school districts and non-profit organizations in the Tri-State area.*

## **FY 23 MEMBERS**

### ***Cherokee County, IA***

Aurelia, Cherokee, Cleghorn, Larrabee, Marcus, Washta

### ***Dakota County, NE***

Dakota City, Emerson, Homer, Hubbard, Jackson,  
South Sioux City

### ***Ida County, IA***

Arthur, Galva, Holstein, Ida Grove

### ***Monona County, IA***

Blencoe, Castana, Mapleton, Moorhead, Onawa, Rodney, Soldier,  
Whiting, Ute

**FY 23 MEMBERS*****Plymouth County, IA***

Akron, Hinton, Kingsley, Le Mars, Remsen

***Union County, SD***

Dakota Dunes, North Sioux City

***Woodbury County, IA***

Anthon, Bronson, Correctionville, Danbury, Hornick, Lawton, Merville,  
Oto, Salix, Sergeant Bluff, Sioux City

***SIMPCO ASSOCIATE MEMBERS***

Western Iowa Tech Community College, Sioux City Community  
School District, Briar Cliff University, Northeast Community College

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***SIMPCO CONTACT INFORMATION***

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