



# Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request



**Requested Meeting Date:** June 10, 2025

**Title of Item:** Award Business Development & Recreation Grants

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REGULAR AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> CONSENT AGENDA	<b>Action Requested:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approve/Deny Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Adopt Resolution (attach draft) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold Public Hearing <i>*provide copy of hearing notice that was published</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Direction Requested <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Item <input type="checkbox"/> Information Only								
<b>Submitted by:</b> Mark Jeffers		<b>Department:</b> Economic Development								
<b>Presenter (Name and Title):</b> Mark Jeffers, Economic Development Coordinator		<b>Estimated Time Needed:</b> 5 min								
<b>Summary of Issue:</b> <p>The Aitkin County Economic Development Committee has received and reviewed grant funding requests for the Business Development &amp; Recreation Grant Program. Grant applications and grant award summary are included.</p> <p>The Committee was unanimous on the recommendation. The Committee recommends and requests approval to award the following grants at this time:</p> <table><tr><td>Palisade Events Committee</td><td>\$490</td></tr><tr><td>Jaques Art Center</td><td>\$1,961</td></tr><tr><td>Tamarack Activities Club</td><td>\$812</td></tr><tr><td>Hill City Events Committee</td><td>\$2,000</td></tr></table> <p>The purpose of this grant fund is to leverage county funds, private funds, and volunteer efforts to enhance small business development activities in Aitkin County, with a focus on increasing sustained tourism and recreational events. Organizations may apply individually or submit a joint application. To demonstrate their commitment to the grant request, organizations must provide a 1 :1 match of funds in good faith. The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners has approved this funding to be used directly for the benefit of the Aitkin County community through the Aitkin County Business Development &amp; Recreation Grant.</p>			Palisade Events Committee	\$490	Jaques Art Center	\$1,961	Tamarack Activities Club	\$812	Hill City Events Committee	\$2,000
Palisade Events Committee	\$490									
Jaques Art Center	\$1,961									
Tamarack Activities Club	\$812									
Hill City Events Committee	\$2,000									
<b>Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments:</b>										
<b>Recommended Action/Motion:</b> Economic Development requests approval of a motion to award the recommended grants.										
<b>Financial Impact:</b> <p>Is there a cost associated with this request? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>What is the total cost, with tax and shipping? \$</p> <p>Is this budgeted? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <span style="float: right;">Please Explain:</span></p>										

**Business Development and Recreation Grant**

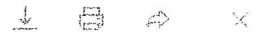
#	Facility Name	Project Name	Contact Name	Email	City	Phone	\$ requested	\$ Awarded
1	Growth Innovations	multi-tenant signage	Tami Jacobs	<a href="mailto:tjacobs@growthiv.org">tjacobs@growthiv.org</a>	Aitkin	218.927.2172	\$ 1,025	\$ -
2	Clear Lake Gardens	Aitkin Farm Trail	Kelley Rajala	<a href="mailto:clearlakegardens@gmail.com">clearlakegardens@gmail.com</a>	Aitkin	707.331.6850	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
3	Long Lake Foundation	Nature Rocks	Bob Marcum, Dave McMillan	<a href="mailto:rmarcum@lcfoundation.org">rmarcum@lcfoundation.org</a>	Aitkin	218.768.4653	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
4	Food as Medicine Festival	Riverwood/Clear Lake Gardens	Kelley Rajala	<a href="mailto:clearlakegardens@gmail.com">clearlakegardens@gmail.com</a>	Aitkin	707.331.6850	\$ 500	\$ 500
5	Aitkin Area Chamber of Commerce	Riverboat Heritage Days	Stephanie Mollet	<a href="mailto:upnorth@aitkin.com">upnorth@aitkin.com</a>	Aitkin	218.394.2202	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
6	Aitkin Area Chamber of Commerce	Paddle Your Glass Off	Stephanie Mollet	<a href="mailto:upnorth@aitkin.com">upnorth@aitkin.com</a>	Aitkin	218.394.2202	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
7	Union Woodland Cemetery	cemetery beautification	Ramona Hooper	<a href="mailto:ro33760@frontiernet.net">ro33760@frontiernet.net</a>	McGregor	218.426.3344	\$ 2,000	\$ -
8	Shamrock Township	Shamrock Shindig	Candace Kral	<a href="mailto:townofshamrock@shamrocktwp.org">townofshamrock@shamrocktwp.org</a>	McGregor	218.426.3736	\$ 1,225	\$ -
9	Palisade Events Committee	2nd Annual ATV Ride	Dawn Quade	<a href="mailto:quadedawn@gmail.com">quadedawn@gmail.com</a>	Palisade	320.232.5776	\$ 490	\$ 490
10	Green Owl Yarn & Gifts	Community Craft Fairs	Skye Fiedler	<a href="mailto:greenowlgifts@gmail.com">greenowlgifts@gmail.com</a>	Aitkin	612.735.4222	\$ 2,000	\$ -
11	Jaques Art Center	Art for fun- fun for all	Pam Andell	<a href="mailto:info@jaquesart.com">info@jaquesart.com</a>	Aitkin	218.927.2363	\$ 1,961	\$ 1,961
12	Petals of Peace	Awning Project	Arlene Selander	<a href="mailto:selandercoachingandconsulting@gmail.com">selandercoachingandconsulting@gmail.com</a>	Aitkin	218.820.2813	\$ 2,000	\$ -
13	Tamarack Activities Club	Tamarack Pollinator Garden	Debra Drexler	<a href="mailto:ddrexler37@gmail.com">ddrexler37@gmail.com</a>	Tamarack	612.743.4329	\$ 812	\$ 812
14	Hill City Events Committee	Hill City 4th of July	Sue Kaslow	<a href="mailto:suekaslow@yahoo.com">suekaslow@yahoo.com</a>	Hill City	218.244.3422	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
15								
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23								
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26								
							\$ 22,013	\$ 13,763

Mark Jeffers

2025 Business Devel... · Open message

2025 Business Development & Recreation Gra...

File 2 of 3



## Application for Aitkin County Business Development & Recreation Grant Program

January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025

1. Grant requests should be submitted by EMAIL to:  
[mark.jeffers@co.aitkin.mn.us](mailto:mark.jeffers@co.aitkin.mn.us), subject line: BD&R2025 or  
by mail to:  
Mark Jeffers  
Aitkin County Government Center  
307 2<sup>nd</sup> Street NW, Room 316  
Aitkin, MN 56431
2. Funding recommendations will be considered at the regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Aitkin County Economic Development Committee. Application deadline is **May 31, 2025**.
3. Committee recommendations will be submitted to the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners for final approval.
4. The purpose of this grant fund is to leverage county funds, private funds, and volunteer efforts to enhance small business development activities in Aitkin County, with a focus on increasing sustained tourism and recreational events. Organizations may apply individually or submit a joint application. To demonstrate their commitment to the grant request, organizations must provide a 1:1 match of funds in good faith. The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners has approved this funding to be used directly for the benefit of the Aitkin County community through the Aitkin County Business Development & Recreation Grant.

