FISCAL UPDATE Article

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ENHANCE IOWA BOARD AWARDS — JANUARY 2024

Board Meeting. The Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) Enhance Iowa Board met on January 11, 2024.

Enhance Iowa Program. The Enhance Iowa program provides financial incentives to communities for the construction of recreational, cultural, educational, or entertainment facilities that enhance the quality of life in Iowa. To date, 136 Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT) grants have been awarded by the Board, totaling \$46.4 million.

Contract Amendments. The Board approved a six-month extension of the completion date for a CAT grant for the city of Hartley's community pool. The project received a \$350,000 grant and represents an investment of \$2.0 million.

Committee Awards. The Board awarded the following grants:

- The city of Doon was awarded a \$475,000 CAT grant toward a \$3.2 million community center. The project includes a gym, fitness room, library, city office, meeting room, kitchen, and open area.
- The city of Huxley was awarded a \$100,000 CAT grant toward an \$840,000 splash pad. The project includes the construction of a building to house mechanical equipment, an outdoor shower, and a paved parking lot.
- The Dickinson County Trails Board was awarded a \$200,000 CAT grant toward a \$1.1 million trail. The project involves grading and paving a 2.5-mile-long, 10-foot-wide concrete trail with five-foot turf shoulders. This is phase IV of a 37-mile trail project.
- The city of Denison was awarded a \$1.0 million CAT grant toward an \$18.9 million recreation and wellness center. The project includes an indoor walking track, a fitness space, an aerobics room, one full-sized basketball/volleyball/pickleball court, a community meeting room, and a short-term childcare area.
- The YMCA of Washington County was awarded a \$4,000 Sports Tourism grant toward an \$8,000 advertising campaign for the Kewash Trail Half Marathon. The funds will be used for digital and direct marketing channels.

Reports. Jessica O'Riley, IEDA Tourism Communications Manager, provided a tourism report for the Board.

Next Meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for February 1, 2024.

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