

# ***Report the progress of the project for which grant funds were awarded to the community.***

Progress Report for the fiscal year 2023:

The principal objective of the Hildale Economic Advancement and Innovation Center (HEAIC) is to increase revenue for local businesses and employment opportunities for residents. The money from the funds awarded have been utilized in following way to:

- 1) Renovate and upgrading HEAIC building
- 2) Purchase and Installation of Innovative Equipment
- 3) Hire an innovation coordinator and develop program resources

Initial Milestones Target / Completion:

(3) month goal –

- Upgrading the water meter and service lines for fire protection infrastructure (66%)

(4) month goal –

- Hire an innovation coordinator (100%)
- Complete roadway and parking improvements for use in installing utilities (25%)
- Complete flood control and bank stabilization (40%)

(8) month goal –

- Innovation coordinator to gather support for education and tourism programs (80%)
- Purchase equipment for use in the innovation center maker space (60%)

***Describe all other ways the community has distributed grant funding, based on the project Scope of Work***

Current Grant Fund Spending

Renovation

Water Service / Fire Hydrants Upgrade: \$119,261 – to include labor, piping, valves and fire hydrants required to bring the building compliant with fire code. Project at 66% completion with a total spend of \$78,708.29

Meter & Installation: \$15,000 This cost reflects the installation of the upgraded meter and piping to the building specifically, and it does include labor. Project at 100% completion with a total spend of \$0.

Road Access & Parking: \$40,000\* This cost includes road base and grading for the driveway and parking areas. Project at 0% completion with a total spend of \$0

Flood Control & Bank Stabilization: \$50,000.00 This cost includes a grading wall for flood control and bank stabilization next to the HEAIC. Project at 50% completion with a total spend of \$0.

Exterior Renovations: \$29,800 This cost includes upgraded siding with ice and water shielding, rain gutters, and outdoor watering system. Project at 2% completion with a total spend of \$540.

\*Matching Funds - Hildale City General Fund: \$23,812 Hildale City's General Funds will go towards providing in-kind services for Road Access and Parking Lot materials and labor.

## Purchases

Rofin Laser: \$50,000 Cost for the purchase and delivery of equipment. Project at 100% completion with a total spend of \$50,000.

ProJet 2500 Plus 3D Printer: \$70,000 Cost for the purchase, delivery, training, and equipment setup. Project at 0% completion with a total spend of \$0

Tourism Media & Materials: \$15,000 Toward the creation and distribution of tourism materials. Project at 0% completion with a total spend of \$0

## Programs

Innovation Coordinator: \$90,000 Toward the hiring of a managers to include salary and benefits. Project 100% completion with a total spend of \$90,000 (paying bi-weekly)

Contract Staffing & Programming: \$20,000 Toward the creation and distribution of tourism materials. Project at 0% completion with a total spend of \$0

Programming Materials: \$5,000 primarily be print and digital media to accompany programming and support. Toward the creation and distribution of tourism materials. Project at 0% completion with a total spend of \$0

***Question: Provide an evaluation of the effectiveness of awarded grants. Describe the successes of the grant and how the grant funding has improved economic development in the community.***

Hildale City has utilized the grant funding successfully by creating partnerships, infrastructure, and purchasing equipment for the Hildale Economic Advancement and Innovation Center (HEAIC). The center is a focus for programs, activities, and community events. It is also a physical representation that things have changed. The new slogan for Hildale City is “Welcome Home”. The HEAIC must embody that philosophy in its messaging, but also its actions.

The work that is done now will position the area for growth. Hildale has three goals for FY 2024:

1. To increase tourism by 5%
2. To increase wages by 5%
3. Identify or cultivate one manufacturer that can employ at least 10 people

In addition to these short-term goals, the center can be an effective long-term influence on the economy and community. We do this by leveraging partnerships and resources to magnify our efforts. One partnership that has been affective so far, is our partnership with the Utah Tech Zions Bank Business Resource Center. Wyatt Anderson has facilitated a series of startup classes that have yielded immediate results. We have held seven classes so far and have had a dozen unique attendees. One couple had a business they were considering. During the class they refined their idea and market. Utah Tech provided additional help through Wyatt to obtain their LLC and an intern was tasked with creating their logo. The Utah Tech program has also donated a high-profile 3D printer for use in our maker space.

We have one attendee of the workshops that has a lofty idea worthy pitching for prize money. We continue to counsel him for upcoming pitch competitions in Utah and look forward to seeing him at the One Utah Summit. Several of the other attendees have been mothers who have left polygamy and are trying to start a side business or full-time venture. We are partnering with the Women's Business Center of Utah to provide additional training and assistance from other women in business.

The physical facilities at the HEAIC will help launch companies that need a temporary office to make prototypes or samples for pre-orders. We are offering short term leases and have a waiting list of those wanting to utilize the facility. The common area will be used as a co-working space for businesses of any stage and provide a peer working environment to help foster innovation.

One example of a business we are working with is a new tour company with elevated military style transport vehicles for group tours. The company wants to lease space on a cement pad located on the grounds at the HEAIC. They would park vehicles along the road to advertise their business while continuing to look for a permanent location.

Another partnership that has been successful is our work with the Suazo business center. We have agreed to provide reciprocal training to patrons. In addition, they have brought two manufacturing businesses to the area to look at leasing or purchasing a facility. One is a new business looking to manufacture doors and the other is an ironwork fence manufacturer which has been operating for some time and has outgrown their space.

The SBA has been a wonderful partner, providing access to various small business loan originators. Representatives from the Utah Microloan fund, Zions Bank, Mountain America, and State Bank of Southern Utah have provided assurances that they will accept loan applications from our community regardless of their state of residence. With our proximity to the boarder, we work closely with Colorado City to ensure that the whole community is growing and that there is no duplication of efforts.

The Mojave Community College (MCC) is one example of a partner in Arizona that we have chosen to utilize for our workforce development courses. The innovation coordinator will teach courses at MCC some Saturdays and weeknights to accommodate Arizona businesses and allow them to receive discounts from their states "Arizona at Work" program. The innovation coordinator will teach the same classes at the HEAIC for business residents of Utah so that they can take advantage of Utah's "Custom Fit" program. The MCC Corporate Training department will also be our marketing partner.

We are beginning to work with Utah's AmeriCorp stem program. One aspect of the program is allowing college students to provide service hours in our maker space in exchange for a living allowance stipend and college scholarship. This would allow recent graduates of Water Canyon High school to continue to utilize skills they learned in High School and point them to degrees in STEM.

The HEAIC is also being created as a State of Utah Welcome Center. We want tourists to stop and learn about Greater Zion from educated staff. This will help them learn about self-guided activities and tours of the area. In addition to this grant, we are applying for Tourism Grants through the open EDA program. This would aid our purchasing of signage and an outdoor mobile restroom facility to help us scale up popular events such as local concerts and mountain biking races.

***Describe the ongoing or future use of funds encumbered for the project, and when the funds are expected to be used.***

The following encumbered projects are to start:

Tourism Media & Materials - October 2023

Exterior Renovations – October 2023

Road Access & Parking - November 2024

Contract Staffing & Programming - January 2024

Programming Materials - January 2024

Flood Control & Bank Stabilization - January 2024