### APPLICANT INFORMATION

#### PROGRAM INFORMATION

Project/Event Name: Cemetery Beautification  
Date(s) of Project/Event: April thru October 2025  
Location of Project/Event: Union Woodland Cemetery McGregor Minn  
Organization/Community Name: Union Woodland Cemetery  
Person in Charge of Project: Ramona Hooper  
Organization Mailing Address (Street Name or P.O. Box or Route and Box # and City and Zip Code):  
Ramona Hooper 44628 200th Avenue  
McGregor, mn 55760 secretary  
Contact Person's Phone #: 218 426 3344  
Contact Person's Email: rh55760@frontiernet.net  
Description/focus/purpose of your organization:  
maintain and care of cemetery

\$2000 Ask -



## ***AITKIN COUNTY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT & RECREATION GRANT PROGRAM GUIDELINES***

The purpose of this grant fund is to leverage county funds, private funds, and volunteer efforts to enhance small business development activities in Aitkin County, with a focus on increasing sustained tourism and recreational events. Organizations may apply individually or submit a joint application. To demonstrate their commitment to the grant request, organizations must provide a 1:1 match of funds in good faith. The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners has approved this funding to be used directly for the benefit of the Aitkin County community through the Aitkin County Business Development & Recreation Grant.

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

1. **Funding Limits:** Minimum of \$100 and a maximum of \$2,000 per grant application. The Economic Development Committee may recommend to the Board of Commissioners to increase or decrease the amount awarded at their discretion. The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners grants the final approval for funding.
2. **Matching Funds:** The Aitkin County Business Development & Recreation Grant Program is designed to leverage locally funded promotions, not replace them. A 1:1 match to the requested funds is required (e.g., the applicant must commit \$2,000 to request a \$2,000 award). Significant consideration will be given to the amount and quality of matching funds and in-kind contributions when grant applications are evaluated by the Economic Development Committee and County Board.
3. **Countywide 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.
4. Organizations that receive a grant award are not eligible to receive BD&R Grant Awards in the following year. Grants may be awarded to the same organization only once every other year..
5. 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. Funds are not intended to be an annual budget supplement. Funds are intended for incremental business development and recreation.
6. Aitkin County Business Development and Recreation Grant funds may not be used to reimburse expenses occurred prior to grant approval by Aitkin County.





7. Grant funds are intended to support tourism and business attraction events that drive visitors to Aitkin County, ultimately creating a positive economic impact.
8. Eligible Event Examples:
  - Annual events promoting tourism & recreation
  - Events that provide incremental tourism growth
  - 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.
9. Eligible organizations:
  - Businesses located in Aitkin County.
  - Non-Profit organizations that serve Aitkin County
  - 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.
  -

**Application Procedure:** Guidelines for applications are as follows:

1. Grant requests should be submitted by EMAIL to:  
[mark.jeffers@co.aitkin.mn.us](mailto:mark.jeffers@co.aitkin.mn.us), subject line: BD&R2025  
or by mail to:  
Mark Jeffers  
Aitkin County Government Center,  
307 2<sup>nd</sup> Street NW, Room 316,  
Aitkin, MN 56431.
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#### **Reporting Requirements**

1. Applicants that are awarded a Business Development & Recreation grant are required to submit proof of fund use prior to the end of the one-year grant period (January 1 - December 31). Reporting information documents and deadlines will be included in the award letter.



## Application for Aitkin County Business Development & Recreation Grant Program

January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025

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### APPLICANT INFORMATION

#### PROGRAM INFORMATION

Project/Event Name: **Shamrock Shindig**

Date(s) of Project/Event: **August 16, 2025**

Location of Project/Event: **Shamrock Town Hall**

Organization/Community Name: **Shamrock Township**

Person in Charge of Project: **Candace Kral, Clerk**

Organization Mailing Address (Street Name or P.O. Box or Route and Box # and City and Zip Code):  
**49954 Lake Ave  
McGregor, MN 55760**

Contact Person's Phone #: **218-426-3736 or 218-429-2205**

Contact Person's Email: **townofshamrock@shamrocktp.org**

#### Description/focus/purpose of your organization:

Shamrock Township is a local unit of government located in Aitkin County, Minnesota. As a township, our primary focus is to maintain and improve local infrastructure—most notably township roads—while also supporting initiatives that promote community well-being, tourism, and quality of life. Shamrock Township encourages healthy living and community engagement by supporting recreational opportunities, outdoor events, and public spaces that benefit both residents and visitors.

**FUNDING:**

Amount requested from Aitkin County \$1,225  
(Minimum \$100.00, maximum request is 2,000.00). The Economic Development Committee may recommend to the Board of Commissioners to increase or decrease the amount awarded at their discretion. The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners grants the final approval for funding.

Amount of your organization's match \$1,225

Total projected budget \$2,450

**PROJECT/EVENT DESCRIPTION: Be concise and complete; attach supporting information if needed.**

The Shamrock Shindig is an annual community celebration hosted by Shamrock Township, created to foster community pride, support local businesses, and draw visitors to the area. First launched in 2023 with the dedication of the Veterans Memorial and the Grand Opening of Shamrock Township Park, the event has since evolved into a highly anticipated gathering for residents, cabin owners, campers, and tourists alike.

This family-friendly event offers a full day of activities for all ages, including children's games and educational programming sponsored by organizations such as Savanna Portage State Park and the Minnesota DNR, live music performances, a local craft and vendor fair, and a variety of food options. Set in a township that serves as a hub for seasonal tourism—with nearby resorts, campgrounds, and natural attractions like Savanna Portage State Park—the Shamrock Shindig plays a key role in attracting visitors, supporting small businesses, and strengthening the social fabric of the community.

