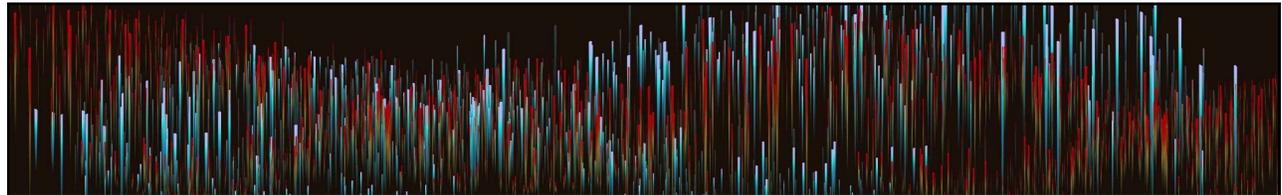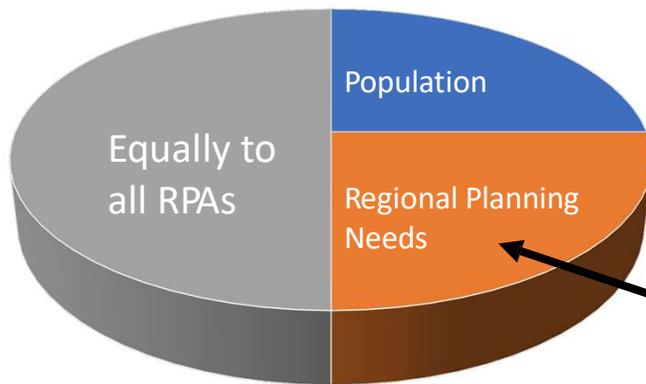# Iowa RPA Funding Distribution Formula Proposal

Same *core* formula, but with a simple tweak for fairness in "regional planning needs"
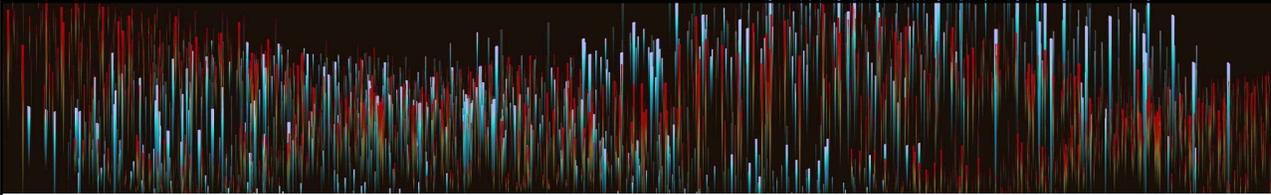
1

Current RPA Funding Distribution Formula

The proposed formula tweak only deals with this slice of the pie, "Regional Planning Needs"

2

Current RPA Funding Distribution Formula

- The current formula approximates "Regional Planning Needs" by an RPA's physical size, taking an RPA's number of counties as a ratio of the total statewide counties.
- Using number of counties as a proxy for an RPA's physical size (and thus, its regional planning need) *has intrinsic inequities*.
- Naturally, these inequities have been a <u>boon to some RPAs' funding</u>, and a <u>detraction from other RPA's funding</u> during the timespan that the current formula has been in use.

3
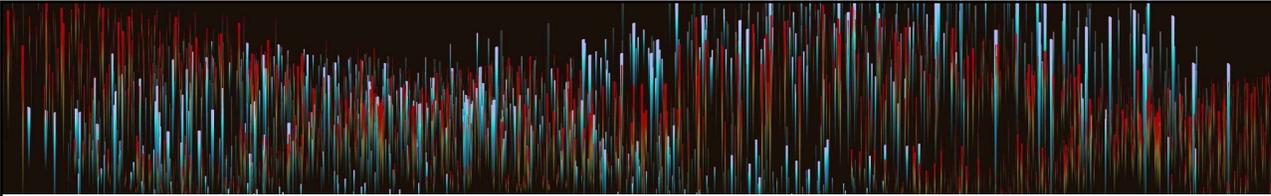
Current RPA Funding Distribution Formula

