Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT) Program

The CAT Program provides financial assistance to communities in the development of multiple-purpose attraction and tourism facilities. Eligible vertical infrastructure projects must be permanent recreational, cultural, educational, or entertainment attractions; be available to the general public; and promote tourism in the local community. Eligible applicants include cities, counties, public organizations, or school districts in cooperation with a city or county. Applicants must have at least 65% of the project funding complete.

The CAT Program is administered by the governor-appointed Enhance Iowa Board and is the active grant program that supports attraction and tourism projects in Iowa. The Vision Iowa, River Enhancement Community Attraction and Tourism (RECAT), and Sports Tourism grant programs formerly administered by the Enhance Iowa Board are no longer funded.

**CAT Grants by Award Amount — FY 2001-2019**

- **$179.9 M** In CAT Grant Funding Awarded
- **496** CAT Grants Awarded
- **$200,000** Median Grant Award
- **13.2%** Average Percentage per Grant Awarded to Total Project Cost
- **$5.0 M** CAT Program Funding for FY 2020

**Highest CAT Grant Award Totals by City — FY 2001-2019:**

- **Des Moines**: $14.5 M
- **Cedar Rapids**: $8.8 M
- **Marshalltown**: $5.1 M
- **Sioux City**: $5.0 M
- **Davenport**: $4.4 M
- **Sioux Center**: $4.1 M
- **Council Bluffs**: $3.9 M
- **Boone**: $3.3 M
- **Osage**: $3.2 M

Sources: Iowa Economic Development Authority; Iowa Department of Transportation; U.S. Census Bureau Decennial Census; LSA calculations

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