



# Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request

6B

Agenda Item #

**Requested Meeting Date:** June 14, 2022

**Title of Item:** Business Development & Recreation Grant Awards

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REGULAR AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> CONSENT AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION ONLY	<b>Action Requested:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approve/Deny Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Adopt Resolution (attach draft) <i>*provide copy of hearing notice that was published</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Direction Requested <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Item <input type="checkbox"/> Hold Public Hearing*
<b>Submitted by:</b> Mark Jeffers		<b>Department:</b> Administration
<b>Presenter (Name and Title):</b> Mark Jeffers, Economic Development Coordinator		<b>Estimated Time Needed:</b> 10 minutes
<b>Summary of Issue:</b> <p>The Aitkin County Economic Development Committee has received 15 grant funding requests for the Business Development &amp; Recreation Grant Program. Total funding request= \$14,550. Total funding available= \$22,000. The ACEDC recommends awarding 10 grants, totaling \$9,800. Grant applicant summary and grant award summary are attached, along with the 2022 Business Development &amp; Recreation Grant guidelines.</p>		
<b>Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments:</b>		
<b>Recommended Action/Motion:</b> ACEDC requests approval of recommended grant awards.		
<b>Financial Impact:</b> <i>Is there a cost associated with this request?</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <i>What is the total cost, with tax and shipping? \$</i> <i>Is this budgeted?</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <i>Please Explain:</i>		

Legally binding agreements must have County Attorney approval prior to submission.



## AITKIN COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

Aitkin County Government Center  
 307 2<sup>nd</sup> Street NW, Room 305  
 Aitkin, MN 56431

Mark.jeffers@co.aitkin.mn.us  
 Phone: 218-927-7305  
 cell: 218-513-6188

TO: Aitkin County Board of Commissioners  
 FROM: Mark Jeffers, Economic Development Coordinator  
 DATE: June 14, 2022  
 SUBJECT: Aitkin County Business Development and Recreation Grants

Aitkin County received 15 Grant Requests for the Aitkin County Business Development and Recreation Grant fund.  
 We received \$14,550 in requests with \$22,000 available. The Economic Development Committee recommends approval of the following grant awards:

Facility Name	↓ requested	↓ Awarded	Comments
Jaques Art Center	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	Seeking funding for the summer art program, Friends and Family event and the Art Walk during the all class reunion/Riverboat Days
Brother's Construction LLC	\$ 800	\$ 800	Moving our operations from Wright MN to Aitkin County- funding used for advertising costs
Habitat for Humanity	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	habitat humanity fund raiser (already completed)
Forgotten Heroes Ranges & Retreat	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	continued cleanup to the facility and signage for facility
Long Lake Conservation Foundation	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	concert fund raiser called Nature Rocks to provide scholarships for students to attend Long Lake Conservation Center
Smokey Jake's BBQ	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	funding for advertising signage on new building location
McGregor Chamber of Commerce	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	grant funds will be used to support annual Wild Rice Days
Aitkin Chamber of Commerce	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	grant funds to support PYGO event- annual river trail kayak event
Aitkin County Friend's of the Arts	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	grant funds to support annual music festival in August
Cozy Cove Coffee Company	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	Advertising to local ATV clubs, directing tourism to our location
	\$ 9,800	\$ 9,800	

## 2022 Business Development and Recreation Grant

	Facility Name	Project Name	Contact Name	Email	City	Phone	\$ requested	\$ Awarded	Comments
1	Jaques Art Center		Pamela Andell	<a href="mailto:jac@jaquesart.com">jac@jaquesart.com</a>	Aitkin	218.927.2363	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	Seeking funding for the summer art program, Friends and Family event and the Art Walk during the all class reunion/Diverboat Days
2	Brother's Construction LLC	New location advertising campaign	Kima Taylor	<a href="mailto:brothersconstructionmn@gmail.com">brothersconstructionmn@gmail.com</a>	Aitkin County	619.775.7821	\$ 800	\$ 800	Moving our operations from Wright MN to Aitkin County- funding used for advertising costs
3	Lakeside Township	Dead End Acres Fall Festival	Amanda Swearingin	<a href="mailto:deadendacres2020@gmail.com">deadendacres2020@gmail.com</a>	lakeside township	612.963.1315	\$ 1,000	\$ -	Fall festival- funding to purchase wagons and picnic tables for the event
4	Sarah's Smiling Stars Daycare	outside safety play	Sarah Meyer		McGregor	218.565.0550	\$ 1,000	\$ -	funding for barrier wall to existing play area
5	Habitat for Humanity	Tooling Tour	Tami Jacobs	<a href="mailto:tjacobs@growthiv.org">tjacobs@growthiv.org</a>	Aitkin County	218.927.2316	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	habitat humanity fund raiser (already completed)
6	Forgotten Heroes Ranges & Retreat	Clean up and signage	Bret Sample	<a href="mailto:bsample40@gmail.com">bsample40@gmail.com</a>	Aitkin County	612.695.3187	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	continued cleanup to the facility and signage for facility
7	Long Lake Conservation Foundation	Nature Rocks	Bob Markum		Aitkin County	218.768.2337	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	concert fund raiser called Nature Rocks to provide scholarships for students to attend Long Lake Conservation Center
8	City of Hill City	Hill City Fireworks	Tami Meyer	<a href="mailto:cityhall@hillcity-mn.com">cityhall@hillcity-mn.com</a>	Hill City	218.697.2301	\$ 1,000	\$ -	funding to go toward 4th of July fireworks celebration
9	Smokey Jake's BBQ	restaurant launch	Jake Schanz	<a href="mailto:jake@smokeyjakesbbq.com">jake@smokeyjakesbbq.com</a>	Aitkin	858.231.3752	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	funding for advertising signage on new building location
10	McGregor Chamber of Commerce	Borealis Craft & Spirits Fest	Kari Horbacz	<a href="mailto:chamber@mcgregormn.com">chamber@mcgregormn.com</a>	McGregor	218.768.3692	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	grant funds will be used to support annual Wild Rice Days
11	AitkinChamber of Commerce	Paddle Your Glass Off	Taylor Erickson	<a href="mailto:upnorth@aitkin.com">upnorth@aitkin.com</a>	Aitkin		\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	grant funds to support PYGO event- annual river trail kayak event
12	Aitkin County Friend's of the Arts	Ripplesippi Music Fest	Christian McShane	<a href="mailto:christianmcshane@gmail.com">christianmcshane@gmail.com</a>	Aitkin County	218.851.2619	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	grant funds to support annual music festival in August
13	Cozy Cove Coffee Company		Laura Spalding	<a href="mailto:c4hillcity@gmail.com">c4hillcity@gmail.com</a>	Hill City	651.564.1234	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	Advertising to local ATV clubs, directing tourism to our location
14	Timber Ghost Realty	business connection	Jane Bristow	<a href="mailto:timberghostteam@gmail.com">timberghostteam@gmail.com</a>	Hill City	612.387.5116	\$ 1,000	\$ -	advertising to local real estate services for purchase by new residents
15	CJ Management	business advertising	Caitlyn Jordahl	<a href="mailto:caitlynj3@gmail.com">caitlynj3@gmail.com</a>	Hill City	612.964.1082	\$ 750	\$ -	advertising lodging and recreational facilities for Hill City tourism
							\$ 14,550	\$ 9,800	