**What do you hope to accomplish, how it will be done and specifically how the grant funds will be used.**

The goal of the Shamrock Shindig is to continue building on the success of previous years by creating an inclusive, engaging event that draws visitors to Shamrock Township, supports local businesses, and strengthens community connections. This year, we aim to enhance the event's offerings to appeal to a broader audience and increase tourism traffic to the area.

Grant funds will be used to provide quality live entertainment, which is a major draw for attendees. Funds will also support the purchase of materials and supplies needed to construct new family-friendly games and activities, helping us expand our offerings for children and families, as well as essential items required for the overall operation of the event—such as tables, a ticket barrel, signage, and other logistical needs. Funds will also support the purchase of materials and supplies needed to construct new family-friendly games and activities, helping us expand our offerings and provide engaging, interactive experiences for children and families. Additionally, grant funding will assist with rentals—including a large tent, bouncy house, and dunk tank—which are essential to both the enjoyment and accessibility of the event. Finally, a portion of the funds will go toward advertising to ensure we reach a wider regional audience and attract new visitors to the township.

By investing in these elements, we hope to continue growing the Shamrock Shindig as a key tourism event that benefits both residents and the local economy.

**Explain how your project will bring visitors to or provide a positive and sustainable economic impact on Aitkin County.**

The Shamrock Shindig brings both short-term and long-term economic benefits to Aitkin County by attracting visitors who support local businesses and increasing awareness of the area as a tourism destination. The event draws attendees from surrounding communities, seasonal residents, cabin owners, and tourists staying at nearby resorts, campgrounds, and Savanna Portage State Park. These visitors contribute directly to the local economy by patronizing area gas stations, restaurants, shops, and lodging facilities.

In 2024, the event drew several hundred attendees, with over 1,600 kids' game tickets sold and more than 140 adult



prize tickets distributed—demonstrating high engagement and enthusiasm across all age groups. These numbers reflect the event’s growing popularity and its ability to bring people into the area for the day and encourage return visits.

By offering quality entertainment, family-friendly activities, and opportunities for local vendors, the Shamrock Shindig not only boosts local spending during the event but helps build a positive reputation for Shamrock Township and Aitkin County as a vibrant, welcoming destination. This contributes to sustainable economic activity through increased tourism, community pride, and ongoing support of small businesses and local organizations.

**List target audience:**

- Local residents of Shamrock Township and surrounding communities
- Seasonal cabin owners and their guests
- Campers and visitors to nearby campgrounds and Savanna Portage State Park
- Families with children
- Adults and seniors
- Local vendors, crafters, and small business owners

**How many people usually attend this project/event?** Last year was approximately 300 attendees

**If awarded, how many incremental visitors do you hope to attract?**

If awarded, we hope to attract an additional 150–250 visitors to the Shamrock Shindig. With expanded advertising, improved entertainment, and new activities made possible through grant funding, we anticipate increased interest from both returning attendees and first-time visitors from throughout Aitkin County and neighboring regions.

**4. PROJECT BUDGET:** in the space below, provide a budget for the entire event.

Category	Grant Funds	Applicant Funds	Total
Tent Rental	175.00	175.00	350.00
Bouncy House Rental	100.00	100.00	200.00
Dunk Tank Rental	62.50	62.50	125.00
Materials & Supplies	362.50	362.50	725.00
Advertising	300.00	300.00	600.00
Entertainment	225.00	225.00	450.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$1,225.00</b>	<b>\$1,225.00</b>	<b>\$2,450.00</b>

Contact Signature:

Name Candace Kral

Date: April 24, 2025



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January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025

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### APPLICANT INFORMATION

#### PROGRAM INFORMATION

Project/Event Name: Second Annual ATV Ride the Soo Line

Date(s) of Project/Event: OCTOBER 4, 2025

Location of Project/Event: STARTS & ENDS at RUSTIC TRAIL, PALISADE

Organization/Community Name: Palisade Events Committee

Person in Charge of Project: DAWN QUADE

Organization Mailing Address (Street Name or P.O. Box or Route and Box # and City and Zip Code):

P.O. Box 154  
Palisade MN 56469

Contact Person's Phone #: 320.232.5776

Contact Person's Email: quadedawn@gmail.com

sec'y / Treasurer Nancy Havila  
nlwarnen@gmail.com

Description/focus/purpose of your organization:

Our non-profit organization's mission is to create, connect, and celebrate small town events for the Palisade area.

**FUNDING:**

Amount requested from Aitkin County

\$ 490

(Minimum \$100.00, maximum request is 2,000.00). The Economic Development Committee may recommend to the Board of Commissioners to increase or decrease the amount awarded at their discretion. The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners grants the final approval for funding.

Amount of your organization's match

\$ 490

Total projected budget

\$ 980

**PROJECT/EVENT DESCRIPTION:** Be concise and complete; attach supporting information if needed.

There are big numbers locally who use the 500 Line ATV trail in & out of Palisade. This ride gives all a chance to join together for a fun, safe event. Proceeds will benefit our Swanson Park rehab project (our local City park). See attached flyer from 1<sup>st</sup> annual OCTOBER 2024.

What do you hope to accomplish, how it will be done and specifically how the grant funds will be used.

Grow the numbers coming to Palisade and support our local businesses, as well as Swatara & Hill City.  
Increase the visibility of our events with signage, logo enhanced apparel & wide-ranging marketing.

Explain how your project will bring visitors to or provide a positive and sustainable economic impact on Aitkin County.

ATV ridership is growing rapidly throughout the County. This event includes our neighboring Hill City and Swatara. Our new planned signage will direct riders - both ATV and snowmobiles - to our amenities.

List target audience: ATV Riders, local ATV clubs, all ages. Travel to the stops by car is another option to meet up.

How many people usually attend this project/event?

80-100

\$20.00 Fee for riders

If awarded, how many incremental visitors do you hope to attract?

120-130





4. **PROJECT BUDGET:** in the space below, provide a budget for the entire event.

