



NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Opportunity.

FY 2018-2019
STAKEHOLDERS REPORT

WE'VE
GOT
GREAT
STORIES
TO TELL

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

KEY PROGRAMS & IMPACTS



A LITTLE ABOUT US

Since 1967, the Nebraska Department of Economic Development (DED) has been focused on growing and diversifying the state's economic base, pursuing a good life with great opportunities for the people of Nebraska.

OUR PASSION

As the state's lead economic development agency, our mission to grow Nebraska drives everything we do. It's what inspires our team of expert staff, who work hard to create economic opportunities for our fellow residents. It's why we're always trying to promote the best quality of life throughout our communities. And it's why we never sit still in our efforts to make the Good Life even better.

ABOUT THIS REPORT

As DED administers economic programs and services statewide, we're focused on results. And we're proud of what we achieve on behalf of Nebraskans. This report highlights some of the key impacts of our efforts over the previous fiscal year. We hope readers will not only gain a more detailed understanding of what we do, but will share in our passion for growing our state.

For additional information about DED's mission, programs, initiatives and achievements on behalf of the state of Nebraska, visit:

www.opportunity.nebraska.gov.



◀ Governor Pete Ricketts and DED staff celebrate Nebraska's third consecutive "Governor's Cup" win from Site Selection Magazine. Nebraska received the award in 2018 for once again achieving the most economic development projects per capita in the nation.

◀ Facebook invested more than \$1 billion into its new Data Center in Papillion.

LETTER FROM DIRECTOR ANTHONY L. GOINS

Dear Governor Ricketts, Members of the State Legislature and Fellow Nebraskans:

On behalf of my staff at the Nebraska Department of Economic Development (DED), I am proud to present our agency's latest Stakeholder's Report.

This report looks back on a year of hard work and accomplishments by our Department in pursuit of the vision to grow Nebraska. This is a vision we share with stakeholders across the state — including our people, peer organizations and policymakers — and it is what defines our mission, culture and values.

It is our Department's great privilege and responsibility to administer economic programs and services that improve the lives of everyday Nebraskans; that create opportunities, address challenges and strengthen communities; and that are efficient and effective in their service to the Nebraska taxpayer whom we serve. As such, it is a duty and a source of pride to reflect on our progress over the previous fiscal year, which is the main purpose of this report.

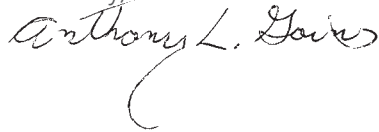
This report also serves as a useful tool for our Department. It helps our staff visualize the outcomes of their hard work; encourages us to keep evaluating and improving the way we define and measure success; and helps us align strategically to set new goals for the coming year.

The above reasons were the motivation behind our Department's first Stakeholders Report, which was published during last year's legislative session. This being the second iteration, we expect to see this document continue to evolve and improve each year. In the meantime, we hope you find its contents to be both informative and useful, and that you will feel welcome to submit your questions or feedback.

On behalf of the Department, we wish to thank you for everything you do for our state. What makes Nebraska the greatest place in the world is its people. As a team, we are making incredible progress in Governor Ricketts' vision to grow Nebraska, and there are great things on the horizon.

I'll close by adding that it is an honor to serve in my new tenure as Director. I look forward to our work together in 2020 and beyond.

Sincerely,



Anthony L. Goins
Director





▲ *Lied Lodge Lookout Tower, Nebraska City.*



TABLE OF CONTENTS

02	INTRODUCTION
08	CREATING NEW AND EXPANDED ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES
10	FOSTERING INNOVATION
13	PROMOTING NEBRASKA ON THE GLOBAL STAGE
16	DEVELOPING NEBRASKA'S TALENTED WORKFORCE
19	FINANCING QUALITY, AFFORDABLE HOUSING STATEWIDE
22	INVESTING IN MORE VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

◀ *Brown Sheep Company, Inc. is a family owned and operated yarn spinning mill located in Mitchell.*



MAKING CONNECTIONS, SERVING NEBRASKANS

“At DED, we focus on every aspect of Nebraska’s economic growth. Everything we do overlaps and works together toward the bigger picture. And every time we succeed we have a tangible impact on real people and families. You couldn’t ask for a better reason to come to work every day.”