Intrinsic inequity #1:
- The size of Iowa's counties may appear somewhat uniform, creating a sense that a county can function as an almost "standardized" unit. In reality, Iowa's counties vary greatly in size, and these variations create disparities when we use the total number of counties as a proxy for physical size/planning needs.
  - **Advantage:** RPAs with generally more, generally smaller counties
  - **Disadvantage:** RPAs with generally fewer, generally larger counties
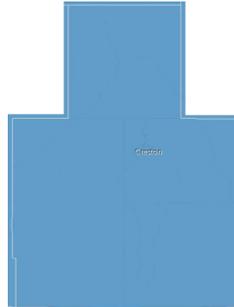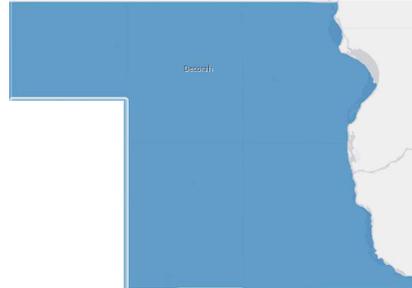
4
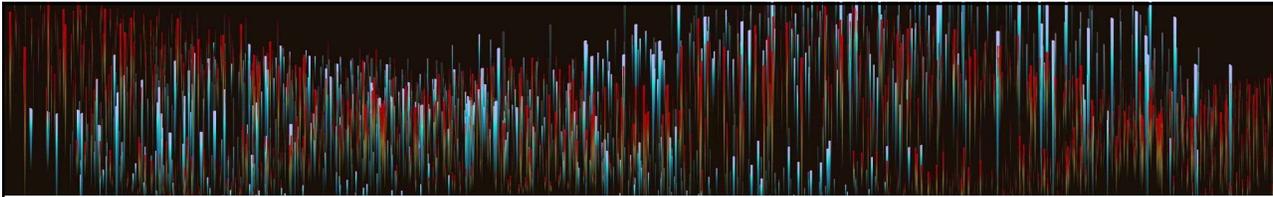
Current RPA Funding Distribution Formula

Example:

**RPA-14 and RPA-1 both have five counties**, but _**RPA-1 is larger by 852 square miles**_; both receive the same amount of "Regional Planning Needs" funding when using number of counties as a proxy for physical size/planning needs.
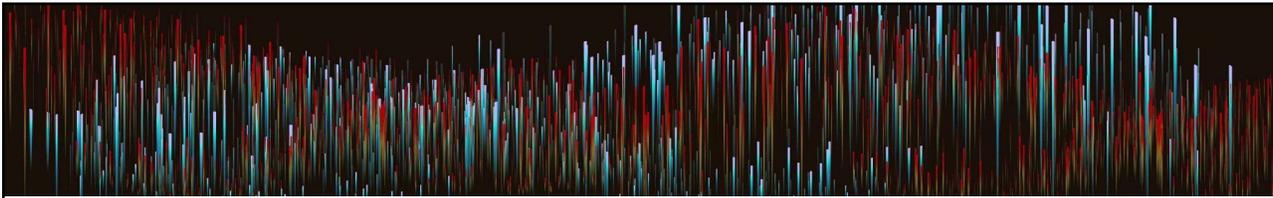
RPA-14 Total land area:

2,495 sq ml

RPA-1 Total land area:

3,347 sq ml
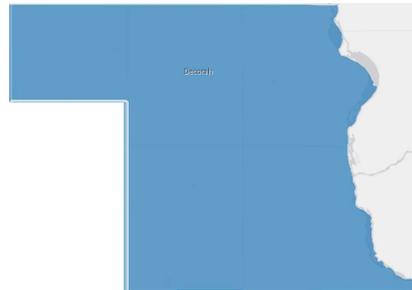
5

Current RPA Funding Distribution Formula

Example:

**RPA-17 and RPA-1 have similar total land areas** in square miles; however, when using number of counties as a proxy for physical size/planning needs, _**RPA-17 gets "credit" for two additional counties**_—seven total, versus five counties in RPA-1.