Category	Grant Funds	Applicant Funds	Total
SEE	ATTACHED SPREADSHEET		
	FOR DETAILS		
TOTALS	490.00	490.00	980.00

Contact Signature: Palisade Events Committee

Name Nancy Harila Date: 5/8/2025  
secretary/treasurer



## Business Development & Recreation Grant Program Expense Budget

Project	2nd Annual Palisade ATV Ride
Date of Event	10/4/2025
Contact	Nancy Havila 612.345.1075
Grant Amount Requested	<b>\$ 490.00</b>

Projected Expenses		Grant Funds
* Pop up tent canopy for headquarters registration (also other Main Str events)	\$ 155.00	\$ 77.50
* Signage: "Event in Progress" for safety purposes at the crossroads (future events as well)	\$ 115.00	\$ 57.50
* Signage: Aitkin County Land has given us permission to post signs on the Soo Line trail right of way "Welcome to Palisade". Includes the metal stakes. X2	\$ 130.00	\$ 65.00
* Signage: the Soo Line trail parking area sign needs updating. Goal is to feature local businesses while riders are in town	\$ 150.00	\$ 75.00
T-shirts for sale: design would include our new Palisade logo featuring side by side fun. Estimate 50	\$ 250.00	\$ 125.00
Giveaways to the riders 60 x \$3. We have an updated Palisade logo on file + we would include <i>Aitkin County Naturally Better</i> .	\$ 180.00	\$ 90.00
Disbursement total	<b>\$ 980.00</b>	<b>\$ 490.00</b>

\* Note: these items can be used for all of the other various events that we host.

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL SXS RIDE**  
**SATURDAY OCTOBER 4TH**  
**RUSTIC TRAIL**

**Raffles and  
Drawings!**

**\$20** RIDER  
FEE

**PROCEEDS GO TO S.P.A.R.K.  
FOR SWANSON PARK**

**Registration begins at 9:30.  
Rides leaves at 10:30.**







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Mark Jeffers  
Aitkin County Government Center  
307 2nd Street NW, Room 316  
Aitkin, MN 56431

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### APPLICANT INFORMATION

#### PROGRAM INFORMATION

**Project/Event Name:** Green Owl Yarn & Gifts Business Development and Community Engagement

**Date(s) of Project/Event:** June 2025-May 2026

**Location of Project/Event:** **Organization/Community Name:** Green Owl Yarn and Gifts – Aitkin, MN

**Person in Charge of Project:**

Skye Fiedler

**Organization Mailing Address (Street Name or P.O. Box or Route and Box # and City and Zip Code):**

Mailing Address: 315 1<sup>st</sup> Ave SE, Aitkin, MN 56431 Physical Address: 220 ½ Minnesota Ave N, Aitkin, MN 56431

**Contact Person's Phone #:** 612-735-4222

**Contact Person's Email:** [greenowlgallery@gmail.com](mailto:greenowlgallery@gmail.com)

#### **Description/focus/purpose of your organization:**

Green Owl Yarn & Gifts is a new, locally owned business set to open Memorial Day Weekend 2025 in downtown Aitkin. We specialize in quality yarn, craft kits for kids, and gifts, filling a regional gap in crafting supply retail. The business is founded by Skye Fiedler, a longtime Aitkin resident with a background in local retail and community engagement. After a health-related hiatus, Skye is returning to business with a renewed commitment to building inclusive, creative spaces in Aitkin.

Our mission is to foster community through creativity — supporting hobbyists, promoting local makers, and



attracting visitors to Aitkin's growing arts and culture scene.

**FUNDING:**

Amount requested from Aitkin County \$ 2000.00

(Minimum \$100.00, maximum request is 2,000.00). The Economic Development Committee may recommend to the Board of Commissioners to increase or decrease the amount awarded at their discretion. The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners grants the final approval for funding.

Amount of your organization's match \$ 2000.00 +

Total projected budget \$ 4,000.00 +

**PROJECT/EVENT DESCRIPTION: Be concise and complete; attach supporting information if needed.**

Green Owl Yarn & Gifts will use this funding to:

1. Launch targeted marketing efforts to establish the store as a destination for crafters across Aitkin County and nearby regions.
2. Organize two community craft fairs currently planned for Summer of 2025 and Spring of 2026, held in the vacant lot next to the store to draw tourist traffic and create a safe space for local artisans.
3. Foster downtown foot traffic, support local makers, and create inclusive community events.

**What do you hope to accomplish, how it will be done and specifically how the grant funds will be used.**

Primary Goals:

1. Build awareness for Green Owl Yarn & Gifts as a regional crafting resource.
2. Increase tourism-related foot traffic to downtown Aitkin.
3. Create sustainable community engagement through inclusive public events.

How It Will Be Achieved:

- Execute a phased advertising campaign (local papers, fliers, Facebook (social media), chamber newsletters).
- Host two professionally organized craft fairs featuring 8–12 local vendors each.
- Offer promotional partnerships with other downtown businesses leading up to the craft fairs so that they can be more proactive in attracting additional foot traffic.

**Explain how your project will bring visitors to or provide a positive and sustainable economic impact on Aitkin County.**

- The Green Owl fills a regional market gap as the only dedicated yarn/crafting supply store between Brainerd and Grand Rapids.
- The proposed craft fairs are expected to bring **300+ visitors per event**, based on a 2024 trial that attracted over 200 attendees in a smaller venue.





- We expect **30–50 visitors daily** during peak summer weekends, generating spillover business for nearby shops and restaurants.
- The store will also serve as a creative anchor, promoting year-round engagement with seasonal displays, workshops, and artisan spotlights.

**List target audience:**

- Year-round Aitkin residents
- Tourists and seasonal cabin owners
- Regional crafters and makers from surrounding towns
- Families with children (through craft kits and youth-focused activities)

**How many people usually attend this project/event?**

When a trial craft fair was held in a very small venue around 100 people came/time so it is projected that a minimum of 300 people will attend.

