

january 2023

ecia spotlight



**Hardacre Receives
Great Places Grants!**





Shelby Eipperle, Community Services Advocate and Ashley Noonan, Regional Homeless Coordinator, prepare for street outreach.

CSEI Supported by Private Funding

Community Solutions of Eastern Iowa (CSEI) was recently awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque to help with their Coordinated Entry hotline. The hotline provides diversion counseling for the prevention of homelessness, connects clients to partner agencies, and assists people who are homeless and unsheltered. CSEI's programs include Coordinated Entry, Street Outreach, and Rapid Rehousing, and have received funding from several regional resources in FY23: an anonymous donor, Fidelity Bank, Green State Credit Union, Midwest One, Stephanie and John Ottavi, Premier Bank, Theisen's, and the United Way of Dubuque Area Tri-States.

CSEI Gets Social Media Plan

CSEI was selected to participate in Dr. Katrina Neely Farren-Eller's Social Media Campaign Class at Loras College. A student chose to work with CSEI because of a personal interest in homelessness, and spent the semester analyzing CSEI's online presence, looking at Key Performance Indicators and creating a 6-month content plan, among several other tasks. She then helped her "client", CSEI, formulate a communication plan using social media platforms. CSEI staff had already begun to look at ways to increase name recognition and understanding of the services provided, and the student's work coincided.

The student noted that CSEI was of particular interest to her because she and her mother spent time living with relatives following her parents' divorce and her mother being in a serious car accident. She noted that was a very challenging time in her life, and it wasn't too difficult to imagine how much worse it could have been without family there to help.

CSEI will begin implementing several of the recommendations. Look for CSEI on their own Facebook page, with regular updates. **Please help spread the word on CSEI in your community!**

ECIA Director of Finance Retires

With mixed emotions, EICA staff said farewell to Lisa Weinhold, Director of Finance and Administration for 21 years. Under Lisa's financial and human resource leadership, ECIA became a better place to work. Her calm demeanor and compassion for people came through in everything she did. ECIA had 21 years of perfect audits, and she assisted with the two tax credit developments; the Pocket Neighborhood; and creation of the ECDC, CSEI, and EIRUSS programs. Lisa's last official day was January 10, 2023. In ECIA's Executive Director Kelley Deutmeyer's words, "Thank you, Lisa, for 21 excellent years! Our friendship runs deeper than work! You will be greatly missed!"

ECIA staff gave Lisa a warm send off, including a night out in Galena with a session of Goat Yoga!



Kelley Deutmeyer, Executive Director;
Lisa Weinhold, and Cheeto

Gut Rehab Program Successful

The City of Clinton, in partnership with ECIA and funding from Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA), recently closed on the last house sold as part of the Pilot Gut Rehabilitation Housing Program. The program has forever impacted many lives through significant improvements to each property, resulting in overall neighborhood improvements.

The Realtor involved with the sales of the properties, Dennis Lauver, Howes & Jefferies Realtors LLP, shared several stories of people who directly benefited from the program.

- ✓ A young couple moved to Clinton from another Iowa city and bought their first home.
- ✓ A woman moved from Illinois to Iowa and bought her first home (pictured below).
- ✓ A woman moved from Illinois to Iowa and bought her first home for her and her two daughters. This was key to her working at one of the primary employers in town that IEDA helped grow.
- ✓ A woman lived in Clinton as a little girl and was living in a metro area and didn't like it. This program helped encourage her to move back to a smaller city instead of the larger metro area.
- ✓ A veteran who thought he would never be able to purchase a nice new house bought the property that was located just down the street from where he had been a renter for years.



before



after

Lauver stated, "My words don't capture those broad and deep heartfelt smiles on the buyers like the woman at today's closing. Her life, and the life of her two daughters, are positively impacted and changed because of this program."



Hardacre Receives Great Place



Cedar County was designated an Iowa Great Place in 2018 and recently received a \$348,700 grant from the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs. This includes a challenge-matching grant for the renovation of Hardacre Theater, a community icon in downtown Tipton that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Hardacre Theater originally opened as an opera house but was converted to a movie theater in 1919. The building is significant to the period of its renovation in 1948 and retains the key character-defining features of its property type. It is a rare surviving example of the conversion of an early 20th century opera house into a movie theater that was in continuous operation until August 2013 and retaining historic architectural integrity, including changes over time which have acquired significance. Community members and local officials are working towards bringing the theater alive again through grants and fundraising efforts as they use film to revitalize their community.

ces Grants



Calling All Projects Completed in 2022!