RPA-17 Total land area:

3,382 sq ml

RPA-1 Total land area:

3,347 sq ml

6

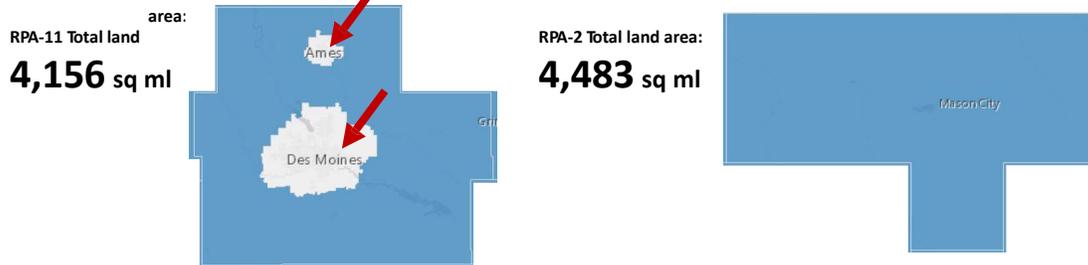# Current RPA Funding Distribution Formula

Intrinsic inequity #2:
- Treating a county as a "whole" or "standard" unit of measure creates additional inequities because some RPAs have counties that are split with an MPO. Those RPAs effectively get "credit" for the MPO planning areas within their county(ies) when using the total number of counties as a proxy for physical size/planning needs.
  - **Advantage:** RPAs with one or more county split with an MPO
 - **Disadvantage:** RPAs with fully non-MPO counties

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Current RPA Funding Distribution Formula

Example:

RPA-11 and RPA-2 both have eight counties and similar total land areas (based on whole counties); however, the Des Moines and Ames MPO areas take up 614 square miles of the eight counties of RPA-11. When using number of counties as a proxy for physical size/planning needs, *RPA-11 gets "credit" for the 614 square miles* that are not actually part of the RPA planning area.

RPA-11 Total land area:

**4,156** sq ml

RPA-2 Total land area:

4,483 sq ml

8
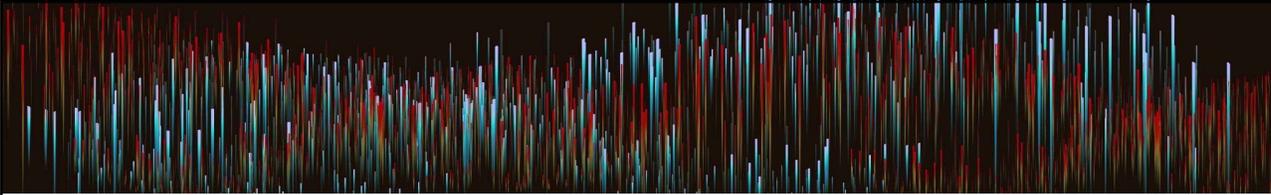
Proposed RPA Funding Distribution Formula

- Since the intent of the current funding methodology is to use an RPA's physical size to approximate regional planning needs, why not eliminate the built-in inequities of using total number of counties, and instead use the _actual_ metric for physical size?
- **Total land area** (square miles)
- In the case of RPAs, this is inherently the **_non-MPO_** areas.

9
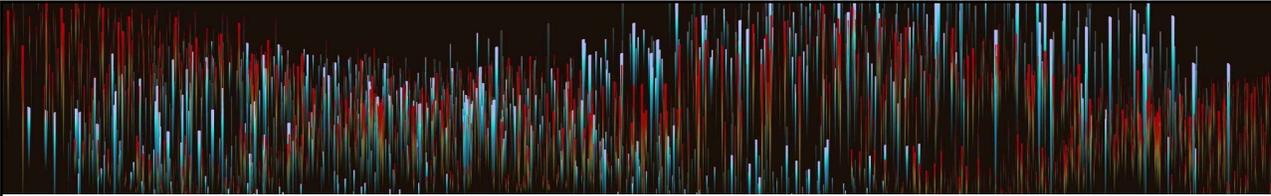
Proposed RPA Funding Distribution Formula

Using total land area rather than number of counties to quantify regional planning needs eliminates _both_ built-in inequities in the current formula, making it a truly fair, apples-to-apples assessment of regional planning needs based on RPA planning area size.

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Proposed RPA Funding Distribution Formula

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