**If awarded, how many incremental visitors do you hope to attract?**

30-50 per day in the peak season

**4. PROJECT BUDGET:** in the space below, provide a budget for the entire event.

Category	Grant Funds	Applicant Funds	Total
Advertising & Promotion	\$1000	\$1000	\$2000
Branded Materials (signage, flyers, banners, bags, etc)	\$400	\$400	\$800
Craft Fair Supplies (tables, chairs, signage, storage bins, etc)	\$200	\$200	\$400
Community Engagement Materials (kids crafts, candy, etc)	\$200	\$200	\$200
Hospitality supplies (water, cleaning supplies, etc)	\$200	\$200	\$400
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$2000</b>	<b>\$2000</b>	<b>\$4000</b>



Contact Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Name Date: \_\_\_\_\_



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## Application for Aitkin County Business Development & Recreation Grant Program

January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025

1. Grant requests should be submitted by EMAIL to:  
[mark.jeffers@co.aitkin.mn.us](mailto:mark.jeffers@co.aitkin.mn.us), subject line: BD&R2025 or  
by mail to:  
Mark Jeffers  
Aitkin County Government Center  
307 2<sup>nd</sup> Street NW, Room 316  
Aitkin, MN 56431
2. Funding recommendations will be considered at the regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Aitkin County Economic Development Committee. Application deadline is **May 31, 2025**.
3. Committee recommendations will be submitted to the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners for final approval.
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### APPLICANT INFORMATION

#### PROGRAM INFORMATION

Project/Event Name: *'Art For Fun - Fun For All'*  
Date(s) of Project/Event: *June / July / August 2025*  
Location of Project/Event: *Golden Horizons Aitkin, Aitkin Co. Fair, Jaques Art Center*  
Organization/Community Name: *The Jaques Art Center*  
Person in Charge of Project: *Pamela Ardell, Executive Director*  
Organization Mailing Address (Street Name or P.O. Box or Route and Box # and City and Zip Code):  
*121 2nd ST NW*  
*Aitkin, MN 56431*  
Contact Person's Phone #: *218-927-2363*  
Contact Person's Email: *info@jaquesart.com*  
Description/focus/purpose of your organization:

*Presenting art to community*  
*Providing classes + workshops*  
*Promoting Francis Lee Jaques Art*

**FUNDING:**

Amount requested from Aitkin County

\$ 1960.92

(Minimum \$100.00, maximum request is 2,000.00). The Economic Development Committee may recommend to the Board of Commissioners to increase or decrease the amount awarded at their discretion. The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners grants the final approval for funding.

Amount of your organization's match

\$ 500.00

Total projected budget

\$ 2460.92

**PROJECT/EVENT DESCRIPTION: Be concise and complete; attach supporting information if needed.**

Our focus is for the summer of 2025 - Our theme is 'Art For Fun - Fun For All' from our focus on Seniors to our youngest artists. We will have 4 hour mini classes at the fair including - face painting, scratchboard, acrylic design, twinkle lights and more.

**What do you hope to accomplish, how it will be done and specifically how the grant funds will be used.**

We want to instill a love of creativity! Our artists have years of experience and share with enthusiasm. In August we will provide these mini sessions at the art center after the FAIR. FUNDS WILL BE USED FOR NEEDED SUPPLIES.

**Explain how your project will bring visitors to or provide a positive and sustainable economic impact on Aitkin County.**

Visitors are looking for exciting & FUN experiences.

**List target audience:**

From 2 - 102 years of age - Families, Seniors, Adolescence, Teens -

**How many people usually attend this project/event?**

100 OR MORE WE HOPE

**If awarded, how many incremental visitors do you hope to attract?**

200+



4. **PROJECT BUDGET:** in the space below, provide a budget for the entire event.

Category	Grant Funds	Applicant Funds	Total
ART SUPPLIES	459.21		459.21
TAKE HOME	314.00		314.00
DISPLAY UNIT	262.71		262.71
ADVERTISING	425.00		425.00
5 ARTISTS PREP TIME	500.00	500.00	1000.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	1960.92	500.00	2460.92

Contact Signature:

Name Pamela Andell Date: 5/19/25



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## Application for Aitkin County Business Development & Recreation Grant Program

January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025

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mark.jeffers@co.aitkin.mn.us, subject line: BD&R2025 or  
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Aitkin County Government Center  
307 2<sup>nd</sup> Street NW, Room 316  
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### APPLICANT INFORMATION

#### PROGRAM INFORMATION

**Project/Event Name:** Awning for Petals of Peace

**Date(s) of Project/Event:** Spring/Summer 2025

**Location of Project/Event:** Petals of Peace, 209 Minnesota Ave N, Aitkin, MN 56431

**Organization/Community Name:** Petals of Peace

**Person in Charge of Project:** Arlene K. Selander

**Organization Mailing Address (Street Name or P.O. Box or Route and Box # and City and Zip Code):**

200 4th Ave SE, Aitkin, MN 56431

**Contact Person's Phone #:** 218-820-2813

**Contact Person's Email:** selandercoachingandconsulting@gmail.com

**Description/focus/purpose of your organization:**

Petals of Peace by Selander Coaching and Consulting is a community resource and drop-in center. Our center is a space where every individual, regardless of their background or circumstances, can find the support and resources they need to thrive. Petals of Peace is a hub for various services, including educational programs, vocational assistance, health and wellness initiatives, and much more. We partner with local organizations and agencies to offer a wide range of programs that cater to the diverse needs of our community.





**FUNDING:**

Amount requested from Aitkin County

\$ 2000.00

(Minimum \$100.00, maximum request is 2,000.00). The Economic Development Committee may recommend to the Board of Commissioners to increase or decrease the amount awarded at their discretion. The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners grants the final approval for funding.

Amount of your organization's match

\$ 2661.00

Total projected budget

\$ 4661.00

**PROJECT/EVENT DESCRIPTION: Be concise and complete; attach supporting information if needed.**

Please see attached sheet #1

**What do you hope to accomplish, how it will be done and specifically how the grant funds will be used.**

Please see attached sheet #1

**Explain how your project will bring visitors to or provide a positive and sustainable economic impact on Aitkin County.**

Please see attached sheet #2

**List target audience:** The community of the City of Aitkin, and communities within Aitkin County

**How many people usually attend this project/event?** Currently we serve approximately 75-100 individuals per month and with improved signage community members and visitors will be able to identify and find Petals of Peace more readily

**If awarded, how many incremental visitors do you hope to attract?**

With updated signage we hope to attract 50% more (138-150) individuals



4. **PROJECT BUDGET:** in the space below, provide a budget for the entire event.

Category	Grant Funds	Applicant Funds	Total
Awning	\$2000	\$2661	\$4661
TOTALS	\$2000	\$2661	\$4661

Contact Signature: Arlene K. Selander

Name Arlene K. Selander Date: May 19, 2025

The primary objective of this project is to install a durable, aesthetically pleasing awning over the main entrance of Petals of Peace Community Resource Center. This awning will provide shelter from inclement weather, reduce direct sunlight exposure, and create a more welcoming entry point for our visitors. The installation of a new awning will have several positive impacts on the Petals of Peace and its visitors:

- Enhanced Accessibility: The awning will provide shelter from rain and snow, making the entrance more accessible during inclement weather.

