ECIA Spotlight

CSEI Serves Thousands of Adults/Children
Community Solutions of Eastern Iowa (CSEI) is the non-profit organization within ECIA that manages the homeless program. CSEI was able to apply for both COVID 1 and COVID 2 funds through the Iowa Finance Authority. In total, CSEI was awarded $652,776 over the two funding rounds. (COVID 1 funds = $427,776; COVID 2 funds = $225,000) The funds are being used in partnership with CSEI, (the applicant), Clinton YWCA, and Hawkley Area Community Action Program (HACAP) to provide homeless prevention services to those at risk of becoming homeless, as well as rapid rehousing services for up to twenty-four months to those who are currently homeless. These three agencies cover Clinton, Delaware, Dubuque, and Jackson Counties.

Additionally, as the result of the pandemic, CSEI staff, the United Way, and the Dubuque Area Labor Harvest (DALH) are partnering to assist those who were shut in their homes and in need of groceries due the pandemic. Those in need of groceries contact CSEI staff on the toll-free hotline and staff sets them up with a food delivery from the DALH. To date, 3,389 adults and 1,657 children have been connected to food deliveries over the last year as the result of this partnership. The Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque graciously provided CSEI with a $10,000 grant to cover staff time to make this possible in March of 2020.

CSEI recently applied for another grant from the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque and was awarded $29,120 to continue the food box partnership, as well as streamline the process of those accessing help through the hotline.

Limited RLF Money Still Available
ECIA Business Growth still has limited funds available from the EDA CARES revolving loan fund program at low interest rates. Over $1.4 million has been lent of the $2 million awarded to ECIA from EDA. Any business, nonprofit or government impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic that is in need of loan funds for expansion, capital improvements, equipment, or working capital may contact Dawn Danielson, ECIA Lending Development Specialist, at 563-690-5772 to apply for a loan.

Maquoketa on the Move

The city of Maquoketa has had a winning streak for funding in recent months with grants awarded from USDA and CDBG, and recognition by Governor Kim Reynolds.

USDA Grant for Firefighters
Maquoketa received a $56,685 USDA grant to help fund the cost to replace a 35-year-old fire engine. Fire Department gear that is not National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) compliant and is over ten years old, needs to be replaced. With the USDA funds, Maquoketa was able to purchase new gear and an extra piece of protection to keep cancerous carcinogens from coming up the pant leg and waist of their coats.

Facade Revitalization Nearly Complete in Maquoketa

In March, Governor Kim Reynolds recognized Keep Iowa Beautiful Award Winners from both 2020 and 2021. Since awards were not able to be held last year, recipients were recognized at a ceremony for both years. The cities of Maquoketa and Lost Nation received the annual Keep Iowa Beautiful Robert D. Ray Award of Excellence for 2020 and 2021 respectively. Maquoketa was recognized because of their implementation of its Vision 2020 plan, which included the completion of a $4.1 million streetscape project in 2016 and has also implemented a downtown incentive program to leverage private investment in downtown properties. Meanwhile, Lost Nation and the Hometown Pride Committee were awarded for creating a new pocket park, an RPI park, new holiday social events and regular clean up days. Additionally, First Fruit & Swings of Yesteryear were awarded a USDA Grant for Firefighters

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