

# Nearly \$4 Million in Grants Awarded for Third Quarter

The Iowa West Foundation has announced \$3.95 million in grants for the third quarter of 2012. The grants will be used to assist 43 non-profit organizations and governmental entities with funding for area projects.

Pete Tulipana, President and CEO of the Iowa West Foundation, highlighted a \$1,274,059 grant to the CITIES (Community Improvements to Increase Economic Stability) fund.

“Local communities are the backbone of the rural Midwest, and Pottawattamie County is no different,” said Tulipana. “The CITIES fund has been an important tool for communities to meet major infrastructure needs impacting citizens and businesses in the county.”

“Community and economic development are two of the Foundation’s focus areas, and funding in those areas help us with our vision to create communities where families choose to live and businesses choose to locate,” Tulipana added.

The 12 rural communities in Pottawattamie County each developed strategic plans and priorities, and have a representative on a CITIES committee, which selects the projects to be funded.

“It is a model program and has been very effective in improving the quality of life in rural Pottawattamie County communities,” explained Lori Holste, WIDA Executive

Director. “We also believe the time is right for an evaluation, too, as we look forward to improving the program,” she said.

The Foundation approved a grant of \$20,000 to evaluate the program. With the initial goals and objectives of the program being met, both the Foundation and the local communities are exploring ways to take the positive impact of the CITIES to the next level. MAPA will manage the evaluation.

Tulipana also highlighted an award of \$150,000 to the Pottawattamie County Firefighters Association. The grant will be used to fund equipment of volunteer fire departments in the county.

“This is another project that has proved successful and more importantly saved lives because of the dedication of these county volunteers,” said Tulipana.

For more information regarding grant applications and deadlines, visit [www.iowawestfoundation.org](http://www.iowawestfoundation.org), where funding guidelines and procedures can be accessed, or call 712-309-3000.

The Iowa West Foundation, which is headquartered in Council Bluffs, receives its funding for grants from investment income and also from the Iowa West Racing Association. The Association receives contracted fees from casino operators—Ameristar and Harrah’s.

Iowa West has provided \$285 million in grants to non-profits and governmental entities since the inception of its grants program in 1996.

## INSPIRING LEARNING THROUGH LIBRARIES

Education has the power to change lives. It drives the development and growth of a region. The Iowa West Foundation is dedicated to improving education and access to lifelong learning for youth and adults alike.

Public libraries serve communities as an information portal for users to stay connected. No matter what a person’s stage in life, libraries can serve many roles for all citizens in today’s society.

Over the years, grants have supported the enhancement of library collections, materials and databases, as well as a multiple visiting author series.

This quarter’s grants to public libraries in Clarinda, Council Bluffs and Stanton total \$75,650 and will have a positive educational impact in those communities.



IOWA WEST FOUNDATION

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