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## FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

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### EMPOWER RURAL IOWA 2022 AWARDS

**Awards.** On October 6, 2022, Governor Reynolds and the [Iowa Economic Development Authority \(IEDA\)](#) announced more than \$450,000 in grant awards to 27 projects for the [Empower Rural Iowa](#) Rural Innovation Grant Program and Rural Housing Assessment Grant Program.

**Background.** The Empower Rural Iowa Rural Innovation Grant Program funds creative, nontraditional ideas that focus on current issues and challenges faced by rural communities that align with the three focus areas of Empower Rural Iowa: 1) Growing Rural Iowa — supporting community leaders as they think and act to inform and connect leaders to rural issues, grow community gathering places, and develop tools to train and educate leaders; 2) Investing in Rural Iowa — projects that develop creative development solutions, including but not limited to projects addressing rural housing solutions, infill and reuse strategies, and affordable, sustainable designs; and 3) Connecting Rural Iowa — projects that improve and expand opportunities for Iowa's rural communities to utilize high-speed broadband service.

Iowa businesses, colleges and universities, city or county governments, and private 501(c)3 nonprofit agencies and foundations are eligible for awards.

The Empower Rural Iowa Rural Housing Assessment Grant Program supports efforts to expand access to quality housing in rural communities. Cities with a population of 20,000 or fewer that are not contiguous to a city with a population of 40,000 or greater, or cities with partners applying on behalf of an entire county if the county is one of the 88 least populous counties in Iowa, are eligible for awards.

**More Information.** The list of Empower Rural Iowa award recipients can be found [here](#).

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