

ECIA Spotlight

May 2022

Q Casino Donates to Homeless Program

Quarterly, the Q Casino Employee Engagement Committee determines which area nonprofit will receive the donations from their charity boxes. Community Solutions of Eastern Iowa (CSEI) was selected in the most recent quarter and received a check for \$1,173.24. CSEI staff were pleased to receive this generous and unrestricted donation to help offset the many needs of homeless people in our area that aren't covered by any federal grant programs.

ECIA's Community Services Advocate, Shelby Eipperle shared, "These funds will give us the ability and freedom to purchase necessary supplies for our clients once they become housed. Things like cleaning supplies, dishes, towels, and other household essentials are things that our clients can often not afford when they first move into their own place. These funds will fulfill those needs."

\$3.6 MM for ECIA Communities

In March 2020, Congress passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Securities (CARES) Act in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Included in the CARES Act was a \$5 billion supplemental allocation to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The State of Iowa received \$31.3 million in CDBG-CV funding. Approximately \$21 million was made available to non-entitlement communities/counties in Iowa. The state's CDBG-CV program provides funding for the following activities:

- Public Facilities/ Public Spaces
- Public Wifi/ Broadband Access
- Microenterprise Assistance
- Housing Conversion
- Commercial Façade Improvements
- Food Bank/ Food Program Assistance
- Daycare Assistance

ECIA staff worked closely with several communities to identify qualifying projects and provided grant writing services for application submission. ECIA's certified CDBG Grant Administrators will manage all projects awarded. To date, 12 CDBG-CV projects have been awarded to cities and counties in the ECIA Region, with several more still in review status awaiting award decisions.

\$3,648,447 of the CDBG-CV funding has been awarded to ECIA communities:

Clinton YMCA/YWCA	City of Clinton	\$500,000
Clinton Commercial Façades	City of Clinton	\$400,000
Clinton Microenterprise (4 businesses)	City of Clinton	\$170,000
Gateway Area Community Center	Clinton County	\$476,722
Gateway Food Pantry	Clinton County	\$100,000
Innovate 120	City of Maquoketa	\$407,000
Maquoketa YMCA/YWCA	City of Maquoketa	\$500,000
138 S. Main Housing Conversion	City of Maquoketa	\$488,604
Park Pavilion Improvements	City of Masonville	\$114,287
Preston Community Center	City of Preston	\$77,816
Rickardsville Community Center	City of Rickardsville	\$89,956
Howard and Helen Shelley Memorial Park	City of Manchester	\$324,062



Renderings of **Innovate 120** Public Facilities/ Public Spaces renovations

Five Downtown Housing Grants Awarded

ECIA's region was awarded a total of \$2.3 million of Downtown Housing Grant funding, 11.5% of the \$20 million in awards available, creating 81 new homes! ECIA successfully wrote and secured the Cascade, Dyersville, Farley and Tipton applications.

Tipton	2 units	\$200,000	524 Cedar St (upper floor of Rhinos)
Dewitt	53 units	\$600,000	509 9th St (Iowa Mutual Insurance)
Cascade	10 units	\$600,000	201 2nd Ave. SW (Historic Brewery)
Dyersville	11 units	\$600,000	224 2nd Ave. NE (Penn House)
Farley	5 units	\$300,000	111 1st St. N (Loomis Hotel)

The program had \$20 million available for awards and received 94 applications requesting \$31 million in funding. Projects were scored on a competitive basis on criteria including project appropriateness, funding and partnerships, impact on housing in the community and population size.

The Downtown Housing Grant Program is part of Gov. Reynolds' \$100 million investment to increase the supply of housing options and protect and expand housing opportunities for Iowans to live in or near the communities where they work. The funds are made available through Federal American Rescue Act State and Local Fiscal Relief Funds.

Dyersville- project site



Farley project site



Cascade project site



June is National Healthy Homes Month!