If your city completed a remarkable project in the 2022 calendar year, then apply for the All-Star Community Award. The winning cities will be announced this summer and recognized at the League's Annual Conference & Exhibit in Cedar Rapids in September. Submit your application by April 3 at www.iowaleague.org/awards/all-star-community-awards/.



In 2016, the City of Asbury won the award for their community services center.

FY23 Local HTF Awarded to EIRHC

The Iowa Finance Authority Board of Directors has announced more than \$11 million in grant awards to 26 Local Housing Trust Funds to support local housing initiatives. The grant awards are made available through the Local Housing Trust Fund program and are expected to assist 2,390 families. Among those awarded is the Eastern Iowa Regional Housing Corporation (EIRHC).

“The 2023 Local Housing Trust Fund awards represent the largest amount allocated through the program for local housing initiatives since the program’s inception,” said Iowa Finance Authority Executive Director Debi Durham. “Thanks to the funding increase supported by Governor [Kim] Reynolds and the Iowa Legislature, the program is able to serve as an invaluable and flexible resource for meeting the important and unique housing needs of each region of the state.”

The Eastern Iowa Regional Housing Corporation Housing Trust Fund Program which serves Cedar, Clinton, Delaware, Dubuque (excluding the city of Dubuque), and Jackson Counties, was awarded \$498,359. The grant funds will be used for down payment assistance, owner occupied rehabilitation, rental-rehab/new development and lead reduction.



The Maquoketa Pocket Neighborhood was funded, in part, with EIRHC Housing Trust Fund dollars.

All Systems Overweight Permit

The Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) announced a new rule passed at the 2022 Legislative session, effective January 1, 2023, allowing unlimited trips on non-Interstate state highways (US and Iowa routes) and certain city and county roads at 12 percent over current maximum legal weight based on number of axles and distance:

- 5 axle maximum: 89,600 pounds
- 6 axle maximum: 100,800 pounds
- 7 axle maximum: 107,520 pounds
- Maximum axle weight of 20,000 pounds applies



The cost is \$500 per truck and valid for 12 months from issuance for both divisible and non-divisible loads.

Counties have until July 1, 2025, to identify which roads are included in permitted travel. Counties that designate permitted roads will receive a portion of the permit fee for bridge inspection, maintenance, repair, or construction. Designation requires the City or County to pass a resolution allowing the overweight trucks to travel on their roads.

For questions, contact Stu Anderson, Transportation Division Director, at stuart.anderson@iowadot.us, 515-239-1661.

Tribute to Bill Rediger

ECIA staff would like to express our condolences to family and friends of Bill Rediger, who passed away on December 28, 2022. Bill represented the City of Dyersville on the Eastern Iowa Regional Housing Authority (EIRHA) Board of Directors from September 7, 1999, through July 30, 2020, and as Board Chairperson from September 20, 2012, through July 30, 2020.

Bill was appointed as the EIRHA Board representative to the ECIA Executive Committee and ECIA Council in July 2012, serving through May of 2020. As a board member, he was part of the 2015 organization of ECDC and CSEI in 2019. ECIA and EIRHA recognizes Bill’s dedication and leadership throughout the years. He will be greatly missed.



Dyersville Food Pantry Awarded \$450,000

Dyersville's Rural Community Food Pantry is a non-profit working to provide better lives for low income and minority individuals in both Dubuque and Delaware Counties. Their mission is to gather and share grocery products with neighbors in need, acting as a bridge between America's food bounty and those who are struggling or cannot help themselves. Incorporated February 12, 2007, The Rural Community Food Pantry provides quality food items to households experiencing food insecurity, supplying critical nutrition to hungry individuals and families.

The Rural Community Food Pantry will receive \$450,000 from the Iowa Nonprofit Innovation Fund to assist in the purchase and renovations of a new, much larger facility to better accommodate the increased number of individuals in need of food assistance. The new location at 673 5th St NW in Dyersville will provide an additional 3,858 square feet of space, allowing the Food Pantry an anticipated 20% increase in number of clients served. Among many improvements to the building itself, the new location will also boast a paved drive/parking lot, and a canopy overhanging the front of the building to allow for "drive-through" food distribution.