## **AITKIN COUNTY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND RECREATION GRANT PROGRAM**

### **PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

The purpose of this grant fund is to leverage county funds, private funds and volunteer efforts to increase new business development activities in Aitkin County, with an emphasis on increasing sustained tourism and recreation activities. Several organizations may submit a single application or organizations may apply individually. Organizations need only to commit one hundred dollars (\$100) in good faith to ensure commitment to the grant request. Example: Program/Event Total Cost: \$1,100 would require the organization's commitment of \$100 to ensure the possibility of an Aitkin County Business Development and Recreation Grant Program.

**Grant Guidelines:** Guidelines for application and awarding of Aitkin County Business Development and Recreation Grants are as follows:

1. **Funding Limits:** Minimum of \$100 and a maximum of \$1,000 per grant application. The Economic Development Committee may increase the amount awarded at their discretion.
2. **Matching Funds:** The Aitkin County Business Development and Recreation Grant Program is intended to leverage locally funded promotions and not replace that funding. Significant consideration will be given to the amount and quality of matching funds/in kind contributions when grant applications are evaluated by the Economic Development Committee and County Board.
3. **County-Wide Distribution:** The intent of this program is to provide assistance throughout Aitkin County. Consideration shall be given to amounts awarded and number of grants approved per year for any particular region of the county to ensure that an equitable level of funding is available throughout the county.
  - a. **Event/Activity Eligibility:** Grant Funds shall be used to market business development activities that create sustainable tourism or recreation growth or activities/businesses that will enhance the Aitkin County economy.
  - b. **Events eligible for funding include:**
    - Sustainable Business Development Activities (Advertising funds can be included in funding request).
    - Community Recreation or Tourism events that create sustained increases in resident or visitor activity (Advertising funds can be included in funding request).
  - c. Special consideration will be given to applications that will enhance the Northwood's ATV Trail or River Trails through signage, promotion, activities or trail amenities.
  - d. Grant funds shall not be used to pay the salaries of part or full time staff associated with a particular event/business development activity or organization associated with an event/business development activity. Funds shall not be used for any type of



prizes or other material items that may be offered, awarded, sold or given away as a promotion of the event/business development activity being supported by the grant.

- e. Aitkin County Business Development and Recreation Grant funds may not be used to reimburse expenses occurred prior to grant approval by Aitkin County.

**Application Procedure:** All applications shall be submitted using the "Application for Aitkin County Business Development and Recreation Grant" and Model Resolution Form for Non-Governmental Organizations.

- Grant requests should be submitted by EMAIL to: [mark.jeffers@co.aitkin.mn.us](mailto:mark.jeffers@co.aitkin.mn.us) titled ACBDRG or submitted by mail to ACBDRG c/o Mark Jeffers, Aitkin County Courthouse, 217 2nd St. N.W. #131, Aitkin, MN 56431.
- Funding recommendations will be considered at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Aitkin County Economic Development Committee in June 2022. Application deadline is **May 31, 2022.**
- Committee recommendations will be submitted to the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners for final approval.
- The Model Resolution Form must be submitted by all applicant organizations, except governmental organizations. An Evaluation Form, to be completed and returned within thirty days following the completion of the program/event, will be sent to you following acceptance of your proposal.

**Reports and Recovery of Unused Funds:** Reports and procedures for recovery of unused funds are as follows:

1. A written evaluation shall be completed and returned the Aitkin County Economic Development Coordinator, Mark Jeffers, within 30 days of completion of an event/business development activity. That written evaluation shall describe the success in meeting the goals of the event/business development activity and should be included with a final financial report. That report shall also include a reimbursement check for any unused funds, make check payable to "Aitkin County Business Development and Recreation Grant Program"

Further information and additional forms and materials may be obtained by contacting Mark Jeffers, Aitkin County Economic Development Coordinator  
217 2<sup>nd</sup> Street NW, #131,  
Aitkin, MN 56431,  
218-531-6188  
[mark.jeffers@co.aitkin.mn.us](mailto:mark.jeffers@co.aitkin.mn.us)