ECIA's Lead Paint and Healthy Homes programs is celebrating June as Healthy Homes Month to raise awareness about how having a clean home can improve your health! The theme for 2022 is "A Healthy Home @ Any Age" which highlights how healthy homes principles are relevant to any resident, at any age, in a home of any age. Check out these upcoming webinars:

- June 1, 11 am - 12:30 pm ET: Welcome to National Healthy Homes Month 2022;
- June 7, 2 - 3 pm ET: Overview of the Lead Safe Housing Rule and the Lead Disclosure Rule;
- June 14, 2 -3 pm ET: Creating Lead Safe and Healthy, Affordable Homes at Any Age (Part One);
- June 16, 2 -3 pm ET: Insights on How to Be Successful Once You Have a Grant (Part Two);
- June 21, 2 -3 pm ET: Overcoming Covid and Other Major Grant Program Stressors - Now and in the Future.

To learn more about National Healthy Homes Month 2022, visit: https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/healthy_homes/nhmm

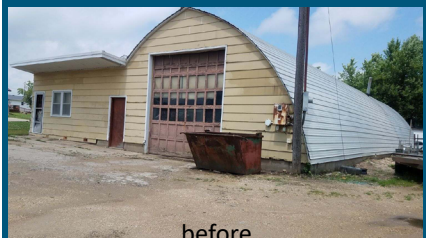
RTA Buses Offer Mobile Advertising

The Dubuque and Delaware County Lead Program is continuing their outreach with a "rolling billboard." "We wanted to continue to get the word out about our great programs in the Dubuque and Delaware County region and the RTA bus is definitely a unique way to reach families," said Katie Steffensmeier, Community Outreach and Economic Development Coordinator. The program worked with Graves Signs to design the wraps for the bus that will reside at the Earlville Regional Transit Authority (RTA) storage facility and provide transportation to Delaware and Dubuque County residents. For information to advertise on a RTA vehicle, contact: Gail Kuhle | 563-690-5795 | gkuhle@ecia.org



Need Help Cleaning Up Your Communities?

ECIA staff help cities in the region address the issue of unkept properties, providing a standardized and professional process of nuisance abatement. Cities like Rickardsville, Worthington, and Centralia have contracted with ECIA for help assessing and prioritizing different types of nuisances in their communities and providing an unbiased third-party approach to working with the property owner on property maintenance. For more information, please contact Craig Elskamp | 563-690-5760 | celskamp@ecia.org.



before



after

ARPA SLFRF Reporting Support for Cities

The Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) program, a part of the American Rescue Plan, delivered \$350 billion to state, local, and tribal government across the country to support their response to and recovery from the COVID-19 public health emergency. Iowa cities that serve populations less than 50,000 received \$111 million in total allocations from the SLFRF program. The 5-county ECIA region has nearly 65 cities with populations less than 50,000; cities that applied for SLFRF funding received an allocation based on population size, as well as other factors.

Each city that received less than \$10 million dollars had to complete a report on the projects they were pursuing with the allocation they received from the U.S. Treasury. Many of the smaller communities within the region do not have enough administrative staff to stay up to date with the complexities of a federal program like SLFRF.

ECIA planning staff Chandra Ravada, Dan Fox, and Christopher Wesseln were able to help 16 cities submit their first reports due on April 30th. In addition to direct support, staff created multiple tutorials to help guide cities through each step of the process. Mary Ann Knapp, Rickardsville City Clerk said, "With the ARPA program being so new and the reports being created and due in a short schedule, having help from ECIA's Chris Wesseln was very much appreciated. As a small city clerk, I appreciated Chris sharing all he had learned during his workday about the process while I was busy working my full-time job. Chris was great to work with." ECIA will continue to provide support to cities who have questions regarding the SLFRF program and their future reporting responsibilities.

For information, contact Christopher Wesseln | 563-690-5712 | cwesseln@ecia.org

Send Us Your Photos...

...so we can use them in our publications and on the ECIA website! We know there are a lot of cool events in your communities like parades, 4th of July celebrations, project ribbon cuttings, fairs, etc. Please email any community event photos to mquinn@ecia.org. Thank you!



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