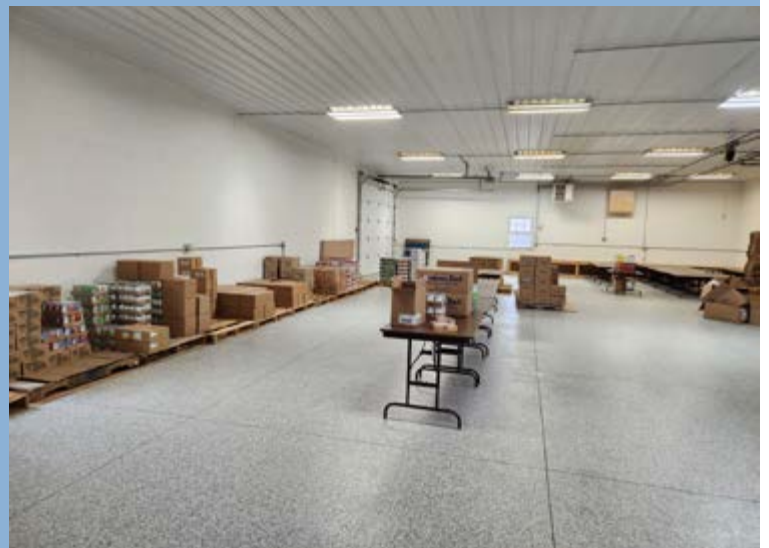
Lisa Burlage, Treasurer of the Rural Community Food Pantry said in October 2022, "We are getting ready for our annual Turkey distribution. We are extremely cramped for space. We have done a lot in a little space for a long time. We are so excited to move forward.

"In the new space, we will begin preparations for our Christmas distribution, where we anticipate 260 households to come through and receive food and gifts for children (our Angel Program). We have some renovations to do and we can't wait to move into our new home."

current facility



new facility



Field of Dreams to receive \$12.5MM

Dyersville was granted \$12.5 million for the Field of Dreams expansion in the third round of Destination Iowa grant awards. The vision for the "This is Iowa Ballpark" project is to build a permanent multi-use stadium that can host professional baseball games, college tournaments and other year-round events. The award represents 25% of the total project cost of \$50 million. The stadium is part of a larger \$80 million project that will include nine ball fields, a 100,000-square-foot field house, an outdoor concert amphitheater, an RV park, jogging trails and a large all-inclusive park. These additions will be completed in phases through 2025.



ECIA has some New Faces!



Ben Cooper, EIRHA
Maintenance Manager



Amber Kelley, RTA
Dispatcher / Scheduler



Steve Stoffel, Director of
Finance and Administration

ECIA is happy to announce the following new employees who started in the fourth quarter of 2022. Ben Cooper formerly worked at Dubuqueland Door and started at ECIA on August 22nd. Amber Kelley formerly worked at Republic Services and started on September 30th. Steve Stoffel worked at Horsfield Construction and started on October 31st.

EDA Approval of 2022 ECIA CEDS

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is the result of continuous local planning and outreach which in turn charts the course for economic growth of the ECIA region. The CEDS is a formal compilation of ECIA's efforts of empowering communities and their people through sustainable partnerships, promoting equity and inclusivity, and providing services to enhance the quality of life in the region.

EDA recently reviewed and accepted the ECIA 2022 CEDS, stating, "Your important work engages community leaders and the private sector and establishes a blueprint for regional collaboration, resulting in a strategy-driven plan for regional economic development." The CEDS may be viewed on ECIA's website here. For more information, contact Marla Quinn, Grants and Municipal Coordinator, at mquinn@ecia.org.

Your Input is Important!

People are invited to share their opinions on the future of the Dubuque regional bicycle and pedestrian network at two public meetings, the first in Dubuque and the second in Dyersville.

MEETING 1

January 31, 2023
Prescott Elementary School
1151 White Street, Dubuque, IA
Doors open at 5:00 PM
Presentation at 5:30 PM

MEETING 2

February 1, 2023
Dyersville Social Center
625 3rd Avenue SE, Dyersville, IA
Doors open at 5:00 PM
Presentation at 5:30 PM

Working with member cities and counties, regional and state agencies, ECIA is developing a plan to expand and improve the bicycle and pedestrian network as part of the regional transportation system.

To create a plan that accurately reflects the needs of the region, ECIA needs input from community members. These public meetings will help identify the bicycle and pedestrian transportation issues that are important to residents and community partners. Public input will help determine how those issues should be addressed in the regional plan.

More information on the plan is located at <https://eciatrains.org/projects/bikepedestrianplan.cfm>.

The public also are invited to share their opinions on the Dubuque regional bicycle and pedestrian network by participating in a short survey, available at <https://arcg.is/bi5jX>.

For the purposes of this plan, the Dubuque Region includes Dubuque County with all its cities and rural areas in Iowa, East Dubuque and a portion of Jo Daviess County in Illinois, and Jamestown in Wisconsin including the communities of Kieler and Sandy Hook.

For more information, please contact Dan Fox at 563-556-4166 or dfox@ecia.org.