- Improved Comfort: By reducing direct sunlight exposure, the awning will create a cooler, more comfortable environment for visitors and staff.

- Increased Aesthetic Appeal: A well-designed awning will enhance the visual appeal of the center, making it a more inviting space.

- Encouragement of Utilization: A more comfortable and accessible entrance will encourage greater use of the center's services and programs.

Petals of Peace Community Resource Center is an essential part of our neighborhood, providing valuable services and a place for residents to gather and connect. The installation of a new awning will significantly enhance the accessibility, comfort, and aesthetic appeal of our facility, benefiting all who visit. We respectfully request a grant of \$2000 to fund this important project and continue improving our community space. Thank you for being so considerate.

We hope to accomplish several key objectives with the installation of a new awning at Petals of Peace. Firstly, we aim to enhance the accessibility of our facility, ensuring that visitors can enter and exit the center comfortably regardless of the weather conditions. By providing shelter from rain and snow, we will remove barriers that may prevent individuals from utilizing our services, particularly during harsh weather.

Secondly, we seek to improve the overall comfort of our center. The awning will reduce direct sunlight exposure, creating a cooler environment for both visitors and staff. This improvement in comfort will contribute to a more pleasant and inviting atmosphere, which we believe will encourage greater use of our programs and services.

Thirdly, we aim to increase the aesthetic appeal of the Community Resource Center. A well-designed awning will enhance the visual attractiveness of our building, making it a more welcoming and appealing space for residents. This enhancement will not only improve the experience for current visitors but also attract new individuals to the center.

To achieve these goals, we will hire a professional contractor to design and install the awning. The funds will be used to cover the costs associated with this project, including materials, labor, and any necessary permits. Specifically, the \$2000 grant will be allocated as follows:

- Materials: \$1200 for the purchase of durable, high-quality materials to construct the awning.
- Labor: \$600 for professional installation by a licensed contractor.
- Permits and miscellaneous expenses: \$200 for any required permits and unforeseen costs that may arise during the project.
- The remaining amount of the installation and related costs will be paid for by Petals of Peace

By carefully allocating the grant funds, we aim to ensure the successful completion of the awning installation, thereby enhancing Petals of Peace for the benefit of all who visit.

The installation of a new awning on the Petals of Peace building will have a positive and sustainable economic impact on Aitkin County. By enhancing the accessibility, comfort, and aesthetic appeal of our center, we will attract more visitors to the facility, including those who might not have previously considered using our services due to weather-related barriers. A more inviting and comfortable environment will encourage individuals to spend more time at the center, participating in various programs and activities.

This increased foot traffic will, in turn, benefit local businesses as visitors may take advantage of nearby shops and services before or after their visit to Petals of Peace. Additionally, the project will create job opportunities for local contractors and suppliers, contributing to the local economy. By choosing to invest in high-quality materials and professional installation, we are supporting skilled labor in the area, promoting sustainable economic growth.

Ultimately, the improved Petals of Peace Community Resource Center will become a focal point for social, cultural, and recreational activities, fostering a stronger sense of community and drawing more people to Aitkin County. The long-term benefits of this project will be felt by residents and visitors alike, as the enhanced facility continues to serve as a vital resource for all.



STYLE: AWNING RECOVER  
 QUANTITY: 1  
 MATERIAL: SUNBRELLA LINEN  
 VALANCE: 8" STRAIGHT  
 GRAPHICS: 3-COLOR PAINTED

This drawing is the property of:

**Advanced Design**  
 Awnings & Signs

ADVANCED DESIGN AWNINGS & SIGNS, INC.  
 1600 29TH STREET  
 CLOQUET, MN 55720  
 PH: 218.879.9712 / 800.566.8368  
 FX: 218-879-2936  
 www.advancedawning.com

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SALES: EA  
 DESIGN: FM  
 DATE: 02.03.25  
 REVISION: 0 / 00.00.2025

## PETALS OF PEACE

209 Minnesota Ave.  
 Aitkin, MN

PROJECT TYPE:  
 Awning recover

APPROVAL \_\_\_\_\_

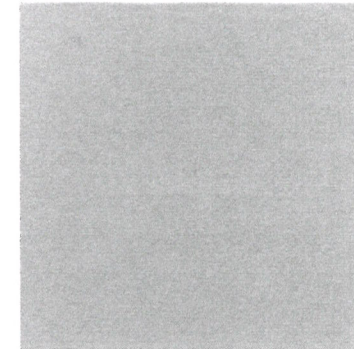
## PRODUCTION-READY

REF: City of Aitkin

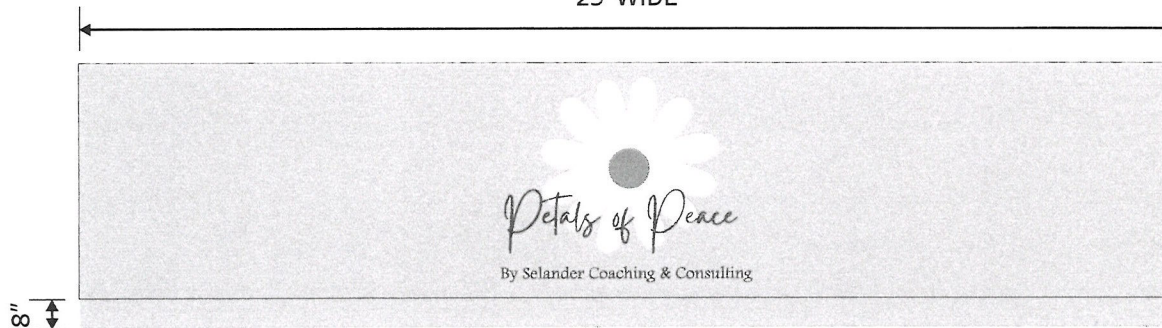
PAGE: 1

Note: Colors in this printout are meant to be representative only and not exact. Manufacturer's color samples to be used to verify colors.