— Joe Fox, Director, Business Development Division

HOW WE DEFINE SUCCESS: CREATING NEW AND EXPANDED ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

Business Development

Our Business Development specialists come to work each day to pursue economic opportunity, whether that’s:

- Recruiting new business investment
- Expanding local businesses
- Sparking Nebraska entrepreneurship and innovation
- Growing the state’s industries and exports
- Promoting Nebraska’s global success and engagement

In FY 2018-2019, our Business Development specialists helped create approximately 1,527 jobs by spearheading business attraction and expansion projects that targeted great companies. These jobs had an average annual wage of \$46,955 — 2.4% higher than the overall state average wage for 2018.



▲ Governor Ricketts thanks Becton Dickinson for their continuing investment and expansion in Nebraska.



▲ Governor Ricketts attends a ribbon cutting for FAST Global Solutions in Auburn.

In the process, we brought \$815.5 million in new capital investment into Nebraska, and grew the state's manufacturing; agribusiness and food processing; bioscience; transportation and logistics; health and medical services; call center and e-commerce and other industries.

Meanwhile our Business Development Field Staff conducted 232 Business Retention and Expansion interviews to gain ever-increasing insights on the Nebraska business climate. We'll use this information to seize opportunities and address challenges related to economic growth across the state.

How We Utilized Business Incentives

In today's competitive marketplace, incentives are among the items businesses compare when considering relocation or expansion destinations. Economic incentives boost Nebraska's ability to attract top-notch employers that will create great opportunities for our people.

FAST Global Solutions Expands to Auburn

DED staff sprang into action in June 2018 when Ariens, one of the largest employers in Auburn, announced its intention to shut down manufacturing operations and move to Wisconsin.

In partnership with the City of Auburn, the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry and Southeast Nebraska Development District, DED recruiters quickly went to work finding a purchaser for the soon-to-be-vacant Ariens facility. In September 2018, FAST Global Solutions — a leading manufacturer of aviation equipment — located at the Auburn site. In the process, they retained almost 75% of all former Ariens employees.

Columbus Expansion

In April 2018, medical equipment manufacturer Becton Dickinson announced a \$200 million expansion in Columbus that will create more than 300 jobs with a \$22/hr. average wage.

In Pursuit of High-Wage Jobs

One of our biggest goals for business development is to create high-paying jobs. Nebraska's nonfarm wages increased 2.6% between the first quarter of 2018 and the first quarter of 2019. We'll continue to pursue wage growth by working with great companies to recruit new opportunities to the state.

In FY 2018-2019, the average annual wages for jobs created by DED-led business attraction and expansion projects were \$56,200 and \$43,399, respectively.

Creating Great Jobs in Rural Nebraska

Two-thirds of DED-awarded SBDF dollars during FY 2018-2019 supported business recruitment or expansion projects in Nebraska's 2nd and 3rd congressional districts. Since 2006, nearly half of all CJT awards have supported job creation and retention projects in rural Nebraska.

In FY 2018-2019, we awarded:

- **\$3.3 million in Site and Building Development Funds (SBDF).** The 15 companies that received SBDF funding are investing a total of \$92.4 million in Nebraska and are projected to create 1,796 jobs.
- **\$8.89 million in Customized Job Training (CJT) funds.** The 34 companies who received CJT awards will use their funding to train or retain 1,028 Nebraskans to work in high-skill positions.

HOW WE DEFINE SUCCESS: FOSTERING INNOVATION

Business Innovation Team

Today's entrepreneurs are tomorrow's innovators and job creators. Our Business Innovation Team delivers financial and technical assistance to help high-potential startups and small businesses launch, succeed and thrive.

