

# Budget Unit Brief

## FY 2017



## Community Attraction and Tourism Program

### Purpose and History

Appropriations from the infrastructure budget for the Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT) Program fund infrastructure projects to assist communities in the development and creation of multiple-purpose attraction and tourism facilities. Eligible CAT projects must be permanent recreational, cultural, educational, or entertainment attractions; be available to the general public; and promote tourism in the local communities. Eligible applicants include cities, counties, public organizations, or school districts in cooperation with the city or county.

An early version of the Community Attraction and Tourism Development Program was established in 1999 in the FY 2000 Infrastructure Appropriations Act. The current CAT Program (Iowa Code section [15F.202](#)) and Fund (Iowa Code section [15F.204](#)) were established during the 2000 Legislative Session.

### CAT Program Projects

Previously funded projects include the development of attractions such as wellness centers, recreational centers, parks, recreational trails, swimming pools and aquatic centers, riverfront plazas and marinas, streetscapes, museums, libraries, performing arts centers, sports complexes, public gardens, visitor centers, and campgrounds.

Applications for CAT Program funds are administered by the [Vision Iowa](#) Board. By statute, one-third of the funds must be allocated to projects in cities with populations of 10,000 or less, or in counties with populations that rank in the 33 least-populated counties. Projects may not receive more than 50.0% of the total cost of the project. The CAT Review Committee makes recommendations to the Vision Iowa Board and considers several criteria including:

- long-term, tax-generating economic impact;
- location of the project and the geographic diversity of the applications;
- primary purpose of the project being for a vertical infrastructure project;
- whether the project received funding previously;
- local support for the project; and
- efficient and effective use of land resources and existing infrastructure.

### State Funding

Previous funding for the CAT Program has been appropriated from several funding sources including the General Fund, Revenue Bonds Capitals Fund (RBC), the Revenue Bonds Capitals II Fund (RBC2), and the Restricted Capital Fund (RCF). In total, the CAT Program has received \$197.0 million from all funding sources. In recent years, the CAT Program was funded from the Infrastructure Appropriations Act.

### Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapter [15F](#)  
[261](#) Iowa Administrative Code chapter [211](#)

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### More Information

Iowa General Assembly: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/>

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