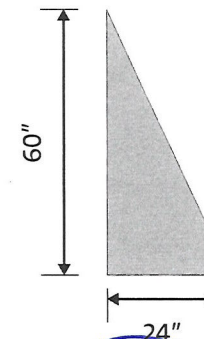
Note: Upon customer signature, production may begin and engineering charges may be applied, if customer requests additional changes



25' WIDE



Vectorized art needed



EA  
 to  
 send

Aitkin  
 EA





*Leaders in design, fabrication & installation of customized illuminated signs, awnings and canopies since 1994.*

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Manufacturing Facility: 1600 29<sup>th</sup> St., Cloquet, MN 55720   Cloquet: 218.879.9712.   Minneapolis: 612.870.7634

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**Proposed by:** Eric Anderson | **E:** eric@advanceddesign.biz | **C:** 218.393.1109

**BILL TO:**

**PETALS OF PEACE**  
209 MINNESOTA AVE.  
AITKIN, MN 56431

**SHIP TO:**

**PETALS OF PEACE**  
209 MINNESOTA AVE.  
AITKIN, MN 56431

**CONTACT:** Arlene Selander

**EMAIL:** selandercoachingandconsulting.com

**CELL:** 218.820.2813

**PROJECT REF:** Petals of Peace

**PROPOSAL DATE:** 2.3.2025

**EXPIRES:** IN 15 DAYS

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**EXTERIOR AWNING REWRAP/RECOVER**

<b>QTY.</b>	1
<b>STYLE/SHAPE:</b>	MANSARD W/VALANCE
<b>LENGTH:</b>	25' WIDE
<b>HEIGHT:</b>	5'
<b>PROJECTION</b>	2'
<b>FACE:</b>	8"
<b>POLES:</b>	NONE
<b>GRAPHICS:</b>	STENCIL PAINTED "PETALS OF PEACE" LOGO
<b>VALANCE:</b>	8" SOLD/STRAIGHT
<b>LIGHTS:</b>	NONE
<b>EGGRATING:</b>	NONE
<b>FABRIC</b>	REWRAP W/SUNBRELLA'S LINEN
<b>FRAME:</b>	EXISTING, 1" AL. TUBE FRAMING
<b>INSTALLATION:</b>	REMOVE EXISTING, RE-INSTALL NEWLY REWRAPPED AWNING
<b>PROJECT TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,361.00+Tax</b>



Advanced Design Awnings & Signs Authorized Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: 1/31/2025  
Eric Anderson

I understand the above credit and collection terms.

Customer's Acceptance of Proposal:

The above prices, specifications and conditions are satisfactory and are hereby accepted. You are authorized to do the work as specified. Payment will be made as outlined above.

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Acceptance: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_ Title (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Deposit Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Deposit Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_



## Application for Aitkin County Business Development & Recreation Grant Program

January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025

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[mark.jeffers@co.aitkin.mn.us](mailto:mark.jeffers@co.aitkin.mn.us), subject line: BD&R2025 or  
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 307 2<sup>nd</sup> Street NW, Room 316  
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### APPLICANT INFORMATION

#### PROGRAM INFORMATION

**Project/Event Name:** Tamarack City Park Pollinator Garden

**Date(s) of Project/Event:** June 2025

**Location of Project/Event:** Tamarack, MN

**Organization/Community Name:** Tamarack Activities Club

**Person in Charge of Project:** Debra Drexler

**Organization Mailing Address (Street Name or P.O. Box or Route and Box # and City and Zip Code):**

Cheryl Meld, President of TAC  
 42555 110th Ave  
 Tamarack, MN 55787

**Contact Person's Phone #:** 612/743-4329

**Contact Person's Email:** ddrexler57@gmail.com

**Description/focus/purpose of your organization:**

See attachment



**FUNDING:**

Amount requested from Aitkin County

\$ 812

(Minimum \$100.00, maximum request is 2,000.00). The Economic Development Committee may recommend to the Board of Commissioners to increase or decrease the amount awarded at their discretion. The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners grants the final approval for funding.

Amount of your organization's match

\$ 813

Total projected budget

\$ 1625

**PROJECT/EVENT DESCRIPTION: Be concise and complete; attach supporting information if needed.**

See attachment

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**What do you hope to accomplish, how it will be done and specifically how the grant funds will be used.**

See attachment

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**Explain how your project will bring visitors to or provide a positive and sustainable economic impact on Aitkin County.**

See attachment

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**List target audience:**

See attachment

**How many people usually attend this project/event?**

See attachment

**If awarded, how many incremental visitors do you hope to attract?**

See attachment



4. **PROJECT BUDGET:** in the space below, provide a budget for the entire event.

Category	Grant Funds	Applicant Funds	Total
<b>TOTALS</b>			

Contact Signature:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Aitkin County Business Development & Recreation Grant Program

### **Description/focus/purpose of your organization:**

The Tamarack Activities Club is a group of local residents who plan and carry out a variety of events to help maintain and build the feeling of community and pride in our small Aitkin County town.

### **PROJECT/EVENT DESCRIPTION:**

The Tamarack Activities Club plans to construct a 10-foot by 30-foot fenced pollinator friendly flower garden. TAC will plan, purchase, and plant native flowering plant species in a new garden patch at the north end of Tamarack City Park. We will rototill the area using a volunteer with a garden tiller, take a soil sample, perform a soil test (processed by the University of Minnesota Soil Testing Laboratory), and amend the soil with black dirt, compost and peat as necessary. We will install a welded wire fence, completely surrounding the garden to discourage deer, dogs, and humans from disturbing the plants. (An access gate will also be included). Small signs identifying the species of plant and the expected pollinators will be staked in the garden. Deb Drexler has committed to coordinate maintenance of the garden plot for the next three years (2025-2027). Volunteers performing maintenance are expected to be recruited from the TAC.

### **What do you hope to accomplish, how it will be done and specifically how will grant funds be used.**

We hope to grow fifteen species of flowering plants that are known to attract bees, butterflies, and birds. Residents and visitors will learn about the value of pollinator habitat development and conservation as they enjoy the flowering plants and observe pollinators in a natural environment. Volunteer labor from TAC and the community of Tamarack will prepare the site, install the plants, and build the fence. We will use the grant funds to purchase soil, seedling plant plugs, wire fencing and metal fence poles.