A portfolio of resources authorized under Nebraska's Business Innovation Act enables our Innovation Team to support high-growth, early-stage companies across any phase of development:

- **The *BIA Microenterprise Assistance Program* provides financial and technical assistance to Nebraska nonprofits that specialize in small business micro-lending.**
- **The *Nebraska Small Business Innovation Research/Small Business Technology Transfer Program (SBIR/STTR)* provides matching grants to Nebraska-based small businesses that are applying to or conducting R&D activities under the federal SBIR/STTR programs.**

F • A • C • T

BIA IMPACTS

A 2018 study by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Bureau of Business Research estimated the economic impact of the BIA since its inception to be **\$284 million**. Surveyed businesses contributed over **\$6.5 million** in state tax revenues while generating **\$4.46 in investment capital** and **\$4.47 in revenue** for **every \$1 in BIA assistance received**.

- The *Innovation Fund Prototype Grant Program* offers grants to support small businesses during the prototype phase of product and service development.
- The *Academic R&D Grant Program* awards grants to companies that collaborate with a Nebraska institute of higher education on innovative R&D activities, or that utilize research conducted at a Nebraska college or university.
- The *Nebraska Seed Investment Program* provides seed-stage investments to help high-potential businesses launch and commercialize their products and services.

Innovation by the Numbers

Our team administered approximately \$5.7 million in BIA funding throughout the fiscal year. With this financial support, we:

- **Provided operating assistance to 3 micro-lending organizations; with BIA support, these entities went on to provide small business loans to nearly 100 Nebraska micro-enterprises.**
- **Helped 5 high-tech companies apply to and/or compete in the federal SBIR/STTR program.**
- **Helped 31 businesses develop investor-ready prototypes of their cutting-edge products or services.**
- **Supported 12 R&D projects involving a partnership with a Nebraska college or university.**
- **Provided seed funding to support 11 high-potential, early-stage Nebraska businesses.**

MAKING IDEAS HAPPEN

“The Business Innovation Act has transformed Nebraska’s entrepreneurial ecosystem, and we’re achieving a reputation for industry-leading startups. A big part of that growth is our state’s solid support system for innovators and entrepreneurs.”

— Nisha Avey, Business Innovation Consultant

BIA Subprogram Awards, FY 2018-2019

Microenterprise Assistance	\$1,000,000
SBIR/STTR	\$147,493
Prototype	\$1,564,860
Academic R&D	\$896,886
Seed Investment	\$2,090,000

Engineering a Better Flu Vaccine

In 2019, Lincoln-based biotech firm and SBIR/STTR recipient Adjuvance Technologies, Inc. won a \$500,000-plus contract with the National Institute of Allergic and Infectious Diseases to engineer a better flu vaccine.



▲ Anthony Montag and Scott Trost from Montag Manufacturing in Milford. Montag received a Prototype grant to assist with the development of a new seed applicator for cover crops.

Our Partner in Entrepreneurship: Invest Nebraska

Under the Nebraska Operational Assistance Program, DED allocates funding to its nonprofit 501(c)3 partner, Invest Nebraska, to grow the state's venture capital network and promote successful entrepreneur-investor relationships.

In 2018, \$293,358 in OAP support from DED helped Invest Nebraska provide \$3.56 million in investments and loans to 23 Nebraska businesses and startups. These companies went on to generate nearly \$18.4 million in co-invested capital and create 547 direct jobs with an average wage of \$63,031. Invest Nebraska also reviewed 146 business plans, engaged 135 entrepreneurs to discuss business ideas, and provided operational assistance to 208 new businesses and portfolio companies looking to raise private capital.



HOW WE DEFINE SUCCESS: PROMOTING NEBRASKA ON THE GLOBAL STAGE

Our *International Business Team* creates opportunities for Nebraskans at home by advancing the state's success on the global stage. Staff on the International Team have a deep awareness of global economics, coupled with the ambition and know-how to promote the state's businesses and industries abroad. Organizing trade missions, recruiting foreign direct investment, promoting exports and informing Nebraska's global strategy are all in the wheelhouse of this important team.

