

BCEDC Mission –

The primary mission of the Buchanan County Economic Development Commission (BCEDC) is to foster a strong economic environment which supports business, nurtures growth and new investment while attracting sustainable businesses and a quality labor force to the communities of Buchanan County. BCEDC relies on its trusted relationships that unite our communities and businesses. Their investment in BCEDC provides essential services that facilitate Economic Development throughout the county.

BCEDC Vision –

BCEDC will improve the quality of life in our area and foster relationships for the economic advancement for businesses and their employees and support a high quality of life in our communities.

Investment created through BCEDC in 2023

- BCEDC directly wrote grants that brought in \$219,000 in grant dollars to Buchanan County.
- This spurred over \$518,000 in private investment in infrastructure improvements.
- BCEDC provided 3 \$25,000 Business Growth Loans from our Revolving Loan fund to Gedney Bakery, Premier Animal Wellness (PAWS) and Nick's Family Grocery.
- In addition, BCEDC provided two Key Business Grants of \$10,000 each, one to Gedney Bakery and one to Nick's Family Grocery.
- Between the RLF and Key business grant we saw these businesses add an equivalent of 17 new full-time positions which spurred an additional \$770,000 in business and infrastructure private investment. This is in addition to the \$518,000 mentioned above.
- This totals \$1,288,000 in total private investment in business and infrastructure.
- In addition, BCEDC has worked extensively with tourism over the last year to assist them with moving forward with the growth of the organization. In 2022 Buchanan County received over \$17 million from visitor spending. We will continue to assist Tourism as they work to bring people to our county and highlight our unique opportunities.
- BCEDC played an instrumental role with Independence Premium Foods (IPF) from making the initial connection with Iowa Economic Development Authority to providing information and follow-up during the negotiation process. We worked closely with the City of Independence, IPF and the state as the process moved forward and eventually resulted in the development of IPF. BCEDC has continued a close relationship with IPF as they work to move forward in the community.
- BCEDC continued to connect and follow up with Businesses and Industries throughout the county providing information and support where needed.
- BCEDC meets at a minimum of twice a year with Buchanan County City Councils and the Board of Supervisors. The BCEDC board is made up of all mayors in Buchanan County, a Buchanan County Supervisor, Banker Association Member, Utility Member, Community College Representative, Livestock Association member, Tourism representative and Industry representative which keeps the organization connected throughout the county and throughout the year.
- The last housing study completed by BCEDC helped spur additional housing throughout the county including a 48-unit apartment building. It has been used in grant applications for downtown housing, catalyst and workforce housing and sited as a necessary tool to bring additional housing to the county. The new housing study will provide validity as we move forward with applications in the county over the next 5 years.

Cedar Valley Regional Partnership (CVRP) – The CVRP consists of 6 counties, Bremer, Black Hawk, Buchanan, Butler, Chickasaw and Grundy Counties. This is the Cedar Valley Region, and these counties work together for the betterment of the Region and in turn the betterment of each county. As a region the CVRP provides services that each individual county could not do on their own. In 2023 some of the projects included:

- 2023 Wage and Benefit Survey
- Site Selector visit to Chicago to promote the region to multiple site selectors.
- Programs provided on a continuous basis include:
 - Regional Job Board
 - Cost of Living Calculator
- Additional marketing through the Live the Valley website and social media and the Livability magazine
- Marketing to industries and Site Selectors through the Cedar Valley Regional Website