### **Explain how your project will bring visitors to or provide a positive and sustainable economic impact on Aitkin County.**

As interest in gardening and helping pollinators survive has increased in the last few years, people are traveling to visit established pollinator garden sites. Our park is already a favorite

rest area for travelers along Highway 210. Adding a well-kept pollinator garden with interpretive signs listing the names of the plant and the pollinators expected to visit it will entice people to visit Tamarack.

Throughout the spring, summer, and fall months, people come to Tamarack City Park from the surrounding area including Jacobson, Brainerd, Lawler, and the lakes area north of Tamarack. Children can be seen playing on the playground equipment, shooting hoops on the basketball court, throwing Frisbees, playing baseball, playing tetherball, and using the clean restrooms. The park is the site of many family and community events that utilize the newly constructed picnic shelter near our proposed garden area.

**List target audience:**

We welcome everyone visiting Aitkin County who wants to enjoy the beauty of a pollinator garden and those in search of ideas for starting or adding to their own flower gardens: visitors and residents of all ages.

**How many people usually attend this project/event?**

Although we do not have data on the number of people who play in the park or stop to use the restrooms, we estimate that our 4<sup>th</sup> of July picnic (including the pie sale and fireworks display) attracts 400 people, the Hey Day Celebration on the first Saturday in August attracts 2,500 people, and approximately 500 people attend ceremonies and family gatherings in the Park Pavilion throughout the year.

**If awarded, how many incremental visitors do you hope to attract?**

We hope to attract 500 incremental visitors throughout the year. Through various media announcements we will invite the public to come see the progress we have achieved and show visitors how they might start their own pollinator garden!



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January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025

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[mark.jeffers@co.aitkin.mn.us](mailto:mark.jeffers@co.aitkin.mn.us), subject line: BD&R2025 or  
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### APPLICANT INFORMATION

#### PROGRAM INFORMATION

**Project/Event Name:** 4th of July Festival

**Date(s) of Project/Event:** July 4th, 2025

**Location of Project/Event:** within the city of Hill City, MN

**Organization/Community Name:** Hill City Events Committee

**Person in Charge of Project:** Sue Kaslow

**Organization Mailing Address (Street Name or P.O. Box or Route and Box # and City and Zip Code):**

125 Lake Avenue

PO Box 160

Hill City, MN 55748

**Contact Person's Phone #:** 218-244-3422

**Contact Person's Email:** [suekaslow@yahoo.com](mailto:suekaslow@yahoo.com)

**Description/focus/purpose of your organization:** To provide events that bring residents and visitors to the area. Ensuring each event is planned, organized, and executed effectively while fostering a sense of belonging within each event.



**FUNDING:**

Amount requested from Aitkin County

\$2,000.00

(Minimum \$100.00, maximum request is 2,000.00). The Economic Development Committee may recommend to the Board of Commissioners to increase or decrease the amount awarded at their discretion. The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners grants the final approval for funding.

Amount of your organization's match

\$15,500.00

Total projected budget

\$17,500.00

**PROJECT/EVENT DESCRIPTION:** Be concise and complete; attach supporting information if needed.

See Attached

**What do you hope to accomplish, how it will be done and specifically how the grant funds will be used.**

See Attached

**Explain how your project will bring visitors to or provide a positive and sustainable economic impact on Aitkin County.**

See Attached

**List target audience:**

The target audience for the 4th of July festival is families.

**How many people usually attend this project/event?** 4-5,000 people

**If awarded, how many incremental visitors do you hope to attract?** 3,000





4. **PROJECT BUDGET:** in the space below, provide a budget for the entire event.

*Free?*

Category	Grant Funds	Applicant Funds	Total
Entertainment- Hudson Magic, bounce houses, games	\$2,000	\$3,000	\$5,000
Advertisement		\$500.00	\$500.00
Bleachers, portable bathrooms, dumpsters		\$3000	\$3000
Fundraisers		\$1500	\$1500
Fireworks		\$7000	\$7000
Miscellaneous		\$500	\$500
<b>TOTALS</b>	\$2000	\$15500	\$17500

Contact Signature:

Name

*Sue Kaslon*

Date:

*05/21/2025*

**PROJECT/EVENT DESCRIPTION: Be concise and complete; attach supporting information if needed.**

The 2025 Hill City Events Committee's 4th of July Festivity marks its 121st year, continuing its legacy as a beloved tradition in Aitkin County. Each year, thousands of visitors from surrounding communities gather to celebrate freedom and unity through a vibrant lineup of festivities, including a parade, games, vendors, sports tournaments, live music, and a dazzling fireworks display.

As costs rise and volunteer numbers decline, the event evolves with fresh and creative attractions to draw crowds. This year's entertainment features Hudson Magic, performing after the ever-popular sawdust pile tradition, where children excitedly dive into heaps of sawdust to uncover hidden coins—a messy but cherished activity filled with laughter. Bounce houses remain a favorite, ensuring endless fun for young attendees.

The celebration concludes with a breathtaking fireworks display over Hill Lake, hosted by the Hill City Fire Department. The reflection of vibrant bursts on the water creates a mesmerizing scene, reminding all in attendance of the deep significance of Independence Day.

**What do you hope to accomplish, how it will be done and specifically how the grant funds will be used.**

This event brings together people from all backgrounds to celebrate national pride and patriotism, fostering a strong sense of unity. In addition to its cultural significance, the gathering provides a valuable economic boost to the small community, attracting visitors and supporting local businesses. The grant funds will be utilized to help support and pay for the entertainment. By ensuring that all activities remain free, the event creates an inclusive experience, allowing everyone to participate without financial barriers.

**Explain how your project will bring visitors to or provide a positive and sustainable economic impact on Aitkin County.**

With a population of 613, Hill City Events Committee depends on the annual 4th of July Festival to drive economic growth, as it draws 4,000–5,000 visitors from surrounding communities. Local businesses rely on this event for revenue, helping sustain them throughout the year.

For over a century, the festival has been a cherished tradition, bringing back returning guests and attracting new visitors through word-of-mouth. To enhance the experience

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and encourage longer stays, the event continues to introduce new entertainment, increasing engagement and local spending.

Grant funding will support key entertainment elements, including Hudson Magic, bounce houses, and game supplies. By securing these funds, the events committee ensures the festival remains free and accessible to all attendees.

As visitors explore Hill City, many will seek accommodations, leading to an economic ripple effect. Local campgrounds and hotels—both within Hill City and throughout Aitkin County—will benefit from increased tourism, further supporting small businesses in the region.