In FY 2018-2019, DED International Business Staff:

- **Played a lead role in planning and organizing 10 overseas trade missions, three of which were led by the Governor or Lieutenant Governor. International visits included Mexico, China, Japan, Korea, Germany, Italy, Israel and the Netherlands.**
- **Led two domestic trade missions, with trips to Chicago consulates and the SelectUSA investment conference in Washington, D.C.**
- **Hosted 10 official visits to Nebraska from foreign government officials, and multiple visits by international companies – leading to over 100 direct meetings that will create new business, trade and investment opportunities benefitting Nebraska business and industry.**
- **Spearheaded planning activities for Nebraska's hosting of the 50th Annual Conference of the Midwest U.S.-Japan Association.**
- **Organized Nebraska trade and investment promotional events for international visitors in conjunction with the Berkshire Hathaway Annual Shareholders Meeting.**
- **Fostered connections between Nebraska institutes of higher education and foreign universities to promote collaborative trade and exchange.**

STEP Grants Promote Nebraska Small Business Exports

The federal State Trade Expansion Program (STEP) equips the International Business Team with financial tools to help Nebraska-based small businesses succeed in the international marketplace.

DED administers STEP grants to SBA-certified small businesses that produce, manufacture and/or distribute an exportable product

CREATING GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS

“The international marketplace holds incredible opportunities for our state. The ability to enhance trade, grow our industries and attract new investments from global job creators are just a few examples. By strategically promoting Nebraska's strengths and pursuing new and stronger relationships abroad, we have the power to generate greater economic success at home.”

— Cobus Block, International Business Manager

DED, Governor Ricketts Host Major International Conference

Over 400 U.S. and Japanese dignitaries gathered in Omaha in September 2018 for the 50th Annual Midwest U.S.-Japan Association Conference.

Alternating yearly between Tokyo and a Midwestern city, the conference is considered to be the pinnacle forum for discussions on Japan-Midwest economic relations. It also introduced hundreds of potential investors to business opportunities in Nebraska. DED International Business Staff were key partners in orchestrating this highly-lauded event.

F • A • C • T

Nebraska's value
of exported goods
grew by over
20%
between 2010
and 2017.



▲ Governors meet at the Midwest U.S.-Japan Association Conference in Omaha.



▲ Governor Ricketts and conference attendees tour Kawasaki in Lincoln.

or service. The grants can reimburse companies for a portion of their export-related costs, such as international sales trips or marketing expenses.

In FY 2018-2019, our team administered \$250,000 in STEP reimbursements to 46 firms. These awards helped leverage \$9.1 million in actual exports as reported by participating small businesses during the same period. The same companies projected over \$13.9 million in sales over the next 12-24 months as a result of their STEP activities.

DED committed an additional \$26,900 in STEP funds toward contracts with the Nebraska Business Development Center and the University of Nebraska at Omaha. This will facilitate new international market research to further assist small businesses in enhancing their export sales growth.



▲ STEP recipient SUNHEAT International used funding to attend domestic international trade shows to market their international product lines.

STEP Grants Create Opportunities For Bruckman Rubber

Hastings-based Bruckman Rubber has utilized STEP grants for five of the past six years to supplement its international marketing efforts. This includes international sales trips to China, Japan, India, the Philippines and Mexico.

“STEP has enabled us to showcase our products to international buyers at domestic trade shows. Attending these shows has been an excellent way for us to meet international customers. In fact, we can directly link our trade show attendance to new sales in at least seven countries. This probably wouldn’t have been possible without support from the STEP program.”

— Josh Rookstool, Director of Sales, SUNHEAT International

FOCUSING ON TALENT

“The ability to attract job creators and expand businesses is tied to skilled workforce availability. It’s our job to not only help grow the current workforce, but to prepare the next generation for the rewarding careers that are awaiting them, especially in industries where the need for talent is critical.”

— Allison Hatch, Talent Development Team Leader

HOW WE DEFINE SUCCESS: DEVELOPING NEBRASKA’S TALENTED WORKFORCE The Intern Nebraska Program

The DED-led Intern Nebraska (InternNE) grant program is connecting young people with top-notch firms in search of talented, motivated employees. With internships frequently leading to full-time job opportunities, the program also creates pathways for young Nebraskans to start their careers right here at home.

