
BUDGET UNIT BRIEF – FY 2021

Fiscal Services Division

July 1, 2020



Ground Floor, State Capitol Building

Des Moines, Iowa 50319

515.281.3566

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. 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 Enhance 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 Enhance Iowa Board and considers several criteria, including:

- Long-term, tax-generating economic impact.
- Location of the project and the geographic diversity of the applications.
- Whether the primary purpose of the project is related to vertical infrastructure.
- Whether the project received funding previously.
- Local support for the project.
- 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, the 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 \$203.0 million from all funding sources as of FY 2017. In recent years, the CAT Program has been funded from the Infrastructure Appropriations Act.

More Information

Iowa Economic Development: www.iowaeconomicdevelopment.com/Enhance
LSA Staff Contact: Adam Broich (515.281.8223) adam.broich@legis.iowa.gov

Related Statutes and Administrative Rules

Iowa Code chapter [15F](#)

Iowa Administrative Code [261—211](#)

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