



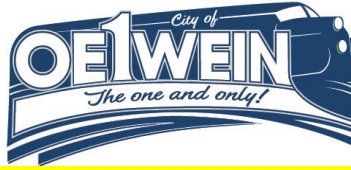
To: Mayor and City Council
From: Dylan Mulfinger
Subject: Community Change Grant
Date: 4/22/2024

The City Administrator is requesting \$12,500 in funding to write a grant that would help Oelwein secure a new soccer complex and address downtown flooding. While this is not a guarantee, Oelwein does qualify more than most communities in the state and nation. Below is information from MSA who would provide the grant writing service.

As we've discussed, we believe that the City of Oelwein stands a decent chance of securing funding through the Community Change Grant for your Brownfield Redevelopment project at the former railyard site. We see the base project as converting that railyard to a soccer and park complex with trails connecting to the rest of Oelwein's trail system, including along Dry Run Creek, as well as water quality improvements in the Dry Run Creek area that would complement the City's flood reduction activities. Additional activities that would enhance/compliment the base project could be added as we proceed with the application to meet the grant program's focus. Below are some talking points regarding the program, links associated with the Program, and I have highlighted strategies we believe Oelwein's base project would address.

[Inflation Reduction Act Community Change Grants Program | US EPA](#)

1. The City of Oelwein is considered an EPA IRA Disadvantaged Community making it eligible for funding. - [EPA IRA Disadvantaged Communities \(arcqis.com\)](#)
2. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis through November 2024.
3. The program has \$2 billion. Track 1 of the program (construction/implementation) requires projects totaling \$10-\$20 million.
4. Requires a partnership between 2 or more non-profit organizations; a local government or higher education institution is considered a non-profit.
5. The project must benefit a disadvantaged community, but doesn't have to be located within the community. (i.e. A water quality project upstream from a disadvantaged community.)
6. The project must be completed within 3 years.
7. Projects must address at least one climate action strategy and one pollution reduction strategy.
 - a. Climate Action Strategies
 - i. Green infrastructure and nature-based solutions.
 - ii. Mobility and transportation options for preventing air pollution and improving public health.
 - iii. Energy efficient, healthy, and resilient housing and buildings.
 - iv. Microgrid installation for community energy resilience.
 - v. Community resilience hubs.
 - vi. Brownfield redevelopment and emissions reduction and climate resilience.
 - vii. Waste reduction and management to support a circular economy.
 - viii. Workforce development programs for occupations that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and air pollutants.
 - b. Pollution Reduction Strategies
 - i. Indoor air quality and community health improvements.



- ii. Outdoor air quality and community health improvements.
 - iii. Clean water infrastructure to reduce pollution exposure and increase overall system resilience.
 - iv. Safe management and disposal of solid and hazardous waste.
8. The City's recent Comprehensive Planning process with meaningful public engagement supports this application.