InternNE grants can help eligible in-state businesses cover a portion of the cost of new internships. The program can reimburse up to 50% of an intern’s wages, at a maximum of \$5,000 per internship. Students are eligible to participate as early as their junior or senior year in high school, up to graduation from a Nebraska institute of higher education.

\$931,500 in InternNE funds awarded in FY 2018-2019 helped 129 Nebraska businesses create 285 new internships in communities across the state.

The Developing Youth Talent Initiative

Launched by Governor Ricketts in 2015, the Developing Youth Talent Initiative (DYTI) is introducing a generation of middle school students to rewarding careers in Nebraska’s manufacturing and IT industries.

DYTI grants support partnerships between private sector companies and Nebraska public middle schools. Together, DYTI partners develop and implement engaging curriculum to increase manufacturing/IT career awareness, interest and skills development among 7th and 8th graders. By informing young Nebraskans about high-paying industries where talent is needed, DYTI is supporting the call of Nebraska employers for a skilled next-generation workforce.

F • A • C • T

DED awards an average of two DYTI grants each year, with the requirement that at least one grant be awarded in a rural county with a population of less than 100,000.

DYTI Impacts: by the Numbers

- To date, DYTI has reached over 7,000 students across more than two dozen school districts.
- 10 companies have been awarded the DYTI grant since 2015. Awards in FY 2018-2019 totaled \$249,977 to two companies.
- To date, 32 schools have participated in DYTI.
- Students who participate in DYTI report increased interest and awareness surrounding manufacturing, IT and STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) careers and coursework.



▲ Internships provide on-the-job training and real-world experience to prepare young people for rewarding careers. And with an estimated half of all interns accepting full-time employment with their providing organization, they're also a powerful way to keep a talented workforce right here in our state.

InternNE Impacts

Since its inception, the InternNE program has supported 2,640 internships spanning 641 companies, in industries ranging from agriculture to public administration. Over 60% of these internships have occurred in Congressional Districts 2 and 3.

“Hiring and retaining employees is a challenge in information technology. DYTI gives businesses like Hollman Media the opportunity to creatively build a pipeline to the future.”

— Travis Hollman, Hollman Media, LLC



F • A • C • T

From 2017 to 2018,
Nebraska's annual
manufacturing
wages grew by
3.9%
percent.

The Good Life is Calling

During the 2019 Governor's Economic Development Summit, Governor Ricketts, DED and the Nebraska Department of Labor debuted "The Good Life is Calling" — a new website designed to inform and inspire people to live, work and keep their families in Nebraska.



▲ Becton Dickinson's Mobile STEM Lab, which lets students interact with modern manufacturing technology and equipment, has traveled to over a dozen Nebraska schools and reached over 1,100 students.



▲ Governor Ricketts debuts thegoodlifeiscalling.com.

HOW WE DEFINE SUCCESS: FINANCING QUALITY, AFFORDABLE HOUSING STATEWIDE

The Nebraska Affordable Housing Trust Fund

Established in 1996, financial support from the Nebraska Affordable Housing Trust Fund (NAHTF) continues to help Nebraska communities eliminate obstacles to the development of quality, economically viable homes.

DED's Housing Team administers NAHTF funds annually to eligible entities across the state. The funds can support a wide array of local housing activities that benefit households at or below 120% of the median area income. Purchasing and rehabilitating homes, building new homeowner or rental units, and helping disadvantaged homebuyers purchase their first home are just a few examples of fundable projects under the NAHTF.

Nebraska Affordable Housing Trust Fund: FY 2018-2019 by the Numbers

- \$10,219,650 in funding awarded
- 33 projects supported
- 230 units being built or rehabilitated
- \$18.9 million in project dollars leveraged (\$1.85 to \$1 ratio)
- \$29,139,893 total project costs supported

The National Housing Trust Fund

Administered by DED on behalf of Nebraska, the National Housing Trust Fund (HTF) is a federal resource allocated from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that helps communities create safe, quality housing options for their most vulnerable residents — including low- and very-low income persons and homeless families. Eligible to nonprofits and public housing authorities, the HTF focuses on providing rental housing for households at or below 30% of the median area income.

DED awarded \$5.2 million in HTF dollars during the 2018-2019 fiscal year to three organizations. These funds will help support the construction or rehabilitation of 41 rental units for at-need Nebraskans. HTF grants leveraged over \$11.2 million in total project costs.

WE'RE ON A MISSION

“Housing is a central aspect of our mission to grow Nebraska. The state and federal programs we administer are flexible, and enable us to provide important resources to help communities achieve economic growth and a high standard of living for all residents.”

— Lynn Kohout, Housing Manager

Housing Impacts

DED's Housing Team administered approximately \$18.9 million in state and federal housing aid in FY 2018-2019. This funding will support the construction or rehabilitation of 351 affordable homes across Nebraska.

NAHTF Program Supports Recovery Efforts in Wake of March Floods

In May of 2019, DED amended its NAHTF 2019 Qualified Allocation Plan to allocate up to \$3.05 million for Disaster Recovery Housing Projects. As a result, six communities will each receive \$500,000 in FY 2019-2020 to address damage caused by the rising waters. Planned projects span from demolishing and rebuilding homes outside the flood plain to rehabilitating homes, building new units and assisting families with down payments on new homes.

HOME Investment Partnerships Fund (HOME)

The HOME Investment Partnerships Fund (HOME) is the nation's largest federal resource for affordable housing development. HOME grants can finance a variety of housing activities that directly benefit low-income individuals and families and their communities.

HUD administers HOME formula grants to states and local jurisdictions. DED administers HOME funding to eligible entities within Nebraska's non-entitlement communities.

F • A • C • T

Since 2014, DED-administered HOME awards of \$17.58 million have helped finance the development of nearly 800 rental and 40 homebuyer units across 27 Nebraska communities.



▲ The 92-unit Skyline Apartments in Norfolk serve low-income, elderly and at-need residents. The apartments were renovated in part with funding from the HTF and the HOME Investment Partnerships Fund.

HOME Impacts, FY 2018-2019:

- **\$3,585,830 awarded**
- **8 projects supported**
- **27 units being built or rehabilitated**
- **\$23.1 million total project costs leveraged**

The Rural Workforce Housing Investment Act

Signed into law by Governor Pete Ricketts in 2017, the Rural Workforce Housing Investment Act (LB518) is helping rural communities across the state address their needs for affordable workforce housing options.

LB518 channeled approximately \$7 million from the Nebraska Affordable Housing Trust Fund into a new fund — the Rural Workforce Housing Fund (RWHF). RWHF dollars, in turn, were competitively awarded by DED to 14 eligible nonprofit development organizations in counties of less than 100,000 in April 2017.

RWHF recipients contributed \$10.1 million in matching funds to create Regional Workforce Housing Investment Funds — and these combined investments began coming to fruition in FY 2018-2019.

As of December 31, 2018, nearly 600 housing units had been planned, constructed or rehabilitated in 12 rural Nebraska communities with RWHF support. Combined project costs are estimated at over \$71 million — an initial 10:1 return on State investment — and many more investments and projects are in the planning phases for the current fiscal year.

“With support from the HOME program, we’re able to transform deteriorating units and satisfy the need for quality, affordable housing throughout our region.”

— Roger Nadrchal, CEO, Neighborworks Northeast Nebraska

“With support from LB518, Schuyler Community Development, Inc. approved investments in two projects now under construction. Without LB518, Schuyler would be unable to provide reasonable, low-cost workforce housing, which is a significant need due to our rate of population growth.”

— Brian Bywater, Community Housing Specialist, Schuyler Community Development, Inc.

LB518 Impacts as of Dec, 31, 2018

\$7,009,000 awarded to 14 nonprofit development organizations

\$10,121,122 in matching funds generated

12 communities impacted

577 housing units planned or completed (491 single/multi-family rental, 86 single-family ownership)

5 rehabilitated units planned or completed

\$71,048,652 combined project costs

NEBRASKA: THE GOOD LIFE

“There is a strong connection between developing the community and developing the economy. When you create a great place to call home you’re also creating a great place to relocate, start a business, go to school and raise a family, which helps drive economic growth.”

— Steve Charleston,
Community Development
Division Director

HOW WE DEFINE SUCCESS: INVESTING IN MORE VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

The Civic and Community Center Financing Fund

The Nebraska Civic and Community Center Financing Fund (CCCFF) is helping to create a great quality of life in towns and cities across Nebraska.

Eligible to municipalities, CCCFF grants support the planning and development of civic, community and recreation centers. Example projects include libraries, wellness facilities, convention centers, town squares, cultural centers and more. Through CCCFF, communities can cover up to 50% of the total costs of eligible projects.

Since 2004, Nebraska communities have benefited from the CCCFF program by way of 91 civic centers, 34 recreation centers, over 45 community centers and nearly 20 libraries.

In 2019, DED awarded \$5,739,129 in CCCFF grants, supporting projects in 27 communities. Supported projects included:

- **1 Aquatic Center Renovation**
- **2 New Public Pools/Aquatic Centers**
- **1 Tourism-Related Historic Preservation Effort**
- **2 Historic Theater Renovations**
- **1 Arts Center Renovation**
- **1 Historic City Auditorium Renovation**
- **1 Historic Library Preservation**
- **1 New Tennis Recreation Facility**
- **1 New Multi-Use Plaza**
- **1 Historic Building Preservation**
- **1 New Community Center**
- **1 Non-Historic City Auditorium Renovation**
- **2 City Park Improvement Projects**
- **11 Project Planning Initiatives**

Combined, CCCFF grants leveraged over \$13.6 million in public-private investments, with supported project costs totaling over \$19.4 million.



▲ CCCFF funding provided needed upgrades to the Hastings Auditorium air-conditioning and ventilation system.



▲ The CCCFF-funded Bennington Public Library opened its doors April 16, 2018.



▲ CCCFF-supported additions to the Crete Public Library created a community center and storm shelter.

“The community is ecstatic about the new library facility. As anticipated, the library has had a tremendous increase in usage and new patron enrollments.”

— Lisa Flaxbeard, Director, Bennington



Every \$1 in CDAA tax credits issued by DED leveraged an additional \$25.18 in project support funds in FY 2018-2019.

“CDAA tax credits helped Habitat for Humanity of Gage County acquire the funding necessary to rehab and build new homes for those in our community in need of a decent place to live.”

— Allen Grell,
Construction Manager,
Habitat for Humanity, Gage County

The Community Development Assistance Act

The Community Development Assistance Act (CDAA) encourages community and economic development by incentivizing investments into impactful local projects.

Under CDAA, individuals, businesses, corporations, insurance firms and financial institutions can be eligible for a 40% tax credit toward approved projects, up to \$75,000 per project.

Many project types are eligible for CDAA tax credits, but projects most likely to be awarded are those that build the capacity of residents to address local objectives; provide essential services to low- and moderate-income persons; and/or contribute to the development of lasting cooperation and public-private partnerships between area organizations and businesses. Childcare centers, playgrounds, theaters, libraries, grocery stores and social service centers are just a few examples of projects that have been completed with support from the CDAA.

In FY 2018-2019, DED approved \$216,000 in CDAA tax credits to support 10 projects. These credits leveraged over \$13.1 million in public-private investments, contributing to projects in 9 communities. Supported projects include:

- **1 New Fire Station**
- **1 Trails Project**
- **1 Job Training Program**
- **1 New Public Library**
- **2 City Auditorium Renovations**
- **1 Community Fitness Center**
- **1 Housing Rehabilitation Effort**
- **1 City Pool Renovation**
- **1 Historic Building Preservation**



▲ CDAA tax credits supported fundraising for the Scribner-Snyder Youth Sports Center in Scribner.

The Community Development Block Grant

The federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, administered by DED on behalf of the State, is a flexible funding source that enables communities to tackle a wide array of local objectives. From downtown revitalization, to housing rehabilitation to restoring safe drinking water, CDBG funds have been a difference-maker in cities and towns across Nebraska.

HUD allocates CDBG funding to the State of Nebraska annually. DED administers CDBG funds through a competitive application process to Nebraska's non-entitlement communities under the following program categories:

- **Comprehensive Development**
- **Downtown Revitalization**
- **Economic Development**
- **Emergent Threat**
- **Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation**
- **Planning**
- **Public Works**
- **Tourism Development**
- **Water/Wastewater**

Projects eligible for CDBG funding are those that meet one of three national program objectives: benefit low- and moderate-income persons, prevent or eliminate slum or blight conditions, or solve

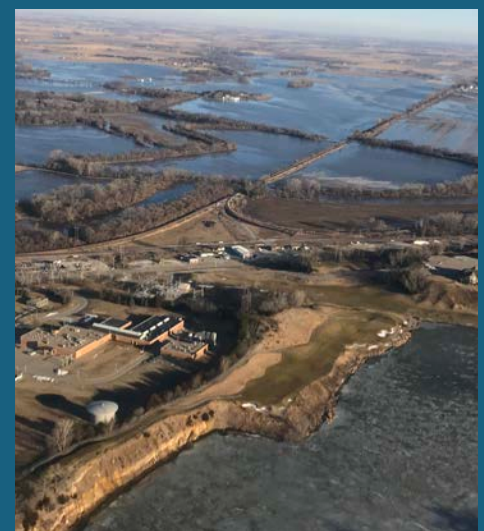


▲ Home in Fremont rehabilitated using CDBG funds.

Relief for Flood-Affected Communities

In April 2019, DED published a notice reminding communities that CDBG Planning funds could be used to support disaster response. That July, the communities of Schuyler, Greeley and Fremont-Inglewood were notified of funding awards to evaluate, repair and mitigate flood-related damage while becoming better prepared to withstand future events.

That July, DED announced the availability of funding under a new “Emergent Threat” CDBG category designed to assist communities impacted by disasters and/or emergent threats to public health, safety or welfare. Funding under both of these flood response initiatives will be released in FY 2019-2020.



▲ Platte River flooding, spring 2019.

CDBG Funding Brings New Life to Historic Theater

The Sun Theatre has been serving up opera, silent movies, the performing-arts, modern-day cinema and more for residents of Gothenburg and nearby rural communities for over a century. Made possible in part by a CDBG grant, the “Revitalize the Sun” project will bring much-needed ADA accessibility upgrades to the theater, opening it up to a wider audience than ever.

Development District Receives National Recognition for Housing Program

This year, Southeast Nebraska Economic Development District, Inc. received a national award for its CDBG-supported home purchase/rehab/resale program in the city of York.

catastrophic health and safety threats. Under HUD guidelines, DED must award at least 70% of its annual allocation toward projects that benefit low- and moderate-income persons.

DED awards of CDBG funds in FY 2018-2019 totaled over \$13.8 million to support 39 projects in 35 communities, including:

- **6 Comprehensive Development projects (\$2,831,000 awarded)**
- **3 Economic Development projects (\$1,557,800 in State CDBG Revolving Loan Funds awarded)**
- **9 Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation projects, with 98 homes rehabilitated (\$2,977,004 awarded)**
- **8 Public Works projects (\$2,816,735 awarded)**
- **4 Planning projects (\$132,900 awarded)**
- **1 Downtown Revitalization project (\$445,000 awarded)**
- **4 Tourism Development projects (\$1,700,000 awarded)**
- **4 Water/Wastewater projects (\$1,405,000 awarded)**

In all, CDBG awards during the fiscal year leveraged \$19.2 million in matching funds and supported \$33 million in total project costs. The resulting projects benefitted an estimated 20,046 low- and moderate-income persons across Nebraska.



▲ Lt. Gov. Mike Foley joins Gothenburg residents for the Sun Theatre ground-breaking celebration.



NEW LEVEL SHOPS

→ TRINI'S ←
THE
MEXICAN
RESTAURANT

▲ Old Market, Omaha.

